

Agenda for a hearing of the Waikato District Council (to hear the 2024-25 Enhanced Annual Plan submissions) to be held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaaruawaahia on **TUESDAY 14 MARCH & WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2024** commencing at **9.30am**.

Information and recommendations are included in the reports to assist the Committee in the decision-making process and may not constitute Council's decision or policy until considered by the Committee.

The meeting will be opened with a karakia.

1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2. CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

4. REPORTS

4.1 Hearings Report for the 2024/25 Enhanced Annual Plan Y

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

COUNCIL

Chairperson:	Her Worship the Mayor
Deputy Chairperson:	Deputy Mayor
Membership:	The Mayor and all Councillors
Meeting frequency:	Six weekly – or as required
Quorum:	Half of the members (including vacancies)

Purpose

1. To provide leadership to, and advocacy on behalf of, the people of the Waikato District.
2. To define and represent the total communities' interests, ensuring ongoing community and economic development, the effective stewardship of existing assets, sustainable management of the environment, and the prudent management of the communities' financial resources.

Terms of Reference

The Council's terms of reference include the following powers which cannot be delegated to committees, subcommittees, officers or any other subordinate decision-making body:

1. The power to make a rate.
 2. The power to make a bylaw.
 3. The power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the Long-Term Plan.
 4. The power to adopt a Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, or Annual Report.
 5. The power to appoint a Chief Executive.
 6. The power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under the Local Government Act 2002 in association with the Long-term Plan or developed for the purpose of the local governance statement, including the Council's Infrastructure Strategy.
 7. The power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy.
 8. The power to approve or amend the Council's Standing Orders.
 9. The power to approve or amend the Code of Conduct for elected members, and consider any recommendations made in relation to a complaint lodged under the Code.
 10. The power to appoint and discharge:
 - a. members (including chairpersons) of Council committees and subordinate decision-making bodies, subject to the Mayor's powers under section 41A Local Government Act 2002; and
 - b. elected member representatives on external organisations.
 11. The power to establish a joint committee with another local authority or other public body and appoint elected members as representatives on such committees or bodies.
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12. The power to make the final decision on a recommendation from the Ombudsman where it is proposed that Council not accept the Ombudsman's recommendation.
13. The power to approve or change the District Plan, or any part of that Plan, in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991.
14. The power to amend or replace the delegations in Council's Delegations Register (except where expressly permitted in the Delegations Register).

To exercise the following powers and responsibilities of Council, which the Council chooses to retain:

1. To approve a proposed policy statement or plan under the Resource Management Act 1991.
2. To approve changes to boundaries of the District under the Resource Management Act 1991 or any other legislation.
3. In respect of District Plan decisions:
 - a. To appoint independent commissioners to a panel for hearings of a Proposed District Plan;
 - b. To approve the recommendation of hearings commissioners on a proposed plan, plan change or variation (including private plan change); and
 - c. To approve a proposed plan or a change to a district plan under Clause 17, Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
4. To adopt governance level strategies, plans and policies which advance Council's vision and strategic goals (e.g. Hamilton to Auckland rail), other than where expressly delegated to a committee.
5. To approve -Council's recommendation to the Remuneration Authority for the remuneration of elected members.
6. To approve the Triennial Agreement.
7. To approve resolutions required to be made by a local authority under the Local Electoral Act 2001, including the appointment of an electoral officer and reviewing representation arrangements.
8. To approve any changes to the nature and delegations of any Council committees or subordinate-decision making bodies.
9. To approve the Local Governance Statement.
10. To approve funding requests not allowed for within budgets, in accordance with Significance & Engagement Policy parameters.
11. To approve any additional funding decisions required for the Watercare Services contract.
12. To approve development agreements as recommended by the Development Agreements Subcommittee where infrastructure is not allowed for within the Long-Term Plan.
13. To receive six-monthly reports from each Community Board on its activities and projects.

To	Waikato District Council
Report title	Hearings for the 2024/25 'enhanced' Annual Plan
Date:	14 May 2024
Report Author:	Mary Rinaldi, Corporate Planner
Authorised by:	Will Gauntlett, General Manager, Community Growth

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To enable the receiving and hearing of submissions on the proposed 2024/25 'enhanced' Annual Plan.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopototanga matua

In February 2024, Council resolved to take the option given by central government of preparing an 'enhanced' annual plan for the 2024/25 financial year (year four of the 2021-2031 LTP) and delay the 2024-2034 LTP by 12 months.

On 19 March 2024, the consultation document for the 2024/25 'enhanced' Annual Plan was adopted for consultation.

Public consultation took place between 25 March and 26 April 2024. A total of 227 submissions were received on the proposed annual plan.

The hearings pack consists of this report, the hearings schedule (Attachment 1 – subject to change), a copy of every formal submission received during the consultation period (Attachment 2), and social media engagement data and post comments (Attachment 3).

3. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Waikato District Council receives and considers all verbal and written submissions to the proposed 2024/25 'enhanced' Annual Plan, draft Fees and Charges Schedule 2024/25, and draft Development Contributions Charges 2024/25.

4. Background

Koorero whaimaarama

At its 28 February meeting, Council resolved to defer the LTP by 12 months and prepare an 'enhanced' annual plan for the 2024/25 financial year. This decision was taken by Council after the Water Services Acts Repeal Act 2024 ("the Repeal Act") was brought in by the current government, enabling councils to choose to defer the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan by 12 months.

The 'enhanced' 2024/25 Annual Plan consultation document was adopted for consultation on 19 March 2024.

5. Discussion and analysis

Taataritanga me ngaa tohutohu

Public consultation was undertaken between 25 March and 26 April 2024 to get community feedback on the proposed 2024/25 work programme, including the proposed 13.75 per cent increase in general rate revenue.

Alongside this, feedback was also sought on the draft fees and charges schedule 2024/25, the draft development contributions charges 2024/25, and in anticipation of Council reviewing its levels of service for the 2025-2034 Long Term Plan, submitters were also asked if there were any Council services they wanted us to look at reducing.

Staff used the following communication methods to let the community know about the consultation:

- Media release.
- Council's Facebook page (five posts were put up during consultation period – engagement data and post comments are in Attachment 3).
- Emails and a communications toolkit to elected members to cascade information to their networks.
- A video was produced and put up on YouTube, with a link to it in Council's newsletter¹. The video was also included in one of the Facebook posts².
- Some staff members were provided with communications to cascade to their networks (e.g. within the business community).
- A flyer drop to 27,533 letterboxes across the district (including residential, commercial and rural) during the week of 25 March.

Drop-in sessions attended by staff and elected members, were held in 18 different locations around the district. There were 212 attendees in total across these 18 events – Pookeno had the highest attendance with 34 people, while the event at Te Aakau did not have anybody attend.

¹ Video views on YouTube were 33, while the YouTube link in the newsletter was clicked on 92 times.

² Data for this is included with other Facebook engagement data in Attachment 3.

Submissions

Shape Waikato is Council's main portal for engagement with the community. The 2024/25 Annual Plan page on Shape Waikato received 4,434 views and 2,740 individual visitors. In total, Council received 227 formal submissions. 50 submitters requested to be heard although this number is likely to reduce as hearings scheduling progresses.

Some submissions were received via email to the Consult inbox, and some hard copies were received. All email and hard copy submissions were entered into Shape by staff, with the original included as an attachment (hard copies were scanned).

As noted above, Facebook comments on the five posts about the Annual Plan are included in Attachment 3. These are not considered formal submissions but are included for elected members to consider as part of the broader picture of community views.

Submission themes on the annual plan

The purpose of the hearings is for the Mayor and Councillors to hear directly from submitters and to receive all submissions in full. It is not until the deliberations (scheduled for 4-6 June) when discussions, debate and decisions occur.

It is, however, helpful to note the general themes of the submissions, so that elected members have some context for the hearings and have an overview of the type of feedback that has been received.

The majority of submitters (156 out of 226) commented on the proposed 13.75 per cent rates increase, with the vast majority of these (149 out of 155) opposing the increase.

Themes in their responses were generally around unaffordability of rates due to the cost of living/financial stress, particularly for families and those on fixed incomes, dissatisfaction with services being provided as is, wanting Council to focus only on absolutely essential spending with no "nice to haves" and reduce or delay as much as possible, and a concern that the increase is significantly higher than inflation.

For those who supported the increase, there were general comments around understanding the reasons behind it and not wanting to further delay infrastructure maintenance and renewals. There were also comments around expanding the rates remission scheme to support those who would struggle to pay.

Some other themes coming through around the 2024/25 work programme were requests to get roads and stormwater systems fixed, limit spending on outdoor spaces, requests to reinstate funding for Hamilton and Waikato Tourism, and dissatisfaction with how rubbish and recycling are funded.

Analysis and staff comments around these themes and more will be provided in the deliberations material, for discussion and decision making at the deliberations meetings from 4-6 June.

Development contributions and fees and charges submissions

Alongside feedback about the 2024/25 work programme and budget, we also consulted on the draft development contributions charges for 2024/25 and the draft fees and charges schedule for 2024/25. While there were questions related to each of these, staff note that many of the responses in these fields were unrelated to development contributions or fees and charges, and were often related to the rates increase or the general work programme. A breakdown of feedback received specifically about development contributions and fees and charges will be brought to deliberations.

Review of council services for the LTP

A specific question was also asked on the submission form about whether submitters had any thoughts around services Council could look into reducing in the LTP. A summary of these suggestions will also be included in deliberations material, and will be utilised by the LTP project team in the coming year as levels of service are reviewed.

5.1 Financial considerations

Whaiwhakaaro puutea

There are no material financial considerations associated with the recommendations of this report. If there are financial considerations to be made in response to submissions received these will be outlined in the deliberations reports, which will be presented to Council on the 4-6 June 2024.

5.2 Legal considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture

Staff confirm that the staff recommendation complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements.

Council resolved to prepare an 'enhanced' annual plan for the 2024/25 financial year under the provisions of the Water Services Acts Repeal Act (the Repeal Act), and defer the 2024-2034 LTP by 12 months.

Consultation using the special consultative procedure is required for the 'enhanced' annual plan, and staff confirm this has been undertaken in line with the requirements under section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The 2021-2031 LTP will continue to have effect until the 2025-2034 LTP is adopted.

5.3 Strategy and policy considerations

Whaiwhakaaro whakamaaherehere kaupapa here

The report and recommendations are consistent with the Council's policies, plans and prior decisions.

5.4 Maaori and cultural considerations

Whaiwhakaaro Maaori me oona tikanga

The matters in this report do not have a direct impact on Maaori and their relationship with whenua, water and other taonga.

If there are Maaori and cultural considerations to be made in response to submissions received these will be outlined in the deliberations reports, which will be presented to Council on the 4-6 June 2024.

5.5 Climate response and resilience considerations

Whaiwhakaaro-aa-taiao

The matters in this report have no known impact on climate change or resilience for the Council.

If there are climate response and resilience considerations to be made in response to submissions received these will be outlined in the deliberations reports, which will be presented to Council on the 4-6 June 2024.

5.6 Risks

Tuuraru

There are no risks associated with this report.

6. Significance and engagement assessment

Aromatawai paahekoheko

6.1 Significance

Te Hiranga

The decisions and matters of this specific report are assessed as of low significance in accordance with the Council's [Significance and Engagement Policy](#). However, this report is part of a broader project or process that is, or may be in future, assessed as of high significance.

The following criteria are particularly relevant in determining the level of significance for this matter:

- There is a legal requirement to consult using the Special Consultative Procedure (SCP) in accordance with the Repeal Act and the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).
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6.2 Engagement

Te Whakatuutakitaki

Highest level of engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation was carried out using the Special Consultative Procedure in accordance with section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.				

State below which external stakeholders have been or will be engaged with:

Planned	In Progress	Complete	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Internal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Boards/Community Committees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waikato-Tainui/Local iwi and hapuu
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected communities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected businesses

7. Next steps

Ahu whakamua

Deliberations on the 2024/25 Enhanced Annual Plan and development contributions charges for 2024/25 will take place from 4-6 June 2024. Decisions and adoption of the fees and charges for 2024/25 will take place on 28 May 2024. The final 2024/25 Enhanced Annual Plan will be brought to Council for adoption on 25 June 2024.

8. Confirmation of statutory compliance Te Whakatuuturutanga aa-ture

As required by the Local Government Act 2002, staff confirm the following:

The report fits with Council's role and Committee's Terms of Reference and Delegations.	Confirmed
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The report contains sufficient information about all reasonably practicable options identified and assessed in terms of their advantages and disadvantages (<i>Section 5.1</i>).	Confirmed
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Staff assessment of the level of significance of the issues in the report after consideration of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy (<i>Section 6.1</i>).	Low
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The report contains adequate consideration of the views and preferences of affected and interested persons taking account of any proposed or previous community engagement and assessed level of significance (<i>Section 6.2</i>).	Confirmed
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The report considers impact on Maaori (<i>Section 5.5</i>)	Confirmed
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The report and recommendations are consistent with Council's plans and policies (<i>Section 5.4</i>).	Confirmed
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The report and recommendations comply with Council's legal duties and responsibilities (<i>Section 5.3</i>).	Confirmed
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9. Attachments Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – Hearings Schedule (subject to change)

Attachment 2 – All submissions on the 2024/25 Enhanced Annual Plan

Attachment 3 – Social media engagement data and comments

Attachment 1: Annual Plan Hearing Schedule

Tuesday 14 May 2024

Please note this schedule is subject to change and will be updated on the day of the hearing.

Time	Submission ID	Name	Attach 2 page #
9.40 am	7751	Waikato Wellbeing - Harvey Brookes	264
9.50 am	7754	Amy and James Whetu	272
10.00 am			
10.10 am	7729	Housing Czar Independent Housing Advocacy - Aksel Bech	233
10.20 am	7595	Marie Chester	48
10.30 am	7610	Shelly Carden	74
BREAK			
11.00 am	7600	Keerthi	56
11.10 am	7642	Melanie	133
11.20 am	7655	Tama	146
11.30 am	7757	Rosemarie Costar - Rural Port Waikato Community Board	279
11.40 am	7750	Tayla McHardie	262
11.50 am	7624	Waikato Regional Airport - Mark Morgan (via Zoom)	109

Wednesday 15 May 2024

Please note this schedule is subject to change and will be updated on the day of the hearing.

Time	Submission ID	Name	Attach 2 page #
9.40 am	7779	Craig E. Maxwell	426
9.50 am	7753	Dennis Amoore (via Zoom)	269
10.00 am	7778	Matt Holl	425
10.10 am	7620	Craig Mackie	103
10.20 am	7777	Creative Waikato- Jeremy Mayall	341
10.30 am	7715	Jody McIntosh (via Zoom)	209
BREAK			
11.00 am			
11.10 am	7615	Greg McCutchan	79
11.20 am			
11.30 am	7716	Moana (Via Zoom)	211
11.40 am	7618	Hamilton & Waikato Tourism - Richard Leggat (Chair), Gus Gilmore and/or Mark Morgan (board members) (likely via Zoom)	82
11.50 am			

BREAK			
1.00 pm	7769	Waikato Screen NZ – Erin Griffiths	307
1.10 pm	7748	Srujith (via zoom)	260
1.20 pm	7701	Krish	193
1.30 pm	7774	Maggie Wilcock	322
1.40 pm	7749	Matangi Community Committee - Kitty Burton	261
1.50 pm			
2.00 pm	7659	Conrad Fourie	149
2.10 pm			
2.20 pm			
BREAK			
2.50pm			
3.00 pm			
3.10 pm			
3.20 pm			
3.30 pm			
3.40 pm	7725	Whatawhata Community Association – Glenn Mclennan	229
3.50 pm			

Thursday 16 May 2024

Please note this schedule is subject to change and will be updated on the day of the hearing.

Time	Submission ID	Name	Agenda page #
9.40 am			
9.50 am			
10.00 am			
10.10 am			
10.20 am			
10.30 am			
BREAK			
11.00 am			
11.10 am			
11.20 am			
11.30 am			
11.40 am			
11.50 am			

2024/25 Enhanced Annual Plan Submissions Pack

Sub ID	Name	Organisation (if applicable)	Page No.
7457	Jan Larsen		6
7458	Noel Alker		7
7459	Elizabeth Shaw		8
7461	Trena Marshall	N/A	9
7462	[Confidential]		10
7463	Dave		11
7464	[Confidential]		12
7466	Aaron		13
7467	Nigel meek		14
7468	Carl Ammon		15
7475	Aroha Gaylor	Rate payer, home owner, retiree	16
7482	[Confidential]		17
7492	Samantha Whybrow		18
7497	[Confidential]	Technician	19
7499	[Confidential]		20
7521	Bridget Flanagan		21
7547	Rafael		22
7556	Zoe Webster		23
7561	Genette Wilson		24
7565	[Confidential]		25
7573	Debbie Roberts		26
7575	[Confidential]		27
7576	[Confidential]		28
7577	[Confidential]		29
7578	Steven		30
7579	[Confidential]		31
7580	[Confidential]		32
7581	[Confidential]		33
7582	[Confidential]		34
7583	Pauline Hendrikse		35
7584	[Confidential]		36
7585	Susan Harmse		37
7586	Carl Thomas		38
7587	Alexander Stoehr		39
7588	Hardeep Singh		40
7589	John Lings	Private	42
7590	[Confidential]		43
7591	rhonda beasley	ForumPoint2 Conference Partners	44
7592	[Confidential]		45
7593	Rubens		46
7594	Levy Anderson		47
7595	Marie Chester		48
7596	Tim Buckley		49
7597	Cheryl Phipps		50
7598	Diane Drummond	Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust	51
7599	Allan Sanson		55

Sub ID	Name	Organisation (if applicable)	Page No.
7600	[Confidential]		56
7601	[Confidential]	private	57
7602	Trina Regnier		59
7603	[Confidential]		66
7604	[Confidential]		67
7605	[Confidential]		68
7606	Yashar Armaghani		69
7607	Gary		71
7608	[Confidential]		72
7609	Ken McCarthy (Bob Mac)		73
7610	Shelly Carden		74
7611	[Confidential]	[Confidential]	75
7612	[Confidential]		76
7613	[Confidential]		77
7614	Karly Skelton		78
7615	Greg McCutchan		79
7617	Logan Rainey	Property Council New Zealand	80
7618	Nicola Greenwell	Hamilton & Waikato Tourism	82
7619	[Confidential]		102
7620	Craig Mackie		103
7621	[Confidential]		104
7622	Neville Tyler		105
7623	[Confidential]	Bike Waikato	106
7624	Mark Morgan	Waikato Regional Airport Ltd	109
7625	[Confidential]		114
7626	Kerrie		116
7627	[Confidential]		117
7628	[Confidential]		119
7629	[Confidential]		120
7630	[Confidential]	No	121
7631	[Confidential]		122
7632	[Confidential]		123
7633	[Confidential]		124
7634	Jo		125
7635	[Confidential]		126
7636	Carol Weatherley		127
7637	[Confidential]		128
7638	[Confidential]		129
7639	Vaughan Wallace & Susan Forlong		130
7640	[Confidential]		131
7641	[Confidential]		132
7642	[Confidential]		133
7643	[Confidential]		134
7644	[Confidential]		135
7645	[Confidential]		136
7646	[Confidential]		137

Sub ID	Name	Organisation (if applicable)	Page No.
7647	[Confidential]		138
7648	Samantha		139
7649	[Confidential]		140
7650	[Confidential]		141
7651	[Confidential]		142
7652	[Confidential]		143
7653	[Confidential]		144
7654	Kelly		145
7655	[Confidential]		146
7657	[Confidential]		147
7658	[Confidential]		148
7659	Conrad Fourie		149
7660	[Confidential]		150
7661	[Confidential]		151
7662	[Confidential]		152
7663	Jenna		153
7664	[Confidential]		154
7665	Nicole		155
7666	Barbara Barrand		156
7667	[Confidential]		157
7668	Bob Coleman		158
7669	[Confidential]		159
7670	Sylvia O'Leary		160
7671	[Confidential]		161
7672	[Confidential]		162
7673	Korall Lakatos		163
7674	[Confidential]		165
7675	[Confidential]		166
7676	[Confidential]		167
7677	Fenton		168
7678	[Confidential]		169
7679	[Confidential]		170
7680	[Confidential]		171
7681	[Confidential]		172
7682	[Confidential]		173
7683	Emerald Reid		174
7684	[Confidential]		175
7685	[Confidential]		176
7686	Michelle		177
7687	[Confidential]		178
7688	Rochelle		179
7689	[Confidential]		180
7690	[Confidential]		182
7691	[Confidential]		183
7692	P		184
7693	John Brannan		185
7694	[Confidential]		186

Sub ID	Name	Organisation (if applicable)	Page No.
7695	[Confidential]		187
7696	[Confidential]		188
7697	[Confidential]		189
7698	[Confidential]		190
7699	[Confidential]		191
7700	Shaun		192
7701	Krish		193
7702	[Confidential]		194
7703	[Confidential]		195
7704	Johanna		196
7705	[Confidential]		197
7706	Haydn		198
7707	[Confidential]		200
7708	[Confidential]		201
7709	Rate Payer		203
7710	[Confidential]		204
7711	[Confidential]		205
7712	Michelle Perrin		206
7713	[Confidential]		207
7714	Jenn Hooper		208
7715	Jody McIntosh	Waikato District Ratepayer	209
7716	Moana		211
7717	Allison Sayer		213
7718	[Confidential]		215
7719	[Confidential]		216
7721	[Confidential]		217
7722	[Confidential]		222
7723	[Confidential]		223
7724	Brent Sheldrake	Sport NZ	224
7725	[Confidential]	Whatawhata Community Association	229
7726	Jacko		230
7727	[Confidential]		231
7728	Laurence Carroll	NA	232
7729	Aksel Bech	Housing Czar -Independent Housing Advocacy	233
7730	[Confidential]		235
7731	Kiri Goultrier	Regional Tourism New Zealand	236
7732	Emma		242
7733	Emma		243
7734	[Confidential]		244
7735	[Confidential]		245
7736	[Confidential]		246
7737	John Lawson		247
7738	Kirstie	Huntly st john area committee and community service volunteer	249
7739	[Confidential]		250
7740	[Confidential]		251

Sub ID	Name	Organisation (if applicable)	Page No.
7741	[Confidential]		253
7742	[Confidential]		254
7743	JJ		255
7744	Jordan Macqueen		256
7745	Peter		257
7746	Sonnja Hewitt		258
7747	Samantha kiss		259
7748	[Confidential]		260
7749	Kitty Burton	Matangi Community Committee	261
7750	Tayla		262
7751	[Confidential]	Waikato Wellbeing Project on behalf of Waikato For Purpose Sector	264
7752	[Confidential]		268
7753	Dennis Amoore		269
7754	Amy and James Whetu		272
7755	do not wish to provide		275
7756	Ken Soanes	Resident	276
7757	Rosemarie Costar	Rural Port Waikato Community Board	279
7758	Lynda Keene	Tourism Export Council of NZ	282
7759	[Confidential]	West Waikato Coastal Community Catchment Group Inc	285
7760	[Confidential]	Te Akau Waingaro Community Complex INC	289
7761	Lisa Gardiner	Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust	292
7762	[Confidential]		298
7763	[Confidential]		299
7764	Vanessa		300
7765	Cindy		301
7766	[Confidential]		302
7767	Jason Dawson	Air New Zealand	303
7768	[Confidential]		306
7769	Tracy Hampton	Waikato Screen NZ	307
7770	[Confidential]		317
7771	[Confidential]		318
7772	Jane Apperley	Waikato Regional Council	319
7773	Kirstie Alley	Gordonton Woodlands Trust	321
7774	Maggie Wilcock		322
7775	Mark Brougham	Hamilton City Council	324
7776	Chris Woolerton & Susan Woolerton	Waikato Federated Farmers	330
7777	Jeremy Mayall	Creative Waikato	341
7778	Matt Holl		425
7779	Craig E. Maxwell	Rate payer	426
7780	[Confidential]		427
7781	Lisa James	Raglan Business Chamber	428
7782	Karuna Deobhakta	Waikato Tainui	431
7783	Chris Woolerton	Middle Ridge Farms Ltd	447

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7457
Name:	Jan Larsen
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Not at this time

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

I would like to no where all our rates have gone over the last 20/10 yrs NOT ON THE ROADS that is for sure

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I live in the village at Tuakau my rates all together are \$4700 approx we are on the super where do you think our money is to come from if our rates go up to the percentages you are planning

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

RATES !!!!!for the home owner and WHY if part of our rates is rubbish WHY do we then have to pay for a ticket to go on the bin

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7458
Name:	Noel Alker
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Keep the increase for maintaining old infrastructure!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Council missing the chance of increased income by charging a fee for boat ramp use! Most other seaside areas charge for boat launching and the number of boats using ramps in Raglan has increased dramatically over the last five years! Council needs to seriously consider this suggestion! E.g. one Saturday there were over 100 boat trailers at Manu Bay and the two town ramps
Cheers

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7459
Name:	Elizabeth Shaw
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Don't even understand it

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Don't even understand what that is. Put your stuff in simple language, you're writing stuff for the general public, not a classroom full of university graduates.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Can't even find it.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

You need to address your wastage eg brand new library books on sales trolleys. Who does the buying? Reps who flog off books that no one wants?

Staffing levels, over staffed and overpaid throughout the whole of council not just libraries.

Wastage in sending staff out to check swimming pools that haven't been there for a couple of years.

The whole of Council jobs/roles needs to be revaluated.

Raglan wastewater: well we've been paying for that since the 1990s but somehow Council has 'forgotten' what they said back then when the increases first started and it's gotten out of control now. Reduce what you pay to consultants and employ staff who know how to do their jobs.

We are being bled dry, those of us on fixed pensions are struggling with everyday costs anyway and any rates rebate given is taken immediately by your outrageous rate increases.

You people also seem to forget that some of us have been here a long time and have heard the same rhetoric and excuses over and over again.

Live within your means Council and stop 'tapping' us for 'more money'.

We are not a never-ending supply.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7461
Name:	Trena Marshall
Organisation:	N/A
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

I wish to say that the Greenslade Road "playground" is not needed. The reserve is a natural resource - and yet here is a proposal to once again put a human imprint on it. The "playground" IS the reserve, the equipment is inside the head of every child ... ie, imagination. Structured equipment is not needed and is a waste of money. Just put in a boardwalk and plant the area. As one youngster said at a meeting recently: Just let us play in the grass!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Why do sports grounds need more money? Surely fundraising could be used for any improvements.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

13-plus % is a hell of a whack!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Sports grounds should be "user pays".

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7462
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Yes its time for Austerity, in Raglan I would rather see the library, Raglan Naturally, the Raglan Community Board, and the council building go before raising rates by 15% in a single year. To shove it through in weeks is unfair as well and selfish. You should all lose your jobs for mismanagement on this scale.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Id fire all of you if i had the chance.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I object 100%, I would rather fire the lot of you than raise rates again. My rates have gone from 2700 to nearly 6k in 14 years, this exponential growth has to stop. Were tired of paying more for less. Council gave away our water, charged us three times as much for water then sold then gave away the work double payed and now need a bail out. Its time for austerity, or find some other form of revenue.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

All of them bar infrastructure.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7463
Name:	Dave
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

No wind farm

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Fuck the wind farm

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

What the fuck are you all thinking allowing wind farms. Do your due diligence, don't just listen to the suppliers. They're absolutely garbage for locals. A huge part of sustainability is the social aspect and there is nothing socially sustainable about wind farms. We just don't need them in nz. Look into it.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Speed cameras.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7464
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Can't see mention of funds for development of park at 757 Ngaruawahia Road where council has purchased land.

Keen to see this development progress will be great asset for community.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Would be happy to pay a targeted rate to see development of park at 757 Ngaruawahia rd.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

No

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7466
Name:	Aaron
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Currently a wind farm developer is trying to put 190m high wind turbines 400m from my boundary on the south side and 600m from the north. Other councils around the country have accepted an international setback standard for wind turbines from a dwelling of 1.5km. Waikato District Council needs this setback distance in place to protect its ratepayers.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

No

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

As my property will devalue significantly being sandwiched between two 190m high wind turbines I expect a rate rebate.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7467
Name:	Nigel meek
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

I will not make specific, line by line, comments or responses. Suffice it to say your own opening statement says it all, when you talk about providing infrastructure and services which the community 'wants and needs'. These two concepts should not be in the same sentence, moving forward. Financial constraints are such that hard decisions must be made to identify and separate what is a 'want' and what is a 'need'. For example, a new public playground. Is it a want or a need? Is there another within reasonable travel distance? Then it is a want and not a need. Council must confine itself to needs only, into the foreseeable future, even at the perceived notion of losing votes every three years. You're not here to make friends. Only to spend my hard earned money wisely and frugally.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

See item 8

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

See item 8

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Wants and not needs might include berm plantings or roadside cutting. Needs and not wants might include weed matting and roadside drainage ditches. Get real and get serious about the difference between wants and needs.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7468
Name:	Carl Ammon
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

High level comment - priorities must be basic services and meeting urgent needs in areas where investments are needed (eg. Waste water upgrades and if needed water supply / storm water). Realism is needed as the economy is in decline in terms of GDP, productivity, 4X and being tested by the inflationary costs of fiscal easing and disproportionate government growth. Your restraint is good but marginal thusly contributing to inflation and economic hardship.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Assuming these reflect costs created they seem appropriate

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The general principal of costs being transparent and tied to recovery is good in signalling to consumers - hopefully encouraging greater efficiency. The cost of animal control seems high and are the fees generated enough to offset these services costs?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Your budget presentations would benefit from consolidated tables as they tend to be fragmentary by locality or services and are hard to evaluate. Adding time comparatives of past year(s) would help trend analysis.

Including the income and expenditure figures for various fees, charges and services would be more informative. More focus should be on fixed targeted charges so economic signalling is clear for rational decision making. Your corporate and management areas need review and constraint like central government is having to do at present. There is a lack of focus on efficiencies and productivity to deliver more for less - this is a good discipline to follow.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7475
Name:	Aroha Gaylor
Organisation:	Rate payer, home owner, retiree
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

At the heart of your documents are comments in regards to the community and it's wellbeing. The enormous rates rise begs to differ.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

I am pleasantly surprised with the clarification of the changes made and why they were made. Please delete the texts that talks about community and caring for it. Your people will suffer, while your office admins, roads, building etc. are improved.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I believe it is an insult to ask for feedback on the LTP and AP when you have decided on the increase to rates.

A young couple purchased a home in Ngaaruawahia. They live on one income and both have health issues and 4 children. They are super stressed with mortgage increases and now enormous rates rise. Wellbeing of your community should not be in your planning.

There are no improvements to my community....potholes, minor foot paths etc. We supply our own water systems and sewage systems. The planning should show what you do for our Glen Massey Community. As retirees, we would have major issues paying for yet more rates rise if there is no evidence of improvements, upgrades etc.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

The amount of staff in your offices perhaps.

Your roading contractors do a poor job, who checks on their efficiency?

Do up roading, fencing etc in many areas of the rohe but Glen Massey gorge is still a mess, an eye sore.

Fencing, clearing of water ways....etc.

Has anyone checked out the size of the posts used on pathway exits etc. Love to know the cost of those....what is wrong with using posts less enormous and costly.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7482
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

The council should work within their means, I won't get an almost 14% pay increase because I can't budget. The first thing to cut is the unnecessary waste of money on badly planned projects. Just go back to core services and put the pet projects on hold. Reduce the excess staff in the office as that is almost a quarter of our rates money. The other bulk of the money goes into roading, but the quality of our roads is still deteriorating. Put the money into maintenance and not the silly speedbumps and painting a dot on a intersection and calling it a roundabout. Or placing expensive led signs near schools that not work anyway. The next large sum of money is parks and reserves at almost 20% this is obvious something the council can't afford so maybe reduce the amount of parks and reserves and sell of the land so you can compensate for your financial shortcomings. Just my opinion, but I get tired of paying more and more for services I don't get any benefits from.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?****Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here****REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Everything what is not a core service and unnecessary pet projects .
 The cycle ways. (as I never see anyone using them.)
 Review your staffing levels and cut the dead wood.
 Reducing parks , reserves and playgrounds.
 and reduce funding for sporting facilities as that seems to be the only council funded hobby.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7492
Name:	Samantha Whybrow
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

I understand you need to maintain and invest. Unfortunately things like libraries and the cost of running them now seem like a luxury.

Main priorities for me are:

Safety

Roads that don't damage our cars

Not spending money fixing old buildings. Instead develop a complete replacement program over the next 30 years.

If you're making me pay registration for my dogs you need to do the same for cats! They are destroying our wildlife and they are a nuisance through fowling on property they don't live on. They carry diseases and they need to be controlled through desexing as well.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Okay with the increase in my dog rego but want the ability for my dogs to be assessed as being inside dogs

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Mowing of parks

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7497
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Can't see draft work program

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

If the money for roads and transport is for fixing the roads and pot holes it's good, if it's for speed bumps it's a waste of money.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Dog registration fee is too much

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7499
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Stop crippling us with increasing rates when we never see any changes to things that are actually important to this community!!!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Fix the water!!!

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

This is food out of our childrens and families mouths that is just going into the pockets of those who do bugger all but make excuses for inadequate services!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Corporate and council leadership, area offices and properties.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7521
Name:	Bridget Flanagan
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

N/A

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Proposed rates increase. What has the council done with previous rates money? There's huge problems in Raglan with the infrastructure, lack of storm water, unfixed water leaks, sewage flow problems. It would have made sense to address the problems rather than spend millions on upgrading the wharf or the money even spent on the consultation design process. I don't know how the local will be able to afford the rates, there's lack of jobs, expensive food, expensive rubbish removal. Raglan rates are more than double Tauranga and the rate payers there are better taken care of.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7547
Name:	Rafael
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

I read the note "over 13% rate increase" with concerns.
Inflation is dropping and doesn't justify such increase at the peak of this cycle, referring that prices went up in the past year, as a baseline.
There are signs of prices dropping in many areas, which should have been taking in consideration in this analysis, as it is likely to softer the Council's financial pressure, if contracts are re-negotiated.
Households are struggling at the current cost of living situation.
NZ is in recession.
13% increase is just too much based on what is being proposed.
As a suggestion, please request the Procurement team to work harder on cost savings and please discuss alternatives to improve logistics and productivity from your Subcontractors.
Also, certain areas such as animal care, is not delivered for every single taxpayer on the communities.
Therefore, costs related to niche groups, should have their related taxes reviewed to reflect the cost increase, such as at animal registration, for example. Doesn't make sense to pass such bill to everyone.
Also, I can see a huge spend on roads which should have a similar approach.
Without mentioning the existing taxes in place, such as RUC, income tax, etc.
Transferring the costs to the community, specially at that rate, sounds like a huge ask.
Salary reviews never get into double digits.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Mentioned a couple of examples on previous answer.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Mentioned a couple of examples on previous answer.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Again, before working in reducing services, negotiate the current ones.
With NZ in recession, there are more players available in the market and opportunities to review contracts, aiming to consolidate services, increase productivity, lowering the cost.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7556
Name:	Zoe Webster
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

These might not be in the work programme but these should be addressed

Why are the public schools canceling there buses or forcing the parents to pay 200\$ each child to be on the bus? If I am a rate payer I would like to see every kid having the access to a education if both parents in the household both work full time they may not have the time to take there children to school hence why they take the school bus.

I get where your coming from for the water but there are so many roads that need to be repair (most of the roads in onewhero for one) they have been damaged from the floods last year and there still no news of them getting fixed

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Unsure

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

If you up the rates more people will be struggling with the cost of living and will cause people to miss payments at least make it a bit fare for us!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7561
Name:	Genette Wilson
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

The programme seems balanced. I do have a concern that deferring maintenance may end up costing more in the long term and we may be making it difficult for future generations. However I also appreciate that there is a limit in costs that can be incurred by ratepayers at this time. I also would like assurance that the programme can be delivered this year given the constraints in supply chains and the overall market conditions. Growth needs to be paid for by the developers.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Given the current economic conditions and the fact we are still experiencing growth I do not understand why there are decreases in the development contributions. We are all facing increased costs so would expect these to be passed on to developers at this time even if works are deferred under this plan.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I think user pays is a good principle for any commercial services. The exception is the services for public good like libraries where these should be funded from rates. It is a balancing act and I appreciate that Council are trying to balance the cost of services across the board.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I would like to see some areas being left to wild flowers and to develop biodiversity as Hamilton City Council has trialed. There may some reserve areas that are better to be left unmown. I understand that most sports clubs are run by volunteers and have limited funding but do wonder if there should be more equity with user pays.

There are a lot of halls that are managed by WDC. I think there needs to be a review of the use of these halls. Maybe if the community wants to maintain these facilities then it should be through a community trust or similar. I question how much these halls are utilised and if there are commercial ventures running from them that should pay commercial rates for hire eg zumba classes. Alternatively maybe the community boards could prioritise what halls in their area get funding. I know that there is a lot of history in some communities with their halls and they would not like them to be disposed off but we need to be realistic about the cost vs the usage/benefit to the wider community.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7565
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Rates are already high. We are paying regional AND district rates. I believe that they are high enough. Times are tough for home owners already to pay rates and dues.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

See above

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

See above

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No, however I would suggest downsizing for roles that are surplus as well as slowing down new projects or initiatives that may increase rates

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7573
Name:	Debbie Roberts
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

For people who only earn a fixed wage as I do, a 13%percent increase is too much. With the growth in the Franklin district there will be more people to pay rates so it is only greed that would cause you to raise rates that high. With other bills needing to be paid there is only so much I can pay to you in rates and others are in the same boat. If you raise rates that high then you must increase the rates rebate amount to at least \$1000.00. If I don't have enough money to pay what you are proposing then I will be putting a cap on what you can take from my bank account.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7575
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Yes- after receiving a flyer in my mailbox saying we were looking at rates increases, but not actually showing me how this is going to increase FOR ME, you seem to be hiding the facts amongst data. Stating you understand times are tough, I don't think is true. Everyone needs to limit their ambition and rethink what's essential, that includes councils, what people want to see is you lowering the rates, getting efficient, getting on board with looking after people. Local councils have had a good run in recent years, pulling in large funding streams by constantly increasing home values and drawing more rates, now you need to lean down. This is not what people want to hear.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I would expect in the current climate you would take an essentialist approach. If an activity isn't essential or critical for core services it should be wound down, placed in stasis or cancelled.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7576
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Firstly, thank you for everything you do for us. I love Raglan, and appreciate what the council does. I have two general comments:

1. The state of Te Hutewai road is unmanageable at present. I have had two near head on collisions due to drivers on the other side of the road being unable to drive on their side of the road due to huge trenches and holes. The current way grading is done is not fixing the issue and within a couple of weeks, we are back to the huge holes and dangerous driving. We have school buses and posties using this road too and it is an accident waiting to happen. I attended an in person meeting in the supper room a couple of years back and have seen no feedback following this meeting, not even minutes which were promised.
2. We need to have garbage collection at the recycling depot at the Te Mata end of Te Hutewai Road. The truck drives straight past here. People are dumping their blue bags anyway. The Te Mata area has grown significantly but the services are not growing with this. It is unsightly and I have seen a number of rats there too.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?**

Yes. I am struggling to see what I'm paying for in terms of rubbish/ recycling and road maintenance when I am faced with the issues above daily. They seem like high costs for a bare minimum service.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7577
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

A 13.5% rate increase is just insane!! I know things have gone up but I live in Pokeno and there are more and more houses been built all the time meaning more rates being paid for the area. We are already way up there in the amount we pay compared to most of the country, how is this justified? I would love more explanation to this. Also I feel the the fixed wastewater rate charge needs to be stopped and we need to do it the same as Auckland based on a percentage on the water used on the property, because I don't think it's fair a single person household pays the same as a 7-8 person household for wastewater as the single person isn't putting anywhere near as much stress on the pipelines as a big household. I think that is very fair.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I have lived in Pokeno for coming up 4 years and we haven't had a proper public toilet the whole time, only a temporary container block, this is disgusting as we pay way higher tax compare to the average in this country. So not reducing a service but actually providing a proper permanent fix please.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7578
Name:	Steven
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

How do you expect people to afford a rate increase, yet again, when so many families already struggle to pay their rates! We have some of the highest rates in the country and it's going up again!? But hey, even though so many people won't be able to afford this, council has already decided and they do not care about all the extra stress this puts on families.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Have a good look at wasteful spending

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7579
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Work does not justify such high rates for Pokeno area when we are already paying higher than most areas of Auckland

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Charges are already too high

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Charges are already too high and should not increase further

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

We need more services in Pokeno and not less

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7580
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Only what I want to say that my rates is extremely high as it is and the council is having another rates increase in July. Times are tough financially and what I get in Pokeno for my rates is peanuts. Increasing rates in this difficult times is ridiculous and will discourage home ownership in the Waikato region.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7581
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Just like people doing it tough these past couple of years, council need to try some austerity on for size.

In the past year alone it has already had a pay rise of 8%, above and beyond inflation, which is more than many of us can say.

Council need to manage expenditure just like many households have had to, instead of mouthing empty platitudes while simultaneously stuffing yet another hand into everyone's wallet.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7582
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Get more people into the district. Reduce section sizes so you can subdivide a 5000sqm block down to 2500sqm. 5000sqm is too big, smaller sections more people costs increases get split over more.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7583
Name:	Pauline Hendrikse
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

TeKowhai Estate subdivision needs urgent storm water improvements as brand new houses flooded there immediately they were built. This issue has been under investigation for four years by this council who consented this subdivision and yet no funding is designated nor is it on this list. It needs to included.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?**

Anyone in TeKowhai Estate that suffers flooding due to council development Era and now has the defect on their LIM should have their rates and charges significantly reduced until this flooding matter is sorted.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Halve the number of managers quartered and use this money to pay people who actually do work like picking up rubbish and maintaining infrastructure, ensure that noone who works for council steals ratepayers money by having breaks longer than scheduled and that everyone actually starts work the minute they start getting paid. Ensure all morning teas lunches etc with staff are self funded. Cut out most of the meetings and do work rather than just talking about and getting nothing done.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7584
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

STOP contracts being awarded as 'charge up' ie. Birchwood lane drain works. This project was a mess from the get go & after being done twice it is still not right. The wastage was embarrassing!! What took 8+ days should have been 2-3at best! The traffic mgmt was excessive!!!
Contracts need to be quoted & contractors held accountable!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7585
Name:	Susan Harmse
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

As first home buyers in Pokeno, and already paying much more than Franklin district for rates, we feel putting up the rates will have a huge impact on young families and recent first home buyers especially with the cost of living being so high.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7586
Name:	Carl Thomas
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

13.75% rate increase, we can not afford this.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

13.5% rate increase we can not afford this. It's now out of reach to stay living where we are.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Roading, the crap things like the works at the raglan wharf step project.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7587
Name:	Alexander Stoehr
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

1,632,246 for the office renewal is abit to much in times when People need to save money. also 200k for a cloud IT solution is a bit oversized. Waikato is very rural and before investing into : District wide footpaths - walking and cycling improve the roads need to be repaired so that Tourist can discover Waikato and not be worried about to damage their cars.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Yes please ask you question direct with the name of the pdf and not that someone needs to find at first the right pdf You can even use links .

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Education should be free in the Library and minor damages should be not set in NZd more in percentage of the value of the item there also need to be a evaluation if the Council need all these halls . in some bigger areas there will be alternatives or multiple halls owned by the council which could be united. depending also on the amount of income of each hall over that last years

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

not reducing more incrising the rates for companies like the forest companies which are not bringing jobs or other benefits to the area but damaging the roads and the nature in a big way. They should pay more or even get a type of tax

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7588
Name:	Hardeep Singh
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

This draft which has been prepared for consultation has outline the services which have been provided by the council. There is one significant change in the draft increasing the rates fee to 13.26% in Pokeno area which is highest and the services which provide by the council is limited. It required significant consideration before making this change as it will impact to whole Pokeno area as it going to be unaffordable to live and it will significant impact on growth as people might not live here or will be soon start moving to other areas specially who moved to from Auckland. Business will become unsustainable to work due to the increase of rates

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

We understand that rate increase require to run the council properly and provide services however at the moment where inflation is higher and people are hard hit by the cost of living and business are struggling. We should only focus on the operation cost and maintenance work. We should avoid to start new project at this stage. If we have to increase the rate then we should only consider to the level of inflation not higher than that which is 4.7%.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Reference to Draft Capital Project Listing - Annual Plan 2024/25 then there is significant amount which going towards new project. is it possible that we should not start those project which can wait for another year or two while everyone struggling for cost of living crisis and recession. For example- Pokeno Library has allocated \$6,340,680 for Annual Plan 2024/25 which we sure that it not going to start very soon and we do not need for the library at this stage. As per the conversion with Chairman of the Pokeno committee that it hasn't approved to start the project so if that is the case then we should not include in the Draft project list. Pokeno Library should also be taken into account for long term plan rather then Annual Plan. By doing this it will reduce increase of rate of Waikato district Not only Pokeno. Same apply to Tuakau library renewal project if that can also wait another year when we out of recession which is also \$3,061,000.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

As I mentioned before that if council can avoid to start the project which can wait next year then rate payers will have some relief during this recession and cost of living crises.

If there is significant increase of the rate it only not going to impact financially but mentally as well because at the moment if rate increase that significantly then it will at least cost each family \$6000 and which is not small amount. It will put more pressure on the government services like mental health etc. If you know 23000 families already behind there payment of mortgage and 800 people more added in this months. If rate increase that much this year it will significant impact to the country's economy and country wouldn't be able to come out of recession so easily. On the other hand Bank and other financial institutions are trying to get the inflation down so country can come out of the cost of living crises. I would strongly suggest that council seek more funding from centre government if possible.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7589
Name:	John Lings
Organisation:	Private
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

The average increase in salaries is in the range of 3-6%, how do you see anyone in the current financial crisis we in will be able to afford a 13.75% increase in rates and does this increase apply to both general rates and the regional rates. I'm sure as councillors you'll be able to affront the increase because you'll just give yourself a salary increase to match. I think your proposal sucks

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7590
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Could that be Draft Capital projects List? Would be handy if the document name could match the question please. Also the list has abbreviations that to the local resident, means little. For instance what is a CO NGA renewals for NGA main office at \$1,632,246. How can the average resident give an opinion as to what we think of it, when we have no idea what it actually is... Expenditure needs to be prioritised right now.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Unsure, Onewhero doesn't appear in the list so presume we fall under Tuakau.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Don't increase costs. 7% last year was enough of a hike.
if you want more money out of farmers, allow them to subdivide off a 2 acre section of land without resorting to finding expensive hard to source titles. Let them create a new once off title (with council permission) to assist with farming income.
Current rural district (and regional) rates are pricing food growing out of affordability. Council must recognise that farmers are facing increased compliance costs which adds to the cost of growing food. Weigh up what is important, do we feed people by experienced rural people, or do we just create each farm into a tourism venue with overseas owners which will require more infrastructure and maintenance and less food availability to our people... what's important?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Supporting/hosting non essential offers. There's a lot of great initiatives that council supports, but for now if the cost of hosting these initiatives is coming from rate payers/landowners, then this cost needs to be addressed and potentially suspended until a better economic time.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7591
Name:	rhonda beasley
Organisation:	ForumPoint2 Conference Partners
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

We strongly advocate a reassessment of the proposed 50% reduction in supporting the Hamilton and Waikato Tourism Organisation.

Last time funding was cut to our regional tourism organisation (RTO) the results were dramatic and disastrous. Rebuilding the relationships and momentum to the levels the region is now enjoying took years.

The Hamilton and Waikato Tourism Organisation has been exceptionally effective in showcasing and promoting our region, and the wide range of services available, to both national and international markets. In doing so, they are supporting hundreds of businesses and thousands of employees that are either directly or indirectly reliant on tourism - including business tourism. Numerous international studies have proven the substantial multiplier effect of relatively small investments in RTO's on overall tourism revenue for the region. This, in turn, provides significant risk mitigation for businesses affected by tourism.

It is imperative to view this funding not as an expense, but as an INVESTMENT in our region - our people, our vibrant community, our environment and our economic resilience and prosperity in the fabulous Waikato.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?****Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here****REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7592
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I looked at this site to find out what your predicted or proposed increase was going to be for our own budgeting purposes and I cannot find it. Also called the council and was told they cannot say. This is madness when every business in the country needs to provide a budget to their bank and they don't know what rates increases they are facing. Please do not raise rates at all. In fact they are already far too high with not enough value for money spent.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I don't think you should be looking at reducing services. I think you should be providing them more efficiently. As every other business has to do to make ends meet.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7593
Name:	Rubens
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Yes, I do have comments about the rate fees. I am not going to be able to pay increase as I am struggling with my current financial situation. I am a father of three kids under five years old, and my wife isn't working because we couldn't afford to pay daycare for the three kids. I live in Pokeno, and I can see new house building everyday, so it means you guys can have more rates almost everyday. You should think about people first rather than money during this time. Unfortunately, I have to sell the house and live in the car with my family. Thank you for that.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

The rate

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7594
Name:	Levy Anderson
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Proposed rates increase. What has the council done with previous rates money? There's huge problems in Raglan with the infrastructure, lack of storm water, unfixed water leaks, sewage flow problems. It would have made sense to address the problems rather than spend millions on upgrading the wharf or the money even spent on the consultation design process. I don't know how the local will be able to afford the rates, there's lack of jobs, expensive food, expensive rubbish removal. Raglan rates are more than double Tauranga and the rate payers there are better taken care of.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

It would have made sense to address the problems rather than spend millions on upgrading the wharf or the money even spent on the consultation design process.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7595
Name:	Marie Chester
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I am happy for my rates to pay for our core services and generally happy with what WDC is doing.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I would like to see WDC focus on our core services. I want to see clean, fresh water coming out of my taps and I want to see my WW flush down the toilet. I also want our SW network to do what it is supposed to do, I would like to see improvements to the roading network.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7596
Name:	Tim Buckley
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Yes it's terrible!! For the rates we pay, service delivery should be better.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I don't want to reduce services, they need to be increased, particularly regarding vegetation and roading + footpaths, and drainage.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7597
Name:	Cheryl Phipps
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

It isn't sustainable for your constituents!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

I don't want to contribute more!

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Any money spent requires a budget. We, the community, can't afford to pay more than we so, so it's simple really - adjust your budget, just as we do to be able to afford food, healthcare and our exorbitant rates.

You are playing with our money and while some things are urgent, that's what your job is as caretakers of our council is to sort out. Not to overspend and then demand more.

We are hurting and you don't seem to care.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

How can a family or a retired couple afford 5,600 per year? Reduce a little of everything if necessary.

Bottom line is we can't afford your budget!

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7598
Name:	Diane Drummond
Organisation:	Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

No

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

No

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

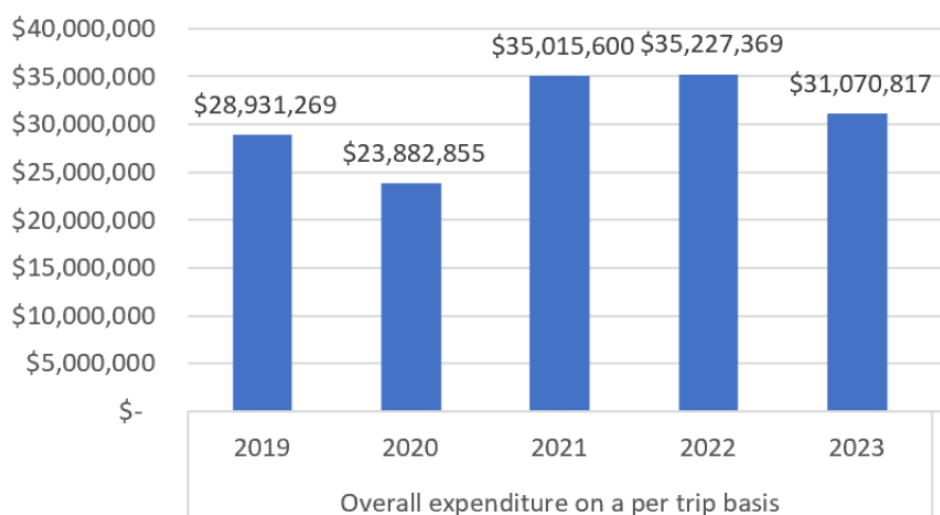
Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust Submission to Waikato District Council's Enhanced Annual Plan

The Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Waikato District Council's Enhanced Annual Plan regarding the proposed funding cuts to Hamilton Waikato Tourism. We do not support the proposed reduction in funding and ask for funding to be reinstated at or above its current levels.

The Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust's (the Trust) purpose is to provide benefits to the communities within the Region by operating, maintaining, repairing, developing and facilitating the use and enjoyment of the Cycleway, branded as the Hauraki Rail Trail. The Hauraki Rail Trail is one of 23 Great Rides in the Nga Haerenga Great Rides of New Zealand Network. The 160km long trail traverses from Kaiaua in the north to Matamata in the south. Our Trail sits at the North Eastern side of the large Waikato area and is actively promoted by Hamilton Waikato Tourism, which is the basis on this submission to you.

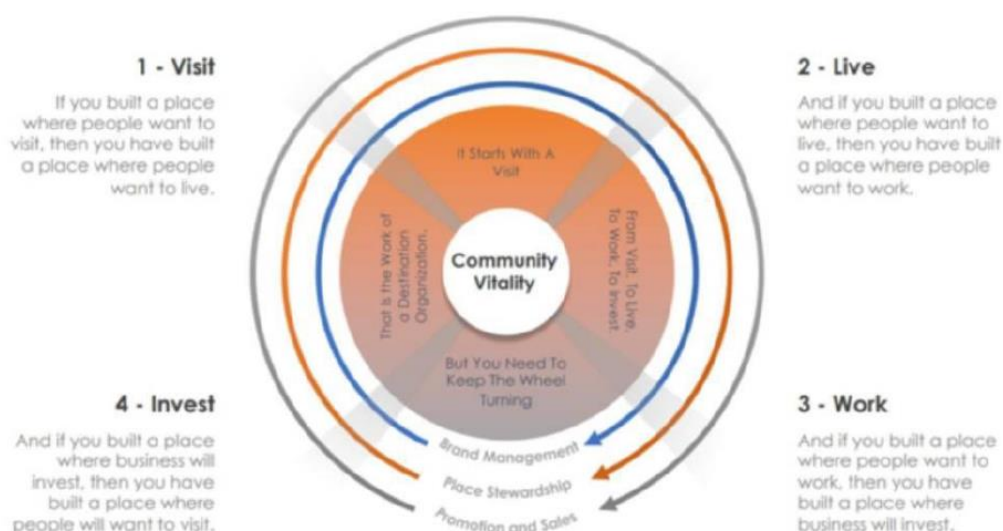
The Hauraki Rail Trail delivers economic benefit to the Regions valuing at over \$30 million per annum, (data extracted from Get Smart Survey analysis, and trip evaluation numbers by Jonathan Kennett/Marilyn Northcote. In addition, MartinJenkins has evaluated the Trail to provide \$4million in health-related benefits each year. These figures do not include the extensive investment made by businesses alongside the Trail, or providers that supply maintenance services and/or other.

Hauraki Rail Economic Benefit based on Trip Numbers



Hamilton Waikato Tourism (HWT) offers valuable marketing services to the Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust. A key role of HWT is the attraction of domestic and international visitors and increase length of stay and expenditure through effective destination marketing, development, and management activity. As such their services are an absolute necessity to ensure that economic benefit continues to flow to our region.

As per the diagram below, visitors to our region are a positive influence on the region's ability to attract investment in other sectors.



We understand that the draft LTP for Waikato District Council is proposing a 50% reduction in funding commitment to this organisation. We do not support this option. We firmly believe that HWT has been delivering strong economic benefit to our region, which is reflected in the economic value that we have been able to demonstrate above.

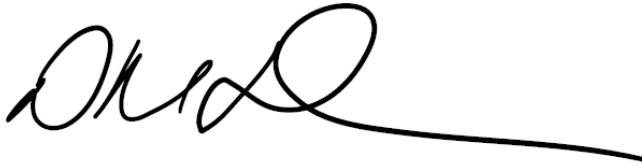
Visitors who decide to come to New Zealand, or New Zealanders who travel, have choices, and the work that HWT does is vital in ensuring we are still relevant and seen, in the marketplace. If you diminish our visibility in the international marketplace by not adequately funding the activities of HWT, we will lose market share. We will start to see a degradation of the high returns that cycle tourism is offering our region, as visitors move south to where the marketing voice remains strong. This cannot be allowed to happen.

The Hauraki Rail Trail actively works with HWT to invest in promotional materials and collaboration opportunities within the central North Island (ECNI) marketing collective to give ourselves a louder voice. We need to remain visible. We need to retain and grow our market share in an increasingly competitive space.

Less investment in this organisation means less for everyone. You do not have to be a direct tourism operator to benefit from the economic returns that tourism brings to our regions.

We ask that you reconsider your position to that of support to maintain or increase investment in this organisation.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Drummond', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Diane Drummond

CEO

Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7599
Name:	Allan Sanson
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

I have no comment in relation to the Draft Work Programme, but as your online form does not have a section for general overall comments on Councils overall performance, I feel that some comments in these financially stressful times needs to be made. As someone who has deliberated on Annual Plans and LTPs for 21 years, as a decision maker for WDC, the one question I always ask myself when finalising these documents is can low income or fixed income people afford to pay a general and targeted rate increase that makes it that stressful for them that it affects their long term health. I always used to quote "a senior citizen on a single income (pension) living in a house in one of our urban towns" and I would suggest that the rating increase that you are looking at this year is going to make life incredibly difficult for those people. I can completely understand some of the reasons for the increases, as your biggest enemy at the moment is inflation, and I have always said you must look after what you have before you start looking at what you would like to have. In closing I have spoken to a number of elderly people in recent months who have approached me around these issues and there is serious concern around how they will live and pay their rates as well.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Yes. \$29 for Ruawaro Hall rate is all good and well, if we could access the Hall. As the Hall has been red stickered, and locked to stop residents and ratepayers from using it because it does not meet the 33% of the Earthquake assessment, it seems to be a little bit of accumulating funds for no good purpose as there would be insufficient funds generated by the rating pool to undertake the work that would be required to bring it up to a standard above 33%. This is a magnificent Huntly brick Memorial Hall, and it would be sad to see it let go to rack and ruin because no one can make a decision on its future, but in saying that there is a feeling by some people that it should be investigated to selling the Hall and adjacent land and having the money reinvested back into the collective area of where the rates are collected. This Hall was built back in the 1950's and was solely funded by the community at the time as my father and grandfather were heavily involved in that process of fundraising and building it.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7600
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

I don't want any programs and development there no trains no shopping centre nothing now please don't charge more council bills

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

The money you are taking and the changes you are making is not equivalent. I can only see a road works in Pokeno at the moment

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

You are already charging a lot now I don't want you to charge more for this year we can't pay that much I don't have money.. I can't effort buying in Auckland that's the reason I bought house in pokeno now you are taking money thorough council bills

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7601
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	private
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Nothing in your plan indicate anything about public transport for the region even though you are planning over \$41millions for roading. You plan to spend over \$20million on sustainable community and over \$2million on sustainable environment while you have nothing for public transport. From Tuakau to Auckland, there is no reliable public transport that will cater for the those who work in Auckland. We have no choice but to use our cars. That is not sustainable to the environment and that is not sustainable to the community given the cost of fuels, and give no choice to residents in Tuakau and Pokeno but to use cars. The majority of people live in Pokeno, Tuakau, and north Waikato area work in Auckland and we are paying high rates compare to families in Auckland with properties that are higher than ours. Rates increase you are proposing of over 13% on top of the expensive rates we already paid shows the greedy in the council given the quality of services we have with reliable public transport. The roads in Tuakau are the worse and they contributed to some vehicle issues we have according to our mechanics. As a rate payer, reliable public transport must be on this plan. Waikato is the closest city to the biggest city in New Zealand (Auckland) with most of our rate payers are employed. We will never leave NZ without going to Auckland Airport because Hamilton Airport is not an International Airport anymore. Having a reliable public transport including trains and buses that connect with the Auckland transport will ease the burden on our main infrastructure including roads.

The lack of reliable public transport in our district simply contributed to the effect of climate change through our burning of fuels when we used our cars. We have no choices when we go to places including schools for kids and works for adults because public transport is none.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Your \$3 wheelie bin sticker should be removed. Historically, rate payers paid this cost through our expensive rates. Conversation I have with work colleagues in Auckland shows Waikato Council is making easy things hard by implementing this \$3 sticker to empty your rubbish bins. The economic expenses to the rate payer is not just \$3 because you have to go to the shop to buy them, and that trip to the shop will cost fuel. So that is an environment cost for buying fuels as well as the time cost. And no one will spend \$36 for 12 x sticker when they go shopping for food because that is a cost of a weekly meal for some families. So they normally buy 1 or 2, and then rush to the shop to buy some more when they need them

Can I also add, families are now put their bins on the road either once or twice a month. If that bin will have some food left overs, the smell is so unhealthy if they will wait for once a month to be emptied to save costs. Therefore, the council is allowing unhealthy and unhygienic practice that are detriment to health and safety including the health and safety of those who collect the rubbish. This rubbish sticker also gave the rubbish collectors no choice by to operate in a way that they have to get out of the truck to check the sticker, remove the sticker and empty the bin. The council is encouraging unhealthy and unsafe work practise because these drivers will physically get out in the rain and do that. So what is the point of have an automated truck to pick and dump the rubbish if the driver manually get out to check the sticker? Because of this, I notice that the

collection of rubbish in Tuakau takes more than 2 days instead of one day. That is an economic and environmental cost for time and fuel usage. I though we are smarter than this.

The solution should be, add \$20 to the rates and that is for the rubbish collection. Some families only takes out their rubbish twice a month based on the number of people in their household and that will be the saving for the council. Using the stickers is not economical, nor its environmentally friendly, instead it is an unsafe working practise. Imagine if our young people who protest climate change few weeks ago have an understanding about this Waikato Council practise. They will make some noise we do not want. reconsider or remove it.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The rate increase is ridiculously expensive. The council should be looking at wage cuts if not cutting staff.

For the automatic payment of our rates, the council should never dictate how much people can pay automatically based on the annual rates. What the council can do is encourage rate payer to pay what they can afford on direct debit/automatic payment, and the balance to be paid off on due dates. Rates is an unavoidable costs but the council can make it easily affordable if rate payers can set up direct debit of (.e.g) \$20, \$30, \$40 or whatever amount they can afford weekly to ease or make the balance looks smaller when its due. It is about helping our people how to manage finance in these difficult circumstances. Having the council calculate the direct debit amount based on the annual rates question the financial integrity of the council with these repayment. Especially when it comes to people have their direct debit put their balance in credit before the due date. That advance balance in the rate is considered an asset to the rate payer and a liability to the council. But the council is receiving interest from it because it sit in their bank account. It can be a case of why does the council impose a late fees for late payments of rates, but their are not paying rate payers with credit balance in their account for money that they are not due as yet or in order words they are liability to the council or the council owed to rate payer(s)? Some rate payers might end up taking the council to court to clarify debts (when rate payers rates are due) in contrast to money received by the council in advance (liability to councils) when rate payers paid their rates under direct debit.

rate payers are watching this space with interest.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Reliable public transport. The council should engage with some investors on how we can partner to provide relabel and environmental friendly public transport for Waikato that connect the rest of New Zealand to the world. Majority of us in the top of South Island use Auckland International Airport when travel overseas, or sometimes the only international airport in New Zealand to work when bad weather strike. We can be the conduit to New Zealand cities and rural towns through reliable public transport hubs in waikato districts .

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7602
Name:	Trina Regnier
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Te Hutewai Road Raglan near 459 is in dire need of extensive roading repair and drainage. There has been continued housing development along the rural section of Te Hutewai which has brought increased volume of permanent residential users of the road as well as the high volume of tourists that use the road heading to Ruapuke. The state of the road outside our property in particular along the front of 459A is a disgrace and extremely dangerous. I have lodged several complaints since February and it has still not been fixed properly. It requires extensive works. Not just grading and gravel in this section as when it rains it simply washes out again. This morning (14.04 Saturday) Councillor Lisa Thomson was able to get workers here after a neighbour showed her the state of the road last night. We have continually sent service requests as a neighbourhood through the correct channels and got nowhere. Why did it take this action to make my family safe!? Driving home each day was dangerous. Particularly after heavy rain. I feel completely let down by the council in this matter.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?****Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?













SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7603
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Putting up the rates won't fix your incompetence

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Pay for work done performance based. Most of the work you undertake is poorly run and executed. The normal working person will not get paid if they did that. Yet you pay yourselves to do the work then pay yourself to fix the rubbish you have made.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Just putting even more pain on people that are already struggling while by the looks of your budget structure per \$100 spent, your corporate people are laughing all the way to a beach bach

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Consultation and wasting money

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7604
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Having read and understood the proposed changes for managing the city's finances, we strongly advocate a reassessment of the proposed reduction in supporting the Hamilton and Waikato Tourism Organisation.

Last time funding was cut to our regional tourism organisation (RTO) the results were dramatic and disastrous. Rebuilding the relationships and momentum to the levels the region is now enjoying took years.

The Hamilton and Waikato Tourism Organisation has been exceptionally effective in showcasing and promoting our region, and the wide range of services available, to both national and international markets. In doing so, they are supporting hundreds of businesses and thousands of employees, primarily Hamilton based, that are either directly or indirectly reliant on tourism - including business tourism.

Numerous international studies have proven the substantial multiplier effect of relatively small investments in RTO's on overall tourism revenue for the region. This, in turn, provides significant risk mitigation for businesses affected by tourism.

It is imperative to view this funding not as an expense, but as an INVESTMENT in our region - our people, our vibrant community, our environment and our economic resilience and prosperity in the fabulous Waikato.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?****Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here****REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7605
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

We pensioners live on very little so we do not get an increase so you should not demand what you want. What if everyone refused to cut the lawns (burn) and you had to do it all you councils are going to far as it is we are on a tight budget so should you.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?****Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here****REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Staff reductions. Too many vehicles. Rubbish collection should be free for pensioners. People parking in disable zones need monitoring. Main street gutters like 2nd rubbish dump should be kept clean once a week. Verandas water like a waterfall main street water + rates should be one bill e.g. kiss moto keep it simple stupid. Streets not patched properly only fixed to last short term do it properly.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7606
Name:	Yashar Armaghani
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Dear Waikato District Council,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed 13.75% rate rise as outlined in the enhanced annual plan. As a resident of Pokeno, I am deeply troubled by the potential impact this increase will have on our community.

It is disheartening to see such a significant rate hike being proposed, especially considering the already heavy burden that residents in our district bear in comparison to other regions. Currently, we are paying double the rates compared to Auckland and four times more than cities like Brisbane and Perth in Australia. This substantial increase will only exacerbate the financial strain on families and individuals, many of whom are already struggling to make ends meet.

Moreover, the concerns raised by community leaders during the workshop regarding the consultation process are valid and resonate deeply with me. It is crucial that residents feel heard and that their input genuinely influences council decisions. However, there seems to be a growing sentiment of frustration and disillusionment among residents, who feel that consultation processes often yield little to no tangible outcomes.

I firmly believe that this rate increase is implemented without due consideration for the financial hardships faced by residents. Already, I have heard from many families in Pokeno who share my concerns and are similarly unable to bear any additional financial burden.

I request the council to reconsider this proposed rate increase and to explore alternative solutions that do not place undue strain on residents. Furthermore, I urge the council to enhance the transparency and effectiveness of the consultation process to ensure that community input is genuinely valued and taken into account.

It is my sincere hope that the council will prioritize the well-being of its residents and work towards solutions that are equitable and sustainable for all members of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,

Yashar Armaghani

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7607
Name:	Gary
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Yes, as follows

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Stop wasting money

Be accountable.

Why put rates up at all

Learn to work within a budget, there are plenty of people around that can help/teach how this is achieved.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Stop wasting money

Be accountable.

Why put rates up at all

Learn to work within a budget, there are plenty of people around that can help/teach how this is achieved.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

The council works for the ratepayers, (this seems to get forgotten). There should be the absolute minimum costs and waste. The majority of people should have a say, not the minority.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7608
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The proposed weekly increase will cause significant hardship to those on low incomes. For this reason please consider increasing the amount of the rates rebate scheme to help local people remain in their family homes.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

On my rates bill I pay \$6.91 for "Lifestyle." This is the largest weekly cost. Please reduce this to essential services only. Social services can be on a user-pay scheme.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7609
Name:	Ken McCarthy (Bob Mac)
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

I do not have the money to pay sixty dollars plus a week to a landlord I am at odds with. I pick up rubbish and recycling. I separate it into bins and I take recycling to the recycling station and I put the refuse in the landfill bins. I used to recycle through the Love NZ bins but you control these and you send these to landfill. You are not my landlord in this way. I add value to the community I live in and you do not see this. You talk of a partnership with your community but I do not see this. I have little negative impact on the world. I recycle where you use landfill. I recycle containers and water where you spend money to refresh your supply and more money to deal with your refuse. I put my heart into where I live and all you see is my balance sheet from rates I refuse to pay because you don't take the time to see me, to hear me, or to partner with me. So whether you are creating a ten year plan or a one year plan. If your spirit is not one of being true and genuine then nothing will change. This is my submission. I go by the name Bob Mac as Bob is a compassionate spirit who finds his way to contribute. My legal name is Kenneth George McCarthy. You taught Kenneth to resent your authority because you do not walk your talk. You watch his rates bill climb and you slap on penalties. I give more to this community than you will ever comprehend and you worry about not being paid to be disingenuous. This is your spirit. We are different but in your plans you talk of us being the same. How can that be?

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7610
Name:	Shelly Carden
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

You need to prioritise the maintenance and improvement of the stormwater system serving the Te Kowhai community. The Council benefitted from development contributions and ongoing rates for this community and now it needs to ensure that the infrastructure is properly serving the community. To do nothing is to breach Council operating standards and fail ratepayers.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

No

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Given a lot of the Te Kowhai community receives little to no services from Council, the rates are already too high. Ratepayers are happy to pay when they feel heard and basic property services are maintained.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No, but my comment would be that few of the services are provided to the greater community you represent anyway.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7611
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	[Confidential]
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Storm water drains in Te kowhia estate need attention, with only one exit for the exit it can not carry the amount of water that it need which lead to the flooding in here in early 2023

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Don't may paying extra as long as the money isn't wasted on dumb projects that don't need to be done,

And the amount of money spent on consulting fees is a joke

I would love to see how much you as a council did spend on those fees in the last couple of years

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Consulting fees

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7612
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

The storm water in Te Kowhai Estate sub division needs fixed asap. The exit pipe is not big enough for the volume of water exiting it. This causes water to rise in the sub division until it can exit through this one pipe. When there are big storms this poses a risk to the houses flooding. It needs to be fixed asap please.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The rates increase sounds like a very big jump in a year, when cost of living is also high.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7613
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Please sort the stormwater issue in the Kowhai delta way.
It causes extreme stress to the neighbour when ever it rains.
Must be sorted asap

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

NA

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

NA

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Na

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7614
Name:	Karly Skelton
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

I am a resident of Te Kowhai Estate, and we have had ongoing issues with the stormwater drainage in our area. We have had ongoing communication and meetings with both councils, the mayor, and our local counsellors.

When we purchased our property, information about the flooding in the area was left out of the LIM report by WDC so we were completely unaware of the issue. WRC warned WDC prior to consenting the subdivision that flooding would be an issue however, WDC approved it anyway, and then issued permits for us to build in this location.

Over a 12 month period we had upwards of 17 occurrences where our properties were flooded for days. Numerous times we have had councils with pumps, civil defence, the fire brigade pumping water etc, this is a waste of community resources.

An independent report has been completed; we know what the issue is. This now need to be prioritised by both councils and fixed urgently.

This has caused a lot of stress and mental health issues for the families in our area, and we need the councils to take action.

We request that this issue be prioritised on your annual plan to be resolved in 2024/2025

Thank you

Karly & Nick Skelton

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7615
Name:	Greg McCutchan
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Concerns that figures presented to ratepayers at information evening are in accurate.
Notable items in the expense report that should not be there and all of us as ratepayers should be concerned about.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7617
Name:	Logan Rainey
Organisation:	Property Council New Zealand
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Dear Waikato District Council,

We are writing to provide comment on your Draft 2024/25 Annual Plan and next year's Long Term Plan 2025-35. It is vital that Waikato District Council implements an Enhanced Annual Plan that is financially responsible whilst continuing to invest in the critical services that the Waikato needs. As you may know, Property Council is the leading not-for-profit advocate for New Zealand's most significant industry, property. Property is the second largest industry in the Waikato, with property providing a direct contribution to GDP of \$2.8 billion (12 per cent) and employment for 18,030 Waikato residents. We connect property professionals and represent the interests of 94 Waikato based member companies across the private, public, and charitable sectors.

Property Council sympathises with the financial situation facing Waikato District Council and acknowledges that there is upward pressure on rates or debt. We appreciate that there is regulatory uncertainty around initiatives such as 'Local Water Done Well' and transport funding. As such, Property Council is comfortable with the decision to pursue an Enhanced Annual Plan for 2024/25.

We are also pleased to see that Waikato District Council has proposed a responsible approach to development contributions for 2024/25, that helps ensure stability for the property sector and supports continued development of new housing supply across the Waikato.

When it comes to the development of next year's Long Term Plan 2025-35, Property Council strongly supports Waikato District Council making use of alternative funding and financing tools. Example of these include such as targeted rates, public-private-partnerships, or Special Purpose Vehicles ("SPVs") as enabled under the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act.

For example, SPVs are an important tool for funding and financing infrastructure in a fair and equitable manner. SPVs are advantageous as they sit off a Council's balance sheet and do not impact debt levels. Property Council has previously supported Tauranga City Council's use of SPVs for the Transport System Plan and Civic Precinct project, as well Wellington City Council's use of SPVs for the Moa Point sludge minimisation project.

There is a critical and ongoing role for central government in helping fund new infrastructure. With the recent change in Government, there is increasing growing discussion regarding City and Regional Deals between central and local government that could unlock funding and create certainty for future infrastructure investment. We recommend exploring a City and Regional Deal for the Waikato region, to help unlock new funding for infrastructure (such as for water or transportation).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Enhanced Annual Plan and 2025 Long Term Plan.

For any further enquiries, please contact Sarah Rundstrom, Central Regional Manager via email: Sarah@propertynz.co.nz.

Yours sincerely,
Morgan Jones
Central Region Committee Chair

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7618
Name:	Nicola Greenwell
Organisation:	Hamilton & Waikato Tourism
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism provide the attached submission and supporting documents in regards to funding changes proposed in the Enhanced Annual Plan.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

17 April 2024

Enhanced Annual Plan
Waikato District Council
Ngaruawahia

Tēnā koutou katoa

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) provides this submission to encourage Waikato District Council to reconsider funding levels for the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for the 2024-25 Enhanced Annual Plan and retain at the current level.

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

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

Tourism is very important for the region and Waikato district, with visitors contributing \$266million to the Waikato economy for the year to October 2023 – \$43million of this is from international visitors, and \$223million from domestic visitors. This is \$729,000 of new money injected into your communities each day.

HWT's current funding amounts to only 0.04% of Waikato district's budget. However, the proposed funding cut of \$75,000 of HWT's annual revenue will inevitably result in lost tourism revenue to Waikato district.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The HWT Board and HWT Shareholder are clear the current proposed 50% reduction in funding will result in significantly less services from HWT, resulting in materially less tourism revenue into Waikato district.

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

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

Yours sincerely

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

Richard Leggat
Chairman
Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

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

Nicola Greenwell
Chief Executive
Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

Attached

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

Submission to Waikato District Council Enhanced Annual Plan 2024-2035

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

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



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

Our request

Waikato District City Council EAP indicates 50% reduction in funding. Any reduction in funding will directly impact deliverables and service delivery. Reduction in funding directly impacts the services we are able to provide to the visitor sector. Less resources = less services. Less services will inevitably lead to less visitors. Less visitors equals less visitor spend in our communities. This will impact communities across Waikato district and the mighty Waikato.

Economic development, grants and donations

From the 2024/25 financial year onwards, Waikato District Council is proposing to remove the funding it provides to Te Waka (Waikato's regional economic development agency) and reduce annual funding to Hamilton Waikato Tourism from \$150,000 in the 2021-2031 LTP to \$75,000 per annum. Existing internal staff will continue to provide support in this area.

In the 12 months ended October 2023 visitors spent \$1.9billion in our region; of this \$266 million in Waikato district alone. This equates to \$729,000 new money being spent in your district each day. This is at risk should the RTO be unviable, or activities seriously diluted. **By making the decision to shave just \$75,000 from your budget, a small percentage of your operating expenses but substantive in our budget, you put visitor expenditure in Waikato district at risk.** (SOURCE: Month Regional Tourism Estimates)

While we acknowledge the council finances need addressing and 'tough decisions' need to be made, our submission to Waikato District Council urges reconsideration of funding allocation to the Service Level Agreement with Hamilton & Waikato Tourism. The HWT Board is clear the current proposed 50% reduction in funding will materially reduce the services we provide.

From past experience when the region had no RTO, tourism revenues were badly affected. The HWT board will endeavour to do all we can to keep some level of presence, however we will be less effective with any reduction in funding, let alone a 50% cut. The amount in the draft EAP budget of \$75,000 is less than Waikato's original contribution to the RTO when we were re-established in 2011 – the contribution from Waikato at that time was \$100,000 per annum.

Introduction

1. Tourism Waikato was disestablished in 2006 when Hamilton City Council withdrew funding to secure the V8 Supercar event. This resulted in a significant decline in domestic and international visitor expenditure, a drop in overnight stays, lack of national and international tourism profile and destination marketing.
2. Hamilton & Waikato was re-established 1 July 2011. HWT is the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for the mighty Waikato region. The core purpose of HWT is to promote the region as an appealing destination to international and domestic visitors in order to generate economic benefits for the region and its communities.
3. We understand the economic climate is tough and councils need to make savings in operating expenses. We therefore avoided requesting additional or increased funding. If funding can be maintained at current levels we will need to reduce some activity, given the impact of inflation on costs over the last three years, but overall, we believe we can be an active and effective RTO.
4. We understand savings need to be made. However, given the current funding amount for HWT is just **0.04%** of the overall council budget the saving the proposed cut provides has minimal impact on Waikato District Council's operating expenses but a very large impact on HWT's viability. We propose the current reductions in the LTP are too great and must be reconsidered.

Value of Tourism to our economy

5. Visitors spend \$1.9billion in our region; this means \$5.1million each day is added to our regional economy, and as stated earlier \$1billion is going directly to Hamilton city.
6. We achieve 6.3% market share of visitor spend across the country. With reduced activity from HWT, if the market share should drop just half a percent, this would mean \$149million less spent in the region per annum; or \$400,000 dollars less per day.
7. Data tell us 12,200 people are employed directly within the visitor sector in our region. On average, for every \$151,254 visitors spend, this equates to one job. Therefore, if our visitor spend reduces by \$149million, this has potential to impact 985 jobs in our community!
8. Similarly, 10% of New Zealand's Business Events are hosted in our region. This is 720 events hosting 94,400 delegates. If our market share should drop, the impact on venues, accommodation, event services etc would be negative.
9. Tourism is an important contributor to the region, not only in terms of the direct expenditure and employment generated, but also in terms of the broader economic development platform it provides. For example, the experience someone has in a region strongly influences their perception of that region as a place to live, work, study or invest. This applies to both visitors and residents.



Value of Tourism to Waikato district

10. Visitors spent over \$266 million in Waikato YE October 2024 - \$43 million from international manuhiri and \$223 million from New Zealanders.
11. During 2023, 218,800 guest nights were enjoyed in commercial accommodation – occupancy rate of 43%.
12. The HWT team have provided support and expertise to many operators in the Waikato district over the last few years. Of particular note, Cyclone Gabrielle recovery funding from Government excluded the Waikato region until our team provided evidence to the MBIE Tourism team – our operators were then able to apply for funding; many were successful.
13. Raglan has been identified ‘emerging hero’ experience in the region and been promoted as such. We work with many Raglan operators and providers of Waikato produce as corporate gifts, ie: Raglan Chocolate and West Coast Pottery.
14. Specific guidance and assistance has been provided to new and developing operators in Waikato, recently specifically Rangiriri Paa, Te Puna Wai Tours, Te Karaka Lodge, Pookeno Whisky, Rally Drive NZ, Tata Valley.



What residents say

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

Comparative funding for other RTOs

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

Result of reduced funding

19. Payment towards HWT activity is by way of Service Level Agreement, ie: HWT provides a service for our six council. This is not a grant nor a handout. The RTO delivery these services on behalf of the partnering council. Without sufficient payment to conduct these services each council will need to have plans to deliver a number of these specialist tasks in-house or forgo them completely.

20. The reduction by Waikato District Council of \$75,000 is a small percentage of your budget, 0.4%. However, this represents sizable impact in our budget.
21. With other partnering councils also reducing by significant amounts, the current proposals have the potential to result in an approximate 40% reduction of budget. This will massively weaken the competitiveness of the RTO and our effectiveness.
22. Reduced council contributions will result in areas of work being reduced and some areas being removed from our activities and deliverables. We have a team of eight FTE staff who are subject experts, with experience and expertise in the visitor sector. Current proposed reduced funding means we will be forced to reduce staff.
23. When changes affect the visitor market, the RTO is there to provide expertise, support and guidance. This could be with negative incidents, ie: global pandemic, cyclone damage; or with positive changes, ie: new hotel development, investment and if/when international flights return to Hamilton Airport; or assisting maximising the impact of significant events, ie: FIFA Women's World Cup. A well-resourced RTO is here to support the sector through these times. Current proposed funding means the RTO would not be resourced sufficiently to assist during these times.
24. As Waikato Regional Airport Limited (WRAL) is HWTs shareholder, the WRAL board will make the ultimate decision on whether the organisation and work is viable to continue or disband the RTO function.

Conclusion

25. HWT thanks Waikato District Council for its support over the past 12 years.
26. Looking forward, the region needs tourism growth to increase the prosperity and living standards of its people. We can only do this by continuing a collaborative and long-term strategic approach, led by an appropriately funded and resourced Hamilton & Waikato Tourism.
27. Reduced funding will result in reduced services from HWT, with significant negative impacts on the sector and community.
28. **HWT would like to request to speak to this submission at the LTPs hearings.** The HWT Board will represent the organisation at the Hearing. Please accept apologies from Nicola Greenwell – the Hearing date means she is unable to attend in person and hopes to be able join virtually.
29. All enquiries should be made to Nicola Greenwell, CE of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism. Email nicola@waikatonz.com or phone 07 843 0056.

Recommendation

30. Waikato District Council continues its partnership with Hamilton & Waikato Tourism in collaboration with other Waikato based councils;
31. Waikato District Council elected members to reconsider funding of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism; and
32. Waikato District Council commits investment in Hamilton & Waikato Tourism to the same level as currently invested (\$150,000) with annual CPI increases in the Enhanced Annual Plan for 2024-2025.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to Waikato District Council's draft Enhanced Annual Plan for 2024-2025.



Richard Leggat
Chairman
Hamilton & Waikato Tourism



Nicola Greenwell
Chief Executive
Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

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

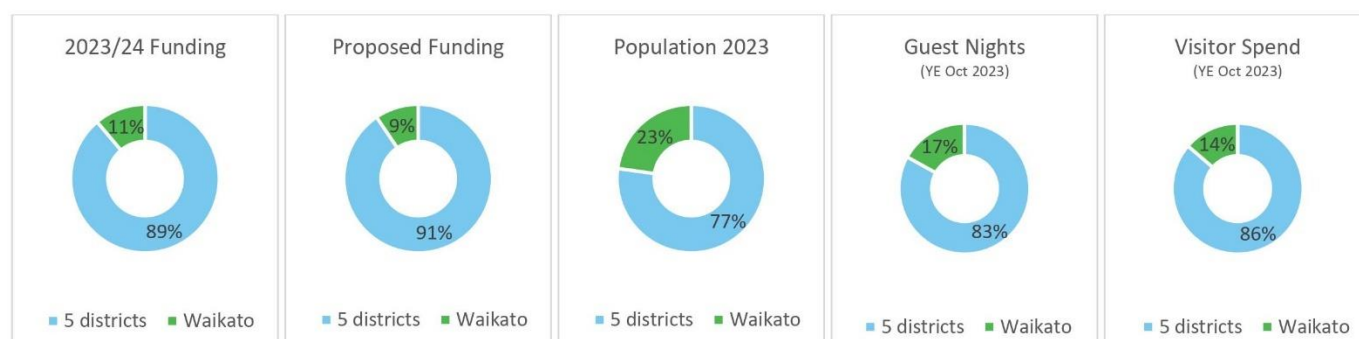
Appendix – quick facts, data and insights

Visitors contribute \$266 million to Waikato’s economy – a return of \$1,773 for each dollar contributed by Waikato council to HWT’s work. While no concise measure to indicate how much of this is due to the RTO’s work – if we assume as low as 3% - our activity directly contributes \$8 million.

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

Waikato’s **population of 90,100** contributes **\$1.66 per person** towards HWT’s activities. With the proposed reduction, this would be just 83 cents!

(Source: [Regional Economic Activity Web Tool](#))



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

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

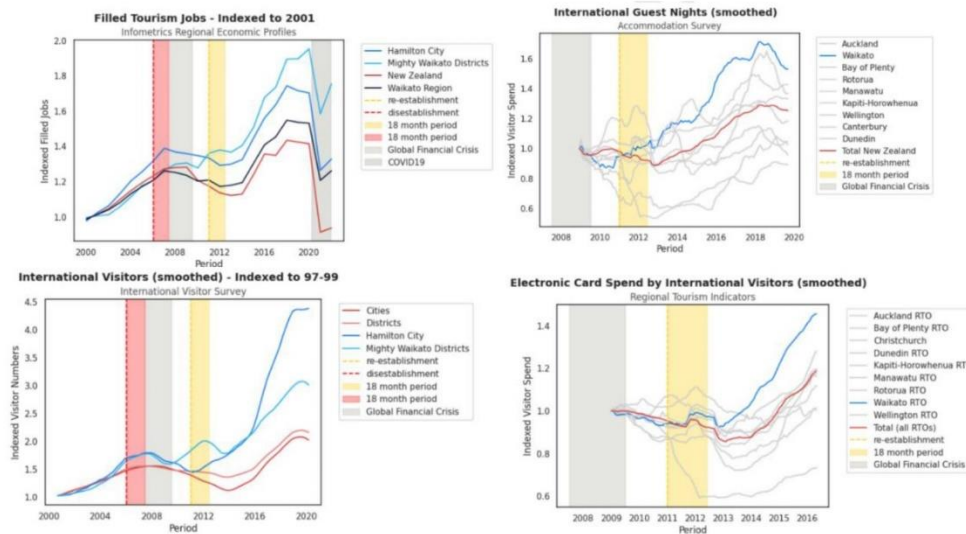
(Source: [RTNZ Project Tōnui](#))

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

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

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

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



In 2019 tourism was number 1 export earner for NZ at \$41 billion. While the sector has suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2023 Tourism Satellite Account shows visitor sector contribution to NZ of \$38 billion. Recovery post-covid is very strong. Tourism is expected to once again claim the Number 1 export earner title very soon.
(Source: [Tourism Satellite Account 2023](https://rtnz.org.nz/project-tonui/)<https://rtnz.org.nz/project-tonui/>)

Case Study: a video that showcases the impact of reduced RTO activities: [What happens when you cut a destination's marketing budget? The story of Colorado Tourism – a cautionary tale](#). The report can be found [here](#).
Case Study: report from US Travel Association – [“What’s at Stake When Destinations Stop Marketing: The Power of Travel Promotion”](#)

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



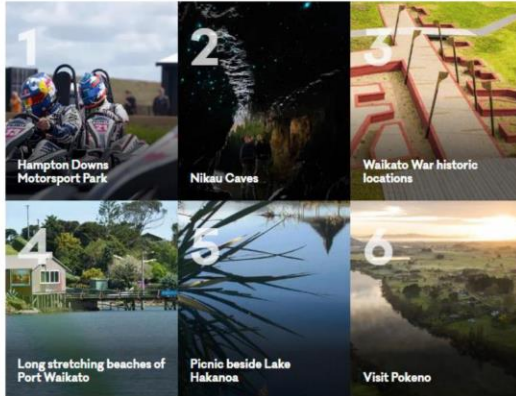
Destination promotion is essential to the quality of place in our community

Tourism builds community

North Waikato (Port Waikato, Pokeno, Mercer, Tuakau, Huntly)

The river runs deep and so does the spirit in the north Waikato, with its rich history and remarkable stories. Steeped in history and culture the North Waikato showcases the region's uniquely significant Māori and European heritage.

Top Things to do in North Waikato



Raglan

Video | Download | Raglan

Located on the rugged western coastline of the Waikato, Raglan is known for its beautiful scenery and the laid-back vibe that is thanks, in part, to the residents who are mostly into sustainable lifestyles, many of them creative painters, potters, poets and the like.

Top Raglan Things to do

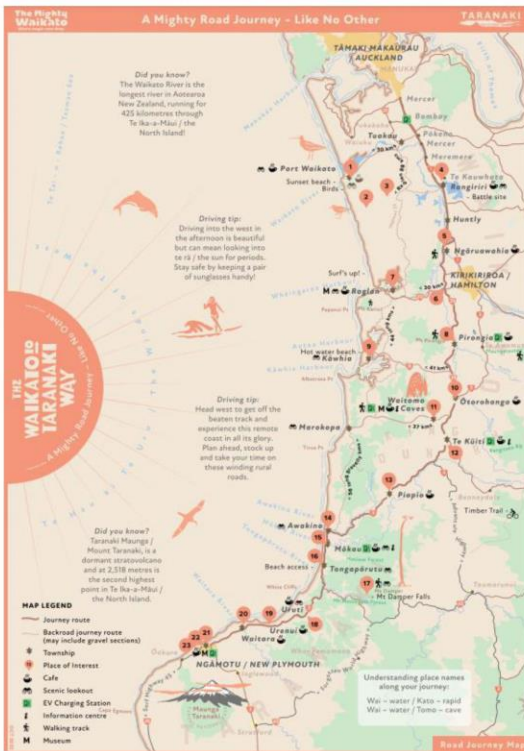


Ngāruawāhia & Gordonton

Video | Download | Ngāruawāhia and Gordonton

In the North Waikato bush-clad mountains make way for rugged coastlines and the mighty Waikato River as it makes its way to the sea, while small towns and villages dot the landscape with an eclectic lineup of shops, cafes and churches.

Top Things to do in Ngāruawāhia & Gordonton



9 April 2024



Nicola Greenwell
Chief Executive
Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

By email: nicola@waikatonz.com

Kia ora

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

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

Key feedback

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

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

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

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

TIA recommends that:

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

Tourism Industry Aotearoa

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

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

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

The tourism industry

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

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

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

Nature of this submission

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

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

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

Tourism spend is an investment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusion

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

Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any queries. Bruce Bassett can be contacted on 021 609 674 or bruce.bassett@tia.org.nz.

Ngā mihi,



Rebecca Ingram
Chief Executive

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

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

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

18 March 2024

Kia Ora Nicola

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nga mihi



Rene de Monchy
Chief Executive

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

Introduction

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

The Value of Associations to Regional Economies

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

Strategic Partnership with Hamilton and Waikato Tourism

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

Impact of Funding Cuts

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

11 March 2024

The Critical Nature of Continued Support

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

Conclusion

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

Urgent Call to Action

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

Brett Jeffery/CAE – General Manager New Zealand

Australasian Society of Association Executives
159 Otona Road, Rotorua 3015
New Zealand
027 249 8677
brett@ausae.org.au

11 March 2024



17 April 2024

Tēnā Koe

RE: Submission on 2024-34 Long Term Plan

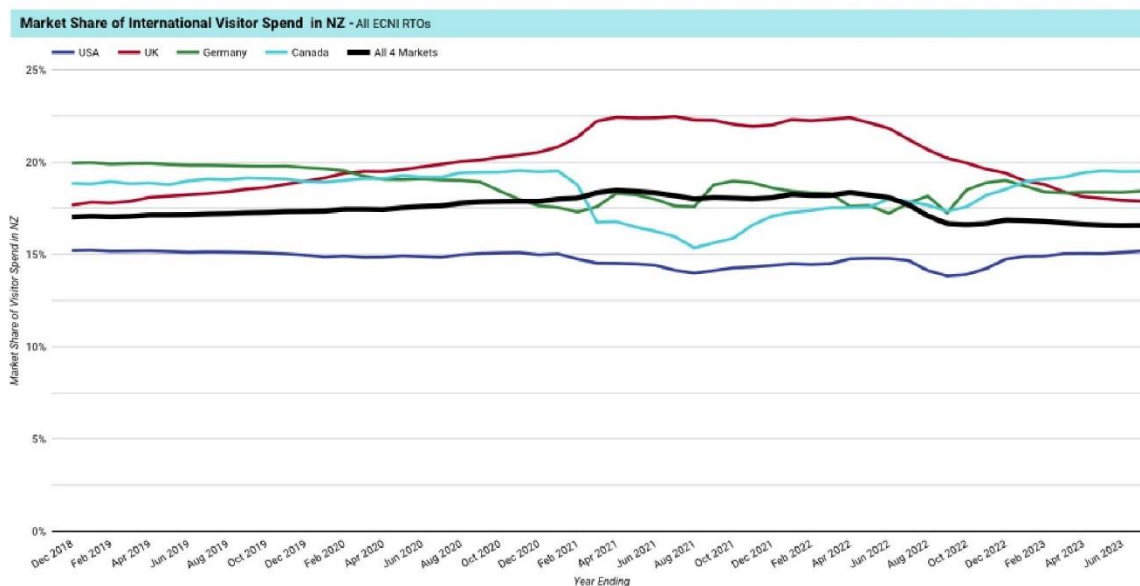
We are writing regarding the proposed changes in funding, contained in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP), for your Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO), Hamilton & Waikato Tourism. As a collective of eight RTOs who form the Explore Central North Island (ECNI) marketing alliance and make up a large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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

On behalf of Explore Central North Island



Andrew Wilson

Chief Executive RotoruaNZ and Chair Explore Central North Island

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

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7619
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Thank you for this opportunity to have my say. As we are currently in a recession and most people are struggling to afford the cost of living, including myself and my partner, I think rates should remain the same and should be reviewed in 2-3 years. I understand Waikato Council has an increase in general costs, however can these be covered by saving costs in other areas, such as putting some projects on hold and streamlining Counsellors and upper management at Council? This was also from a combined discussion amongst staff at my workplace.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7620
Name:	Craig Mackie
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

I have comments about the Draft Capital Project Listing > Stormwater > Flood Mitigation works item:

The LTP must include provision for improving the management of surface water that has caused frequent flooding, and evacuations in the Te Kowhai Estate subdivision. The flooding and ponding issues were known to both the WRC and WDC for many years, yet the subdivision was still consented with no provision for correcting the issues, and no record of the known flooding was surfaced in LIM reports. This is a disgrace, and must be rectified as soon as possible - this is seriously affecting lives and livelihoods, and quite frankly - the councils have a moral and ethical obligation to correct their error

The most expedient route for re-direction of excess surface water is to redirect it south from the Eastern side of 16 Vic Knight Lane, 16 Vic Knight Lane, 680 a & b Te Kowhai Road; under Te Kowhai Rd and through farm land into the gully to the south of Te Kowhai Rd. This route will have the additional benefit of increasing the water flow through Te Otamanui stream and the wetlands that are currently struggling with insufficient water

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?****Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here****REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7621
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

After careful consideration, it appears that some projects listed may ideally be categorized as 'nice-to-have' or could be deferred to a subsequent financial year. Given the current economic climate, prioritizing essential infrastructure and projects that offer immediate benefits may be more prudent. This approach could alleviate financial strain and better align with fiscal sustainability. I recommend a thorough review of project priorities to ensure alignment with economic conditions and organizational needs.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

No Comments

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I must express concern that the proposed average increase of 14% is substantially higher than current inflation rates. I recommend aligning any increases with the prevailing rate of inflation to ensure that the adjustments remain reasonable and reflective of economic conditions. This approach will help maintain affordability and fairness for all stakeholders. I trust that this feedback will be considered in finalizing the fees and charges.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

In these challenging economic times, it is indeed crucial to monitor our expenditures closely and ensure that every dollar spent is justifiable. Therefore, I would advocate for a comprehensive review of all council services to identify non-essential services that could be postponed or scaled back without compromising critical operations. This measured approach will help conserve financial resources and prioritize spending on services that are most necessary for the community's well-being.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7622
Name:	Neville Tyler
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I don't mind paying for services but having monies charged as rates for, donations, grants, cultural and art. Promotion of the area, installation of signs promoting up and coming works is not acceptable.

As are charges related to environmental initiatives. We don't all care.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7623
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	Bike Waikato
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use Org name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?



Bike Waikato Submission to Waikato District Council 2024/2025 Annual Plan

Kia ora koutou

We acknowledge the economic headwinds Aotearoa New Zealand is facing nationwide and appreciate that councils across the motu are facing some difficult decisions. However in the face of these challenging circumstances, we would like to remind WDC of how enabling more people to ride bikes safely contributes positively to the Community Outcomes specified in the WDC Annual Plan consultation document, specifically:

- Environmental
- Social
- Economic

The environmental harm caused by cars can, and should, be addressed by increasingly encouraging mode-shift - that is, more people switching to environmentally friendly forms of transportation wherever possible. Short trips within small rural communities can often be achieved by bike, but hostile car-centric roading discourages this.

The social benefits of cycling have been well-documented, with more face-to-face interactions with neighbours and members of the community made possible by the slower pace. Also people unable to drive due to age or health can still access their community by bike if safe infrastructure is provided.

As the cost of car ownership continues to increase, cycling is a great way to reduce individuals' spend on transport. This will become increasingly important as the cost of emissions, and therefore fuel will increase in the medium term, due to the Emissions Trading Scheme.

More provisions for cycling also relate to the Strategic Priorities in the Draft Annual Plan:

- Improving Connectivity
- Supporting Sustainable Growth

Providing a range of transport options for people to get around their communities will only enhance connectivity and remove barriers and disconnection, especially those unable to drive. Regarding growth, careful planning must take place in any new development to ensure cycling is a legitimate, safe transport option for new residents. This will ensure sustainability in the long-term and help negate car dependency and therefore climate emissions.

As you might expect, we support any cycleway and walking enhancements in the Annual Plan, such as :

- FN DIW District wide footpaths - walking and cycling improve
- FN NGA Waingaro Road Bridge walking and cycling
- FP (District wide footpath cycleway improvement programme)



We support any upgrade of the Harrisville Road / George Street / Dominion Road intersection that enables and improves pedestrian and bike access. For example a wide and comfortable shared walking and cycling path connecting the Dominion road shops with the rest of Tuakau via George street would be sensible.

We note there are no planned changes to the cycleway improvements budget (roughly \$1 million per year) since the 2021/2031 LTP. Funding for sustainable transport should be boosted over time to accelerate mode-shift and meet the Community Outcomes and Strategic Priorities outlined above. In a climate crisis and cost-of-living crisis, continuing with the status-quo funding model of cars-first is unsustainable for the environment but also for individuals.

We implore Waikato District Council to make brave decisions to not only sustain funding levels for cycling and walking infrastructure, but increase them over time so that everyone in the Waikato District can have safe, healthy and sustainable transport options to get around their communities.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Kind regards

Bike Waikato Committee

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7624
Name:	Mark Morgan
Organisation:	Waikato Regional Airport Ltd
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Refer to our attached submission.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

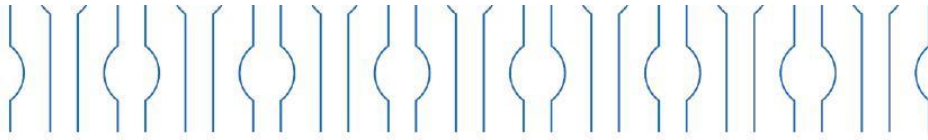
See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?



Submission to Waikato District Council Long Term Plan 2025-2035

17 April 2024

Waikato District Council
Private Bag 544
Ngaaruawaahia
3742

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

Tēnā koutou katoa

Executive Summary

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

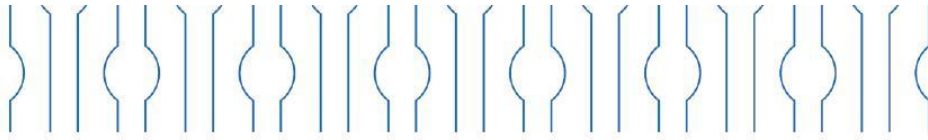
Our submission intends to reinforce the importance of the organisation to promote tourism to the region and to indicate the risks associated with a proposed reduction in funding and our strong belief that funding for the organisation should be retained as status quo.

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

Waikato District Council (WDC) LTP indicates a 50% reduction in funding to HWT. Any reduction in funding will directly impact service delivery and effective outcomes. However, a proposed reduction as large as 50% will result in a significant review as to the viability of the organisation. Reduction in funding directly impacts on the services provided to the visitor sector. Less resources = less services. Less services will equal less visitors. Less visitors equals less visitors spend. This will impact communities and tourism operators across the mighty Waikato.

In the 12 months ended October 2023 visitors spent \$1.9 billion in our region; of this just **over \$266m is in Waikato District** alone. This equates to **\$728,767 of new money** being spent in the district each day. A portion of this revenue is directly attributable to the activities and co-ordination by HWT and this will now be at risk should the RTO be required to significantly restructure its resources and therefore dilute its service delivery model.

While we acknowledge the council finances need addressing and 'tough decisions' need to be made, our submission to Waikato District Council urges reconsideration of funding allocation to Hamilton & Waikato Tourism. The Waikato Regional Airport Limited (WRAL) Board considers the current proposed 50% reduction in funding to be detrimental to regional economic development and growth aspirations of the district.

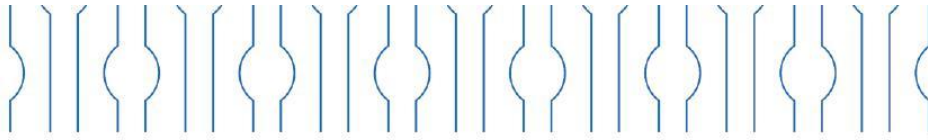


Background

1. WRAL opposes the proposed 50% reduction in HWTs funding and requests this be reviewed and returned to the level outlined in the current Service Level Agreement.
2. Tourism Waikato was disestablished in 2006. This resulted in a significant decline in domestic and international visitor expenditure, a drop in overnight stays, lack of national and international tourism profile and destination marketing. Appendix 1 outlines the impacts of the RTO being disbanded in 2006 and established in 2011 in relation to International Visitors.
3. Waikato Regional Airport Limited funded and provided tourism services in 2009/2010 in order to secure Pacific Blue flights into Hamilton.
4. Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) was formally re-established July 2011 as a wholly owned subsidiary of Waikato Regional Airport Limited (WRAL).
5. HWT is a Limited Liability company, with its own board of directors who are responsible to the WRAL Board.
6. We acknowledge the economic climate is tough and councils need to make savings in operating expenses. We have therefore avoided requesting additional or increased funding. However, a 50% reduction is a step too far as a reduction of funding to this level will require the WRAL Board to assess the viability of the organisation and its ability to provide a credible and effective Regional Tourism Organisation.
7. WRAL currently provides financial assistance for HWT by way of a reduction in the commercial rent for its offices and cost savings for shared services at an approximate value of \$90k, however that financial support has always been capped noting that WRAL is not a core funder of the organisation. Additionally, WRAL and its other subsidiary Jet Park Hamilton Airport Hotel are industry funding partners of HWT, procuring over \$20,000 of HWT services on full commercial rates.

Risk of reduced funding

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



Conclusion

11. For every dollar invested into tourism in the region, there is a significant return, funding of the RTO should be considered as an investment by WDC and not an expense line to be reduced. At a time when the district needs to encourage and support economic development, this proposal would seek to constrain or remove an organisation that promotes, supports, and drives initiatives to increase tourism receipts and fulfils a role as an economic enabler.
12. Reduced funding will at best result in a reduced and restructured organisation which will flow onto the services provided, with the corresponding reduction in effective outcomes.
13. **WRAL would like to request to speak to this submission at the LTPs hearings.** All enquiries should be made to Mark Morgan, CE of Waikato Regional Airport Limited. mark@hamiltonairport.co.nz or phone 07 848 9027

Recommendation

14. That Waikato District Council continues its partnership with Hamilton & Waikato Tourism in collaboration with other Waikato based councils;
15. We strongly urge Waikato District Council elected members to reconsider funding of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism.
16. That Waikato District Council commits investment to Hamilton & Waikato Tourism to the same level as currently invested (\$150,00) with annual CPI increases in the Long-Term Plan 2025-35.

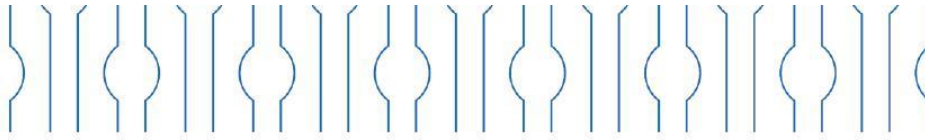
Thank you for the opportunity to submit to Waikato District Council's draft Long Term Plan 2025-35.



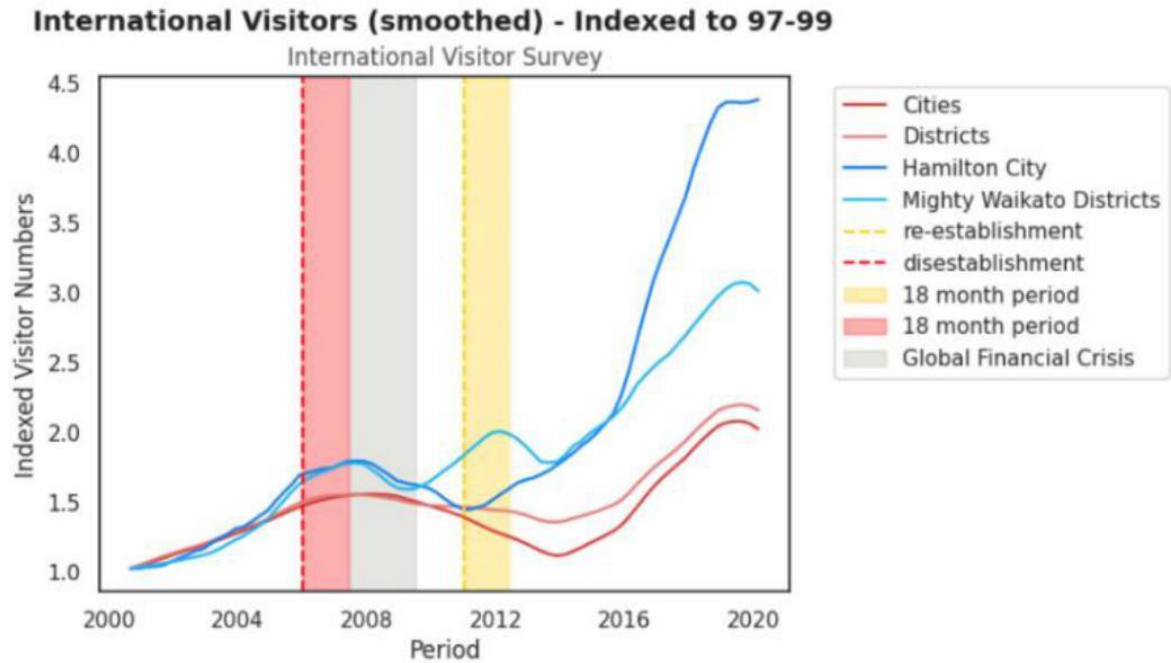
Barry Harris
Chairman



Mark Morgan
Chief Executive



Appendix 1



2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7625
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

This is crazy.
Proposing a 13.75% increase in rates is ridiculous.
New Zealand's consumers price index increased 4.7 percent in the 12 months to the December 2023 quarter.
Any more than this is totally unjustified.
Here in Pokeno, we are paying around \$6,000 a year in rates and you cannot even repair the potholes in the main street.
Now you are proposing to build a new community hub with library and council services. This is totally unnecessary. FIX THE POTHOLE IN THE MAIN STREET FIRST.
KEEP THE RATES INCREASE BELOW THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INCREASE.
OH, AND SPELL THE NAME OF OUR TOWN PROPERLY. IT'S POKENO.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

This is crazy.
Proposing a 13.75% increase in rates is ridiculous.
New Zealand's consumers price index increased 4.7 percent in the 12 months to the December 2023 quarter.
Any more than this is totally unjustified.
Here in Pokeno, we are paying around \$6,000 a year in rates and you cannot even repair the potholes in the main street.
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KEEP THE RATES INCREASE BELOW THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INCREASE.
OH, AND SPELL THE NAME OF OUR TOWN PROPERLY. IT'S POKENO.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

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Here in Pokeno, we are paying around \$6,000 a year in rates and you cannot even repair the potholes in the main street.
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KEEP THE RATES INCREASE BELOW THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INCREASE.
OH, AND SPELL THE NAME OF OUR TOWN PROPERLY. IT'S POKENO.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

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New Zealand's consumers price index increased 4.7 percent in the 12 months to the December 2023 quarter.

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Here in Pokeno, we are paying around \$6,000 a year in rates and you cannot even repair the potholes in the main street.

Now you are proposing to build a new community hub with library and council services. This is totally unnecessary. FIX THE POTHOLE IN THE MAIN STREET FIRST.

KEEP THE RATES INCREASE BELOW THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INCREASE.

OH, AND SPELL THE NAME OF OUR TOWN PROPERLY. IT'S POKENO.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7626
Name:	Kerrie
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Do not agree with rates increase

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7627
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Stop silly spending, get rid of back room admin that doesn't hold any true value. Educate people on spending. Is it a want or a need.

Can we do things another way that isn't going to cost as much. I can give you an example of silly spending. Just the other week, a water pump broke down, this particular water pump that supplies a town, was based in a paddock.

Your usual contractor was unavailable at that time to help. The council then phoned a civil company, who was going to send a transport along with a long reach digger to pull this pump out. Luckily they were busy too, and they contacted a hiab company who was just next door, and they were able to send a truck down. That one silly decision to engage a civil company (had they been available) would have cost thousands of dollars more than that hiab that was able to come out. This is just one example of stupid spending along with zero education, or rather the wrong people in the job making decisions. All councils need a complete overhaul and some basic reeducation.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Stop silly spending, get rid of back room admin that doesn't hold any true value. Educate people on spending. Is it a want or a need.

Can we do things another way that isn't going to cost as much. I can give you an example of silly spending. Just the other week, a water pump broke down, this particular water pump that supplies a town, was based in a paddock.

Your usual contractor was unavailable at that time to help. The council then phoned a civil company, who was going to send a transport along with a long reach digger to pull this pump out. Luckily they were busy too, and they contacted a hiab company who was just next door, and they were able to send a truck down. That one silly decision to engage a civil company (had they been available) would have cost thousands of dollars more than that hiab that was able to come out. This is just one example of stupid spending along with zero education, or rather the wrong people in the job making decisions. All councils need a complete overhaul and some basic reeducation.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Yeah! Don't raise our rates! People can barely afford to live as it is now. And you want to raise rates, because why? You can't even explain how you're gonna cut your own costs. Too top heavy. Get your shit together!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Give us every single detail of what your services are, and what people are getting paid. Then we will be able to have a good understanding, and give feedback

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7628
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Disgusting increase.... for what!! Our roads are terrible, no inorganic collection anymore, less recycling accepted, broken wheelie bins that nothing is done about, very poor service, absolutely no value for money. Waikato Council you should be ashamed. Look after your rate payers and they will look after you....

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

See above. And I hope that no staff suddenly get pay rises!!! Your constituents are STRUGGLING and you do nothing to assist the home owner/ rate payer! Our mayor flaunts photos of "look good" opportunities and is not seen fighting for us as was promised!! I'm embarrassed to have voted for her!

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

See all above!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7629
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

The increase is to big and this will make most people leaving Waikato. Or get crushed under increasing prices

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Hold onto big project. Let the interest rates come down. Then they can be implemented

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

As above

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No. Its already so low

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7630
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	No
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Council need to spend less. People cannot afford to pay more in rates. It's going to come out of the food budget for many. Pushing people further into hardship.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Lower the contributions.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Rates charges need to either stay as they are or decrease. They are crippling currently to many. We simply cannot afford a rise.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Costs. Costs need to reduce. People cannot afford to pay more in rates.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7631
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Stick to the need to have not the wants

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Do away with the nice to have

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Yeah no one is happy with them

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Unnecessary stuff like rainbow crossings etc. Stick to getting the basics right.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7632
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

People just cannot afford you rate increases. It wouldn't be so bad if the rares you did get were actually used for well thought out plans. But they are not in the current mess that Labour has left everything people simply cannot afford the rise in rates that you are proposing.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Ridiculous in the economic crisis at present

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Ridiculous and daylight robbery.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Yep the stupid road humps before roundabouts . The amount and expense of the cones used for simple road works. The total useless use of ratepayers for the sculptures put up
D

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7633
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

The increase does not match the cost of living also there is no footpaths or playgrounds

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

The increase does not match the cost of living also there is no footpaths or playgrounds

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The increase does not match the cost of living also there is no footpaths or playgrounds

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7634
Name:	Jo
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

I'm saddened to hear that it is proposed to cut funding to Tourism Waikato. Providers like this have such an important impact on our economy by bringing in tourism dollars and events to the region. It would be a huge loss for the funding to be cut. Please re think this proposed cut.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I think it's possible to find some more efficient ways of doing things. As an example I rang about a dog I found. I rang with the rego number asking them to ring the owner. Instead they insisted on the animal control officer needing to drive to raglan to pick it up. I could have even dropped the dog home if the owner wanted that. Many people like me in the community want to help make our communities better. Let us do our bit and save resources, time and energy in the process. I also wonder about the increased possibility of efficiency's that could be found by better collaboration across departments and other councils.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7635
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The rates increase is a shocking amount at a time where we have all had to sign on at a higher interest rate and during a recession. My partner is also having reduced hours at work due to the recession. This rates increase will increase our rates bill by \$800 a year / \$14 per week - and we're one of the lowest capital valued homes in our area. This is coming at an already difficult time, could it not wait?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7636
Name:	Carol Weatherley
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Yes as I am a pensioner, I will find it really hard of the increase, with all the other things that need to be paid in that fortnight, other rates, insurance, water rates power gas, there's not a lot left I can tell to last the whole fortnight, very sad for a lot of residents

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Sad affair

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7637
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The proposed rates increase is horrendous - another huge cost I can't afford they're already very expensive ... it's particularly frustrating that rates discounts have been offered to lower income households; with the amount interest rates on my mortgage have increased we're all low income households after bills (including rates) have been paid!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7638
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Focus on doing the basics well. Response times to enquiries is very long and the internet page is not effective. There is no ability to self serve that is functional and reliable.
Bring fresh change and new perspective.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Make internal changes first. The executive team is huge relative to others. What return on investment is achieved with deep hierarchy and big teams.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

The number of employees relative to the district and need. Focus on particular teams and market information. Some teams appear disproportionate to other public and private sectors.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7639
Name:	Vaughan Wallace & Susan Forlong
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Proposed plans usually means "we've decided"

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Once again along the same lines

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

This increase is unacceptable to us due to the already high cost of living that so many families out here in Huntly specifically are struggling with.

As it is, we live in a town where upkeep is minimal to none and pay more in rates plus for our water and for rubbish stickers on top of that than we did in Hamilton! We can barely afford our rates yet are considered well off compared to many.

If the rates go up this much we will be looking at leaving the Waikato District within the next 2 to 3 years.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

We're barely supplied with any out here in Huntly

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7640
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Please provide a direct link to access the Draft Capital Works Programme. Unable to logically search or locate what is currently being proposed.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Unable to make any informed comments without understanding what the increase covers and how this has been calculated. When "proposing" an increase, at least advise how you have come to this figure. The messaging on increases is obviously highly sensitive to most households in this climate and when increases are always well above inflation you need to explain why.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

As above.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Unsure that residents are fully aware of council provided services in their area. I certainly cannot list them all. Provide us with a list so we can select those less important.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7641
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

State of our roads are appalling in north Waikato, had to repair at my cost a rim and tyre due to size of the pot holes.

We have two pathetic recycling bins not even a wheelie bin

And we pay for rubbish collection

There is NO maintenance done to our road sides the farmers and property owners are moving and wedding on the "queens chain"

We live in Aka Aka and have to go to tuakau library a 20 minute drive away we can't even go to the waiuku library 8 minutes down the road

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

If you are putting rates up that much

I want:

Fixed roads

Better recycling bins

Mowed road edges

Fixed bridges

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

As above!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

The rise of rates

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7642
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Stop spending money, we're all broke

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Stop spending money, we're all broke

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Stop spending money, we're all broke

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

All of it

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7643
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Spend less

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Don't increase by so much. You already doubled it last time...

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

13.5% is way to much for Pokeno home owners.. cut costs and drop the rates.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

All of them to bring down the rates cost.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7644
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

No.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

No.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

This rate increase is far too much.

Families are struggling with daily costs rising, and this huge price jump is not fair.

Slight increases are acceptable once in a while, but this is too much!

How are people meant to find this extra money year on year, then you'll increase it again!

Stop stealing from the people you are meant to work for!

Cut costs in your own back yard before you milk us Rate payers for every last cent!

Enough is enough!!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No, just stop spending up!

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7645
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The increase of 13.75% is absolutely absurd! Each year you are raising the cost for us residents in Pokeno and we are barely getting ANYTHING for it. 13.75% is around \$600 more a year. Times this by how many houses there are in Pokeno, this means you are getting MILLIONS more a year from the Waikato residents and we are getting nothing for it! This is NOT ok!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Reducing the increase in rates!

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7646
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I disagree with a general rates increase. Our current rates are not being used wisely, and we pay a excessive amount already. The Pokeno rd and great south rd intersection is a joke. The digger has not moved in two weeks! What's going on

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7647
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

A 13% rates increase for Pokeno, have you lost your mind!!!
This is absolutely ridiculous given the current economic climate.
This rise in rates seems to excessive and will be a burden of many families.
On top of this, those rates are 30% then most of Auckland properties and for that we don't event get proper rubbish bins, or inorganic collections and we have to drive on roads that are always full of potholes.
It will make many of use consider whether a move back to Auckland council would be better!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

A 13% rates increase for Pokeno, have you lost your mind!!!
This is absolutely ridiculous given the current economic climate.
This rise in rates seems to excessive and will be a burden of many families.
On top of this, those rates are 30% then most of Auckland properties and for that we don't event get proper rubbish bins, or inorganic collections and we have to drive on roads that are always full of potholes.
It will make many of use consider whether a move back to Auckland council would be better!

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

A 13% rates increase for Pokeno, have you lost your mind!!!
This is absolutely ridiculous given the current economic climate.
This rise in rates seems to excessive and will be a burden of many families.
On top of this, those rates are 30% then most of Auckland properties and for that we don't event get proper rubbish bins, or inorganic collections and we have to drive on roads that are always full of potholes.
It will make many of use consider whether a move back to Auckland council would be better!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Yes the rates \$

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7648
Name:	Samantha
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Why are we paying for rubbish but still having to buy bag tags?!!!

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

They are far too high! Many people including myself are struggling with inflation. An increase like this would be catastrophic for me.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

What is but you actually do?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7649
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Yes, we need to remember that people are struggling in the real world i.e. not local government where money is spent frivolously, people have not had pay rises for 2 years and petrol, food, rates, and certainly mortgage rates have increased exponentially. 13.7% increase in rates are extremely ridiculous. We for example cannot buy an extra car with money being so tight so we expect the local council to tighten their purse strings, as in the real world we cant go to our employers and say we need an extra 13.7% payrise and also an \$800 per year bonus to pay for the rates and the amount we will have to pay to get our Daughter to Tuakau College due to the fact that the Council runs the stupid blue ghost bus that is a money pit and should be scrapped

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Yes as above - any increase is out of touch with how people in NZ are struggling with the economic conditions right now

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Yes as above - any increase is out of touch with how people in NZ are struggling with the economic conditions right now

Also went to the event in Pokeno that was advertised to finish at 7pm, I got there at 6.50pm to see Jacqui Chuch driving out of the carpark, WE HAVE TO WORK LONG HOURS ALREADY TO MAKE ENDS MEET, THOUGHT IT WAS EXTREMELY DISRESPECTFUL THAT SHE DIDNT STAY UNTIL THE ADVERTISED TIME - SHE OBVIOUSLY DOESNT CARE ABOUT US!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

YES, THE BLUE GHOST BUS (NO. 44), POKENO DOESNT NEED A LIBRARY, REDUCE THE OPERATING COST FOR THE STAFF, LIKE THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS JUST DONE

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7650
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Theres needs to be a footpath put down Regina Street, Pokeno. Today i walked with my child to the Plunket building for his check up, and the cars were speeding past and we were forced to walk on the road. This is the current only access to the plunket building with the two other access roads being closed to roadworks. This needs to be addressed, especially now that this will be a main access point to our newly developed town centre and more people parking in the surrounding areas

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The proposed rate increase of 13.5% is absolutely unreasonable. Every cost has gone up for us this year, yet our wages have not. Pokeno still continues to have the highest rates in the auckland/waikato region. We pay for Waikato river maintenance, yet we don't get the benefits like Hamilton do with free water supply/no water rates. So many of our neighbours are selling because the cost of living is just too high for them to keep the homes they have worked so hard for. These are active members of our community, yet they cannot afford to live here.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7651
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

I feel like it's relying on rent payers to much to have luxury items when we are all willing to sacrifice to make the future better, I don't think it will make life easier for anyone.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

I think it doesn't matter to the majority of people. I think we all would prefer to keep rent down instead of coming up with ways to get more money from us.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Can't afford it as it is. How is this gonna help anyone. I think it will drive us into a worse situation.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7652
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

We just can't afford anymore price increases we are already struggling. It will get to a point where we just won't be able to pay the extras costs

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7653
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

This is ridiculous. In a world where families are struggling, you're looking at an increase and another huge one at that. Instead of an actual long term plan that makes sense, you all have a short sighted view.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Start thinking about the people and families in your region. You're the highest rates around with the lowest actual services.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

You're making it tough for families to actually live. Somewhere like Tuakau or Pokeno get punished as they get the worst of the Auckland services and costs and then Waikato council overlooks it while the mayor and board just live a life of lavish. It's pathetic.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

The council barely follows through with current services. You're looking to people to do the job you all were elected or hired to do. Basic economics is probably something most of your councillors need to get to grips with.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7654
Name:	Kelly
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

DONT PUT OUR RATES UP - A \$547 increase for me means one less meal a week for my family that can be afforded! Daylight robbery! Make internal cost cuts / staff cuts and stop all unnecessary and non emergency spending and rein it in! You're going to make alot of people do it even harder in already hard times!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

DONT PUT OUR RATES UP - A \$547 increase for me means one less meal a week for my family that can be afforded! Daylight robbery! Make internal cost cuts / staff cuts and stop all unnecessary and non emergency spending and rein it in! You're going to make alot of people do it even harder in already hard times!

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

DONT PUT OUR RATES UP - A \$547 increase for me means one less meal a week for my family that can be afforded! Daylight robbery! Make internal cost cuts / staff cuts and stop all unnecessary and non emergency spending and rein it in! You're going to make alot of people do it even harder in already hard times!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

DONT PUT OUR RATES UP - A \$547 increase for me means one less meal a week for my family that can be afforded! Daylight robbery! Make internal cost cuts / staff cuts and stop all unnecessary and non emergency spending and rein it in! You're going to make alot of people do it even harder in already hard times!

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7655
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Waste of time and money, reduce staffing numbers, reprioritise core WDC business, cut services that aren't providing value for money. Let rate payers keep their hard earned money.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Development contributions need to be seriously looked at case by case basis. I struggle to understand how subdividing a property and paying development contributions is so expensive when none of the contribution is actually invested in the community of which the subdivision has occurred. Horotiu, prime example nothing developed in the community. I'm happy to be proven wrong or be given examples that's DONT involve Te Awa Lakes or Cycle Pathway

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Reduce staffing numbers within WDC to offset the costs of fees and charges customers will face. If that means a reduction or loss of services, then so be it. Rate payers would prefer a loss of service than loss of their hard earned money.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Provide a list of council of services and I'll happily identify which aren't effective.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7657
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

You will end up putting people out in the street! People are struggling to pay their mortgages and rents, and put food on the table. Are infrastructure improvements worth ruining the lives of the people that live in this community? If you're struggling with the answer, let me help you "No".

I live rurally on a busy gravel road. I don't two old bins to seperate my recycling into, I have to buy my own rubbish bags and buy the stickers for them to be collected, I have to collect, maintain and ration my own water so I so run out or buy it when I do run out. I guarentee that none of the money you plan to take of us will be spent in my area.

Thats too bad about that I won't receive any i provement in my world, but I will cope. But you will destroy families and put them out on tne street if tou insist on taking more money out of peoples' pockets. Don't be disgusting. CONSIDER the people you claim you are working for.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Parking metres in Hamilton city. They kill the retailers who rely on people visiting the city center.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7658
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

It's very hard. I understand that you want to make things better. But I don't think it does. The whole country is suffering from cost of living. Adding things won't make it better. We need to cut costs not raise them. We don't need new things. Reduce costs!!!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Disagree. We don't need anything else. We can't afford to feed the kids if rates go up

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

No no no no! You're making it impossible to want to live here. We can barely make rates payments let alone mortgage, food, school, petrol. It's insane. You should be trying to figure out how to maintain or better yet DROP the rates

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7659
Name:	Conrad Fourie
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

No Current Debt information provided to us. We get ambushed by a booklet when you enter the hall to discuss but No time to review documentation prior to meeting. Books printed should have been sent to all residents in the area.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Should Not be implemented until current Debt has been submitted to residents and we could have a clear transparency on how our current rates and taxes are being wasted. I believe Pokeno is receiving number place recognition cameras installed and paid for by the Rate payer to the Mayor's husband that own that company - HOW is this Not Conflict of Interest???? PLEASE EXPLAIN

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

We do Not support the fees and charges as the current development does Not justify the changed.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I'm paying \$700.00 a year for a waste water pipe outside my property that my residence is not connected to

Council land - Council property Council problem as I have a septic tank and I believe only 1 (one) house in the street is actually connected to this. Stop taken money on that and then maybe we could look at supporting you

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7660
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Please do not increase our rates as we are already paying shit load of money around \$4800 per year and inflation is crushing everyone already.

Thanks

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Please do not increase our rates as we are already paying shit load of money around \$4800 per year and inflation is crushing everyone already.

Thanks

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Please do not increase our rates as we are already paying shit load of money around \$4800 per year and inflation is crushing everyone already.

Thanks

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7661
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Dont commit to any new projects for 12 months, or until the economy settles. Maintain what you have, infrastructure etc by choosing reputable companies that will do the job right the first time, and not need 10 patch repairs in the follwing financial year. Review staff employment, then trim from the top, not the bottom. No staff wage increases, this is a sign of good faith to those that gave you your job

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Dont cripple those that keep you employed

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Day light robbery comes to mind

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Stop engaging with excessive consultants , again put new projects on hold for 12 months

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7662
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Dont raise the rates 13% thats bloody ludacris, especially when families are already doing it tough with the cost of living at the moment. Plus our rates are already almost double aucklands!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Dont raise the rates 13% thats bloody ludacris, especially when families are already doing it tough with the cost of living at the moment. Plus our rates are already almost double aucklands!

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Dont raise the rates 13% thats bloody ludacris, especially when families are already doing it tough with the cost of living at the moment. Plus our rates are already almost double aucklands!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Dont raise the rates 13% thats bloody ludacris, especially when families are already doing it tough with the cost of living at the moment. Plus our rates are already almost double aucklands!

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7663
Name:	Jenna
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

This proposed increase is going to make people of Pokeno struggle even more! The rates in Waikato are already far too high!!!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

The proposed rates increase is going to make home owners question their affordability and they will struggle!!!!!!

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

DO NOT MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PROPOSED RATES INCREASE!!!!

Families are already struggling!!!!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Wasting money on the least important things

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7664
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Pokeno is getting yet another rate increase of over 13%!! When we first moved here 3 years ago rates were \$2,700p.a and now they are going up to \$5,000p.a! With all these increases we have very few community facilities. We have a supermarket, two petrol stations, three ice cream shops, two alcohol stores and not much else. We desperately need facilities for our community, especially our children and teenagers. We need a leisure centre with indoor pool and facilities for sports clubs (not just a field). Our playgrounds are so basic and really only made for children under the age of five and are not challenging for children at all. We desperately need a our own college and another primary school. Library facilities would be amazing too! We need facilities that will engage our children/teens and community!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7665
Name:	Nicole
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Absolutely terrible. The amount the rates are increasing is incredibly unethical, unjustifiable and unfair. Not only are we already paying some of the highest rates in the country but this is about to be increased again. In Pokeno especially, we do not see value for our rates. If anything our rates should be decreased.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Absolutely terrible. The amount the rates are increasing is incredibly unethical, unjustifiable and unfair. Not only are we already paying some of the highest rates in the country but this is about to be increased again. In Pokeno especially, we do not see value for our rates. If anything our rates should be decreased.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Absolutely terrible. The amount the rates are increasing is incredibly unethical, unjustifiable and unfair. Not only are we already paying some of the highest rates in the country but this is about to be increased again. In Pokeno especially, we do not see value for our rates. If anything our rates should be decreased.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I don't think you can reduce our services much more. We already have a below average recycling system and we personally pay for our own rubbish collection.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7666
Name:	Barbara Barrand
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

These should be cost efficient and within budget.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

No

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I object most strongly to a rates rise in Pokeno of over 13%. It's ridiculous to ask the residents to pay this. Pokeno has become a cash cow for WDC. Where did you get your income from before all these houses were built?

We receive very few services compared to places like Auckland. We have lost our inorganic collection so we now pay more for less. Where has this proposed rise come from? Someone clearly hasn't been doing their sums.

Do what the new Government is advocating and cut out wasteful spending!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Wasteful spending!

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7667
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

The planned works for a library in Pokeno. The Tuakau library is in close proximity to Pokeno and has recently been upgraded. The funds allocated for this project could be better allocated elsewhere.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7668
Name:	Bob Coleman
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

You need to cut back to the bone, stop the needless waste of our money, sell everything that is not core business and realize what your job is!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

It needs to be reduced by half. You are way over estimating what value you provide and have over costed what you do.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

How about all services that are not core! How about providing water and waste water and nothing else. Stop buying land, reduce debt, stop thinking we are there to provide shortfalls in your bad budgeting and spending. You should all lose your jobs!

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7669
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

I oppose it all

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

I oppose it all

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

They are ludicrous to already struggling families. An increase this high will cripple home owners and it will have a trickle effect into the rental market for the area. Start thinking about the people in the community and how people are coping financially before thinking about lining your pockets. Think about ways to reduce your in-house costs first because there are a lot of cut backs in there that you could be making first.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7670
Name:	Sylvia O'Leary
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Rate increase is too high. Living rurally we see very little result from our rates. Rubbish which we pay separately for, recycling and roads (which are in poor condition and speed limits are constantly bring reduced whjch makes it take longer to get anywhere)

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Stop spending money improving roads only to reduce speed limits. There are too many speed changes which costs more money in signs and lost productivity.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7671
Name:	Jerry Chen
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

In the current situation of escalating living costs, the council should focus on assisting residents in alleviating their rate burdens rather than implementing rate hikes. To ensure sustainability, it would be prudent to maintain only essential services at this time.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7672
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Moved from Auckland council and these are : Unaffordable increases for home owners in Pokeno for what gain. Can't see any benefits for our small community only outside of it benefits.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Moved from Auckland council and these are : Unaffordable increases for home owners in Pokeno for what gain. Can't see any benefits for our small community only outside of it benefits.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Moved from Auckland council and these are : Unaffordable increases for home owners in Pokeno for what gain. Can't see any benefits for our small community only outside of it benefits.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Managers salary.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7673
Name:	Korall Lakatos
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

In the current economy with people struggling to put food and necessity on their table you, as council SHOULD (magic word there) be easing these burdens. Instead of spending up large, creating big new fancy projects your focus should be on maintenance. Laying low for the next few years and not spending mega money on unnecessary works.

How about concentrate on finishing the already going projects (Sh1 by Taupiri etc etc) instead of inventing new ways of spending money to make "shit" look flash!? People won't care if you're not coming up with new bullcrap ways of overspending. But as you can see we care when our rates are going up by almost 14%.

Where are families meant to get that extra money from? Our wages aren't going up by that much, are they?? No way.

So now you're putting that decision to families, you're either able to pay for the extra added onto rates or maybe they'll buy a packet of clean Nappies for my babies or feed their families nutritious meals. Do they want to be homeless or would they rather clothe their children?

No wonder we have soooo much child negligence nowadays. You guys are just adding to that. And a lot other issues too.

Why not look at how internally you can free up some money..? Why do you need so many council vehicles, why so they have to be so new and fancy? Council has no idea what live within your means actually means yet you make us having to do just that.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?**

At the time when most low and middle income families are struggling you propose a 13.75% increase in rates..

I say propose but most of us are aware that this is just a box ticking exercise. You will be implementing no matter what anyone says or does.

Can you advise on how much extra you're able to collect from rate payers in the Swan Road, Scott Road and Lakeside developments in Te Kauwhata? Surely, that's a decent boost to your revenue. Perhaps you should look at the pricing from your external contractors...? Perhaps you should put works out as per a tender process, do your job properly and go through these tenders instead of just giving the job to your buddies. I know well and truly that every one of them would be after a bit of extra \$\$\$\$ since it's "council works" but nobody is actually considering how all these "small" add ons impact the rate payer.

This won't only further increase living costs for home owners but this extra will get passed on to tenants from landlords.

Shame on you all. Sellouts. Not surprised at all, but feeling pretty frustrated that it's actually happening. 13.75% proposed rates increase...

STOP THE BRAINLESS SPENDING! OUR PEOPLE CANT AFFORD TO PAY FOR YOUR DEBT.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Yes. Everything that's unnecessary. In this economy we don't need to be doing fancy this and that. Bring it back to basics.

Concentrate on finishing projects that are already on the go.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7674
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

We cannot afford the rates rise!! We already pay nearly \$100 a week! You lot are going to push people to a point of breaking!! We are already struggling to find extra cash! We had a rates rise LAST YEAR

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

We cannot afford the rates rise!! We already pay nearly \$100 a week! You lot are going to push people to a point of breaking!! We are already struggling to find extra cash! We had a rates rise LAST YEAR

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

We cannot afford the rates rise!! We already pay nearly \$100 a week! You lot are going to push people to a point of breaking!! We are already struggling to find extra cash! We had a rates rise LAST YEAR

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

EVERYTHING!!! we already pay a ridiculous amount of rates!!! AND we pay for water, AND we pay for rubbish collection!! We are not your piggy banks! We are in a serious time of struggling and your damaging families financially!

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7675
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

We're broke. Stop raising the rates. Government is already cutting our public service by 1.5 billion too? And we're also being told about 13% increase, bloody ridiculous

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

We're broke. Stop raising the rates. Government is already cutting our public service by 1.5 billion too? And we're also being told about 13% increase, bloody ridiculous

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

We're broke. Stop raising the rates. Government is already cutting our public service by 1.5 billion too? And we're also being told about 13% increase, bloody ridiculous

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

We're broke. Stop raising the rates. Government is already cutting our public service by 1.5 billion too? And we're also being told about 13% increase, bloody ridiculous

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7676
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

This price increase is completely wrong!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7677
Name:	Fenton
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Why would you increase the rates by nearly 14% during a recession, the economy is the worst it has been in years and you think it's a good idea to hike up rates, if Iran kicks off then oil is going to increase phenomenally to add to the financial pain. Toll roads are a far better solution.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Why would you increase the rates by nearly 14% during a recession, the economy is the worst it has been in years and you think it's a good idea to hike up rates, if Iran kicks off then oil is going to increase phenomenally to add to the financial pain. Toll roads are a far better solution.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Why would you increase the rates by nearly 14% during a recession, the economy is the worst it has been in years and you think it's a good idea to hike up rates, if Iran kicks off then oil is going to increase phenomenally to add to the financial pain. Toll roads are a far better solution.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7678
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Hiking rates 13.5% is not acceptable. Every chance you get rates are increased and why, because you feel like you can do what you want with our money. We are not rich but you increase rates like we are. Do you want it to become a derelict town where no one can afford the rates so it is a ghost town of empty houses. If you are doing a job like fixing the road, do it once and properly, not rip it up every year or two. Recently a whole lot of new flowers were put in, not long later, let's rip that up as we have changed our mind on what is going there. Stop and think for a minute how your poor planning is affecting us and maybe listen when we have ideas at the community meeting.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Wasting our money on redoing jobs. Why on earth do we need 4 sets of traffic lights, a roundabout and a zebra crossing would have sufficed, a library would be nice but we do have tuakau library quite close. How about you fix the road through here once, then propose openly what you would like to do in Pokeno and then listen to what we do and don't actually want on the list.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7679
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The rates already being charged in Pokeno are out of line with the rest of the Waikato. To suggest imposing a 14% increase is insulting, considering the poor amenities and level of service in Pokeno.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Not reducing but changing.

You should streamline the rubbish collection. Provide wheelie bins for both rubbish and recycling. This would speed up collection as well as give more flexibility, rather having to purchase ridiculous stickers to put on single use plastic products, which go straight into landfill.

It seems ironic that council is so pedantic about recycling but encourage use of large single use plastic bags for rubbish collection.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7680
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Too much wasteful spending as usual

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Far too expensive.

Families here in Pokeno are struggling to make ends meet at the current rate, with the average household paying more than \$5000/year in rates.

On top of that we pay extra for refuse collection and water, not to mention that council land is hardly ever maintained, the parks and playgrounds are not up to scratch.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

As above, we pay too much for what we get in return.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Rates and increases, council staff pay increases

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7681
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I think the rates increase is ridiculous! I disapprove of this plan as the rates are already high. I feel we don't get much for our rates as it is. I feel the increase is severely unjustified and will cause people to not move to the area or make people move out of the area. It will be detrimental to the area.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7682
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

A 13.75% rate increase is ridiculous. How are families meant to be able to afford to live in this community? Does this take into consideration all the other price increases homeowners have had lately with insurances and essentials? How are we expected to put food on the table with such an increase. We receive nothing extra from this? How is this justified? As a homeowner and rate payer I am considering selling my home and moving to another district as we don't benefit anything by living in this town. I am living in an old 1950s house on a 650sq section and what your proposing will cost me \$4500 a year to live here. we have limited resources in this town, the township it's self looks like squalor. Why should I continue living here with such extravagant costs. An increase like this will be putting so much strain and pressure on my family.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7683
Name:	Emerald Reid
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I can barely afford my rates now as a single mum of 3 on top of increased mortgage repayments. We pay enough now already. We still pay for rubbish stickers, water rates and can't even drink our tap water because it tastes like chlorine. What are we even paying for???

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7684
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

A deep dive into the documents attached to the submission has raised many queries on this wet Saturday morning on how the rates are tabulated and charged. I've attached a few screenshots, which perhaps some of you may be more informed than me...But to preface my screenshots are these questions,

- I get that wastewater and stormwater are essential. Making quality drinking water available to the community is vital. There are no arguments, and I am happy to pay for the infrastructure. Nonetheless, with the repeal of 3 waters and the application of "local water done well" National has a clause in the legislation that allows councils to borrow money to set this up. Granted that this perhaps is not enough, Waikato is hiking rates to account for it, but the question is, are the hikes warranted? Attached are the legislative clause and the highlighted fees proposed by the council. Also attached are the rate decisions based on assumptions. As this is a 24/25-year plan, and as much as I want to anticipate climate change, placing a HIGH level on something that is assumed to happen in the coming two decades (while making us pay this coming year) is incredible. Also attached is the budget cost for projects, which beggars belief. I do not need to explain, as I have highlighted in yellow. Why are these costs dumped into a one year plan? Can we focus on water first? Is council currying favour with the government and trying to show how well they handle projects at the cost of rate payers?

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Same as above

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Same

As above

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Everything barring water infrastructure as everything else can wait

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7685
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

No for increase of rates

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No for increase of our rates,

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7686
Name:	Michelle
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

13% increase on rates is crazy in this economy. This is unfair and majority of people in Waikato will move elsewhere.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

13% increase on rates is crazy in this economy. This is unfair and majority of people in Waikato will move elsewhere.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

13% increase on rates is crazy in this economy. This is unfair and majority of people in Waikato will move elsewhere.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Rates

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7687
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Please reduce non essential work, this rate increase is too much. I'm looking at selling my home due to all the escalating costs

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

No new projects, wage freeze and reduce all nonessential services. I have done this for my own budget to try and survive but this is just an added cost of too many increases! There's no point to working when over 50% of my wages are tax and local government fees let alone adding petrol tax to this.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

All of them

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7688
Name:	Rochelle
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Stop wasting money on new community developments. Our roads in/around Tuakau are crap and seem to get patched now and then, not fixing the problem.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Don't waste money on playgrounds and skate parks and tennis courts, the youth just wreck them and visitors to them are threatened and don't return.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Stop hiking rates so high, we can't afford to live and eat and pay rates.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Stop spending money on doing up shared outdoor spaces, they get ruined in no time. Just leave them.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7689
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Some of the work outlined, maintenance are constantly repeated multiple times in a year in some areas. E.g, water pipes, storm water, parks, roads.

Again staffing, contractor's, review is required.

Is it necessary to have two recreational park in a small town. You can't keep up with maintenance even on areas around the highways, the big roundabouts in most areas/regions.

Libraries, most people use the internet for resources instead of going to the library.

Council building upgrade, is it necessary, most people work from home once or twice a week.

Most of your work programme needs to be reviewed to start with instead of rates increase. This increase will affect a lot of rate payers, will result in financial hardship for many.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Rates increase so you can appoint an advisor to focus specifically on Maaori strategies and haapu and iwi management plans, and ensure meaningful support for Maaori communities. Is there a need for a new advisor role? Another unnecessary cost to the rate payers. Again, staff reduction to minimize costs related for rate increase.

We should be unify as one with one approach.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Rates increase will have a significant impact on families who are already struggling financially and facing financial hardship. We can't afford to pay our water rates, food on the table, petrol, etc. We barely survive on the living wage and you keep raising fees to fund some unnecessary projects.

The roads are still not great to drive on, causing damage to vehicles, let alone sitting in traffic due to road closure. We are paying your employees to sit in vehicles on a road work site on their phones and not doing any work.

Perhaps you need to review your staffing level and pay cuts instead of increasing rates for rate payers.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Rates - water/land - no increae

Council Staffing level and pay cut

Equality and unify support for Maaori and non Maaori

Council vehicle Fleet - Have a fleet booking system instead of individualized vehicles

Road closures/ Road work time frame
Recreational parks

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7690
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

I am not happy with yet another rate increase in Pokeno.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7691
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Do not raise rates!! Families are struggling as it is!! This is not going to help our communities, only put more stress and hardship on them. Read the room!!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Cut council staffs wages

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7692
Name:	P
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

It takes so long to complete any capital works, is it possible to condense these timelines so things get done sooner?

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The rates increase is becoming unbearable year after year. We already pay very high rates so another increase is not reasonable, also at that amount of percentage increase on an already high bill. I am reasonable and know things go up but almost 14% on a high number when salaries are frozen or people losing their jobs is not reasonable.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I feel for the rates we pay we should be getting more services such as rubbish bins and composting. Not reducing services and rates still going up significantly.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7693
Name:	John Brannan
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

I think that this level of increase is not correct. If you reduce the amount of your use on employing over charging expensive consultants the increase would not be so high. You were voted in to make these decisions. You were not elected to squander the rate payers contributions. If you do the JOB you were elected to do, these issues would not arise from this.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

You all seem to have a free will to waste money for no valid reason and expect ratepayers to remain silent. When we object we are always ignored and told "oh it doesn't matter" or "we will look into it". Having said that any response that is sent out, is always full of Council clap trap, rubbish statements that you believe to true. When in fact it is not so.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Stop employing consultants . You were elected to make decisions do so.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7694
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The rate increase is excessive. Will WDC staff salaries be reduced? Will the CEO be getting a freeze on salary increase?
Outrageous really.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7695
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

No more increase in rates please

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

No more increase in rates please

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

No more increase in rates please

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Yes council rates please

Reduce them

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7696
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The fees increasing continuously and by huge amounts is ridiculous at a time where many people are struggling with cost of living. There are certainly more sensible ways of raising capital for maintenance and improvements.

Tolls, developers contributions for larger scale operations, etc etc.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

The only services we utilise in Pokeno are the rubbish collection and maintenance of grass berms and maintaining the trees/landscape.

All of these services are operated by great contractors perhaps better monitoring and scheduling of said contractors could be wise e.g grass is hardly above 2 inches and lawn mowers are back.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7697
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

So expensive it's already a struggle trying to survive council needs to stop being greedy and find alternatives avenues of making revenue instead of milking people for they're last dollars

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Na

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Pathetic

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Bin stickers

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7698
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

It's incredibly frustrating to hear you say in the intro that you've been through the budget with a fine tooth comb but still need to address significantly increased costs. I think everyone out here gets that. However, what everyone out here has to do is say this is how much money we have, now how can we do the best we can with that money? We can't go out and say, oh we need more money, so let's just go and get some. It doesn't work that way. Yet you seem to think that is exactly how it works. Any increase in rates that you apply above average wage increases is money that ratepayers have to take from somewhere else. You are adding to the cost of living crisis for the vast majority of ratepayers by your actions. That is appalling in my opinion.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

That's your job, look at what you can afford without passing additional costs onto ratepayers

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7699
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

The 2024/25 plan is farce. We live on a beautiful stream which has an abundance of natural flora and fauna including eels. We have never had anyone come to clean or keep the stream clear or look at the long term flow or potential hazards of this large stream - council have washed their hands which is quite disgusting given the significance of where this stream runs (through Tuakau township).

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

The 2024/25 plan is farce. People have spoken about what they wish/want in their community and from council and they're still ignored - especially in the north Waikato where rates are increasing exponentially but very little of this being seen in their actual communities.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Yet again - request for no increase has fallen on deaf ears. We are paying hugely over inflated rates for the services/lack there of we receive. People are in a cost of living crisis and yet a huge increase in rates is still sought. We understand there is an increase on the cost of materials and services however instead of spending money on unused/unimportant/inappropriate services or "things" how about reducing rates!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Yes

- focus on reduction of spending on 'luxury' items
- Reduce 'public transport' initiatives in the waikato because let's face it - NZ has never got this right with the planning/management/undertaking so far.
- Reduce office based decisions and more feet on the ground and actually listen to the constituents of North Waikato as this is where the pinch is being felt (lions share of rates is also being obtained from)

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7700
Name:	Shaun
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Subdivision charges are too high and off putting. More houses are needed and therefore subdividing allows for more houses to be built and in turn you are then able to capitalise on that by getting more rates for the new properties.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Our rates are already astronomical. In a climate where people are struggling to put food on the table, a rate increase of 13.75% will be crippling to people. If that rate increase goes ahead, rubbish fees should be included as well as water. Living in a small 3 bedroom house where we have restrictions to not put on a second dwelling, as well as not being allowed to be able to subdivide and are paying over \$4,500p.a. That doesn't include water charges or rubbish charges. I fear that several people will be forced to sell as these rates are becoming too much. Not to mention the effect this will have on renters with an increase in rent unavoidable.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No. If anything, it needs to be increased. The state of the town, graffiti, rubbish can be such an eye sore and isn't welcoming.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7701
Name:	Krish
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Can you please share the 2022/2023 project progress and achievements.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Only proposing plans, increasing rates, and not contributing to the budget of any projects leads to no visible development.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

We are completely unhappy with the current council and the increase in rates. The current council management lacks vision for development

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Reduce the black rubbish bag usage and introduce the wheel bins.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7702
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Need to stop building new parks etc till our country's economy comes but ,trying to get blood out of a stone expecting rates payers to fund new projects

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

All new builds should have their own water supply if needed,possibly solar power n more trees need planting in new sub divisions

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Yep,forget the rates increase n find ways of cutting costs elsewhere

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Just common sense needed in cost cutting measures n no don't mean job losses ,rather perks are dropped for a time

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7703
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Spending too much money on cycling and walkways. They're important projects but that needs to be cut in half.

Your IT spend is crazy high. Your procurement people need better contracts here.n

Your fleet spend renewal should be paused.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Regions that get more should pay more. The investment in Raglan at the expense of others is notable. This is a concerning trend.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Not really. But your spending projects could be cut

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

You're spending 19k on a zero harm coffee machine?

Dont tell me you have scrubbed your budget for savings. If you have this wouldn't be on there

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7704
Name:	Johanna
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Rates hikes should not be done we get nothing for or rates contacted the council lots of time about conditions and safety at Razorback rd and still nothing done doint you think 13/5 %is very steep paying in pokeno one off the most expansive rates but yes council as long you increase your wages and flash office buildings that's okay you think ???!!!!!!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7705
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

It is very hard fir a first time home buyer to move to te kauwhata and buy a house but looking at the rates it's already high and our community can't afford to pay more if there was an increase. I would look at selling my property and move from waikato. It is just getting very expensive.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Land rates for te kauwhata area and water rates as we pay rates and also have yo pay for rubbish tags that is just insane. How can we afford it

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7706
Name:	Haydn
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Please see my letter below

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Please see my letter below

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Please see my letter below

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/download_file/1542

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Staffing

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed 13.5% increase in rates for the upcoming 2024/25 financial year. While I understand the complexities and significant needs of our district's water services infrastructure, I believe it is crucial to address both the affordability for ratepayers and the necessity for prudent financial management by the Council.

Financial Sustainability and Rate Increases

Firstly, the proposed 13.5% increase in rates is substantial and places a significant financial burden on the residents of our district. In these times, where economic conditions are fluctuating and many are facing financial uncertainties, such an increase may not be feasible for a large portion of the community. I urge the Council to consider a more moderate approach that balances the need for investment in infrastructure with the economic realities faced by the residents.

Budget Management and Prioritisation

It is paramount that the Council examines alternative budgeting strategies that prioritize essential projects and identify areas where expenses can be optimized. While postponing some non-critical water projects is a step in the right direction, a more detailed review of all planned expenditures should be undertaken to ensure that funds are being allocated to projects with the most critical impact on community health and safety first.

Long-Term Planning and Community Impact

The postponement of the Long Term Plan raises concerns about the long-term vision and strategy for addressing the needs of our community. While immediate needs are critical, having a robust, forward-looking plan is essential to ensure sustainable development and preparedness for future challenges. We must ensure that our planning processes are both comprehensive and transparent to gain the trust and support of the community.

In conclusion, while I acknowledge the challenges faced by our district in maintaining and upgrading water services, it is crucial that the Council re-evaluates the proposed rate increase and focuses on a financial strategy that is both responsible and considerate of the current economic pressures on residents. More effective budget management, careful prioritisation of projects, and enhanced engagement with government partners are essential to address these issues responsibly without imposing undue financial stress on the community.

Thank you for considering these perspectives. I look forward to seeing adjustments that reflect a balanced approach to our shared challenges.

Warm regards,

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7707
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

The proposed rates increase is unaffordable for struggling homeowners.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

The proposed rates increase is unaffordable for struggling homeowners.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The proposed rates increase is unaffordable for struggling homeowners.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7708
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

The document continually refers to services that can be reduced, but I note that more than 20% of the rates we go to funds the staff. This cost is disproportionate and should be reduced before any further reduction of services are investigated. Further to this, the removal of a key metric around the availability of the councillors is wholly unacceptable.

The appointing of a strategic advisor to focus specifically on one cultural group would be considered a racist move in any other sector of the community, and as such I strongly object to this and would like the position revoked.

The debt level we are about to reach is unsustainable and unacceptable, and rather than follow central governments lead of getting further into debt, the local council needs to reduce the debt. This starts by living within ones means.

When projects, such as the walkways renewal project, experience delays contractors need to be held to account rather than simply allowed to charge more. This indicates a lack of accountability within the council that allows projects to be completed to a poor standard.

I fully support the removal of the metric "5% reduction per annum"

Overall the document is written at a high level, with very little specifics. It feels as though local council is trying to pull the wool over our eyes with a wordy piece of work that has no real content. This is, like much of what is happening, unacceptable. Do better.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?**

As with the rest of the document this section is very light on detail, with comments like "reviewed the way in which we charge some fees" with very little detail, instead directing readers to visit the council website for more information. Upon visiting the council website the 52 page document is certainly available, but obviously includes an excess of information in relation to the discussion at hand and is therefore cumbersome.

It feels like council is deliberately trying to make it more difficult for customers to realise that the wool is being pulled over our eyes.

I do not accept the proposed rates increase.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I urge council to consider the number of staff in the management level and reduce numbers there before looking into reducing actual services

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7709
Name:	Rate Payer
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Bring back free inorganic collections.

It was the 1 good thing rates payers looked forward to, made it feel like we got something out of the mass amounts for rates payments.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Bring back free inorganic collections.

It was the 1 good thing rates payers looked forward to, made it feel like we got something out of the mass amounts for rates payments.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Bring back free inorganic collections.

It was the 1 good thing rates payers looked forward to, made it feel like we got something out of the mass amounts for rates payments.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Bring back free inorganic collections.

It was the 1 good thing rates payers looked forward to, made it feel like we got something out of the mass amounts for rates payments.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7710
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Already way too high, struggling to pay them as it is

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Council charges/rates need to be reduced not increased especially for Pokeno where we don't have many services

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7711
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Can you please upgrade the playground items in Centennial Park. The seesaw needs to be changed so badly.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

No comment

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

They are too high. Fees related to library services should be removed entirely.
I understand that the increase of rates or fees is due to the increase of cost of pretty much everything. However we are also growing very fast, with new houses popping up everywhere. Doesn't it mean that there are more people paying rates? And if more people are paying rates, shouldn't the rates be lower or distributed more evenly?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Absolutely not. We could probably add a few though such as mental health and addiction services. Also support for young parents and single parents to reduce DV incidents.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7712
Name:	Michelle Perrin
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Please find a solution to the flooding issues in Captain stone / Delta Way Te Kowhai. As part of this I believe that a solution needs to be found to enable the drains on the un-rated land on Ngaruawahia Road to be cleaned. This appears to be a bottle neck in the drainage for the are and it is not acceptable that the council can't or won't clean these drains.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7713
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Rates are already high enough. We don't have the money. Council do not pay for the upkeep or maintainance of Crickett Lane so why are we paying the same rates as others when their road is maintained by Council. It is not fair.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

We had to pay development contributions in 2021. I don't know what we are paying for. Our road is not maintained by Council and is getting worse. We have the public driving up and down our road and they are not local.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I know 3 people who work for council who work from home. Why are council offices requiring maintainance, who actually from the council is required to go into work and why are they required to. That seems to be a massive expense rate payers could do without. All of us are suffering with inflation at the moment so perhaps council needs to look at how they can lessen their expenses to make things easier on rate payers.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Council Office buildings, there is a massive expense involved in that for rate payers. I don't know where that money is going to. We are all suffering at this time so council can as well.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7714
Name:	Jenn Hooper
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Hi. Please PLEASE consider adding a Changing Places to your new community hub at Pookeno - and one at Raglan! Families like ours rely on Changing Places just to leave the house. We have 3 in Hamilton already with a fourth underway. ChangingPlaces.org.nz

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7715
Name:	Jody McIntosh
Organisation:	Waikato District Ratepayer
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

I believe the council needs to put all new projects on hold while we are working through a recession and look at the current services to make sure we are paying the right price for the services we get

eg, 31.5% of our general rates goes to roading, but we don't have quality roads that are safe to drive on. 19.4 % goes to parks and reserves, are we employing the right contractors that are price effective eg local landscapers instead of part of Aucklands contractors and has all the contracts for all Waikato towns?. 21.50% goes to Corporate and council leadership, this is alot of our general rates to go to people that sit in offices making big plans for the future instead of looking at current conditions and adapting to make sure we can afford what services are provided, and to give us more services that applies to all households.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

In Pokeno you are looking for us to pay \$2013 a year towards water management eg waste, supply, and storm water. All these updates(eg wastewater treatment plants across the board) you have outlined where the council know years before and should have been accounted for in every new property built, where are all the property development charges/consents payments getting allocated to? Why isn't this paid for this? Why do current rate payers need to pay for upgrades that have been consented by council to services that need to be increased for new properties/communities paid by land developers/house builders. Our allocation of rates payment should be what we currently use not for "increased demand" or "new users" then on top of the blanket charge we have to pay for every litre that comes to our property. Is this fair, we entrust the council to get it right as we have no choice on our supplier for these services, are you allocating the right money to the right place?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I am not a expert on what fees need to be charged, but do we need to look at charges more of "user pays" eg certain money is in our rates covered to run a library which is a great services, but if you are a user then you pay what is needed to top up to keep the service running? Tuakau pools I have heard need upgrades to keep it open, but the money my rates have allocated isn't enough so maybe the user needs to pay more than \$2 dollars a visit to use it and keep it available to the community?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No, but I believe that price reducing across the board needs to happen

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7716
Name:	Moana
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

My name is Moana [redacted] and I have been paying rates in Waikato region for over 20 years. My long-term commitment to paying rates in Waikato has not only contributed to the development and maintenance of essential public services, but it has also played a vital role in the growth and prosperity of our community. By consistently fulfilling my financial obligations, I have helped to ensure the stability and sustainability of our local government, enabling it to effectively address the needs and aspirations of its residents.

One specific suggestion to improve the council's service to residents is by enhancing transparency and accountability. This can be achieved by regularly publishing detailed financial reports, making council meetings accessible to the public, and actively seeking and incorporating community feedback into decision-making processes. These measures will foster trust and confidence in the council and ensure that residents' voices are heard and considered.

Implementing an independent auditing system would provide an unbiased and objective assessment of the council's financial records. This would enhance transparency and accountability by ensuring that any discrepancies or irregularities are identified and addressed promptly. It would also instill confidence in residents that their hard-earned rates are being managed and utilized efficiently, further strengthening the trust between the council and the community. This would provide an additional layer of assurance and further strengthen residents' trust in the council's financial management.

Government imposed changes and regulations can have a significant impact on the council's financial management. These changes may include alterations in tax laws, budget allocations, or funding restrictions. Adapting to these changes requires careful planning and proactive measures to ensure that the council can continue to fulfill its financial obligations and effectively serve the community. This may involve reassessing spending priorities, seeking alternative sources of revenue, or implementing cost-cutting measures to maintain financial stability in the face of regulatory changes.

Maintaining financial stability is crucial for the council to effectively serve the community and address key priority areas. Without a solid financial foundation, the council may struggle to provide essential services, invest in infrastructure improvements, and respond to the evolving needs of residents. By prioritizing financial stability and implementing sound financial management practices, the council can ensure its ability to fulfill its obligations and support the well-being of the community.

Community engagement and forward planning are essential strategies to increase public participation and garner support for the council's financial decisions. This can involve hosting town hall meetings, conducting surveys, and actively seeking feedback from residents to ensure their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed. By involving the community in the decision-making process, the council can build trust, gather valuable insights, and make informed financial decisions that align with the needs and priorities of the residents.

One specific strategy the council can implement to improve operations is to streamline internal processes and workflows. This can involve conducting a comprehensive assessment of current

procedures and identifying areas where bottlenecks occur or inefficiencies exist. By reorganizing workflows, eliminating unnecessary steps, and leveraging technology, the council can improve efficiency, reduce costs, and deliver services more effectively to the community. Additionally, investing in staff training and professional development programs can enhance employees' skills and knowledge, leading to increased productivity and better service delivery.

In conclusion I am willing to further engage with the council on these matters stated in this submission at the in-person feedback hearings.

Ngaa mihi

na Moana [redacted]

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

One specific way the council can reassess spending to fulfill its financial obligations is by conducting a thorough review of all expenses and identifying areas where cost-saving measures can be implemented. This could involve analyzing contracts with vendors and service providers to negotiate better rates, exploring energy-efficient solutions to reduce utility expenses, and implementing stricter budget controls to eliminate unnecessary expenses. By taking these steps, the council can optimise its spending and ensure that resources are allocated effectively to meet the needs of the community.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

One strategy for managing compounding costs, fees, and charges is to conduct regular cost-benefit analyses of proposed projects and initiatives. By carefully evaluating the potential benefits and drawbacks of each investment, the council can make informed decisions about which projects are most financially viable and prioritise them accordingly. Additionally, exploring partnerships and collaboration opportunities with external organisations or seeking external funding sources can help alleviate the financial burden on the council and ensure sustainable growth without placing excessive strain on residents' rates.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7717
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Stormwater infrastructure - Gardiner Drain needs to be a high priority please. Spin it how you need to in order to get something actioned, but please can something be done soon. There is a dire need to remedy the failing stormwater infrastructure that is the Gardiner Drain.

My neighbours are not experiencing ponding, nor 5 or 10 or 100 year flooding occurrences. They are flooding regularly, this is an infrastructure problem.

The subdivision was signed off by council without (or without enough) due consideration of the existing flooding issues on the farm, nor consideration of the concerns communicated by the residents of the properties that surround the subdivision.

People's homes and lives are now directly affected by this oversight.

Please build something into this plan. Ideally something should be done now, in fact, something should have been done already by now.

Our subdivision residents provide our own water tanks and sewerage systems (although we pay high rates). I'd like to see our rates used to competently provide adequate infrastructure.

Take responsibility, or don't and mask it as global warming / underestimating weather events, whatever you like, but please do something.

Drain management/maintenance - appears to be non-existent. Can we have this information easily available and accessible to ratepayers please (when to expect maintenance etc)?

Roading - Access to Hamilton from Te Kowhai is becoming more and more difficult.

Roads are closed, unnecessarily congesting other access points. Poorly timed temporary closures (at the same time!) are compounding the problem.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

In the current economic climate it's important to stick to the basic services that affect people's wellbeing. There are needs, then there are wants.

Within the services that no doubt can all be arguably important, perhaps can we not commit to the shiny new things when the existing services are lacking or in disrepair?

Also, treat the finances like they're your own. Please question how much things cost, local and central governments spend a lot of money with little to show for it - too much red tape perhaps.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7718
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

The draft projects are well and good intentions but one would think the existing (already increased) rates should already be covering these or at least some of them. The rate payers in these communities are not in a good position to be paying 13% more rates in these tough times. You'll be forcing them to leave.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7719
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Yes! Life is difficult for everyone at the moment with high inflation and interest rates sky rocketing we can barely afford to pay our mortgage. This is not a time for this 13% increase is too much!

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7721
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Raglan wastewater needs upgrade, it should be a priority for our town, people are getting sick all the time with ear infections due to the poor quality of the water.

Whaanga rd needs upgrading, the region promotes Raglan and push for tourists to go to Kario track, Te toto gorge lookout, Ruapuke beach, sunset at Te toto, the road is busier than ever, dangerous and in a terrible state. The maintenance on it is poorly done, with wasted money constantly.

Te toto car park is overloaded every week end with cars who cannot park because there is no room for them.

Also this is a 6h track and there is no toilet facility for them, so they all go in the bush.

This is not a good look and not acceptable.

Still no walkway between whale bay and manu bay and no plan for it.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

I feel we are getting less and less and have to pay more and more

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?









2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7722
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Putting new projects on hold.

Reduce cost eg. road/ parks and management cost.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

In Pokeno, you are being asked to contribute \$2013 annually for water management, covering waste, supply, and stormwater. Other charges include building consent (paid by the owner before purchasing the house), corporate and council leadership, road maintenance (which addresses ongoing potholes), rubbish disposal (we pay for plastic bags and stickers), and animal control (costs for dogs/cats licenses are borne by their owners).

Our allocation of rates payment should be what we currently use not for "increased demand" or "new users" then on top of the blanket charge we have to pay for every litre that comes to our property. Is this fair, we entrust the council to get it right as we have no choice on our supplier for these services, are you allocating the right money to the right place?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I am not a expert on what fees need to be charged, but do we need to look at charges more of "user pays" eg certain money is in our rates covered to run a library which is a great services, but if you are a user then you pay what is needed to top up to keep the service running? Tuakau pools I have heard need upgrades to keep it open, but the money my rates have allocated isn't enough so maybe the user needs to pay more than \$2 dollars a visit to use it and keep it available to the community?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Prioritize Essential Services: Evaluate all services provided by the council and prioritize essential ones, such as emergency services, waste management, and infrastructure maintenance. Consider temporarily reducing funding for non-essential projects or services until the economic situation improves.

Efficiency Measures: Implement efficiency measures across all departments to reduce operational costs. This could include streamlining administrative processes, renegotiating contracts with suppliers to get better rates, and exploring technological solutions to improve service delivery while minimizing expenses.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7723
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

You must stop all non essential infrastructure investment unless you are able to complete it within your current budget and without a huge rates increase. Now is not the time to be stripping hard working rate payers of the very last of any of their disposable income to provide new libraries! These 'nice to have' projects must be put on hold. Add to this the fact that the extreme cost of building materials is artificially keeping inflation high, you are asking us to pay you to do these projects which then keep interest rates high... slap in the face twice!

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?**

All council properties must not cost the council money to run. At worst they should break even.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

We live rurally, have no children and seldom go further than the local town. How about you find a way to charge the people who use your services more and those of us that dont, less.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7724
Name:	Brent Sheldrake
Organisation:	Sport NZ
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

See attached letter

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?



Waikato District Council Long Term Plan Submission

24 April, 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Waikato District Long Term Plan.

As the major provider of sport and recreation facilities and services in Waikato District, we greatly appreciate the positive outcomes Council investment provides for a wide range of sports codes, demographics, cultures, ages and abilities. We also acknowledge the challenge Council faces with balancing the various competing demands such as growth, transport, climate change and water quality in the context of the current economic climate.

Council investment into the play, active recreation and sport sector makes an enormous contribution to the overall health and wellbeing of people in the Waikato District. Sport NZ and Sport Waikato have been working with the play, active recreation and sport sector to develop a co-ordinated and collaborative approach for future sport and recreation facility provision. This provides Council with a high-level strategic view of infrastructure needs for the region and the evaluation criteria to prioritise investment and ultimately make better decisions.

Waikato District Council has been a partner and important contributor in the development of the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan, a regional strategy for active recreation and sport facilities provision. The Strategy is an important reference point, it identifies priority needs and facility developments for Waikato

District and the other districts in the region, providing a blueprint to meet future needs rather than wants.

Summary

- First, **Thank you:** Sport NZ acknowledges and thanks Council for its significant contribution to play, active recreation and sport. Thanks also for the part that it plays in the strong partnership that has long existed between Sport Waikato and WDC, as evidenced by the extensive list of projects, programmes and quality opportunities that have been developed over the years.

Sport NZ **supports** the following themes proposed in the plan/proposal:

- Sport NZ acknowledges and thanks Council for its significant contribution to play, active recreation and sport through the ownership and maintenance of 229ha of sport and recreation areas for active communities, 60 playgrounds for tamariki to enjoy, three aquatic centres and halls for recreation and sport activity.
- Sport NZ acknowledges across the parks and reserves portfolio there are cost escalations across several core areas in the 2024/25 financial year and to reduce the impact of these cost escalations, the Council has implemented cost-saving measures where possible. At the same time Council is proposing to increase investment in some key areas, to ensure the community continues to have leisure options and good facilities to support community connection. Sport NZ supports this proposed additional investment into future-proofing district-wide sports field infrastructure with better surface maintenance, drainage, and lighting. This will increase the quality, capacity and use of these facilities and enable greater participation and increased physical activity levels for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau.
- Sport NZ also acknowledges the ongoing investment in maintenance and renewal of existing leisure assets. When there is limited ability to fund new or significantly redevelop facilities it is important to maintain and renew existing assets to enable continuity and quality of service and keep facilities fit-for purpose to meet the community's needs.

About Sport New Zealand

Sport New Zealand (Sport NZ) is the crown agency responsible for contributing to the wellbeing of everybody in Aotearoa New Zealand by leading an enriching and inspiring play, active recreation and sport system.

Sport NZ's vision is simple – to get **Every Body Active** in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Our role as a kaitiaki of the system focusses on lifting the physical activity levels of all those living within Aotearoa and having the greatest possible impact on wellbeing.

We achieve our outcomes by aligning our investment through partnerships, funds and programmes to our strategic priorities set out in four-year strategic plan.

Local government is uniquely placed to support play, active recreation, and sport

Local government has a unique and critical role in the play, active recreation, and sport ecosystem, providing vital community assets that are part of the fabric of our communities along with grants and opportunities that support local communities to participate in play, active recreation, and sport.

It is clear that prioritising investment in facilities, infrastructure, resources, and opportunities to encourage participation in play, active recreation, and sport can support the wellbeing of communities and the achievement of a broad range of local government priorities and outcomes. There is clear evidence about the value of play, active recreation and sport in supporting the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of our communities.

Provision of play, active recreation, and sport facilities, infrastructure, resources, and opportunities is important to a large proportion of the population.

In 2022:

- 73% of the adult population and 92% of young people (aged 5-17yrs) participated each week in play, active recreation, and sport
- 79% of adults and 63% of young people would like to be doing more play, active recreation and sport
- High deprivation, Asian and Pasifika population groups are significantly less likely to participate.¹

Research into New Zealanders' beliefs around the value of sport and active recreation in 2017 found a broad base of support for sport and active recreation and a belief in its value to New Zealand and New Zealanders. The value of sport and active recreation is seen to lie in the contributions it makes to individuals, families, communities, and the country as a whole.²

The value of investment in play, active recreation, and sport is a cost-effective investment towards local government wellbeing outcomes

International and domestic evidence clearly demonstrates that play, sport, and active recreation generate significant value for society across multiple wellbeing domains and outcomes, many of which are specifically relevant to the outcomes sought by local government:

- Recently published research from a Social Return on Investment³ study found that for every \$1 spent on play, active recreation, and sport, there is a social return of \$2.12 to New Zealand. This means that for every dollar invested in play, active recreation, and sport, the social return is more than doubled. This is a conservative figure and the actual return, especially for those currently missing out on opportunities to be active, is likely to be higher.⁴
- In 2019 participation in play, active recreation, and sport generated \$3.32 billion return in subjective wellbeing (life satisfaction and happiness) within New Zealand.⁵

Play, active recreation and sport contribute to social, economic, environment and cultural wellbeing in the following ways:

- **Social wellbeing:**
 - Development of social skills
 - Strengthened social networks
 - Bringing communities together and increasing a sense of belonging
 - Improving pride and reducing antisocial behaviours in communities
- **Economic wellbeing:**
 - Economic value generated for local communities and businesses
 - Employment of New Zealanders in the play, active recreation, and sport sector
 - Productivity gains as a result of physical activity
 - Savings for communities as a result of the volunteer workforce
 - Economic impact of major events
- **Environmental wellbeing:**
 - Creation of pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours
 - Creation of more environmentally friendly urban environments
 - Reduced emissions from active transport
 - Improved mental wellbeing from being active in natural environments
- **Cultural wellbeing:**
 - Strengthened cultural ties from participation in play, active recreation, and sport
 - Increased wellbeing from participating in culturally relevant physical activity.

Sport New Zealand has developed a resource for local government that illustrates the significant value that local government investment in the local play, active recreation, and sport system delivers. The resource can be accessed here:

<https://sportnz.org.nz/media/u41hdovx/the-value-of-play-active-recreation-and-sport-for-local-government.pdf>.

This document summarises the evidence about how play, active recreation, and sport can support the four types of wellbeing that local government is expected to deliver (social, economic, environmental, and cultural), and includes some relevant case studies from around New Zealand.

Conclusion

Sport NZ looks forward to continuing to work with the Waikato District Council and we are happy to provide whatever support we can to ensure WDC provides for the current and future needs of the Waikato District to be active in the way that they choose.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission and for your consideration.

Sport NZ Contacts

Should the Council seek information or clarification further to this submission, please contact:

BRENT SHELDRAKE
Regional Partnership Manager – Northern
M: 027 478 5122
E: brent.sheldrake@sportnz.org.nz

JO WIGGINS
Spaces and Places Consultant
M: 021 0264 2542
E: jo.wiggins@sportnz.org.nz

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7725
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	Whatawhata Community Association
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Toilets in Whatawhata have had provisions made for water and sewerage already put in place but no advance in the 2024 plans for putting a public toilet in place - it's likely to be the cheapest toilet WDC ever build

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Need to ensure development contributions cover the infrastructure required to look after the properties developers create

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7726
Name:	Jacko
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Do not increase the rates, put any non essential projects on hold , households are struggling with the rates as it is spending about \$80 a week on rates alone not including water or bio security already is tough on myself and my family we struggle to pay these on time as it is how are we going to afford the proposed increase it will make households miss payment deadlines

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Anything that is non essential we do not need upgrades we are okay to live with what we have at the moment while we go through the high cost of living , only doing what is necessary to keep things working try get funds through council owned amenities such as public pools etc so it is pay by user.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7727
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Completely unaffordable for so many struggling families with the rates increase

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Completely unaffordable for so many struggling families with the rates increase

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Completely unaffordable for so many struggling families with the rates increase

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7728
Name:	Laurence Carroll
Organisation:	NA
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

The 13.75 percent rates increase takes about half or more of my Government Pension increase this year. It is also about double the current rate of inflation at 4.7 percent. So any capital works should stay inside the 4.7 percent rate if inflation imo I am not a bottomless pit of cash.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

I think developers shouldn't get any reductions as it effectively transfers this to rate payers like myself, which I of course object to.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

They seem to be reasonable

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Any services should be kept at the current levels as possible.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7729
Name:	Aksel Bech
Organisation:	Housing Czar -Independent Housing Advocacy
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

I congratulate Council for their decision on the 26th of February 2024 to "endorse the Waikato District Council's Housing Strategy pending word changes on the strategy and action plan". Access to affordable housing is a critical distress point in many of our communities and in my view Council is right to adopt a leadership role in enabling and facilitating the delivery by others of more affordable housing options in the district. I would hope the strategy is adopted when in returns with amendments to Council in the near future.

With that in mind, I am concerned however not to see this explicitly reflected in the draft work programme line budget; whilst the commitment for the coming year is largely in staff time, I would hope in the adoption of the Housing Strategy that this becomes one of the priorities of Council and as such needs to be part of someone(s) job and expected performance outcomes, not something to do if there is spare time (spoiler alert - there never is). Dedicated resourcing will be required to have any chance of the intended outcomes to be achieved.

So a line item with money for resource allocation under "Organisational Support" or "Sustainable community" is not only appropriate -it is necessary to give effect to the Housing Strategy. Further as part of the FutureProof Development Strategy, WDC has adopted affordable housing targets (based on your own already adopted HBA) for 2025 and subsequent years which requires significant focus and deliberate action (and therefore resource).

A reasonable challenge from Councillors might be: fine, but where does that money come from? In response, I wonder given the significant size of the roading component of the draft programme already, why "PP DIW land acquisition - roading improvement \$550K" and "PP DIW Ongoing Road legalisations small acquisitions - costs \$250K" sit in the Sustainable Community section rather than Roothing? But if that is the appropriate place (given outcomes are to benefit community outcomes) then significant scrutiny should be applied to minimise costs in order to free up additional funds I am advocating for in this submission.

I also challenge Council in dismissing the Housing Strategy action point of acquiring land for affordable housing purposes due to the fiscally constrained times yet setting aside a total of 800K in these two PP DIW items for roading improvements ON TOP OF the already significant nearly \$42m roading budget: is the work programme as proposed in step with strategy?

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7730
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Our rates in Tuakau are already over \$5000. We cannot afford to pay any increase. We struggle as it is with the cost of everything and they are only going up. Why are we being punished for owning a home??? We would love to start a family but there is no way we can afford to even think about having kids. If you put up our rates we will be forced to move out of Waikato and loose our jobs, family and friends. It sucks when we are trying to get ahead and own our home but you are making it impossible for us.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7731
Name:	Kiri Goultrier
Organisation:	Regional Tourism New Zealand
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

22 April 2024

Enhanced Annual Plan Submission

Waikato District Council

Regional Tourism New Zealand (RTNZ) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Enhanced Annual Plan for 2024-2025 for Waikato District Council.

RTNZ is the peak body for the Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) across New Zealand of which Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) is a member. RTOs are each the representative of their Local Governments' (LG) investment in tourism in respect to their community. 90% of funding to RTOs comes from LG with \$40 million invested across 30 RTOs that make up the network.

Tourism is a significant contributor to economic and social wellbeing.

1. In 2019, prior to COVID-19 New Zealand's tourism industry generated \$41b of visitor expenditure, contributed 10% of GDP and employed 340,000 people. It was the second largest export sector behind dairy. With borders once again open and people travelling, New Zealand's tourism sector has rebounded strongly, and visitation is 80% back to pre-COVID levels. By 2025 both visitation and expenditure are predicted to exceed 2019 levels.
2. The tourism industry creates value, employment, prosperity and vibrancy to New Zealand's cities, regions, and communities. \$115m per day in 'additional' spend is generated by people moving around and visiting various places and communities across the country. Visitor spending flows far and wide, well beyond the visitor attraction, activity, accommodation, café/restaurant retail, gas stations and supermarkets as demonstrated in the diagram below.

**THE POWER
OF TOURISM**



Source: Tourism Industry Aotearoa

Value of tourism to the Waikato region and Waikato District Council.¹

3. Visitor expenditure in the Waikato region is \$1.9b, the fifth largest in New Zealand. Commercial guest nights are 1.4m per annum. Visitor expenditure in the Waikato District is \$266m with 218,800 commercial guest nights. Tourism is a significant contributor to the District.

RTOs play a significant role within the destination and tourism system.

4. RTOs play a crucial role in the tourism system by serving as key facilitators and coordinators of tourism activities within their respective regions. When tourism grows, communities' benefit. However, for communities to capture and optimise benefits, the RTO's functions are enormously important.
5. HWT is the one organisation that has oversight of how the destination functions as a system and to bring together multiple stakeholders/actors. They are the glue that connects destinations and businesses to potential visitors so that businesses can prosper, jobs can be created, and communities can thrive.
6. Businesses are key to the economic health and vibrancy of a city, town, and region. Tourism businesses bring significant cashflow and investment to a region through attracting both international and domestic visitors. HWT works very closely with tourism businesses, bringing private sector investment to further leverage council's investment, and in doing so, creating greater impact.
7. Many of these businesses are still recovering from the effects of closed borders during COVID-19. HWT provides valuable support and capability building to enable local businesses to grow, adapt and become more resilient to changing environments so that they and their communities can thrive.

Destination promotion is a public good for the benefit and wellbeing of all.

8. Destination promotion and stewardship is an important investment that no district and/or region can afford not to make without damaging the future economic and social well-being of communities. Due to collective benefits that extend beyond individual businesses or organisations, tourism promotion is considered a public good that requires collaboration and support from governments, communities, and stakeholders to maximize its positive impact.
9. Effective tourism promotion enhances a destination's image and reputation nationally and globally. A positive perception of a place not only attracts more visitors, but also leads to attracting more residents, enhancing business opportunities and more investment, therefore contributing to the long-term growth and prosperity for residents. These potential flow on benefits all start with a visit.

¹ MBIE, Monthly Regional Tourism Estimates, YE Oct 2023



Source; Destinations International

10. New Zealand's RTOs' international promotional work is conducted alongside Tourism New Zealand (TNZ) so that regions can attract their share of these higher spending visitors. Competition for international visitors is strong, and HWT's promotion is important to secure the regions share. TNZ also relies on HWT on the 'ground' to support their efforts. If HWT is unable to do this, TNZ efforts are likely to 'by-pass' the region.

Developing a sustainable tourism industry which contributes to the quality of life of residents.

11. Over the past five years all regions have developed a Destination Management Plan (DMP). The DMPs provide the blueprint for the sustainable growth of tourism across New Zealand's regions. RTNZ acknowledges the exceptionally good work done by HWT in the development of the region's DMP. There was strong collaboration across the region which reflects the aspirations of the region's communities for what they want from tourism in the future.
12. The destinations eco-system is complex with many interrelated and interdependent parts that need to work in together to ensure tourism benefit communities. The Waikato region's DMP is a demonstration of the importance of stewardship, and HWT performs a leadership, coordination, and facilitation role so that tourism actors can come together and collaborate and continue to grow sustainably.
13. Through the development of the DMP, HWT has developed a contract with the community. This has involved multiple parties across the destination so that the region can optimise opportunities visitors provide as well as adapt and respond to change and challenges. It is important that the DMP is supported, and the regional community's goals and aspirations are honoured and delivered upon.

Local government has been a critical partner in New Zealand's tourism success.

14. Tourism takes place in local communities and provides jobs, regional economic opportunities, and vibrancy, and local governments across NZ play a key role in supporting /enabling the tourism system. This includes managing and providing local tourism experiences through place-making,

events and community facilities, amenities and services which are a key part of the visitors experience within the destination. The RTO supports these visitor assets and collaborates closely with council teams to optimise the value and return that they create for ratepayers through out-of-town visitation.

15. A key action in both Tourism Industry Aotearoa's Tourism Strategy (TIA), and RTNZ's Project Tōnui (whitepaper on the future role, structure, and funding of regional tourism/RTOs) is to address the persistent and lack of funding for the tourism sector, particularly at regional level. Project Tonui specifically identifies the considerable risk, over reliant RTO/TLA funding model. RTNZ sees this as systemic issue to be addressed with the highest priority and is working alongside other industry leaders to advance this urgent matter. Local government will be a key partner in the determined solution. However, this will take time and therefore RTNZ strongly recommends that Waikato District Council retain its level of commitment whilst a workable long-term solution is agreed and implemented.

RTNZ recognises the substantial financial challenges facing local governments across New Zealand to meet the needs of their communities.

16. RTNZ acknowledges that the significant financial challenges facing councils at a time when there needs to be ongoing investment to maintain and enhance community amenities and services, place making, and mixed-use infrastructure used by both locals and visitors. We appreciate the challenges of the required investment in water infrastructure for all councils under the new government, and the impact that this is having on other facets of councils' business.
17. The Waikato region is one of the more complex regions in New Zealand due to the number of TLAs within the RTO's catchment. RTNZ commends Waikato District Council's support of HWT since its re- establishment in 2011 (after Tourism Waikato was disbanded in 2006) and demonstrates a successful collaboration model over the past 13 years where each partner councils' investment and commitment is shared and therefore leveraged. HWT's 2023/24 funding from its six council partners (\$1,343,943) is on the lower end in comparison to neighbouring regions with fewer contributing councils. Tourism Bay of Plenty (\$2,2640,000) Destination Great Lake Taupo (\$2,093,000).
18. Waikato District Council is proposing a reduction of \$ 75,000 to HWT. This decrease in funding will have significant impact on HWT's ability to continue to perform its role and functions effectively. It will also affect their ability to secure tourism operator investment because of their reduced level of activity and impact. If this occurs it will lead to a contraction of promotion and stewardship activities, the region being less competitive, resulting in a loss of market share to other regions over time. This will have a direct impact on businesses, jobs and and the overall economic and social prosperity of the district.
19. Funding of HWT should be seen as an investment and not a cost. HWT's funding from the region's combined local governments for the year 2023/24 was \$1,343,934. **For every dollar invested collectively by the region's funding councils returns \$1,390.** This is a substantive return on investment. **For every rate payer dollar Waikato District Council makes in HWT it**

returns \$1,773. This too is a substantive return on investment and one that should not be jeopardised as New Zealand's economy faces strong headwinds.

20. HWT also has one of the largest contributions from its tourism industry across the RTO network, which is testament to the professionalism and performance of the organisation. Due to the nature of the sector being mainly SMEs, businesses cannot be expected to pick up any shortfall that may arise because of reduced LG funding for the RTO.
21. Waikato District Council's decision around funding also has a direct association to HWT's funding from its other partner councils. Tourism Waikato was disbanded in 2006 due to the region's local governments reducing and/or withdrawing funding to the RTO. It wasn't until 2011 that the RTO was re-established, culminating in a strong and committed partnership with local government across the region and support from the tourism industry.
22. It has taken 13 years of hard work and dedication from a professional and talented HWT team to rebuild the region's proposition, reputation, and position as New Zealand's fifth largest tourism region. Any reduction in funding would be a major step backward and could be the start of a downward spiral that results in the Waikato region once again ceasing to have a RTO as a worst-case scenario, or an underpowered organisation that struggles to add real value to its communities and the tourism industry.

Conclusion

RTOs across New Zealand rely on partnership funding from local government to support their activities. It is critical that Councils remain strong partners of RTOs across New Zealand.

Waikato District Council needs to remain committed to supporting HWT so that they can successfully partner with the tourism industry, so that tourism continues to contribute value and benefits to Waikato communities.

RTNZ recommends that Waikato District Council's investment in HWT is retained at the current level. This will ensure that progress made up over the past 13 years is maintained to enable compounding/optimal results. Retaining the same level of support will continue to pay dividends economically and socially to the people of Waikato District.

RTNZ suggests that consideration is given to exploring new funding streams across the region's LG group including options to increase HWT's funding to keep pace with inflation and operational cost increases. This will provide certainty to the RTO and support the sustainable growth and development of the district and region's tourism sector over the longer term.

RTNZ is grateful for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Ngā mihi,



David Perks
Chair



Kiri Goulter
Director Destination Management

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7732
Name:	Emma
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

None

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

No rate increases, we are already higher than Auckland

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

No rate increases we are already paying more than Auckland

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

RATES!!!! It's killing hard working family's. My husband and I own our own home, both work full time reasonably well paying jobs and are struggling. It's disgusting.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7733
Name:	Emma
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

A rates increase is unjustified, we live in Pookeno and the number of new residents moving into Waikato district surely contributes massively to the rates collection. Pookeno alone generates \$15million in rates. You cannot justify an increase

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

A rates increase is unjustified, we live in Pookeno and the number of new residents moving into Waikato district surely contributes massively to the rates collection. Pookeno alone generates \$15million in rates. You cannot justify an increase

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

A rates increase is unjustified, we live in Pookeno and the number of new residents moving into Waikato district surely contributes massively to the rates collection. Pookeno alone generates \$15million in rates. There is also extensive subdivision in nearby Tuakau bringing more homeowners into Waikato district, this Ex Franklin district area must be generating a massive amount of rates already

You cannot justify an increase in any way, use what you currently have available and make budget cuts if needed, do not keep the same expensive plans and pass the prices onto residents.

Families will leave Waikato district to avoid the unaffordable rates prices

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Bus services in Pookeno and Tuakau are extremely under-utilised and a waste of time and carbon emissions. Change it to a single passenger van servicing this area and you would still be able to cater for all the people that use this bus service. Seriously- count the people that use it I would be surprised if it is more than 20 people per day over this whole area.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7734
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

What an absolute joke. There are so many made up numbers in the program.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

What does a developer actually get from these fees....

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

If you are charging for a service, then how about you give good service? Waikato District Council has the worst reputation for service.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7735
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

No

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Yes, the rates increase is ridiculous. I am a pensioner and my rates are going up by over \$400. I can't afford to pay this, as well as my \$600 water bill each time and my environment rates.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

As above if this includes rates.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Removing rubbish bag stickers, reducing the cost of water rates, bring back organic days.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7736
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

No

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

No

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Yes, it is evident that Waikato District Council have some of the highest rates compared to others. We are predominantly a low socio-economic area's and it's getting out of hand. We don't have our rubbish paid for, we don't have our water included in our rates and our town is not appealing one bit. The infrastructure is appalling in majority of the towns.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7737
Name:	John Lawson
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

There's no explanation for spending these large amounts -

- Renewals for Nga Main Office \$1,632,246
- Fleet Replacement - New Vehicles cost \$808,437

Over \$3m is being spent on Munro Rd to provide for 360 dwellings -

- Munro Road 355 Bridge - upgrade to two lane bridge \$2,000,000
- Pokeno Road Corridor - Bridge to Munro Road intersect \$750,000
- Pokeno Road/Munro Road RAB \$500,000

Comparing that road with Oporu Rd, Raglan, which will provide for 500+ dwellings at Rangitahi, it seems to be a nice to have, rather than essential project.

The same can be said for Wainui Bridge traffic signals trial \$200,000.

And also Tuakau Structure Plan doesn't mention upgrading Harrisville Road, yet \$4.5m is planned to be spent on it, largely it seems for HPMVs, which have alternative routes.

Another \$550,000 is to be spent on Land acquisition - Roding improvements. Why? Where?

There is no breakdown of District Wide parks and reserves \$7,262,524, which is about â...“ of the total capital spending. Why? Where?

\$6m has just been spent on Raglan wharf, yet Wharf And Jetty Renewals are to cost \$468,339. Why?

Only \$946,659 (2.27%) of the Roding capital budget is to be spent on footpaths/Bus Shelters/Rail Facilities, including \$0.5m on park and ride at Huntly, which would be better spent improving cycle access to the station, yet about 5% of ratepayers don't have cars and many more would like to support the Climate Response & Resilience Policy - Support a reduction in district emissions by 25% by 2030.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?**

I don't understand why some charges are increasing but some aren't. There is no indication of those which are constrained by long term contracts. Amongst those not rising are -

- Regular use (annual aerodrome landing fee for clubs or similar organisations) \$675
- Administration fee (late payments etc.) \$23

These charges seem very low compared to \$1500 for fishing boats at Raglan wharf, as do Landing fees & casual use per day \$16.00 \$18.00. The costs of mowing, etc at the airfield are not shown. Raglan Community Board suggested pay and display to reduce the boat trailer parking problem. That should be in the LTP.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Operational Expenditure includes a total of \$1,276,748 for vehicles, plus Mileage Reimbursements of \$71,844. The Climate Response & Resilience Policy - includes a target to - Reduce organisational emissions by 50% by 2030.

The question should also have been asked about maintaining, or increasing services. For example, I support - WRC will also undertake more bus trials in our district. This will be an added cost. The Operational budget for Passenger Transport is \$2.53m (6.64%), though about 5% of ratepayers don't have cars and many more would like to support the Climate Response & Resilience Policy - Support a reduction in district emissions by 25% by 2030.

There is provision for a corridor investigation but confined to the local Raglan area. With Future Proof planning for a 4x increase in the Raglan population, it needs to be extended to include SH23.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7738
Name:	Kirstie
Organisation:	Huntly st john area committee and community service volunteer
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

I see a review is needed .

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

How about tidying up what we have without making new items

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Rates increase people cant afford there rates now .I am an advocate for many pensioners who can't afford rates now let alone after an increase ,working families are also struggling,everyone is struggling so I don't see an increase will help other that putting people in dept .

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

I think huntly as a town looks absolutely disgusting so yes reducing something or anything would help

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7739
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

I am shocked of the attitude of the council to spend money they don't have on projects like office upgrades, playground renewals and other feel good projects. In times like this we all have to tighten the belt and so should the council. Money should only been spent for urgent projects like fixing and resurfacing roads and the water pipelines. I noticed a lot of money will be spent on parks and reserves. Far too much money and the second biggest costs in your pie chart followed by the cost of the council and management. That should be scaled back. Bragging that Waikato District Council is the fastest growing council in New Zealand is wrong and cost far too much. Also increasing debt is totally absurd. You will never be able to pay it back. Be sensible with money.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Again too much money will be spend on reserves and communities facilities. Stop upgrading toilets etc. If it is not broken, nothing needs to be done.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?**Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here****REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Resource consent, walkways, cycleways, parking monitoring, community engagement, find safety, public toilet upgrades, footpaths, parks & reserves

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7740
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I don't think raising the rates to the level you are proposing is very fair right now. Most families are struggling right now and are living paycheck to paycheck, barely dealing with the cost of living and putting food on the table.

I understand that some increase is necessary but 5% would be suitable and much more achievable for people right now.

Raising the rates to the 13.75% is going to create more hardship, more violence, more mental health and possibly suicide as it becomes so overwhelming for some.

Why can't you explore other options of revenue for some projects.

Also is the local Iwi able to help with funding.

Why can't you do charity events to raise money or something along those lines. It shouldn't all sit on the rate payers to fit the bill especially in such hard times.

I believe all non urgent work should be postponed at least until the interest rates and other things start to decrease.

We have to live in a way we can afford too. If you don't have the money to pay for it, it's pretty simple you don't have it.

For most of us we hadn't had a payrise to offset these extra costs as it is and to create more issues for people financially right now is going to push people to breaking point.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Instead of replacing the signage on the round about river road and horotiu bridge road just put the signage up on the grass ahead of the round about, as it seems a waste of money and resourcing replacing the sign even other week.

Any in-house morning teas, lunches etc are a luxury and can be spared or replaced using bring a plate options as a rate payer we don't get invited to those morning teas etc so we shouldn't have to fit the bill for them either.

Any wasteful spending that you don't want the general public to know about needs to be stopped or published so we can see where all our money is going.

Charge land developers more money for building consents etc as they make record profits, building little houses with no land and thinking our everyday kiwi families want that, but they don't it's just at times the only thing they have the option for and the developers can afford to pay more for building consents upgrades etc.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7741
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Just cannot afford to pay any more money to anyone- there not left

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Just wait we cannot afford to pay consultants for fancy designs we are all struggling to meet basic needs for our families

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Can it wait till people catch up on life Every thing is expensive

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7742
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

it is important to keep all the services you currently provide to ensure we have a vibrant and livable district. And to continue to upgrade them, including the parks and public facilities such as toilets that our residents and visitors use.

I would like to see a footpath created along Woodcock Road in Tamahere to ensure the safety of walkers and drivers.

I support investment in environmental care and sustainability initiatives

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?**

I do not agree with the proposed cessation of the funding for Te Waka or the reduction in funding for Hamilton & Waikato Tourism. Investing in economic development and the visitor sector through collaborative cross-council organisations such as these is essential to helping provide employment, vibrancy of place and economic revenue for our people and district. We need to continue building the pipeline at current funding levels (which is already below national standards for a district of this size) or we will lose out as other districts and regions take our place.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No - I support keeping the same services as we have now. We need to continue to invest in the development and sustainable growth of our district.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7743
Name:	JJ
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

It's great to see that the Council has plans to improve the area and that some of it had already been delayed. However, as mentioned above, the economy in NZ has been challenging and this also affects the community. I personally think the rates increase of over 13% is too much for everyone to bare at this stage. If an increase is absolutely necessary, it would probably be of help to everyone of us if this can be less than 10% increase keeping in mind that people working for the government are being made redundant, and the rest of us don't get a salary increase of 10% to cover this cost. It would create more chaos in terms of finance in the long run in my opinion.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

All looking great, but are they all urgent? Can some of the projects be delayed simply for another year in order to help the community if we don't have to pay more?
Can the increase be less than 10% etc., but make it clear to the community that this is not what the Council has proposed, and outline the consequences e.g. what cannot be improved around the district/region due to this lower increase etc.
Another point to add is the spending of \$78.9 million on our roads - this has been an issue and a massive waste of money when not planned properly. I have seen this on the improvements of SH1 in the past 3 years, honestly, if they were left the same as 3 years ago (after SH1 was opened around Taupiri turnoff), the Council would have saved a lot of money. It was unreasonable for the road to be opened and then closed for 'improvements' only a few months later, and what's worse was they remained closed/under construction for years. I don't know if this has anything to do with the WDC but this is just one example of a not-well-planned road maintenance.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

No

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Road maintenance - please stop making changes/'improving' roads that are already working and in good condition. It is a waste of time and money for everyone.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7744
Name:	Jordan Macqueen
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Idealy it would be great if the rubbish collection could be changed to a small supplied bin similar to other local districts councils

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Idealy it would be great if the rubbish collection could be changed to a small supplied bin similar to other local districts councils

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Idealy it would be great if the rubbish collection could be changed to a small supplied bin similar to other local districts councils

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7745
Name:	Peter
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

I feel the proposed rate charges are excessive. As a Police Officer (without a pay rise for over 2 years) and spiraling costs elsewhere, I feel the council rates should be indicative of CPI or at best inflation. Please consider additional cuts in consulting areas and unnecessary proposed works. I understand CV valuations will soon increase also, adding additional costs. Thanks. Pete.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

I feel the proposed rate charges are excessive. As a Police Officer (without a pay rise for over 2 years) and spiraling costs elsewhere, I feel the council rates should be indicative of CPI or at best inflation. Please consider additional cuts in consulting areas and unnecessary proposed works. I understand CV valuations will soon increase also, adding additional costs. Thanks. Pete.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I feel the proposed rate charges are excessive. As a Police Officer (without a pay rise for over 2 years) and spiraling costs elsewhere, I feel the council rates should be indicative of CPI or at best inflation. Please consider additional cuts in consulting areas and unnecessary proposed works. I understand CV valuations will soon increase also, adding additional costs. Thanks. Pete.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Consultant use. Resource consent red tape costs.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7746
Name:	Sonnja Hewitt
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Stop ridiculous and unnecessary spending. Spend within the current budget and don't go into debt. We're in the middle of a cost of living crisis, homeowners, landlords and families are already stretched.

We don't need weird bike lanes or roundabouts.

Please listen to what ratepayers and people of Hamilton are saying. We can't afford this insane rate increase.

People will be forced to sell our homes and move overseas.

Do better

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7747
Name:	Samantha kiss
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Dont agree with rate hike how are we going to do this we just got this property in dec after saving for years to get into our own property now mortgages going up rates going up cost of living going up but wages stay the same really we eat 1 meal a day now just to keep roof over head cut the winz payments tell them to find work make it harder for them so they have to work we are seriously considering leaving there area and moving back home. We pay for all the others well it seems like it we mortgage we pay rates we pay for bin stickers why when we pay for rubbish removal in our rates we all need answers and rate hikes are not one of them something needs to be done to keep people in New Zealand and not over seas how many actually still live here we are seriously about to lose house because of cost of living as it is extra \$\$\$\$ in rates will end us.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

As above

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

As above

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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Rates no need for the hike we will lose everything so much for living the dream in nz . Get people on winz reduce there payments so they have to work

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7748
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Understand the situation what people are facing right now and stop all the bullshit you are planning

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

We do not want any increases. It's hard to pay current taxes and we do not want anymore burden

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

We do not want any increases

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7749
Name:	Kitty Burton
Organisation:	Matangi Community Committee
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

The Matangi Community Committee notes that Council intends to continue to support footpaths and cycleways within the district.

In the interests of safety and connecting to our local communities we request consideration of an extension of the footpath/ cycle network in Matangi - initially along Tauwhare Road from Matangi Village to Tauwhare Pa. This route offers residents safe access to the Matangi Recreational Reserve and the closest shops. We note that paths are expensive to install and request that consideration be given to a compacted gravel path. Eventually we would like to see the path extended in both directions - i.e. from Matangi toward Woodcock Road and from Tauwhare Pa to Tauwhare Village.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

no

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

no

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

no

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7750
Name:	Tayla
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

- * Do not cut any library funding
- * Cut costs on landscaping by replacing all council owned berms (and other land that is not utilised yet requires maintenance) with self-sustaining, native ecosystems. This can be accomplished with basic permaculture techniques using natives. Once established, these ecosystems will mitigate the need for weeding, spraying, replanting, and mowing. This will also reduce the council's carbon footprint. The resulting attraction of native bird and insect life will also make the city more attractive. Partner with local environmental and permaculture organisations and local iwi who can provide knowledge to install the ecosystems.
- * Ensure any new parks, garden roundabouts, or other planted infrastructure built are as low maintenance as possible by planting self-sustaining, native ecosystems (as point above).
- * Increase the fine for environmental offences and broaden the scope of what is considered an environmental offence. For instance, the water quality of the Waikato River is terrible due to nitrate contamination of ground water due to dairying (â€œpastoral farmingâ€). Thus the dairy industry (Fonterra, not the farmers) should pay for the damage they have caused and what it takes to reverse it. The fine should be addressed to the dairy companies like Fonterra and not the individual farmers, as Fonterra is the driver pushing farmers to produce higher yields and the one profiting off of the pollution of our waterways that is a consequence of those yields. Fonterra should be instructed to fund the installation of riparian buffers for the farms with the threat of further fines if not completed, or if they try to pass the fine on to the farmers.
- * Install solar panels, wind turbines or other forms of renewable energy on or it council buildings and on council land. This will reduce the council's energy bill and carbon footprint, and any excess energy can be sold back to the grid. There are a number of innovations that use small turbines to generate energy e.g. between lanes of traffic or within down pipes (powered by running water).
- * Enable households and businesses to easily capture their own drinking water. Remove or re-write any council rules that inhibit the easy installation of water capture systems. Grant rate rebates for those that capture their own drinking water. This could be supported by partnering with water capture companies and water filtration companies. This will also reduce the amount of storm water accessing the drains, alleviating strain on our water system.
- * Enable households and businesses to capture their own energy e.g. solar, wind, or gas from composted food scraps. Remove or re-write any council rules that inhibit the easy installation of energy capture systems. Grant rate rebates for those that capture their own energy. This could be supported by partnering with a variety of energy capture companies.
- * Require all new developments to capture some of their own energy and water.
- * Implement low-cost green infrastructure solutions such as rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavement to manage stormwater runoff, improve water quality and recharge groundwater systems. This will alleviate strain on the water system by diverting most stormwater runoff away from the drains, instead utilising it to irrigate council berms, council parks, or community gardens. These projects can also enhance walkability. Encourage new developments to

implement these solutions by offering rate rebates and information/resources/company contacts for implementation.

* Create fines for how much water enters drains to encourage households to capture their own water and recycle their grey water.

* Allow residents to plant their berms with any plant, not just grass. Encourage the planting of native self-sufficient ecosystems that reduce resident maintenance and help soak up storm water, preventing the storm water from adding additional strain to council pipes.

* Encourage new developments to separate their grey water and black water so that only the black water goes into the sewage system and the grey water is filtered on site and used as irrigation on site. Using permaculture, the grey water can be further filtered by plants on the property. Consideration will need to be given to mitigate harsh chemicals getting into the irrigation system, either through adequate initial filtration or encouraging residents to switch to low toxicity alternatives (e.g. through partnering with Eco Store or similar).

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7751
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	Waikato Wellbeing Project on behalf of Waikato For Purpose Sector
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

See attached

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

See attached

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

See attached

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

See attached



Thriving Communities Collaboration

c/- PO Box 1367,
Hamilton 3240
Ph: 07 838 1583

For Purpose Sector Joint Submission

A Collective Voice

- This submission is a collaboration between Community Waikato, Creative Waikato, Go Eco, The Waikato Wellbeing Project, Seed Waikato and HMS Trust. It represents the shared vision and aspirations of those of us working to build the capacity, capability and well-being of our local landscape. It includes a holistic approach to building a thriving community

Shaping the future of Waikato District

- There are clear strategic alignments between the work of the community, creative, environment and youth sectors, across both soft and hard infrastructure, to Waikato district's vision of liveable, thriving and connected communities, the 4 community outcomes and 6 strategic priorities. Most significantly, "celebrating who we are" "having well-connected communities", "Our environmental health underpins the health of our People" and "we support local prosperity", while fairly simple elaborations on the basic purpose of local government, are important wellbeing signposts for the council to follow in its strategy, planning and resource allocation.
- Youth, arts, culture, creativity, Maaori, social services, disability and ethnic communities can and should make significant contributions to 'liveable, thriving and connected communities'. Understanding how our green spaces and biodiversity create healthy communities is critical to underpin good decision making. Shaping a future for the Waikato district needs to be collective, co-designed, and through the numerous lenses of the beneficiaries of the district, present and future.
- A fair and reasonable democratic process is supported by accessible and equal communication pathways and opportunities to influence the decision-makers. Some communities, for example ethnic communities, face additional barriers and relying on traditional feedback methods such as the submission process, does not facilitate engagement from these communities. Strategies should be co-designed with the community they target, especially communities that have traditionally had a limited or absent voice from council, such as our young people.

Valuing communities

- While the community makes a significant contribution to these areas through investment, in-kind support, volunteer time, and creative passion, it is essential that the Council maintains and increases investment into this sector as a core provision of service to our growing community.
- Our future now depends on how we allocate resources, ensuring the needs and well-being of people and nature are central to our budgetary decisions.
- As a district sandwiched between New Zealand's biggest and fastest growing cities, it is vital the Waikato district grows well - this means valuing and investing in art and creativity, culture, community services, our greenspaces and biodiversity, venues, creative spaces and events, development programmes, and opportunities to weave cultural storytelling, placemaking and playful creative expression throughout partnership with the community, and within core council business.
- Community granting makes an important contribution to supporting for-purpose organisations, sustaining community services, local venues, and investing in our whenua. This partnership between council and community is directly connected to cultural and community wellbeing outcomes for the council.





Thriving Communities Collaboration

c/- PO Box 1367,
Hamilton 3240
Ph: 07 838 1583

Impact on social and cultural wellbeing

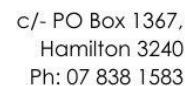
Beyond economic measures, the impacts of the non-profit community on social and cultural wellbeing is also significant.

- The community and social service sector encompass a broad range of initiatives that offer invaluable support and foster connections within diverse populations. Beyond just alleviating poverty and social isolation, these services bring a plethora of benefits to the community. They promote inclusivity, empower individuals to overcome challenges, and enhance overall well-being. Additionally, they contribute to the development of stronger social bonds, cultivate a sense of belonging, and foster a culture of empathy and compassion.
- In-depth Waikato-focussed research from 2022 highlighted regular access and perceived access to arts, culture and creativity is a significant driver of individual wellbeing. This contributes to better mental health outcomes, and shows measurable connection to social cohesion, community connection, civic pride, and sense of identity.
- Investment in the whenua is critical. Community access to open and accessible greenspaces, even in an ostensibly rural environment, can have profound effects on well-being, promoting physical health, mental clarity, emotional resilience, and social connection.
- Climate-resilient towns and settlements require systemic approaches that address both the physical and social dimensions of resilience. This includes investing in green infrastructure like parks and urban forests, as well as social infrastructure such as community centres and cultural hubs which promote social cohesion and empowerment. By incorporating the voices and perspectives of diverse communities into the budgeting process, we can ensure that our investments reflect the needs and priorities of all residents

Investing in people

- In this current cost of living crisis, a careful and well considered fiscal approach to local government funding and services is supported. At the same time, the Council needs to keep front of mind its responsibility and duty to its people. The Council's vision of "*working together as a district to build liveable, thriving and connected communities*" is functionally appropriate, but lacks appeal to the human spirit. It is a council purpose statement of the here and now, but as a vision it offers very little for our tamariki and rangatahi to be inspired by. Between now and the next LTP, the Council might like to ask its people what their vision for the future is, in their words, and adopt that. This should be done in terms of their lived experienced, not necessarily from the point of view of the Council.
- At a time of increased need, now is the time to invest in people. Support the people who provide positive outcomes for diverse communities. Art, culture, and creativity sits alongside social services, kai, health, education, environment, and community connection as interwoven components of thriving communities.
- It requires civic investment as a part of ensuring community access. Not investing in our social infrastructure will result in the degradation of our community services, arts, culture and environment at a time of a growing population.
- A thriving and prosperous city will always be a combination of physical assets and infrastructure we can see, and the less tangible social, economic, cultural and environmental foundations which we all rely on for our wellbeing. We urge the council, even in difficult fiscal times, to keep a balanced and people-focused approach to all aspects of wellbeing, as is required by the Local Government Act (2022).





-

- At a time of increased need, commit to maintaining and increasing community funding to support organisations to continue to deliver positive outcomes.
- Work collaboratively with community providers to lead and implement a joint regional food strategy in collaboration with city and district councils and Waikato Regional Council.
- Engage and fund services from relevant community organisations to co-design civic engagement strategies to enable meaningful and reciprocal access and support for vulnerable communities.



**Waikato
wellbeing
project** | Hinonga
toiora o
Waikato

seed.
WAIKATO

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7752
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The rates increase seems too high especially when public transport and rubbish are still requiring extra cost by the user. People are struggling under cost of living. More time spent ensuring things are being done effectively and as necessary to improve life quality is the direction things need to be going.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7753
Name:	Dennis Amooore
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Traffic light trial on Wainui Bridge at cost of \$200k. was the community consulted this got a negative response when raised at community bd meeting when congestion is really only on long weekend and sound splash.

Huntly waste water - collaborate with Hamilton CC and pump all waste water from Huntly, Ngaruawahi and Taupiri and Horotiu to Pukete and work with HCC to build one large economical treatment plant - its more efficient

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

These should reflect the costs associated with the development. For large developments like Rangitahi in Raglan they should not be a standard fee but a fee that recovers the additional burden put upon all rate payers from the development. Targetted rates should also be looked at for developments for Rangitahi, if they want great green spaces, tennis courts, possibly a swimming pool etc then the cost of managing these should be on those residents not the greater Population that will never benefit from them.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Public events should be based on revenue or participant numbers is Sound splash

Boat ramp fees should be collected

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

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maintenance of parks and reserves, review how this is managed and how the contract is administered and review the frequency of service and if its required at all.

Make the contracts outcome based is grass not to exceed 100mm in height.

reduce the frequency you water blast boat ramps. bi monthly is ample

Get rid of discretionary funding given to community bd

Community Grants - times are tough the amount given away for minor things such as the \$50k to be given away in grants for waste minimisation, most of it will be completely ineffective get rid of it and may be when can be afforded revisit it.

Same with all donation and support to community groups we see so much waste ie Raglan naturally did two seminars supported by WDC on what organisations wanted in Raglan, we got a lovely chart nothing else.

Recycling is an expense that most have little interest in, give it away.

Attachment to submission 7753

Paper on 2024/2025 Annual plan

As Councilor's you have come up with a goal "To build, Liveable, Thriving, Connected Communities'
Do you understand what it really means and how are you as a councilor going to contribute to it?
When the CEO and CFO came to you and said we need to increase rates by 13.5%, how did you challenge them?

OK, then what have you put in place to ensure that they don't ask for 15% next year?

You may ask when you have read what I have written below what has this to do with the 2024/25 Annual Plan, well its all about ensuring we have a sustainable council going forward. Double digit rates increases are not sustainable.

In times of crisis like now when we have high inflation, a recession, rapid changes in technology, and lots of geopolitical tension, too many councilors and those in the management team are not taking the time out to think in a fresh bold manner, instead you are all falling victim to incrementalisation or just doing the same old, same old.

You need to ask yourself what do you want WDC to become?

What will it take to get there?

Difficult times present opportunities to go beyond incremental strategy and operational change to reinvent the company and make it fit for the future.

I hear people talk of transformation, I even think I saw WDC looking to appoint a transformation manager.

Long term success requires reinvention across multiple fronts in any company including WDC.

What is reinvention you may ask, to me its:

- Breakthrough innovation.
- Increased resilience in face of disruption.
- Enhanced ability to create value for shareholders.
- Creating a culture that influences stakeholders to move the company forward.
- Collaboration with other councils

All councils are making statements about large rates increases. I don't see any talking about ambitious and holistic transformations that require employees throughout the organisation to work in a co-ordinated manner towards a common goal.

If we are going to reinvent the company five actions are crucial:

- Separate the what from the how
- Involve your team in the how
- Be open about the leadership journey
- Tackle the skills gap
- Define the reinventions success broadly

I am not going to explain each here, this short paper is just to highlight the opportunity.

WDC are going to replace their CEO soon.

What sort of a leader are councilors looking for, what type of leadership style, collaborative, change agent, problem solver, analytical thinker. Make sure you know what's needed to take WDC forward and agree!

Good leaders think about the next decade not the next month.

How have you framed their position description to ensure:

- Does their vision align with councils.
- How will they maintain single digit rates increases?
- How will they reinvent Council?
- How will they develop a company culture?
- How will they drive continuous improvement?
- How will they provide WDC with a competitive advantage over other councils?
- How will they stay on top market strategies?

McKinsey have said that business leaders should expect that in 5-10 years that half their company's revenue will come from products or services or business that haven't yet been created!!

How would that apply to council?

Thanks for your time and I hope I have provoked you to think about how we will ensure we have a sustainable council going forward.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7754
Name:	Amy and James Whetu
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

We wish to speak to our submission attached.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

We wish to speak to our submission attached.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

We wish to speak to our submission attached.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

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The proposed increases for those services that can be oncharged for seem reasonable. All services are necessary, so costs should be made through prudent management of funds as opposed to reduction in services.

Submission on Draft Annual Plan 2024/2025

Submitters: James and Amy Whetu - 26 April 2024

021- 1493565

james@whetugroup.co.nz

1. We would like to talk to our submission to the Draft Annual Plan 2024/2025 when given the opportunity to do so.
2. We note the draft plan as it relates to Ngāruawāhia specifically addresses town centre related projects, through things like the library community hub/feasibility study.
3. Feasibility for Library/Hub –
 - a. Was there any due diligence done before purchasing Waipā Tavern? There was also historical money allocated to fund the library development. Where did this go?
 - b. There has been significant work over the past ten years to undertake feasibility studies and report around the suitability of a multi-purpose hub. At that point it was to include the Arts Centre which Council has now purchased a completely additional site for, which requires considerable investment in itself.
 - c. The Arts Centre provides one of the biggest contributions to our community now and is hugely valued. It is disappointing that this investment in the collective hub has been so delayed and poorly timed that now we have a further additional asset that is requiring huge investment/upkeep, instead of building the purpose built building that was required years ago.
4. CCTV – Little impact when existing cameras in Ngāruawāhia for example are very difficult to access and police are not even aware they exist. Monitoring plan for high risk areas should be a relatively limited spend with the advent of AI analysis and alerts when issues arise, rather than large capital investment and maintenance for an asset that will simply deteriorate and have little impact/use.
5. Footpaths – Two large pools. Ngāruawāhia town centre footpaths are in dire need of a water blast and clean up. Economic reports are indicating that public investment is needed to support town rejuvenation. When the most basic of upkeep by Council is not undertaken, that is not going to achieve. The Durham Street footpath continues to be embarrassing. All possible avenues have been attempted to get this resealed including multiple in person meetings, emails, phone calls, health and safety complaints and online requests for service. When there are two funds available for footpath maintenance, it's a huge disappointment that the 16 businesses and all community users, can't get this achieved no matter the number of complaints that are made.
6. Beautification Fund – We think this should remain and we request that some of this fund be allocated for footpath rejuvenation in the town centre and resurfacing the full footpath along Durham Precinct.
7. Mana Whenua and relationships continuing to be built under JMA's will only strengthen our community as a whole. Support ongoing role of Māori Councillors.
8. Consenting – We support bringing this in house as proposed as long as the skills required are on hand. This requires a focused attempt at employing skilled staff and maintaining them. This should also help with ensuring there is community specific knowledge when processing consents, which is essential.
9. Organisational support – Data Costs and software. It would be a good time to review these to ensure they are still fit for purpose, prior to investing further. Technology has improved rapidly in the past decade and the services now available are considerably cheaper and effective.
10. Development Contributions – As long as the ability for Council to negotiate on these is always available, then the proposed changes are fair. Everything should be negotiable based on opportunities and costs.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7755
Name:	do not wish to provide
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Fees should not increase above inflation end of story. There is a cost of living crisis and it is your responsibility to look after the community and not add to the issue. Even at a quick glance of your financials there are savings that can be made or at least looked into. ie cost centre 5040 Finance consulting fees \$1.2m, 5010 Efficiency savings to cost you \$0.9m, Subscriptions \$0.4m of which \$72k is in the council cost centre. If our healthcare system has to live within a 5% cost increase so can you! Instead of "keeping the lights on" perhaps you need to be more efficient and turn them off when not in use. Even your analogy is wasteful.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7756
Name:	Ken Soanes
Organisation:	Resident
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

It is important that council keep all expenses to within inflation percentage. This may mean delaying some works.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

See submission

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

the proposed increase is beyond the affordability of the public.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Just slow progress.

Waikato District Council

Submission on 2024/25 annual plan and proposed Rate Rise. 26/04/2024

Opening Statement:

In your document you state:

" We know that our current financial projections are not affordable for many ratepayers and members of the community"

This is correct and every effort to reduce the increase must be made.

I offer the following comments for you re-evaluation:

1. I have gone back to Stats NZ and various other documents and found a discrepancy in the rates collected and rates that should be paid. Why is this? If all ratepayers paid for their services we would not need this discussion. I am not party to the councils collection information but my estimates indicate something may be amiss. My spreadsheet is attached.

2. We live in a time when businesses transacting millions of dollars and involving many people without physical commercial premises and are using the council or public facilities. I question whether they are paying their share. I refer to the software and internet businesses and the service providers. There are the electrical and fibre internet boxes also the cell phone towers and associate services. If companies are using council land and services there should be a contribution to council for rates.

3. In Raglan as a beachside centre, many visitors are not contributing to the rates burden but expect free facilities at the expense of local ratepayers. This is a difficult issue but can a taxpaid contribution be made from Tourism NZ for this?

While not being party to the Rates collection figures, I have the indication that the rates increase burden is being put on genuine residents and the view needs to be widened to include all peoples and businesses that use council facilities.

Kind Regards

Ken Soanes

56A Government Rd

Raglan

Rates estimate

	No of properties	Rates	Sub Total
Residential			
Tuakau	1,131.00	\$4,126.63	\$4,667,218.53
Huntly	2,778.00	\$3,605.20	\$10,015,245.60
Ngaruawahia	2,114.00	\$3,764.08	\$7,957,265.12
Raglan	1,767.00	\$4,473.98	\$7,905,522.66
Tamahere	744.00	\$2,598.76	\$1,933,477.44
TeK	660.00	\$4,126.00	\$2,723,160.00
Averageing calculation	9,194.00		\$35,201,889.35
Average rate charge			\$3,828.79
Council wide residential	27,765.00		\$106,306,336.50
Lifestyle			
Council wide	Incl in Co wide Res	\$3,726.70	
Commercial			
Large	3,519.00	\$10,558.00	\$37,153,602.00
Medium			
Small			
Industrial (Estimated 500)			
Large	500.00	\$10,428.00	\$5,214,000.00
Medium			
Small			
Rural (3569) all farms have dwellings			
Low	3,000.00	\$3,493.61	
Mid	460.00	\$3,857.45	
High	100.00	\$13,883.00	\$1,388,300.00
Total estimated Rate collection			\$150,062,238.50
Rates collection as stated in annual plan document:			\$143.8M

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7757
Name:	Rosemarie Costar
Organisation:	Rural Port Waikato Community Board
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

See attached.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Rural Port Waikato Community Board Submission to Waikato District Council Annual Plan

Chairperson **Mr Bruce Cameron**

Point of Contact **Rosemarie Costar** Rosemariecostar@outlook.com

General:

- We support Waikato District Council's decision to prepare an annual plan rather than a Long Term Plan due to the high level of uncertainty around government reform
- We agree that affordability is a serious issue for Waikato District Council, business and households across our district. A 13.75% rates increase will add to many already financially stretched rural business and households. We do not support this level of increase.
- We submit that before Waikato District Council looks at lowering levels of service they look at being more efficient in everything Waikato District Council undertakes – especially big ticket items like roading and parks and reserves maintenance
- We submit that Waikato District Council sticks to its core business such as roading, water services, parks and reserves and ensures that it is conducted in the most efficient way possible
- As a rural community board we agree that regulations imposed by central government, and the number of them, significantly increase the cost of projects. We trust that your newly formed Rural Economic Advisory Panel will advocate for the rural sector regarding this.

Roading

- We submit that with regard to roading WDC must significantly increase their spend on maintenance of water tables and culverts around the entire district. We all understand roading is expensive so it is vital that the roading assets are protected, as well as individual properties from flooding.
- We submit that Waikato District Council needs a robust auditing process for service requests to be sure that they have actually been completed before they are closed. If this does not take place performance measures cannot be measured accurately.
- We also submit that Waikato District Council look into the efficiency of the Alliance until the term of the contract ends. On farm we always try and do a job once, and do it right. While this sounds very simple, it is not what we see at times in our area from the Alliance.

Water, Waste Water and Storm water

- We support Waikato District Council postponing non critical work being completed with regard to water, wastewater and stormwater to protect rate increases however if any of these works affect protecting WDC assets we urge that it be scheduled for as soon as financially possible.
- We support Waikato District Council's targeted rates for water, waste water and stormwater.
- We submit that the cost of loan funding the debt to extend Huntly's network and improve water quality should be funded by the districtwide water targeted rate NOT the general rate as stated on page 17 in the consultation document.

Footpaths, Parks and Reserves, Playgrounds

- In these tough financial times we submit that you consider the cost and necessity of any footpaths installed. We support footpaths being installed where road safety is an issue. We would like to see the “must do’s done, and the nice to do’s on a waiting list.
- We submit that with regard to playground renewals Waikato District Council inspects all playgrounds as they fall due for renewal and ensures that only playgrounds which are unsafe are replaced. For a ratepayer’s perspective it often appears that perfectly good playgrounds are simply replaced because they are due for renewal when it appears there is still years of life and fun left in them.

Communication

- We support the Waikato District Council’s strategic priorities of building community resilience, building relationships, consistent delivery of core services, improving connectivity, supporting sustainable growth, and most importantly improving council’s responsiveness. Some of our board members have struggled for some time now to have their phone calls to staff returned while following up issues. This is unacceptable.
- We also submit that when Waikato District Council tells us something will be done, that it must be done, or a good reason is communicated why it could not be done. This issue has caused a considerable amount of Board member’s time wasted in chasing up Waikato District Council promises that were not delivered. This actually damages the credibility of both Waikato District Council and our Community Board.
- For our Community Board to be successful we need to be able to communicate with WDC staff. If this can’t happen, we as a Board cannot deliver responses, and value, to our community, who pay a targeted rate to have us.

Community Halls and WDC

- We submit that the cost of council owned community halls which require urgent repairs needs to be borne by the community using the asset. We support WDC assisting these communities to get their facilities up to code but it is unclear in the consultation how the proposed “assistance fund” will be repaid, and by who. We believe that any assistance fund for structural repairs need to be repaid by the targeted rate for the building, and not by general rate.
- We support Waikato District Council’s decision to dispose of old, condemned or erosion affected buildings as long as they are owned by Waikato District Council.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7758
Name:	Lynda Keene
Organisation:	Tourism Export Council of NZ
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

No.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

No.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The Tourism Export Council of New Zealand acknowledges the challenging economic times that Council is facing with their budgets and future planning. Our submission is in support of Hamilton Waikato Tourism acting as the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) retaining its existing funding level with Waikato District Council. Please see attached written submission. We wish Council all the best with its deliberations. Nga mihi nui Lynda Keene (CEO)

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Not at this time. However, the Tourism Export Council of New Zealand supports continued funding levels that Waikato District Council will consider in the Long Term Plan 2025-2035 for Hamilton Waikato Tourism. Thank you for your time. We wish Council all the best with its deliberations. Nga mihi nui Lynda Keene (CEO)

26 April 2024



Mayor Church and Councillors

Waikato District Council

Dear Mayor Church and Councillors

Draft Enhanced Annual Plan 2024-2034: Submission from Tourism Export Council of New Zealand

On behalf of the Tourism Export Council of New Zealand (TECNZ) we are writing in support of Hamilton Waikato Tourism (HWT) for ongoing funding in the event any proposed funding cuts in the Draft 2024/25 Enhanced Annual Plan are being considered for Hamilton Waikato Tourism.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We wish Council all the best with its deliberations and future planning.

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

Ngā mihi nui



Lynda Keene

Chief Executive Officer

TOURISM EXPORT COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND PO BOX 19258, WELLINGTON 6141, NEW ZEALAND
M: 027 6644 836 **E:** lynda@tourismexportcouncil.org.nz **W:** www.tourismexportcouncil.org.nz

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7759
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	West Waikato Coastal Community Catchment Group Inc
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No (use Org name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Yes - Roading Maintenance

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

See attached

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

No

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

NO

WEST WAIKATO COASTAL COMMUNITY CATCHMENT

GROUP INC

Background:

The West Waikato Coastal Community Catchment Incorporated Society (WWCC) was formed with visions and goals.

In 2023 a group of farmers, community members and tangata whenua gathered with a desire to improve the environment they lived, worked and played in.

WWCC have developed a 5 -10-year plan with actions and costed them out to achieve their aims. It involves a significant amount of community engagement through Farm Plans, Biodiversity actions and movement to be Carbon Zero by 2050.

Community resilience is at the forefront, with farmer/community wellbeing being addressed through knowledge, communication and recreation.

To achieve their vision WWCC will foster new relationships with other stakeholders. These will be built on mutual trust and respect and will have the desire for West Waikato Coastal Community to be better places at its core.

West Waikato Coastal Community Catchment incorporated was officially formed in March 2023, (NZBN: 9429051221676) West Waikato Coastal Community catchment is an Incorporated Society taking a long-term beneficial approach to facilitating change in their community to promote resilience and avenues to thrive.

We have 3 primary objectives that are interconnected:

1. To facilitate positive change in respect to improving the water, soil, air, cultural and community standards that the community has set.
2. To ensure that farming fits the landscape and enhances the self-worth of the community.
3. To educate and inform the community so the ownership rests rightly with the inhabitants.

Key aims are:

- **Enhancing Community Wellness**
- **Understanding our whenua, biodiversity and history**
- **Incentivizing a change in mindset and behavior on farm**
- **Increasing community knowledge and expertise to support growing, planting and maintaining plants/trees in the right place, for the right purpose**
- **reducing atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations**
- **improving water quality**
- **enriching indigenous biodiversity**

- **reducing soil loss**
- **Introducing new technologies to enable the community to track and measure progress.**
- **Build inter community knowledge of the culture and history of the community.**
- **Build relationships with key stakeholders to build our shared future**

WWCC looks to help rural communities and farmers understand their environmental impact and ensures that best practice is promoted in “business as usual” to get positive outcomes. It aims to build knowledge and understanding, source funding, and work alongside farmers to promote sustainable farming practices. In doing this WWCC endeavors to ensure our rural communities can thrive and support future generations to live and farm rurally.

The group is a community-led initiative. Linkages have been made and are developing with the Waikato Regional Council, as well as the Waikato District Council.

The catchment logically includes Port Waikato, Waikaretu and Te Akau communities as these are commonly bound by Marae and community ties. It has at its heart Pukerewa Marae (Tainui, Ngāti Taahinga), Te Akau Marae (Tainui, Ngāti Taahinga) and Weraroa Marae (Tainui Ngāti Taahinga), two schools, two play centres, a fire station and community halls. The population is mainly rural, WWCC has worked from the outset to be all inclusive, forging strong ties with Iwi, who are included in all discussions. The catchment area also falls within the hapu of Ngaati Tamainupoo.

SUBMISSION FROM WWCC

MAINTAINING ROADING

THAT THE MAINTENANCE FOR UNSEALED ROADS INCREASED ABOVE THE IMPROVEMENT INCREASE OF \$1.5M

District wide road surface safety improvements increased by \$1.5m

Roading should provide a well designed and fit for purpose transport network that gives people choices how they move around districts.

The roading network in our area is critical to create a strong and resilient network which is a critical factor in ensuring a strong rural economy and a liveable, thriving and connected community. We do not believe that this connected community has fit for purpose roading in order to create a liveable and thriving community.

Currently our roads are not maintained to an acceptable level. Rural people are often remote and there may be only one road exit. Also cellular coverage is weak in some areas. In the event of an emergency it is imperative that all services are available.

The number of pot holes is increasing significantly with a much longer delay in attending to them.

Consistent delivery of core services – delayed and needs to be completed in shorter time periods.

Improved council responsiveness: Currently the use of the app ANTENNO is an easy way to report a problem but the delay in attending to those reports has extended considerable in the last year.

Emergency Management: We are concerned that in the event of an adverse weather event we will be even more remote and will not be able to attend the emergency centre because of the lack of roading maintenance. The Emergency centre would be the Community Hall at Port Waikato and the Te Akau Waingaro Community Complex as both properties have been identified by MBIE and will receive solar power. This is all wonderful but only if people can get to the centre.

SOLID WASTE

THAT ONCE A MONTH A RECYCLING OPTION IS GIVEN TO RESIDENTS OF TE AKAU AND SURROUNDING AREAS TO DROP OFF THEIR RECYCLING AT A LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Currently there are no services available for Waingaro Road north of Waingaro Hot Pools and therefore no remote rural areas have anywhere available to have their recycling taken and dealt with in the correct manner. Currently remote rural residents must drive to Hamilton or Raglan and then pay for their recycling.

Could it be possible for a recycling pick up to be done once a month in a community area such as Te Akau Waingaro Community Complex and the recycling could be brought to the centre by the residents as a drop off point on the day.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7760
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	Te Akau Waingaro Community Complex INC
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

See attached submission

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

See attached submission

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

No

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No

TE AKAU WAINGARO COMMUNITY COMPLEX INC

Background:

The Te Akau Waingaro Community Complex is the hub of the district. It was set up approximately 45 years ago and is run by a committee.

The population is mainly rural, and we have worked from the outset to be all inclusive, forging strong ties with Iwi, who are included in all discussions.

SUBMISSION FROM WWCC

MAINTAINING ROADING

THAT THE MAINTENANCE FOR UNSEALED ROADS INCREASED ABOVE THE IMPROVEMENT INCREASE OF \$1.5M

District wide road surface safety improvements increased by \$1.5m

Roading should provide a well designed and fit for purpose transport network that gives people choices how they move around districts.

The roading network in our area is critical to create a strong and resilient network which is a critical factor in ensuring a strong rural economy and a liveable, thriving and connected community. We do not believe that this connected community has fit for purpose roading in order to create a liveable and thriving community.

Currently our roads are not maintained to an acceptable level. Rural people are often remote and there may be only one road exit. Also cellular coverage is weak in some areas. In the event of an emergency it is imperative that all services are available. The number of pot holes is increasing significantly with a much longer delay in attending to them.

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as both properties have been identified by MBIE and will receive solar power. This is all wonderful but only if people can get to the centre.

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Could it be possible for a recycling pick up to be done once a month in a community area such as Te Akau Waingaro Community Complex and the recycling could be brought to the centre by the residents as a drop off point on the day.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7761
Name:	Lisa Gardiner
Organisation:	Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?



DRAFT 2024/25 ANNUAL PLAN

To: Waikato District Council

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Name: Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust
Iwi / hapū: Ngāti Hauā
Address: 51a Anderson Street, PO Box 270, Morrinsville
Email: lisa@ngatihauaiwitrust.co.nz
Phone: 021 764 133
Contact: Lisa Gardiner, Chief Executive Officer

Introduction

1. This submission on the Waikato District Council Draft 2024/25 Annual Plan is made on behalf of the Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust.
2. Ngāti Hauā descend from the eponymous ancestor Hauā, a direct descendant of Hoturoa, the captain of the Tainui waka. The hapū of Ngāti Hauā are Ngāti Te Oro, Ngāti Werewere, Ngāti Waenganui, Ngāti Te Rangitaupi and Ngāti Rangi Tawhaki. The 2018 Census data estimates 7,275 people affiliate to Ngāti Hauā.
3. The Ngāti Hauā rohe spans from Te Aroha, south along the Kaimai Range to Te Weraiti, from Te Weraiti west to Maungatautari then northwest to Te Rapa, from Te Rapa eastward to Mangateparu and then to Te Aroha. Part of the Ngāti Hauā rohe, including two of our marae Te Iti o Hauā and Waimakariri are located within the Waikato District Council boundary.
4. The Ngāti Hauā Area of Interest is depicted in the Ngāti Hauā Deed of Settlement and is **attached** as Schedule A.

KEY MATTERS OF CONCERN

MARAE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

1. In comparing the draft plan with individual Infrastructures Needs Assessments completed for our marae, we note that both Waimakariri and Te Iti o Hauā have a unique mix of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater-related challenges and priority actions. Immediate interventions, mid-term upgrades and long-term strategic planning is required in a co-ordinated effort to address these issues. Collectively, these are:

IMMEDIATE INTERVENTIONS

- **Water Quality & Contamination Prevention:** Implement systematic upgrades to ensure all marae have access to safe, reliable drinking water. For marae with identified potential contamination risks or inadequate drinking water treatment, immediate water testing and installation of appropriate treatment systems, where not already in place. Prioritise marae relying on bore, creek, spring, or dam sources.
- **Enhanced Water Storage:** Install on-site water storage solutions across all marae to improve water resilience and self-sufficiency. Prioritise marae in remote areas without on-site water storage
- **Wastewater System Overhaul:** Upgrade or replace on-site wastewater treatment systems for marae with wastewater challenges.
- **Flood & Ponding Mitigation:** Upgrade basic stormwater infrastructure to address flooding and ponding, especially where they coincide in rural areas with inadequate stormwater infrastructure.

MID-TERM UPGRADES

- **Rainwater Harvesting:** Establish rainwater harvesting systems to promote water conservation and serve as a backup water supply for gardening and blackwater use. Prioritise marae in rural areas experiencing water shortage and supply issues.
- **Stormwater Management Enhancement:** Install or improve stormwater management systems, incorporating green infrastructure solutions such as rain gardens or permeable pavements to enhance water absorption and reduce runoff.

THREE WATERS IN THE WAIKATO DISTRICT

1. While the draft plan proposes a \$115.5 million spend on drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater maintenance, upgrades, and operational costs – there appears to be no new projects, investment activity and financial commitment tagged to the Matangi residential area in relation to these services.

The \$115.5 million spend has tagged;

\$65.5 million on wastewater treatment and disposal,

\$32.8 million to treat and supply water, and another

\$17.2 million on stormwater

2. Further still, Waikato District Council has proposed postponement of “non-critical water projects”, while a portion of required costs will be met through loan-funding;

"To reduce the rating impact this year, we're proposing to postpone some non-critical water projects until future years. \$27.4 million for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure development will be loan-funded."

Pg. 3

EFFECTS OF THREE WATERS REPEAL

1. The effect of the Three Waters repeal legislation means that council assets (and their debt liabilities) now sit squarely with individual councils and their ratepayers until alternative arrangements can be made.
2. Such arrangements cannot be made until the Coalition Government passes new legislation for the purpose; to deliver on its replacement 'Local Water Done Well'. This is not expected to be in place until December 2024.
3. In addition to these changes, the Waikato district is set to face water services challenges which arise from its current and unique water services arrangement held with Watercare;

"...Watercare has given notice that it will cease its contract with the Council in 2026, and we need a new approach. Following the approval of this Annual Plan, the Council will work on a solution for delivering water services beyond 2026 but want to assure you that your waters services will continue."

Pg. 3

4. Under current central government policy settings, it is unclear how water services will be provided for across the Waikato District (and in light of the Watercare decision). This uncertainty arises from existing and future debt liabilities, investment shortfalls (including for upgrades and renewals), constrained council balance sheets and an already hamstrung local ratepayer base.
5. Until then (and by legislation) councils are still required to develop their Long-Term-Plans or Annual Plans/'Enhanced Annual Plans' where in which they will be required to consult with the public on the state of their Three Waters assets and services; and their challenges.
6. Local government constraints on funding tools also means that there appears to be a reliance on Central Government to provide support and until a new funding model is found to address Three Waters infrastructure and services across the district, whānau can expect rates across the Waikato district to rise exponentially over time.
7. The current proposal sets out a General Rate Increase of 13.75\$ for the 2024/2025 Financial Year.
8. For the Waikato district and as compared against this Enhanced Annual Plan 2024/2025; this includes cost increases to interim charges for properties connecting to the reticulated wastewater network.

"While we have a plan for this financial year, again, we will be having conversations with the government about the affordability issues specifically relating to your water services and infrastructure, and longer-term implications for local communities."

Pg. 3

KEY FEEDBACK AREAS IN DRAFT PLAN

1. Reduction in council services

Waikato District Council is seeking feedback on potential areas for reducing existing services delivered by council, including three waters services.

It is unclear how a reduction in three waters services will address challenges faced by marae. This is exacerbated further by the recent Watercare decision raised previously.

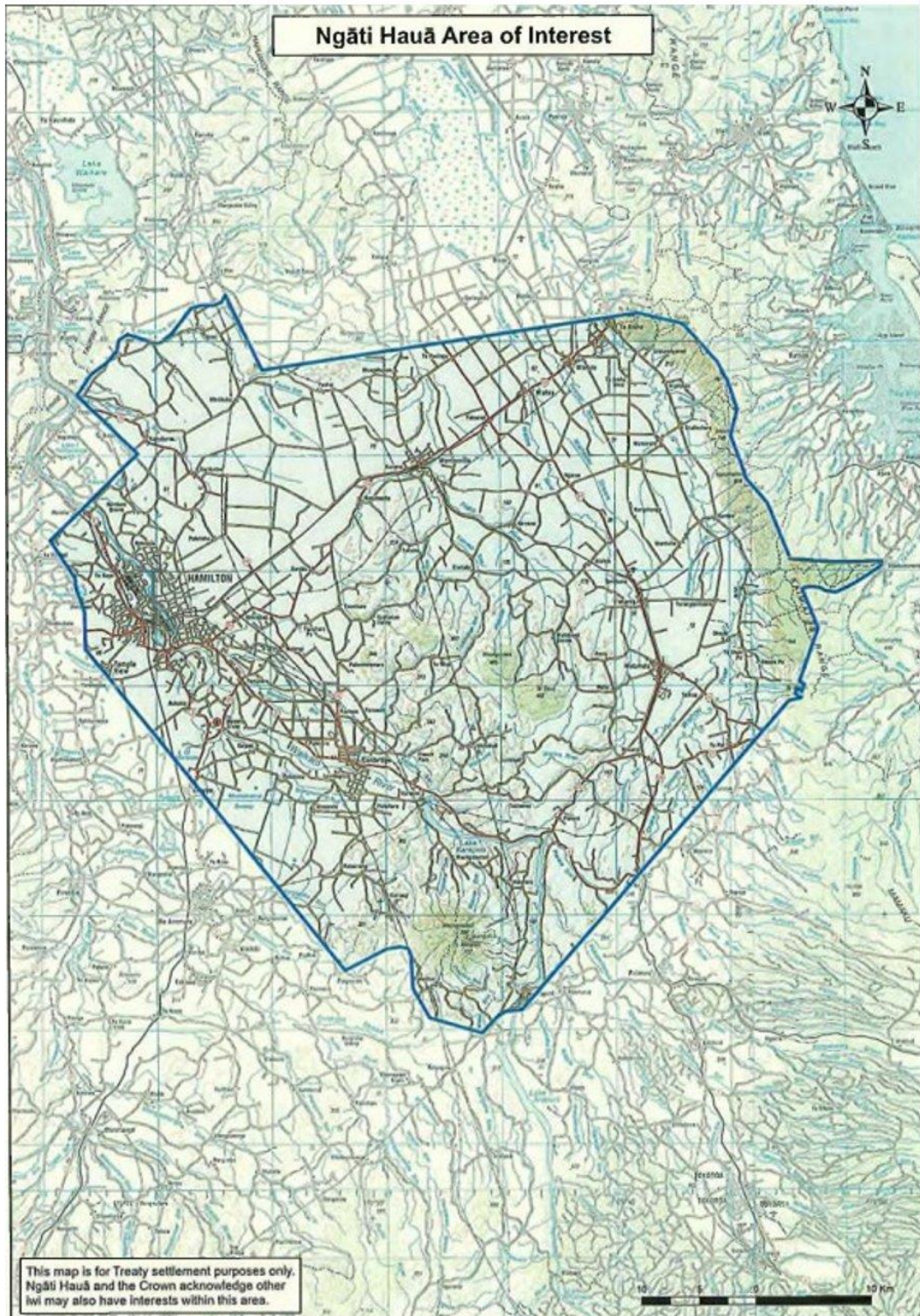
2. Feedback on council work program, development contribution, fees & charges for 2024/2025

Whānau/ratepayers can expect rises in their rates to cover, among other things, three waters-related investment challenges. We are concerned about these rises in rates and the impact on our whānau and marae.

CONCLUSION

Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust recommends that Waikato District Council allocates part of the Councils funding for three water infrastructure projects to our marae namely Te Iti o Hauā and Waimakariri Marae.

Schedule A



SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7762
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

I believe you have done good job, what you now must do to maintain residents faith in you, is do what you say

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

I have no issues with the 17.5% rate increase, yes higher than inflation but a lot of work needs to be done and I do not think going th Beehive will help much.

Beside regarding RMA WRC Pamela Storey is in print saying to wait for the government advise, so we will see more erosion while WRC/WDC wait and wait for government "managed retreat" buy out schemes, just like Esk Valley

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Ok with 17.5%. The idea on what services to reduce on page 18 is dumb. Why would a resident agree to reduced services while you increase rates ?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Nope, see above why reduce when you increase rates

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7763
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

What your documentation fails to do is disclose a big picture - so, if funding is coming from general rates to pay for proposed work, what is the position with funds set aside for depreciation? The work proposed for the Ngāruawāhia facilities must have depreciation funds available for some of the works, why is this not transparent?

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

The provision of Roads and Transport for Tamahere A & B is disproportionate when looking at the whole district - is this because the Council has failed to gain adequate provision from NZTA and HCC? This needs to be carefully reviewed

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Council fees and charges based on a cost plus mentality with no "competition" reflects the ineptitude of the Council to undertake the tasks - Council should look to another model involving private sector contracting

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Zero waste is not a policy Council should pursue as it will finish up with higher costs dealing with cleaning up fly tipping and rubbish dumped inappropriately.

Council has become a monster with its staff levels and unnecessary bureaucracy. This is a consequence of rules for everything and no provision for private sector innovation. The excess of red tape is choking the Council e.g. trying to manage 3 district plans with rules for everything. This is not working well for any Council and needs a major overhaul. The time taken to get anything done is crazy. Take a more generic approach and remove the prescriptive requirements. You can then focus on outcomes, not process.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7764
Name:	Vanessa
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Yes. Two comments:

1. There are still no toilets for Whatawhata. We are at direct intersection of major roads. If not this plan then which plan? Te Kowhai got more investment in public toilets without a quarter of the traffic.

We have hundreds of travellers passing through everyday and 5x on the weekends. Not good enough when other smaller locations receive investment in community toilet.

2. Replacement sports facilities in Whatawhata. When are these planned?

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Yes. Poll Whatawhata residents for the toilets.

I am sure \$5-\$10 per ratepayer in the ward would be good plus a contribution from the Tourism budget.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Yes.

Ratepayers on septic tank and rainwater supply not be charged for services them at we don't have and will never have.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

No.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7765
Name:	Cindy
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	No (use first name only)

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

The increase in rates is absolutely ridiculous and totally unaffordable. We are in the middle of a cost of living crisis and the council is going to increase rates by over \$500 per year! In a small town such as Te Kauwhata which has no public transport, terrible condition of the roads and a lacklustre councillor, we are getting absolutely shafted and nothing for our money.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

The increase in rates is absolutely ridiculous and totally unaffordable. We are in the middle of a cost of living crisis and the council is going to increase rates by over \$500 per year! In a small town such as Te Kauwhata which has no public transport, terrible condition of the roads and a lacklustre councillor, we are getting absolutely shafted and nothing for our money.

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

The increase in rates is absolutely ridiculous and totally unaffordable. We are in the middle of a cost of living crisis and the council is going to increase rates by over \$500 per year! In a small town such as Te Kauwhata which has no public transport, terrible condition of the roads and a lacklustre councillor, we are getting absolutely shafted and nothing for our money. We cannot attend public council meetings because most people are working long hours to make ends meet and little notice / publicity is given of the meetings. Our new councillor is less than enthusiastic and our previous councillor is an argumentative busybody, so we as a community get very little communication and now are being hit with an astronomical rates increase - we already pay rubbish stickers, water usage separately but those things are charged twice because they are included in our rates! We have one bus per day, no train and constant roadworks on SH1 either direction. Absolutely disgusting treatment of taxpayers by a greedy council.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7766
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

The roads are a joke what happened to doing it once and doing it properly. We didn't have these problems 20 years ago.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

No

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

It is a rort to charge rate payers what you do for the absolute lack of infrastructure. Don't say you need the funds to pay for it you have had increased rates for our area by allowing all the new housing and the contributions from developers. To charge 14-15% more when people are losing jobs and tightening budgets is a disgrace. Especially when your big projects are on hold. Kids will be going hungry to pay rates, rents will be increasing for those who can't afford their own home. If we don't have funds we can't just go shopping anyway or give ourselves a pay rise. Why do you think you have the right to?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Can't open the document.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7767
Name:	Jason Dawson
Organisation:	Air New Zealand
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

See attached submission.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

26 April 2024

Contact: Jason Dawson, Regional
Affairs Manager - Air New Zealand

Email: jason.dawson@airnz.co.nz

Address:

Air New Zealand House
185 Fanshawe Street
Auckland 1010
New Zealand

For Waikato District Council

**Submission on funding for Hamilton & Waikato Tourism – Waikato District Council Draft
Annual Plan 2024/25**

- 1 Air New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to submit on Waikato District Council's Draft Annual Plan 2024/2025. We write in support of maintaining Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) funding at the current level.
 - 1.1 Air New Zealand values HWT's impact on lifting Hamilton & Waikato's reputation as a visitor destination, providing immediate and long-term benefits to the prosperity and vibrancy of Waikato District for both businesses and residents. International and domestic visitors spent \$1.87 billion annually¹ in the Waikato – the fifth highest in New Zealand. As the main hub for the region, this spending directly benefitted Hamilton businesses, including accommodation, attractions, transport, and retail.
 - 1.2 Given the visitor economy is still suffering from the long-tail of impacts from Covid-19 and the current cost of living crisis, the timing is not right to reduce any further support for HWT as the sector struggles to rebuild and maintain competitiveness in an ever-changing international market. With the gradual return of international travellers from markets such as China and Japan, Tourism New Zealand and Air New Zealand are working harder than ever to ensure that travellers return to New Zealand, while HWT supports us to ensure the choice is Waikato. This, in turn, helps support a growth pipeline of visitors to the district, including Raglan, Zealong Tea Estate, Hampton Downs, Woodlands and all the unique communities of Waikato.

¹ Source: MBIE, Monthly Regional Tourism Estimates, year ended October 2023

- 1.3 In our view, HWT is one of the most high-performing Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) in New Zealand who operate with the least funding. The RTO has a pivotal role to play in the further recovery of Waikato District's visitor economy, social and cultural wellbeing. It targets promotion and marketing effort efficiently and effectively by partnering with other regions, Air New Zealand and Tourism New Zealand. The reduced funding will mean that Hamilton and Waikato will not be represented in key offshore events and campaigns.
- 1.4 The approach taken by HWT, and the expertise of its staff, gives Air New Zealand a high degree of confidence to regularly partner with HWT and invest in tourism promotion activity for the region. This includes:
- (a) Air NZ retail marketing campaigns promoting travel to Waikato District, and the wider Waikato region, in all our international markets.
 - (b) Profiling destination Waikato's visitor activities in Kia Ora magazine.
 - (c) Hosting international media to the Waikato region to generate positive media coverage and promoting the district to international travel trade by facilitating travel to the region.
 - (d) Partnership marketing campaigns with HWT to promote Waikato District in the Australian market.
 - (e) Promotion, marketing and support for major events in Waikato District; and
 - (f) Promoting New Zealand and Waikato District as a Business Events destination in international markets.
- 1.5 We hope to be able continue this important programme of work with a suitably resourced HWT and further help Waikato District's visitor economy recover from the continued impact of Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis which is impacting domestic visitation.



April 2024

Jason Dawson
Regional Affairs Manager

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7768
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

It is very hard as we have 2 kids and I am on maternity leave as I do not have any financial support.. increasing council rates are effecting our cost of living..we are on 0 saving so how could the council think of increasing the tax rates....

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

It is very hard as we have 2 kids and I am on maternity leave as I do not have any financial support.. increasing council rates are effecting our cost of living..we are on 0 saving so how could the council think of increasing the tax rates....

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

It is very hard as we have 2 kids and I am on maternity leave as I do not have any financial support.. increasing council rates are effecting our cost of living..we are on 0 saving so how could the council think of increasing the tax rates....

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

It is very hard as we have 2 kids and I am on maternity leave as I do not have any financial support.. increasing council rates are effecting our cost of living..we are on 0 saving so how could the council think of increasing the tax rates....

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7769
Name:	Tracy Hampton
Organisation:	Waikato Screen NZ
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	No

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?



Proposal for Inclusion of Waikato Screen NZ in the Enhanced Annual Plan.

Executive Summary:

Waikato Screen NZ is seeking inclusion in the Annual Plan of the Waikato District Council to secure an annual funding allocation of \$28,500. Our organisation plays a crucial role in driving the growth of the screen sector in the Waikato Region, fostering economic development, cultural enrichment, and community engagement through education, work placement and art exposure. This funding will enable us to continue our strategic initiatives, partnerships, and economic development efforts to further enhance the screen industry in the region.

In addition to the substantial economic benefits, it's crucial to recognise the competitive landscape we face. Auckland, with its booming film industry, is our direct neighbour and a formidable contender for productions seeking locations and support services. The significant international investment of 3.5 billion dollars annually in New Zealand, with Auckland alone garnering 1.5 billion dollars per year, underscores the immense potential of the screen sector. By investing in Waikato Screen NZ, we position ourselves strategically to remain tapped into this lucrative market, capturing a share of these productions and bolstering our region's economic vitality. Without adequate funding and resources, we risk losing out to competing regions, forfeiting not only economic gains but also the opportunity to showcase the cultural richness and natural beauty of the Waikato on a global stage. Therefore, we urge the Waikato District Council to recognise the urgency of supporting our organisation and securing the future prosperity of the Waikato Region's screen sector.

Business Description:

The scope of our regional film office encompasses various initiatives aimed at supporting and growing the screen industry in the Waikato Region. Our goals include showcasing the region's unique locations to national and international productions, facilitating collaboration between local government, iwi, and productions, providing support to councils and productions with protocols and permitting advice, and enhancing cultural heritage within the screen industry. We also connect our local film industry with employment opportunities on productions and provide business for local service providers, ensuring productions support our region's economy.

Budget:

On request we can provide a detailed budget breakdown outlining the allocation of the requested funding. This includes costs for operational expenses, HR, marketing and attraction, development, youth and industry workshops, and community engagement initiatives. We are committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in the utilisation of funds, with a focus on maximising the impact of every dollar invested.

Timeline:

We have developed a comprehensive timeline for our organisation's future, highlighting key milestones and deliverables. We have effective, timely processes on reporting to achieve measurable outcomes. We recognise the importance of adhering to project-based objectives and will diligently work towards successful results for our initiatives.

Risk Management:

We have identified potential risks and challenges associated with our business and have developed strategies to mitigate them effectively. These include engaging with stakeholders to address concerns and maintaining open lines of communication. Our proactive approach to risk management ensures that we are well-prepared to navigate any unforeseen obstacles that may arise.

Community Engagement:

Community engagement is at the heart of our initiatives, and we have actively collaborated with stakeholders and community groups. We have also collaborated with local businesses, organisations, and industry guilds to support our initiatives. We actively implement educational workshops and advocate for work placements of locals on film projects in our region. The positive outcomes highlight the importance of our organisation and the value it brings to the region.

Environmental Impact:

We are committed to minimising the environmental impact of the screen sector industry and have incorporated measures to ensure sustainable practices as we work with productions. This includes reducing carbon emissions, minimising waste generation, and promoting eco-friendly production techniques. The film industry is globally aware of its responsibilities, and we support these initiatives.

Social and Economic Benefits:

The social and economic benefits of our project are vast, ranging from job creation and infrastructure development to career pathways for our rangatahi. By attracting national and international productions to the Waikato Region, we stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities, and showcase the cultural richness of our community to a global audience. The direct economic impact of the screen sector in the region is substantial, and we aim to further amplify this contribution in the long term.

Funding Request:

We are requesting an annual funding allocation of \$28,500 from the Waikato District Council to support the ongoing activities of Waikato Screen NZ. This funding, along with the current support from all other councils in our region, is essential to sustain our operations, drive the growth of the screen sector, and maximise the cultural and economic benefits for the Waikato Region. We firmly believe that this investment will yield significant returns for the community and contribute to the overall prosperity and well-being of the region.

Evaluation and Monitoring:

We have established processes and will continue to develop ways to evaluate and monitor the success of our industry's impact over time. This includes tracking performance indicators, collecting data on key metrics, and conducting regular assessments to measure progress and outcomes. We are committed to transparency and accountability in reporting our results to the Waikato District Council and other stakeholders, ensuring that the investment yields tangible benefits for the community.

Supporting an industry:

We have mapped the industry professionals in our region as a thriving sector offering employment and upskilling our rangatahi. Our crew database and their support demonstrates the viability and importance of the work we provide to the Waikato Region.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the inclusion of Waikato Screen NZ in the Waikato District Council's Annual & Long-Term plan is vital to the continued growth and success of the screen sector in the Waikato Region. Our work aligns with the council's strategic priorities, addresses community needs, and offers significant social and economic benefits. The screen industry provides ample work opportunities for locals, and education & upskilling for rangatahi, not to mention the positive economic longevity through screen tourism benefits.

We urge the Waikato District Council to consider our comprehensive proposal and allocate the requested funding to support our ongoing efforts to enrich the community and drive economic growth through the screen sector in the Waikato Region.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

**WAIKATO SCREEN NZ**

M: +64 (0)21 731800

E: tracy@waikatoscreen.nz

W: www.waikatoscreen.nz

August 2023 – 1st Jan 2024 BIENNIAL REPORT
Previous report: Dec 22 – July 23



GROW WAIKATO SCREEN PROJECT ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: AUGUST 2023 – JANUARY 2024



March 2024/ info@waikatoscreen.nz

1 Executive Summary

We are delighted to share Waikato Screen NZ's biannual report summary, highlighting recent progress. As a **non-profit**, we drive Waikato's screen sector growth through strategic initiatives, partnerships, and economic development. Achievements include establishing a fully funded film office, attracting international productions, nurturing local talent and enhancing production efficiency. Grateful for support from advisors, stakeholders and industry partners like NZ Film Commission & Regional Film Office NZ (RFONZ). Together, we are shaping a vibrant, creative community in Waikato.

Our report highlights the:

- Relationships and networks
- Building the screen industry
- Performance targets
- Involvement with Council
- Key achievements in the past year
- Key challenges and risks
- Conclusion & recommendations

2 Relationships and networks







Throughout 2023 to Jan 2024, our film office flourished with Territorial Authorities' support, securing full funding in May 2023. We continue building industry connections, including our partnership with the New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) holding bi-monthly meetings to facilitate film inquiries and showcase our locations to international industry professionals, boosting our global presence. Collaboration with NZFC enhances national representation and provides industry insights. Participation in RFONZ events and industry gatherings highlights our commitment to progress. Engaging with industry guilds and community groups fosters inclusivity and talent pathways. Continued stakeholder engagement and strategic planning demonstrate effective governance. Through collaboration and networking, we are building a strong film community for positive outcomes.

3 Building the screen industry

Waikato Screen NZ's key initiatives include:

- Support and grow the industry to deliver more significant outcomes for our communities and create a direct economic impact
- Showcasing the region's locations to National & International productions
- Facilitating collaboration between local government, iwi, and productions for ease of filming
- Connecting productions, crew, and local businesses to ensure community spending
- Providing support to councils & productions with protocols and permitting advice
- Working on environmental & sustainability solutions for the screen industry
- Assisting with iwi connections and communication with all stakeholders
- Creating upskilling and education workshops and assisting with career pathways
- Facilitating cast and crew job placement into screen sector employment
- Connecting, collaborating, and networking to build the screen sector eco-system
- Supporting the development of infrastructure and production hubs to strengthen future production services

4 Performance targets

Measure	Result	Half year/Year commentary
 Enquiries The number of enquiries from production companies received grows year on year	→	Dec 22 – 1 st Jan 24 We received 38 enquiries in our first 12 months. Enquiries included crew and service providers connecting to Waikato Screen. This now been automated through our website, and we had 84 crew signed up from August until December 2023 with continued registrations in 2024.
 Filming The number of productions filmed in the Waikato grows year on year	→	28 Productions were recorded through Waikato Screen through productions using our services. 7 Feature Films / 6 TVC's / 2 Drama Series / 2 International Streaming / 2 Travel Shows / 2 Documentaries / 3 Photo shoots / 1 Music Video / 4 TV series / 1 Micro Budget. Feature Films – include New Zealand stories, Micro, Indie. Most notable, a multi-million-dollar stream series that reported a spend of 150K per night. We also had 3 International Feature Films and have a blockbuster due to shoot in March 24.
 Communications and Marketing Create a marketing and communications plan to promote the Waikato as a destination for film within the first year of this agreement	→	We send out a quarterly newsletter to over 400 screen industry personnel and stakeholders. Our marketing & communications is across our social media platforms. Our website is currently being designed and built, with the expected delivery in eight weeks. Collaborating with industry leaders & tourism to promote our locations and services we are commencing production of our industry Showreel. We also feature in both the NZFC Lookbook for the International Market and RFONZ website.
 Training and networking Host three training and/or networking events for the industry annually	→	Our networking started with our inaugural Think Tank session with industry professionals and stakeholders. This was used to carve out the workshops most required. We commenced our calendar in Jan/Feb 24 with 2 collaborative workshops and have a calendar line-up in 2024 hosting 4 networking evenings, 15 school introductions to the screen sector, 4 youth film workshops and 5 professional upskilling workshops.
 Recce/famils Organise at least one group recce/famil annually	→	We did a recce for an advertising agency and a group for a Japanese Netflix production, which both chose the Waikato for their productions. With some more recent larger production reece's currently underway. Over the next month we are planning to showcase and promote key locations to a group of Canadian Producers.
 Representation Represent Waikato Screen NZ at industry forums (at least one per year) and at the annual Regional Film Offices of New Zealand	→	We represented our region at the Regional Film Office NZ Annual Hui, attended the NZ Game Developers conference plus attended the WIFT Awards (Woman in Film & Television) and hosting at the Big Screen Symposium representing the Mighty Waikato.

5 Involvement with Council

Our partnership with Territorial Authorities is crucial for support and communication. This collaboration aids in guiding productions through protocols and processes efficiently. Our upcoming website launch in April 2024 will further enhance this collaboration. Ideally, linking Waikato Screen NZ's website with Territorial Authorities will streamline enquiries and support the filmmaking process. This connection will also enable us to generate economic impact reports, providing insights into how each production benefits our communities. Progress on the location directory involves sharing images of unique locations with councils and NZFC to attract productions. Engaging with council staff aims to improve support for film logistics, permitting, traffic management and advancing our goal of becoming a more 'film-friendly' region.

6 Key achievements in the past year

Significant achievements have been made in bringing filming into the Waikato.

Notably and publicly, the Netflix production *Beyond Goodbye* was filmed in Raglan. The Waikato hosted a crew of 130 that resided in both Raglan and Hamilton.

Estimated economic spend included:

- 50 crew stayed 7 days in Hamilton (2 rest-days) (\$50,500)
- Estimated Rest Day spend (\$15,000)
- 80-person accommodation in the Raglan and surrounding area (\$120,000)
- Crew Tabs at local coffee shops (\$1,000)
- 5 locations rented for filming (\$10,000)
- Beach Buggy transportation and drivers (\$5,000)
- Parking - unit base sites x 3 rented from Raglan Club, Raglan Rugby Club and the Kokore (on iwi land) & multiple personal driveways (\$20,000)
- Local security company hired to employ security approx. (\$20,000)
- Approx 90 locals employed, including extras, production assistants (\$30,000), beach drivers and security (as above)
- Donations made to surf lifesaving (\$2,000)
- Catering and craft services purchased locally (\$30,000)
- Koha was provided for powhiri and lunch from Poihakena Marae (\$5,000)
- Crew per diems spent locally (\$16,000)
- Estimated total \$324,500

The importance of having a film office.

A film office facilitates crucial connections for productions, including business engagement, council contacts, traffic management and securing unique locations. These connections lead to economic opportunities for local businesses, employment, and cultural engagement, ultimately enhancing the region's appeal for filming.

Our dedication and connections have created greater a direct impact on the economy and culture.

Recent outcomes were measured and increased in these areas: Extended number of filming days | Increased employment of local industry crew | Increased local service providers | Connected with local iwi, Hapu engagement with the productions | Additional nights of crew of accommodation booked | Local background talent from our communities | Used local catering services | The local Maraes were involved | Booked local Traffic Management companies & Security. This was directly because of Waikato Screen's showcase & facilitators' involvement in building connections and providing resources by establishing a relationship with the productions.

Key business achievements are:

- . Secured stakeholder support and commenced implementation of key initiatives under strong management team leadership
- . Sponsorship of the Aotearoa Mental Health Film Festival and supported youth film-maker school holiday programme
- . Held Key Industry Think Tank workshop for networking connections & building a strong film region
- . Hosted the Raglan Film course to foster local talent development
- . Established comprehensive local Crew and Business service provider directories
- . Initiated an iwi engagement plan to start the film-based process for cultural collaboration
- . Strengthened industry connections through engagement with Regional Film Offices and attendance at National Industry event
- . Expanded 'social media following' across leading platforms to enhance outreach
- . Received increased production inquiries, indicating growing industry interest
- . Formalised operational structure to streamline organisational processes
- . Planned workshops for youth and industry professionals in 2024 to promote skill development
- . Commenced Building up a regional image gallery to showcase filming opportunities in the Waikato region
- . Confirmation of 'The Gone' for Series Two, after great success in both NZ and Ireland

7 Key challenges and risks

Key risks and challenges for Waikato Screen:

- . Limited economic impact data access
- . Long-term funding uncertainty
- . Regulatory hurdles and permitting complexities
- . Competition from other regions
- . Talent retention and development
- . Environmental sustainability concerns
- . Uncertainty in international markets

Most of these risks and challenges were assessed in our initial Business Plan (included in our Grow Waikato Screen Master Plan). Moving forward if required, strategic planning and collaboration with stakeholders will mitigate ongoing efforts to help adapt to changing market dynamics while advocating for the importance of the screen industry for local economy and community development.

8 Conclusion & recommendations

Our management prioritises industry growth through education, upskilling, and partnerships, fostering a thriving local community for professionals. Film production offers job opportunities and boosts local businesses, contributing significantly to our economy. With dedicated leadership and sustained funding, we aim to increase our film industry's contribution to align with Waikato's GDP, positioning us as a premier film destination. Continued government and council support are essential for our long-term success in propelling the Waikato region forward in the film industry.

As we continue to showcase New Zealand on the global stage, securing ongoing government and council support through the Long-Term Plan (LTP) is paramount. With this support, we're confident in our ability to propel the Waikato region to the forefront of the film industry, ensuring sustained growth and prosperity for years to come.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7770
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

With the economic climate being so tough at the moment for people, good management would move to cut costs and overheads. This would mean getting back to basics. Repairs and maintenance, no new projects. We need to reinstate Tanlaw to maintain all the council infrastructure getting rid of them was very short sighted of the council of the day. I think it is time for a new CEO he has been in the job far too long. This job should be turned over at least every 5-7 years. We need new management with good business expertise.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?**

Most businesses and even the government is cutting costs and staff to save money. I think it is time for new management and direction you can not just keep increasing rates when there is very little value in the money we are paying. Take rubbish we pay rates and have to pay to put rubbish out it is a joke

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here**REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Everything that is not a core service. The reading infrastructure is a mess but we are eating money on play grounds.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7771
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

I have read through and as long as what is selected is for the benefit of the community I am happy. My only comment is that as a council that you be fully understanding of the consequences these fees will put on some families, and doing everything in your powers to make sure that those who struggle are supported and not put into further debt by fines. Hopefully research has been done to see how much people not being able to pay rates affects the budget and if having a lower amount with more people paying is better.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Keep the things that are important and necessary.

Keep the needs limit the wants.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7772
Name:	Jane Apperley
Organisation:	Waikato Regional Council
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Introduction

1. Waikato Regional Council (WRC) appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on Waikato District Council's 2024-2034 draft Annual Plan.

Regional connections and opportunities for synergies

1. WRC would like to acknowledge the close and collegial working relationship shared between our two councils. Significant growth pressures in the Future Proof subregion, and a changing climate, are necessitating greater collaboration in how we allocate our resources to optimise the wellbeing of our communities. As we respond to these challenges and changes, we look forward to exploring further opportunities for synergies to improve outcomes for our region.

2. Through our 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, WRC has made a commitment to investing in the future of spatial planning for the region. We encourage Waikato District Council to consider making resources available to collaborate on this important work, which will lead us to a strategic approach to planning and ensure that development is sustainable, balanced and meets the needs of our communities.

Waikato Biodiversity Accord

3. Waikato Regional Council is progressing a Waikato Biodiversity Accord and regional biodiversity strategy to respond to the need to address biodiversity loss in the region. These are goals in the council's Strategic Direction. The regional biodiversity strategy is also a statutory requirement under the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

4. The Waikato Biodiversity Accord is the first step in developing the strategy. It is intended to be a high-level agreement between regional council, iwi, territorial authorities, Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries, and QEII National Trust.

5. Signing the Waikato Biodiversity Accord signals a commitment to work together to develop and implement a regional biodiversity strategy. The strategy will set out a vision for landscape-scale restoration of biodiversity and it will contain actions to enhance and restore biodiversity in the region but at this stage we don't yet know what those actions will be. Developing a strategy together includes having discussions about the costs and constraints surrounding those actions.

6. We note that regional council staff were involved in the Waikato District Council's preparation of the Taiao in the Waikato district biodiversity strategy, adopted in 2023. This has provided an excellent opportunity to share information on the biodiversity of the district and the region and to align the biodiversity priorities of both councils.

7. WRC would like a commitment from territorial authorities and other partners to devote some staff time over the next couple of years to help develop the regional biodiversity strategy. It may involve attendance at workshops/hui, providing ideas and options and/or reviewing draft content for the strategy. However, this will be tailored to the stakeholder and their capacity to engage.

8. Agreed actions can then be costed as part of the engagement process and brought into the next long term/annual plan rounds beginning in 2027. This will be an important step to implement the strategy.

9. Once the strategy is finalised, the Accord will be the basis for facilitating regular communications and meetings between the signatory parties to monitor and demonstrate progress with the strategy actions.

10. To date, the council has held two workshops to develop the content of the Accord. Senior planning staff from Waikato District Council have participated in these workshops. A draft Accord has been prepared and this will be finalised by June 2024 following further feedback. The accord will then be ready for signing by the Accord parties.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7773
Name:	Kirstie Alley
Organisation:	Gordonton Woodlands Trust
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

The Gordonton Woodlands Trust opposes the proposed funding decrease for Hamilton Waikato Tourism.

Tourism is a vital economic driver for our region, and a strong tourism body benefits the entire Waikato District.

Reduced funding for tourism promotion risks diminishing the economic benefits felt by communities like ours throughout the district.

Additionally, the Trust supports the Waikato District Council's commitment to "identifying and protecting heritage values across the district".

This aligns directly with WDC's core community outcome focused on preserving our cultural assets.

Heritage sites like Woodlands Estate are key drivers of tourism and contribute to the vibrant cultural landscape of the Waikato region.

The Trustees

Gordonton Woodlands Trust

42 Whitikahu Road, RD 1, Taupiri

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7774
Name:	Maggie Wilcock
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

Current levels of service cannot be met by the income generated solely by the number of rate payers. Properties currently having exemption from rates should be re-examined. Exemption from taxes should be sufficient; as everyone uses council roads, lights etc. Many rate payers contribute to items/amenities that they do not use or have.

Government input needs to be higher especially for unfunded mandates. Basic infra-structure has been Council's core business which government has eroded by imposing high levels of social wellbeing as more important.

This wellbeing is only achievable if core infra-structure is in place.

Water, Wastewater & Storm-water key focus. All need greater government contribution or the introduction of alternative methods of revenue raising.

Due consideration is required for in-fill housing and storm-water impact; composting toilets [especially parks & reserves as they have in Australia].

When costs outweigh rating income all other amenities need to be prioritised; delayed or provided at more affordable levels.

At present the user's perspective of levels of service far exceed what the council can provide.

Council should not be responsible for providing everything that their rate payers desire.

Strategic priorities [p.10 in booklet] are not given an order of priority, why? Neither are the 'areas' clear as to what it is council are focusing on and for whom.

Core services and council responsiveness should be priority for investment. Connectivity & sustainable growth next with the last very low on essential funding list until economic circumstances change.

Governance [p.11 in booklet] mentions a new community board for Port Waikato. Why is this not a community committee? When the Tamahere Community Committee was formed we were told that council did not want any more boards, what has changed? Is funding from a targeted rate for all boards.

Does council want existing committees to now become boards? Also mentioned is a strategic advisor for Maaori. Why is this necessary when council has an excellent existing methodology of dealing with all such matters?

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?**

Fees & Charges [p.19 in booklet] mentions 'user pays' versus 'general rate'. The balance often seems awry and public transport seems to fall into a grey area. This will become important to rate payers if Regional Council takes over all revenue gathering.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

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Animal Control: 8 General Wards & 2 Maaori Wards; a total of 10. Education visits need only be one hundred year, 10 for each Ward

Rubbish & Recycling: As 2 separate vehicles pick up might it feasible to have rubbish collection weekly [important in the summer] and recycling fortnightly.

Playgrounds & Parks: Renewal/enhancement to reflect a standard to match budget and only to proceed at present if totally necessary. Sports groups or Lions could fund raise to assist with lighting costs. All such projects to be a lower priority than core infra-structure.

Community Hubs [Libraries?]: Public expectation, fit-out and building and/or alteration cost of project need to be balanced against the available budget. Does not need to be 'Rolls Royce'.

Traffic Management: Current traffic management put in place is not relative to the level of risk. This includes but is not limited to; number of vehicles, cones, staff and distance to hazard.

Futureproof: As the area already has a Regional Council and Local Councils another administrative body should not be necessary.

Land History Investigation: On hold for 3 years as SNAs to get the new government and Local Government review properly in situ.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7775
Name:	Mark Brougham
Organisation:	Hamilton City Council
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

See attached

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?



Hamilton City Council Submission

**Waikato District Council's
2024/25 Draft Annual Plan
(Consultation Document)**

Waikato District Council

26 April 2024



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

Improving the Wellbeing of Hamiltonians

Hamilton City Council is focused on improving the wellbeing of Hamiltonians through delivering to our five priorities of shaping:

- **A city that's easy to live in**
- **A city where our people thrive**
- **A central city where our people love to be**
- **A fun city with lots to do**
- **A green city**

The topic of this Council submission is aligned to all of Hamilton City Council's five priorities.

Council Approval and Reference

This Council submission was approved under delegated authority by members of the Waikato District Council and Waipā District Council/Hamilton City Council Governance Group on 26 April 2024.

Submission # 762.

Introduction

1. Hamilton City Council welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to **Waikato District Council's 2024/25 Draft Annual Plan (Consultation Document)**.
2. Hamilton City Council supports the direction of Waikato District Council's 2024/25 Draft Annual Plan, recognising the significant financial constraints that are impacting local government across the country and the ongoing uncertainty regarding new waters legislation.
3. Along with many other councils throughout New Zealand, Hamilton City Council is facing significant rates rises across the forthcoming years to continue to provide existing levels of service, without considering additional investment to keep pace with projected growth.
4. As these affordability issues are impacting all of local government, ongoing collaboration between our two councils, looking at further opportunities for shared services and efficiencies, and innovative solutions for three waters will become increasingly more important.
5. We look forward to continuing to work closely through our governance and staff relationships as we navigate the challenges ahead.

Collaborative Investment Priorities

6. Through Future Proof, a number of sub-regional priorities have been identified and agreed to by the partners, including strategic infrastructure projects such as the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Pukete Wastewater Treatment Plant, and other wastewater upgrades.
7. We look forward to continuing discussions in line with the Detailed Business Case on the funding models for how Waikato communities connect to these facilities in the future.

Three Waters

8. We recognise that Watercare has given notice that it will cease its contract with Waikato District Council in 2026, which requires a new approach to delivering waters services.
9. We note that Waikato District Council and Hamilton City Council have commenced due diligence, and we look forward to working together as we jointly explore water delivery options.
10. It is likely we will need to seek external advice and resource that both our councils will need to address as we move at pace to meet the Government's requirement for a Water Delivery Plan by 30 June 2025.

Opportunities for Operational Efficiencies

11. Noting the significant funding challenges that local government is facing, Hamilton City Council seeks to continue to work closely with neighbouring councils on opportunities for shared services that may provide cost savings for ratepayers.
12. We have a number of successful cross-boundary arrangements in place for existing services, and we look forward to future discussions on these and other collaborative opportunities.

Further Information and Hearings

13. Should Waikato District Council require clarification of the submission from Hamilton City Council, or additional information, please contact **Hannah Windle** (Special Projects Manager - Strategy, Growth and Planning Group) on **027 1800 2316** or email hannah.windle@hcc.govt.nz in the first instance.

14. Hamilton City Council representatives welcome the opportunity to have ongoing discussions around the content of this submission with Waikato District Council.
15. Hamilton City Council representatives **do not wish to speak** at the hearings that are scheduled to commence on 14 May 2024.

Yours faithfully



Lance Vervoort
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Hamilton City Council
Garden Place, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton

 /HamiltonCityCouncil

 @hamiltoncitycouncil

 07 838 6699

hamilton.govt.nz

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7776
Name:	Chris Woolerton & Susan Woolerton
Organisation:	Waikato Federated Farmers
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

See attached

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

SUBMISSION

TELEPHONE 0800 327 646 | WEBSITE WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ



To: Waikato District Council
consult@waidc.govt.nz

Submission on: **Draft 2024/25 Annual Plan**

Date: 26th April 2024

Submission by: **WAIKATO FEDERATED FARMERS**
Chris Woolerton
WAIKATO DISTRICT PROVINCIAL LEAD
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
Ph 027 494 2890
E ctsjwoolerton@gmail.com

Susan Woolerton
WAIKATO DISTRICT PROVINCIAL LEAD
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
Ph 027 271 5152
E sjwoolerton@icloud.com

Address for service: **Nigel Billings**
Senior Local Government Specialist
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
Ph 027 803 0849
E nbillings@fedfarm.org.nz

**SUBMISSION TO WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL
DRAFT 2024/25 ANNUAL PLAN**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Waikato Federated Farmers (WFF) welcomes the opportunity to submit to Waikato District Council (WDC) on its *Draft 2024/25 Annual Plan*.
- 1.2 WFF submits on Annual Plans (**APs**) and Long-term Plans (**LTPs**) throughout New Zealand and make constructive proposals whenever the opportunity is provided.
- 1.3 WFF also submit on central government policies that affect local government revenue and spending, with the aim of ensuring that local government has the appropriate resources to carry out their functions.
- 1.4 WFF base our arguments on the considerable cost of rates to farm businesses, in terms of the value and relative accessibility of farmers to ratepayer funded services, the rates levels on farms compared to other residents and businesses, and the failure of property value to reflect the incomes of farmers and their relative ability to pay.
- 1.5 WFF's feedback represents the views ~440 farming members and rate payers from the Waikato District. We gently remind Waikato District Council of this so that our members' views, expressed here, are weighed appropriately.
- 1.6 Federated Farmers is focused on the transparency of rate setting, rates equity and both the overall and relative cost of local government on rural ratepayers.
- 1.7 WFF is conscious that there may be significant 'consultation fatigue' out in the community, following the 18 months' worth of significant central government proposals.
- 1.8 Our members do not want their busy silence to be misconstrued as disinterest in the proposed changes. Given the challenging regulatory and economic environment we are currently in, we acknowledge this may result in a low response rate to the consultation process.
- 1.9 We acknowledge any submissions from individual members of Federated Farmers.
- 1.10 **WFF requests the opportunity to discuss this submission with the Council during the hearing process.**

2. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC finds further cost savings to lower the proposed rate increase of 13.75% for the 2024/2025 year, and focus on helping ratepayers make it through current financial difficulties due to inflation.**
- 2.2 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC should review all its proposed capital projects to ensure they are appropriate, prioritised and timed to maximise their benefits and costs.**

- 2.3 Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC focuses on the “must haves”, key core essentials not the “should haves” or “nice to haves” in this proposed 2024/2025 annual plan.
- 2.4 Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC should fully utilise the UAGC mechanism at 30% of the total rates income, to provide equity between ratepayers.
- 2.5 Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC actively promotes the rates rebates scheme and actively encourages ratepayers to apply.
- 2.6 Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC continue with the current level of renewals of local roading as an absolute minimum level of service this annual year and into the future, as local roads are the lifeline for the farm community, district at large, and its economy.
- 2.7 Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC stop budgeting for new walking and cycling connections.
- 2.8 Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC continues to resource an in-house enterprise project management office to oversee the delivery of capital roading projects and to include maintenance and renewals.
- 2.9 Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC does not adopt Waikato Regional Council’s public transport funding proposal.
- 2.10 Recommendation: WFF recommends that the proposed general rate subsidy of the Huntly water upgrades is not adopted as proposed.
- 2.11 Recommendation: WFF recommends that water and wastewater services continue to be a targeted rate charged as a past-the-gate cost for this annual year and into the future.
- 2.12 Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC only budget for the removal and disposal of Waikato District Council-owned old, condemned or erosion-affected buildings.
- 2.13 Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC remove all funding to Hamilton Waikato Tourism.
- 2.14 Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC remove all funding it provides to Te Waka.
- 2.15 Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC continues funding existing budgets for the Rural Economic Advisory Panel, community boards, and other community committees.
- 2.16 Recommendation: WFF recommends the inclusion of additional key performance indicators for response times for service requests and timeframes.
- 2.17 Recommendation: WFF recommends WDC continues working with communities to plan and respond to climate change, coastal erosion and increased flooding from severe weather events.

- 2.18 Recommendations:** WFF recommends that the Development Charges proposed in the annual plan for 2024/25 incorporate inflation and be reflective of the increased levels of service and infrastructure required for new developments.
- 2.19 Recommendation:** WFF recommends that WDC adopt the proposed reduced charge for overweight permits, and the reduced penalty for non-notification of corridor maintenance.
- 2.20 Recommendation:** WFF recommends that WDC adopt the proposed maximum fee increases for motor rallies road usage.
- 2.21 Recommendation:** WFF recommends that WDC should provide a discount for working dog registration fees for subsequent dogs which are additional to the first working dog.
- 2.22 Recommendation:** WFF recommends that WDC introduces a flat fee to provide a discount for teams of 10 working dogs.
- 2.23 Recommendation:** WFF recommends that WDC should include a rates remission policy to provide relief from the UAGC and targeted rates for non-contiguous land which is farmed as a single entity.
- 2.24 Recommendation:** WFF recommends that WDC includes a remission of rates for properties that have been affected by 'natural disasters', which includes 'declared droughts' and any 'large scale adverse event'.

3. GENERAL COMMENTS

General Rates

- 3.1** Waikato Federated Farmers would like to commend WDC on the preparation and presentation of the Annual Plan 2024/25 Consultation Document.
- 3.2** WFF is also aware of government demands and economic pressures that have created serious affordability issues. We commend WDC's approach to making cost savings and focusing on keeping services ticking over.
- 3.3** WFF urges caution with continuing to complete pre-planned projects in the 2024/25 year when WDC indicated it was pausing and waiting upon further certainty with government legislation and Waka Kotahi funding.
- 3.4** WFF advises that some areas of the primary sector are facing difficult economic times, with farm profit forecasted to decrease an estimated 31 per cent for 2023-24, following a 32 per cent decline

in the previous season. Additionally, many households across the district are facing significant financial pressure as inflation increases the cost of living.

- 3.5 WFF requests that WDC find further cost savings to lower the proposed rate increase of 13.75% for the 2024/2025 year, and must focus on helping ratepayers make it through current financial difficulties.
- 3.6 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC finds further cost savings to lower the proposed rate increase of 13.75% for the 2024/2025 year, and focus on helping ratepayers make it through current financial difficulties due to inflation.**

Approach to Debt:

- 3.7 WFF realises that increased government regulation, growth in the district and the current economic conditions are causing affordability issues for WDC and all national councils.
- 3.8 WFF is concerned with the proposed high increase of debt by WDC. While WFF understands that this is still within WDCs debt cap, a proposed 50% increase in the level of debt within a single financial year seems unsustainable.
- 3.9 WFF strongly urges WDC to review all its proposed capital projects to ensure they are appropriate, prioritised and timed to maximise their benefits and costs
- 3.10 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC should review all its proposed capital projects to ensure they are appropriate, prioritised and timed to maximise their benefits and costs.**
- 3.11 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC focuses on the “must haves”, key core essentials not the “should haves” or “nice to haves” in this proposed 2024/2025 annual plan.**

Uniform Annual General Charge

- 3.12 WFF strongly believes that WDC should fully utilise the UAGC mechanism at 30% of the total rates income, to provide equity for all ratepayers.
- 3.13 Low UAGCs are often employed “*to reduce the extremes of rates paid for the highest and lowest valued properties*”. This shifts a large – often unsustainable – portion of rates onto rural properties. The majority of Council expenditure benefits the whole district, this should be reflected in the base level of rates contributed by all ratepayers.
- 3.14 WFF does not accept the simplistic assumption that a property’s value correlates to income or ability to pay. Central government has better information through the income tax system and is best placed to respond through its social support mechanisms. The Government’s Rates Rebate Scheme is targeted specifically to provide rates relief to low-income ratepayers. We would support council to promote this scheme and actively encourage ratepayers to apply.

- 3.15 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC should fully utilise the UAGC mechanism at 30% of the total rates income, to provide equity between ratepayers.**
- 3.16 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC actively promotes the rates rebates scheme and actively encourages ratepayers to apply.**

4. COMMENTS ON KEY ISSUES:

Roading Network:

- 4.1 WDC commends the WDC on introducing an in-house enterprise project management office to support the delivery of capital roading projects. This will ensure greater accountability and transparency with contract providers and their delivery.
- 4.2 The district's local roads are the lifeline of the farming community. They are the predominant benefit farmers receive from the council's service provisions. By our calculations, roads cost our farming families thousands of dollars each year in rates.
- 4.3 While we appreciate the challenges of inflation in maintenance and renewal costs, the present condition of many rural roads is inexcusable given the money received from rural ratepayers.
- 4.4 In fact, we could be more supportive of rate increases overall if we could trust that the council would focus that increased revenue on core infrastructure needs. Spending on community hubs, cycle trails, footpaths that are not for safety reasons, and feel-good initiatives, are not affordable at this time when core essentials are lacking in improvement.
- 4.5 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC continue with the current level of renewals of local roading as an absolute minimum level of service this annual year and into the future, as local roads are the lifeline for the farm community, district at large, and its economy.**
- 4.6 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC stop budgeting for new walking and cycling connections.**
- 4.7 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC continues to resource an in-house enterprise project management office to oversee the delivery of capital roading projects and to include maintenance and renewals.**

Public Transport Funding Proposal:

- 4.8 WFF strongly disagrees with the proposed Public Transport funding proposal by Waikato Regional Council. WFF strongly agrees with continuing the charge of a general capped rate per property.
- 4.9 The rural community is relatively self-sufficient and should not be charged more for a service they are not likely to use.

- 4.10 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC does not adopt Waikato Regional Council's public transport funding proposal.**

General Rates Subsidy of Water and Wastewater Costs:

- 4.11 Most farmers are not on the council drinking network and are not connected to the council-provided wastewater services. We privately pay for these services through rural drinking water supply schemes charged at cost, small on-farm schemes, and septic tanks.
- 4.12 WFF is concerned that the proposed general rate subsidy of urban water, as indicated on page 17 with Huntly improvements, means that farmers will be reducing the cost for households connected to council networks, in addition to paying for their own services.
- 4.13 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that the proposed general rate subsidy of the Huntly water upgrades is not adopted as proposed.**
- 4.14 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that water and wastewater services continue to be a targeted rate charged to ratepayers as a past-the-gate cost for this annual year and into the future.**

5. COMMENTS ON FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:

This section of the submission comments on the issues raised throughout the remainder of the consultation document.

- 5.1 WFF supports WDC's proposal to increase funding for the CCTV installation partnership, and strongly supports district-wide distribution of CCTV's to assist the rural communities with crime and damage, particularly to roading from "boy racers" and their associated crowds.
- 5.2 WFF requests that WDC only budget for the removal and disposal of Waikato District Council owned old, condemned or erosion-affected buildings.
- 5.3 WFF supports in part WDC's proposal to reduce funding to Hamilton Waikato Tourism, but requests that WDC consider removing this funding in its entirety.
- 5.4 WFF supports WDC's proposal to remove all the funding it provides to Te Waka.
- 5.5 WFF supports WDC's proposal to continue funding the Rural Economic Advisory Panel, community boards and other community committees.
- 5.6 WFF supports WDC's proposal for the inclusion of additional key performance indicators for response times for service requests and timeframes.

- 5.7 WFF supports WDC's proposal to continue working with communities to plan and respond to climate change, coastal erosion, and increased flooding from severe weather events.
- 5.8 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC only budget for the removal and disposal of Waikato District Council-owned old, condemned or erosion-affected buildings.**
- 5.9 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC remove all funding to Hamilton Waikato Tourism.**
- 5.10 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC remove all funding it provides to Te Waka.**
- 5.11 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC continues funding existing budgets for the Rural Economic Advisory Panel, community boards, and other community committees.**
- 5.12 **Recommendation: WFF recommends the inclusion of additional key performance indicators for response times for service requests and timeframes.**
- 5.13 **Recommendation: WFF recommends WDC continues working with communities to plan and respond to climate change, coastal erosion and increased flooding from severe weather events.**

Development Contribution Charges

- 5.14 WFF understands that the purpose of the development contribution provisions in the Local Government 2002 *"is for territorial authorities to recover from developers a fair, equitable and proportionate portion of the total cost of capital expenditure necessary to service growth over the long term"*.
- 5.15 WFF strongly disagrees with the proposed Development Charges holding and/or decreasing for 2024/25 annual year when ratepayers are expected to accept a proposed rate increase for the year.
- 5.16 WFF would like to ask the council why it used the LTP 2021-31 development contributions to calculate the comparative increases/decreases to the proposed charges, rather than the charges from the 2023/24 annual plan which would have allowed for a more transparent and accurate result for the proposed changes.
- 5.17 **Recommendations: WFF recommends that the Development Charges proposed in the annual plan for 2024/25 incorporate inflation and be reflective of the increased levels of service and infrastructure required for new developments.**

6. COMMENTS ON SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES

This section of the submission comments on the issues in the Schedule of Fees and Charges document.

- 6.1 WFF commends WDC on adopting a user pay system ethos in its rating models.

Roading:

- 6.2 WFF supports the reduced charge for overweight permits, and the reduced penalty for non-notification of corridor maintenance.
- 6.3 WFF supports the proposed increase to the maximum fee for motor rallies.

Dog Fees

- 6.4 WFF are pleased to see that fees for rural and working dogs are less than general dogs. However, the \$54 fee per working dog is still too expensive once you consider that many farmers need multiple dogs on a property.
- 6.5 WFF suggests that a lower fee structure could be introduced for subsequent rural dogs which are additional to the first working dog. There are 20 other Councils that have this reduced fee structure.
- 6.6 WFF believes that a flat fee for teams of 10 working dogs should be introduced. On rural properties teams of multiple dogs are often needed for farm productivity and high dog registration fees can create a financial barrier for many dog owners.
- 6.7 WFF asks the Council what percentage of animal control costs originate from rural dogs, compared to urban dogs. Farmers value and manage dogs well, with their dogs well-trained and contained on the property.
- 6.8 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC adopt the proposed reduced charge for overweight permits, and the reduced penalty for non-notification of corridor maintenance.**
- 6.9 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC adopt the proposed maximum fee increases for motor rallies road usage.**
- 6.10 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC should provide a discount for working dog registration fees for subsequent dogs which are additional to the first working dog.**
- 6.11 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC introduces a flat fee to provide a discount for teams of 10 working dogs.**

7. COMMENTS ON THE RATES REMISSION POLICY CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:

This section of the submission comments on the issues related in the Rates Remission Policy Document:

Existing Rates remissions

- 7.1 WFF commends WDC on the inclusion of rates remissions for land protected for Land Protected for Historical or Cultural Conservation Purposes or Land Protected for Natural Conservation Purposes Policy.

Policy on Remission of Uniform Charges and Targeted Rates on Non-Contiguous Rating Units

- 7.2 WFF suggests that WDC should include a rates remission policy for non-contiguous rating units farmed as a single entity, to ensure relief from the UAGC and targeted rates, similar to South Waikato District Council.

Rates remission for natural disasters, declared droughts and large scale adverse events

- 7.3 WFF would like to suggest that WDC include a 'Rates remission for natural disasters, declared droughts and large-scale adverse events' which would provide relief to properties affected by natural disasters. This would offer a mechanism to be utilised by central government, council and affected ratepayers should any of these events occur.
- 7.4 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC should include a rates remission policy to provide relief from the UAGC and targeted rates for non-contiguous land which is farmed as a single entity.**
- 7.5 **Recommendation: WFF recommends that WDC includes a remission of rates for properties that have been affected by 'natural disasters', which includes 'declared droughts' and any 'large scale adverse event'.**

Waikato Federated Farmers thanks Waikato District Council for considering our submission.

Federated Farmers is a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents the majority of farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers.



The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities.

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7777
Name:	Jeremy Mayall
Organisation:	Creative Waikato
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

See attached submission

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

See attached submission

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

See attached submission

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Submission by: Creative Waikato

This submission is made in response to Waikato District Council's Enhanced Annual Plan 2024-25.

1. Council's activities

- Creative Waikato would firstly like to thank Waikato District Council for the work it does. We appreciate that it is complicated and challenging having to balance so many competing priorities. We acknowledge the time and energy that goes into these processes.
- Creative Waikato supports Waikato District Council's Vision **'Liveable, Thriving and Connected Communities | He noohanga aahuru, he iwi whai ora, he hāpori tuuhono tahi'**
- Creative Waikato also supports Council's community outcomes and strategic priorities and has aligned outcomes with focus areas in the Waikato Arts Navigator - our regional arts strategy - see point 10.
- In addition to this submission, Creative Waikato has also provided an LTP Councillor briefing and updated high-level infrastructure plan for your consideration. We outline these briefly in this submission.
- Creative Waikato is keen to ensure Council consults and engages with Creative Waikato as a key strategic partner that focuses on capability building in the arts, culture and creative ecosystem of Waikato.

2. Summary of Feedback in connection to Art, Culture and Creativity

Creative Waikato has identified the following opportunities for Council to consider when finalising the 2024/2025 Enhanced Annual Plan:

Council's Draft Capital Works programme 2024/25

Services, projects and activities

Governance

- Creative Waikato acknowledges that since the 2021-31 Long Term Plan, Council has established an additional Community Board for Port Waikato and the surrounding area. Creative Waikato has connected with members of the 'Art at the Port' group in previous years, and it is wonderful that it has kept active since being established in 2008.

Increased investment for ongoing work with Waikato Tainui and Mana Whenua

- Creative Waikato supports increases in investment planned for ongoing work with Waikato Tainui and Mana Whenua as part of the Council's Joint Management Agreement commitments and alignment with Te Tiriti o Waitangi's principles for a land history and investigation.
- Creative Waikato also acknowledges that since the 2021-31 Long Term Plan, there has been the introduction of a strategic advisor to focus specifically on Māori strategies and hapuu and iwi management plans in areas where resources are scarce. This new role ensures meaningful support for the District's Māori communities.

- Aligning this kaupapa is essential when considering regional strategic activation of arts, culture and creativity.
- Waikato District Council's approach aligns with Creative Waikato's regional arts strategy, the 'Waikato Arts Navigator', which provides principles to ensure a Te Ao Maaori lens is provided through the range of activities taking place, particularly in spaces and venues.
- As Council would acknowledge, an integrative approach requires consistent and sustained effort, with open and continual communication to move in the right direction, and the results will be hugely rewarding for all.

Additional resources for Council's community halls portfolio

- Creative Waikato supports additional resources to manage Council's community halls portfolio.
- Community halls provide places for social interaction and connection. They are the social hubs of communities.
- Creative Waikato acknowledges that there has been no change for fees and charges for halls, as well as open spaces for the 2024/25 year.

Capital expenditure changes for 2024/25

Greenslade Road playground and upgrade of the Buckland Road sports field and playground

- Creative Waikato supports the prioritisation of playgrounds.
- Including art within playgrounds i.e., incorporating local history or other elements that represent the community, not only provides an interactive and engaging experience for users, but also provides opportunities to tell local stories.

A feasibility study for the Ngaaruawaahia Library to explore a new community hub

- Creative Waikato supports a feasibility study to explore a new community hub.
- Community hubs are a logical and most effective way of investing and delivering robust community facilities and services.
- Often hubs are centred around libraries. They are a key vehicle through which Councils can support the social, cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing of their diverse communities. It's important to consider community spaces as well as involving artists in the design of the hub itself to reflect the uniqueness of the Ngaaruawaahia community.

3. Economic development, grants and donations

Hamilton Waikato Tourism

- Creative Waikato asks council to reconsider the proposed funding reduction for Hamilton Waikato Tourism, in recognition of the contribution towards the sustainability of creative organisations who deliver events and tourism outcomes, as well as contributions to national audience engagement for local creative activity.

4. Draft development contributions charges

- Creative Waikato supports development contributions for community facilities, as these are important social hubs for people and groups to gather, share and join in activities.
- Community facilities are also important for artists and creatives to gather, make work and connect with their community.

5. Draft Fees and charges schedule

- Creative Waikato acknowledges that Waikato District Council has removed some fees (DVDs borrowed from libraries) and kept fees the same for community facilities (community halls and meeting rooms) as well as open spaces for the 2024-25 year (as stated above).

6. Waikato District Council's 'Heritage Day'

- Creative Waikato acknowledges Waikato District held its first Heritage Day, on Saturday, 20th April this year. It is important to celebrate the stories and history of local communities. Creative Waikato also acknowledges that Waikato District Council has a Heritage Strategy, which sets out important roles and responsibilities of respective parties.
- Creative Waikato also acknowledges that this strategy makes provision for cultural heritage, which recognises the importance of the Kiingitanga movement.

7. Strategic initiatives

Creative Waikato has led key strategic initiatives which have contributed to long-term impact in the areas of arts, culture and creativity in the Waikato Region. These initiatives include:

- **Waikato Arts Navigator 2023** - A shared framework, including a vision and strategy, for supporting and strengthening our arts and culture in the region. It guides planning and decision making.
- **Performing Arts Strategy 2023** - A strategy informed by the performing arts sector which builds on the strengths of local performing arts activity and connects with the new Waikato Regional Theatre.
- **Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan 2024** - A high-level update on the Waikato Creative Infrastructure report originally prepared in 2014.
- **Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in the Waikato 2022** - Social impact reports that assess the impact of arts, culture and creativity on the people of the Waikato region.

Additional Strategic Outcomes: Maintaining relationships with Creative New Zealand, Ministry of Culture and Heritage, NZ Music Commission, Regional Arts Network Aotearoa, and Te Ora Auaha to support positive outcomes through funding and support for Waikato artists.

8. **Creative Waikato mahi in the Waikato District**

In addition to the above strategic initiatives, Creative Waikato has provided significant capability building support in the Waikato district, which has included a range of targeted offerings. Examples of the programmes we have provided are:

- **Elevate** - A funded e-learning programme to provide creatives with resources and tools to build sustainable creative careers
- **Creativity Every Day** - A first-of-its-kind innovative programme designed to bring creativity into daily routine at work or at home. Delivered to many businesses and organisations.
- **ArtReach** - A community-focused creative development workshop series. Presented in an e-learning video format to ensure accessibility, used as an example of good practice nationally. Workshops include: Governance, Strategic Planning, Evaluation, Impact and Insights and more.
- **Things to do** - A community guide to creative events in the Waikato region.
- **Kotahitanga** - A movement and campaign to combat racism and bring the community together through the accessible power of creativity.
- **Creative Acts of Kindness** - A project which commissioned local artists to celebrate kindness using their arts practice.
- **Whiria te Tāngata** - is the first programme of its kind in Aotearoa that served to champion positive community connection and wellbeing by weaving communities together through creative practice as well as modelling the national call for the artist wage. More on this specific programme below.

Creative Waikato has also undertaken work with Waikato District Council and their communities. Some examples are below:

Engagement with Waikato district - some examples

- Developed a **Waikato District profile of arts activity** for the District.
- Facilitated workshops with the 'Art Huntly' group to develop Huntly Arts' Strategy Plan.
- Sasha McGaughran, Huntly resident, selected as 1 of 10 participants of the first artist-in-residency programme, 'Whiria te Tāngata' (Weave the People Together), which ran for 12 months. Initial results indicate that this programme has been a huge success. Key high-level findings include:
 - **Whiria te Tāngata (WTT)**¹ effectively delivered on its impact goals, building more connected, cohesive and culturally-rich communities.
 - WTT supported mental wellness outside the mental health system.
 - WTT respondents reported more positive satisfaction with life.
 - Change occurring where it mattered most for artists' wellbeing.
 - Waikato is calling for "more of the same" of WTT: Whole-person programmes which are accessible during financial hardship.
- Providing advice and support to groups such as Toi Ako Te Kauwhata, Huntly Friendship House and Onewhero Society of Performing Arts.

¹ Whiria te Tāngata Social Impact Draft Report 2024 - 'Key Findings' p, 13.

- Participated in the inaugural ‘North Waikato Community Day Event’ where we connected with local groups, schools and providers to discuss what we do.
- Creative Waikato’s Kaiwhakahaere i nga Mahi Toi/Regional Māori Arts Developer – Kereama Clarke, currently sits on the **Waikato District Council Māori Advisory Committee**.
- Kereama has worked with many individuals and groups involved in the Toi Māori space.
 - Work with **Te Whare Toi o Ngaaruawaahia (NGĀ Art)** in making initial connections with groups such as Son of Zion, Pohakena Reid, Katchafire and House of Shem regarding potential for working with this organisation. As these artists have left the country, the work with this arts centre is ongoing.
 - Support and advice provided for the owner of **Hākarimata Boutique** (Nu), who sells local products, and **Hākarimata Brotique**, which sells clothing and wares for Tāne (males).
 - **Regular waananga** with Warren McGrath and Gannin Ormsby about growing Toi Māori and providing for succession planning to enable continued growth.
 - There has been a lot of mahi undertaken for the **Rangiriri Pa Development**.
 - Kereama helped to plan and run celebrations festivals for the 160th year commemorations, and Creative Waikato supported the costs of running these events. Kereama is involved in ongoing conversations relating to this development.
 - Ongoing discussions regarding ‘River Riders’ (ebikes/scooters) being connected with a cultural trail with Les Tuteao (walking tours) and Hamilton Gardens.

It is important that Waikato District Council continue to support mahi in the Toi Māori space. It is only through collective efforts that initiatives can be achieved.

9. **Embedding Arts, Culture and Creativity**

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

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

10. Waikato District Council's Strategic Priority Areas and alignment with the Waikato Arts Navigator

- The Waikato Arts Navigator is a shared framework that helps community enablers achieve broader impact and focus on community benefit, with a vision and strategy to support and strengthen arts, culture and creativity in the region.
- Waikato District Council's Vision ***'Liveable, Thriving and Connected Communities | He noohanga aahuru, he iwi whai ora, he hapori tuuhono tahi'***

Alignment of Waikato District Council community outcomes and the Waikato Arts Navigator threads are outlined in pages 6-9 below.

Alignment of Waikato District community outcome areas and the Waikato Arts Navigator threads

Priority Area	This means	Waikato Arts Navigator thread	
Cultural Ahurea We celebrate who we are Ka whakanui maatou i too maatou katoa	We celebrate all cultures. We treasure our diverse communities and acknowledge our cultural rights and obligations. We honour, understand and implement Te Tiriti o Waitangi and acknowledge the relationship with mana whenua of our district.	Creative wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hauora and wellbeing - Positive collective and individual identities - Create, grow and strengthen communities - Inspired responses to challenges - Strengthened connection to place
		Creative prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative economies - Attract and retain residents - Positive national perceptions
		Creative experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People experience local, national, international arts - Community and cultural expression - Recreation and interaction - Community engagement and connection - Local pride
		Creative education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory art projects - Community art classes and projects - Youth development - Audience development
		Creative innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing local government decision making - Local problem solving - Distinct local expression - Creative export opportunities
Economic Ohaha	We champion sustainable growth in our local economy.	Creative wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hauora and wellbeing - Positive collective and individual identities

7

We support local prosperity Ka tautoko maatou i te houkura aa-rohe	We support local enterprises and encourage innovation and socio-economic prosperity for all while managing regulatory processes to protect and promote our unique district. We acknowledge our rural and Maaori economies as key contributors to our district's prosperity and sustainability.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create, grown and strengthen communities - Inspired responses to challenges - Strengthened connection to place
		Creative prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative economies - Attract and retain residents - Tourism opportunities - Positive national perceptions - Increased investment from funders
		Creative experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People experience local, national, international arts - Community and cultural expression - Recreation and interaction - Community engagement and connection - Local pride
		Creative education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upskilling creative professionals - Youth development - Audience development
		Creative innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business partnerships - Informing local government decision-making - Local problem solving - Distinct local expression - Creative export expression
Environmental Taiao Our environmental health underpins the health of our people Ka taunaki too	We want healthy waterways that create connections. We protect and enhance our soils, water, and native biodiversity and take care of our Taiao (natural environment) for the	Creative wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hauora and wellbeing - Positive collective and individual identities - Create, grow and strengthen communities - Inspired responses to challenges - Strengthened connection to place

8

maatou oronga o oo taatou iwi	health and wellbeing of our people, our communities, and future generations.	Creative prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative economies - Attract and retain residents - Tourism opportunities - Positive national perceptions - Increased investment from funders
		Creative experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community cultural expression - Recreation and interaction - Community engagement and connection - Local pride
		Creative education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory arts projects - Community art classes and projects - Youth development
		Creative innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing local government decision making - Local problem solving - Distinct local expression - Creative export opportunities
Social Paapori We have well-connected communities He hononga whaitake katoa o oo maatou hapori	Our communities are connected, safe, accessible and resilient. We put community wellbeing at the heart of our decisions, and we embrace partnerships to get things done to improve people's lives.	Creative wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hauora and wellbeing - Positive collective and individual identities - Create, grow and strengthen communities - Inspired responses to challenges - Strengthened connection to place
		Creative prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative economies - Attract and retain residents
		Creative experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People experience local, national and international arts - Community and cultural expression - Recreation and interaction

9

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community engagement and connection - Local pride
		Creative education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory art projects - Upskilling creative professionals - Community art classes and projects - Youth development - Audience development
		Creative innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing local government decision making - Local problem solving - Distinct local expression

10

11. Arts, culture and creativity connect across Council department areas

An LTP Councillor briefing document has been provided as part of this submission.

- While this document is cognisant of the current financial situation and social environment, the aim is to present a range of possibilities that may extend current thinking, and explore cross department/sector/locale opportunities for collaborative outcomes.
- The attached briefing document outlines concrete examples of the many and diverse ways that arts, culture and creativity connect across departments within Council.

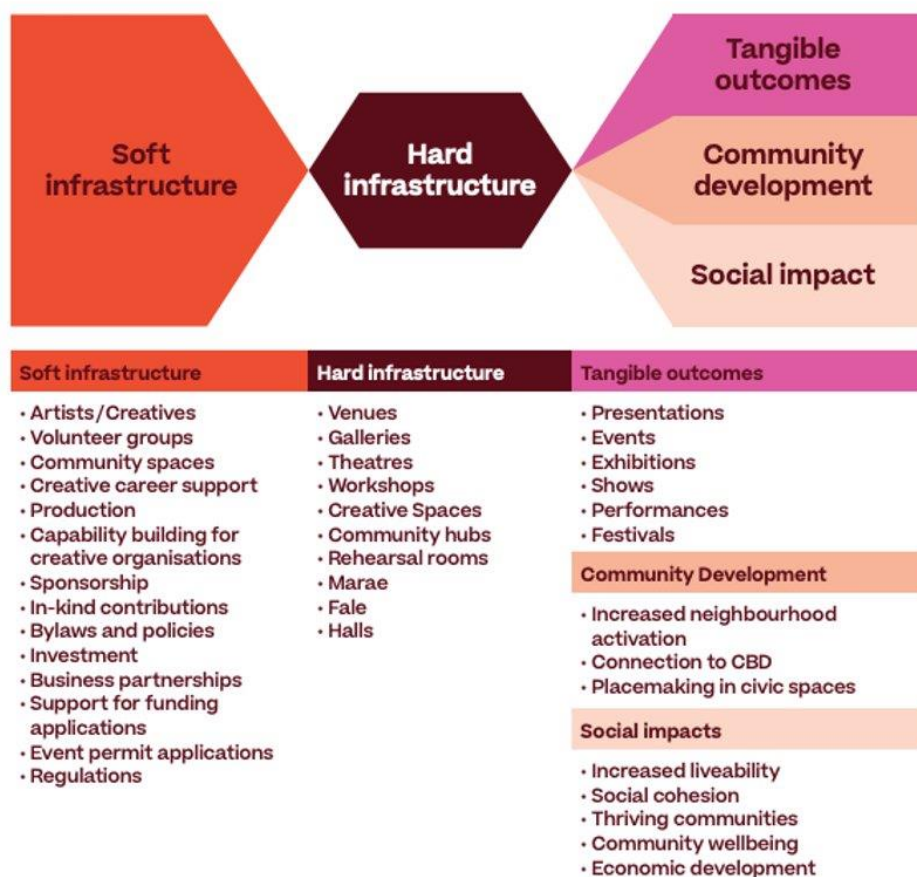
12. Importance of soft infrastructure - people and services

In addition to the LTP Councillor Briefing document, Creative Waikato has also provided an updated Infrastructure Plan which is an initial high-level scan of hard and soft infrastructure in the Waikato. This plan builds on an initial report that was developed in 2014.

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

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

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



13. Investing in communities and arts, culture and creativity

The collective toll of Covid-19, climate change and the cost of living crisis on our communities has been immense. We encourage Council to prioritise investment in community and to proactively include arts, culture and creativity to support living, thriving and connected communities. From a creative ecosystem perspective it is important to consider:

11.a - The Role of Council

- It is Council's role to enable and support creative infrastructure.
- Cultural wellbeing, alongside social wellbeing, are legislated delivery outcomes for local government, and are worthy of prioritised value and sustained investment.
- Arts, culture, creativity and ngaa toi Maaori can make significant contributions to a 'vibrant, passionate and progressive' district if they are supported. The community already makes a significant contribution to these areas through investment, in-kind support, volunteer time, and creative passion, it is essential that the council maintains and increases investment into this sector otherwise they risk losing it.

11.b - Economic considerations

- The creative sector is one of the fastest growing sectors for economic development in Aotearoa, with the potential for international export alongside local activation. Community activity creates essential learning and development pathways for creative professionals.
- Artistic activity is a contributor to positive tourism outcomes.
- Engagement in creative activity in and around the workplace makes measurable contributions to productivity, innovation, and mental health.
- Toi Maaori is a significant asset in Aotearoa, and is a contributor to international interest in tourism, and connection to place. Waikato District Council has the potential to build on the support provided to ngaa toi Maaori, and to enhance the skilled practitioners based in this district to highlight this opportunity for growth and development.

11.c - Wellbeing and Impact

- Impact is not only measured in terms of financial return and asset utilisation, but also wellbeing, and the ways in which these experiences contribute to things like community cohesion, connection to place and land and self.
- Arts activity, like public art, events, concerts and theatrical performances contribute to civic, amenity and cultural value, which has implications for changing perceptions about the city, and supporting future growth.
- Beyond economic measures, the impacts of the creative community on social and cultural wellbeing are also significant. In-depth Waikato-focussed research from 2022 showed that regular access and perceived access to arts, culture and creativity is a significant driver of individual wellbeing. This can contribute to better mental health outcomes, but also shows measurable connection to social cohesion, community connection, civic pride, and sense of identity.

At a time of increased need, now is the time to invest in people. Support the people who provide positive outcomes for diverse communities. Art, culture, and creativity sits alongside social services, kai, health, education, environment, and community connection as interwoven components of thriving communities. These things require civic investment as a part of ensuring community access. This forms part of the public good component of local government.

14. Creative Capability Development

- Creative Waikato wishes to build on its support and service delivery in the Waikato District. However, this requires adequate partnership investment to enable us to do this.
- Services include capability building, strategic advice, research, insights, stakeholder engagement, community support and development.
- Creative Waikato request the formation of a strategic relationship with Waikato District Council in the same way as it has a relationship with Sport Waikato.

15. Specific Recommendations:

We request investment of \$30K per annum, with contribution to:

- a. Development of an 'Arts Action Plan' linked to the Waikato Arts Navigator Strategy, to provide a high-level strategy for how Council can integrate arts, culture and creativity into what they do
- b. Investment to deliver
 - i. Cultural wellbeing outcomes
 - ii. Regional arts strategic activation
 - iii. Creative capability building in local communities
 - iv. Contribution to local and regional research and insights (including the Creative Infrastructure Plan).
- c. A high-level proposal and scope can be provided if required.
- d. In addition, Creative Waikato would like to include 'arts, culture and creativity' as an activity, which has a performance measure(s) and target for 2024-25 to ensure this can be measured alongside other key work streams. Creative Waikato can work with Council staff to devise an appropriate measure.

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

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

Submitted by:

Sam Cunnane
Board Chair

Dr. Jeremy Mayall
CEO

On behalf of Creative Waikato

hello@creativewaikato.co.nz

Additional attachments:

Creative Waikato Briefing to Councillors 2024
Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan 2024

Briefing to Councillors

2024



**Creative
Waikato
Toi Waikato**

Arts, Culture,
Creativity
and Ngaa Toi
Maaori support
a thriving
Waikato region.

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Arts, culture, creativity and
ngaa toi Maaori helps to build resilient
and diverse communities and improve
our quality of life.

Great art and culture inspires learning,
boosts our economy, enhances wellbeing,
builds regional and national reputation, and
more. The role of arts, culture, creativity and
ngaa toi Maaori has powerful potential in
enabling councils with tools that enable them
to think differently and provide unique
solutions to complex issues.

Arts, culture and creativity and
ngaa toi Maaori can also be used as ideal
problem-solving tools to help us with major
and ongoing challenges, aiding recovery
and building resilience.

Arts and culture do not sit in
isolation, and are woven through all facets
of thriving societies. Collaborating with,
and taking the leadership of Maaori is
key to creating thriving communities. The
embedding of arts, culture and creativity
in all elements of government influence
will add value and increase opportunity.

When arts and creativity is
strong and visible, communities are strong
and visible.

It is important for government,
industry and sector leaders to see artists as
a more embedded component within the
rest of society. This encourages the creation
of a collaborative space where the value of
artists in society can be better recognised
and utilised. A diverse but interconnected
ecosystem of arts infrastructure (both hard
and soft) would provide clear pathways for
artists and community members at any
stage of the journey.

The local context

It is hard to ignore societal, regional and local contexts when considering the role and impact of the decisions and investments made by local governments.

While this document is cognisant of the current financial situation and social environment, the aim is to present a range of possibilities that may extend current thinking, and explore cross department/sector/locale opportunities for collaborative outcomes.

Creative Waikato's intention is to support local councils to embrace imaginative and innovative possibilities for alternative ways of working that can lead to better outcomes, through positive community engagement and alongside sensible investment that considers the impact of our actions on future generations.

Importance of local government

The rate of change over the past few decades with shifting demographics, urbanisation and climate change has and will have a significant impact on the landscape of local government.

The role councils play in delivering outcomes for communities and our society into the future will become critical moving forward.¹

There is an increasing need for councils (both governance and staff)

to engage with communities and encourage community participation in decision-making, and to consider the needs of people currently living in communities and those who will live there in the future.

¹ LGNZ 'Briefing to the Incoming Minister November 2023' p.8 https://d1pepg1a2249p5.cloudfront.net/media/documents/LGNZ-Briefing-to-the-Incoming-Government-2023_1.pdf

Understanding the creative ecosystem

To achieve the broadest possible impact, it is beneficial to view the contribution of arts, culture and creativity as part of a system across all facets of local government activity.

This system-based approach acknowledges cross-sector opportunities to enable effective outcomes and deliver better public services. This ecosystem approach is fundamental to our regional arts strategy.²

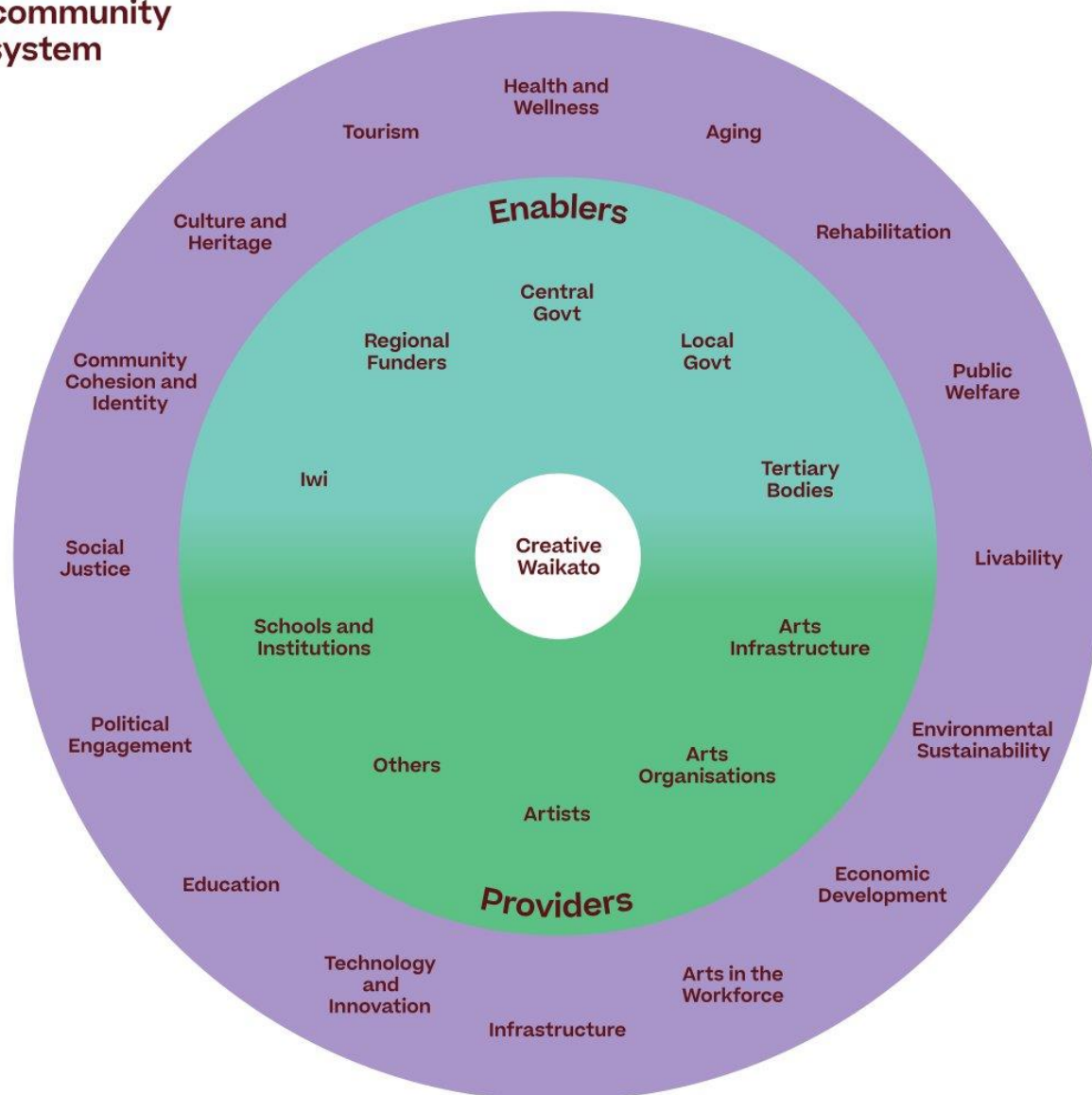
We present this briefing by examining a range of discrete but interconnected elements which can be combined to create more significant impacts than the individual parts. We believe this approach, in partnership

with sector-informed localised delivery, can enable greater outcomes and efficiencies, to better enable robust change in local communities.

Here we present a systems map that highlights opportunities for positive local government influence when working with local and regional partners. This provides a high-level scope for change, with an indication of intersections, and connections into other government systems and structures.

² <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/advocacy/strategy-space>

Arts as part of our community ecosystem



Health and Wellness
Wellbeing for individuals
Better care for each other
Increased quality of life

Aging
Physical and mental stimulation
Entertainment
Social interaction

Rehabilitation
Purpose
Self-care
Social interaction
Capability development

Public Welfare
Community pride
Mutual trust
Safer and healthier communities

Livability
Arts create vibrant cities
Environmental impact
Quality of life

Environmental Sustainability
Education and innovation
Advocating and driving awareness
Communication

Economic Development
Economic wellbeing
Support services and impact
Sustainable funding
Workforce development

Arts in the Workforce
Well-rounded workers who drive innovation
Creative thinkers
Effective communicators

Infrastructure
Advocacy, communication, design, breaking down barriers
Agriculture, food, transport, housing, planning and community development

Technology and Innovation
Symbiotic relationship for creation and development
Technology can be used to create and disseminate art

Education
Arts are part of a well-rounded education
Curiosity and exploration
Important at all levels of education

Political Engagement
Can encourage political engagement, voting, and activation

Social Justice
Civic dialogue to discuss issues and policies
Arts facilitate dialogue

Community Cohesion and Identity
Binds people together through shared experience
Creates common vision for the future
Arts bring people together

Culture and Heritage
Art activity
Diversity/access/identity
History and tradition

Tourism
Economic impact
Empathy between communities
Arts for travel

Arts, culture and creativity is an essential contributor to public infrastructure. It is a core component of vibrant, growing communities, and is a public good. It is an enabler and indicator of a thriving society.

Arts, culture and creativity is best understood not as discrete or siloed activity, but as something which is essential and intrinsic to all aspects of public life. A cross-sector approach will be of best benefit for achieving the goals of this government and the people it serves.

Broad areas of connection to council departments

Health and Wellbeing	10
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Community Cohesion and Identity	14
Culture and Heritage	16
Economic Development	18
Tourism	20
Technology and Innovation	22
Environmental Sustainability	24

The following sections explore some high-level themes that can be implemented throughout the indicated system areas included in the ecosystem map. These elements are presented with a brief discussion

of the key opportunities for positive impact and innovative change. These are matched with local government departments and example initiatives that could be supported through localised investment and activation.

Health and Wellbeing

Creativity is essential to community and individual wellbeing, and can be deployed in health treatments and settings.

There is a wealth of global evidence that reinforces the opportunity to shape better long-term outcomes through the inclusion of arts and creativity as a component of health treatment and recovery plans – this includes mental health.

Creative Wellbeing is a facet of holistic wellbeing, which embraces Māori understandings of Hauora, as expressed in Te Whare Tapa Whā model.³ It can be a lens through which to address physical, mental and emotional, family and social and spiritual wellbeing, as well as the need to connect with the whenua.⁴

‘On average, Waikato residents who self-report having a high level of engagement with arts, culture and creativity have higher wellbeing than those who have little or no engagement. For all Waikato

residents, engagement with arts, culture and creativity has a positive relationship with overall wellbeing. The more often they attend, create or participate in artistic and cultural events, the higher their wellbeing is likely to be. This holds true regardless of engagement level or relationship with the creative sector.’⁵

In Waikato, those who report being highly engaged with arts, culture and creativity have 5% higher overall wellbeing as compared to those with little or no engagement.⁶

Research has shown that recreational arts can support mental wellbeing. ‘Those who engaged in 100 or more hours/year of arts engagement (i.e. two or more hours/week) reported significantly better mental well-being than other levels of engagement.’⁷

3 Sir Mason Durie, ‘Te Whare Tapa Whā’, Mental Health Foundation <https://mentalhealth.org.nz/te-whare-tapa-wha>

4 *ibid.*

5 Huber Social, ‘Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in Waikato’ (Sydney: Huber Social, 2022), p.3, <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/advocacy/researchandreports>

6 Huber Social, Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in Waikato, p.22.

7 Christina Davies, Matthew Knuiman & Michael Rosenberg, ‘The art of being mentally healthy: a study to quantify the relationship between recreational arts engagement and mental well-being in the general population, BMC Public Health, vol.16, <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-015-2672-7>

40%

of New Zealanders say that the arts are important to their wellbeing.⁸

26%

shared that the arts have become more important to their personal wellbeing since Covid-19 arrived in Aotearoa.⁹

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Support the activation of diverse art, culture and creativity in local spaces to support community access. This can be through both investment, and in supporting community use of space.

Share stories through council comms channels of local creative activity to support growing audiences and engagement.

Invest in locally-based creative spaces to support access and engagement.

Explore community-based artist-in-residence initiatives to encourage positive community outcomes through creative activity (see Whiria Te Tāngata as an example).¹⁰

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Community Services and Facilities
Parks and Reserves
Open spaces
Playgrounds
Libraries
Heritage

Venues, Tourism and Events
Infrastructure
Theatres
Community Halls

Plans, Policies and Bylaws
Budgets
Policies
Bylaws
Reports
Strategies

Communication and Marketing
Provision of information to news media and stakeholder
Internal communications
Supporting engagement and consultation activities
Managing online and print channels

⁸ Creative New Zealand, 'New Zealanders and the Arts 2020', <https://creativenz.govt.nz/development-and-resources/new-zealanders-and-the-arts---ko-aotearoa-me-ona-toi>, p.10.

⁹ <https://creativenz.govt.nz/development-and-resources/new-zealanders-and-the-arts---ko-aotearoa-me-ona-toi>, p.10.

¹⁰ Creative Waikato, 'You're going to want to hear about Whiria te Tāngata', <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/news/youre-going-to-want-to-hear-about-whiria-te-tangata>

Liveability

Liveability is an important concern in planning for population growth and housing intensification. It is key that our towns and cities contain accessible spaces where communities can connect, and that public spaces are welcoming to ensure that they are fully utilised.

‘Placemaking’ is a powerful governmental tool for engaging communities in the planning, design and management of their shared public assets.

Placemaking shows people just how powerful their collective vision can be. It helps them to re-imagine everyday spaces, and to see anew the potential of parks, city centres, neighbourhoods, streets, markets and public buildings.¹¹ Given that arts and culture increase connection to community and place, the creative sector and their interests should be represented in placemaking discussions.

Arts, culture and creativity provide useful skills and spaces for the creation, development and expression of local identity and stories. These generate a sense of identity and community pride, as well as contributing to communities being a vibrant and safe place to live.¹²

There is a growing public agreement for support for the arts. Agreement with local councils giving money to support the arts has grown significantly from 2017–2020. In Waikato, this has increased 13%.¹³

‘Around six in ten Waikato residents feel the arts are important in creating a vibrant place to live, and in their community’s future. They also want their community to be recognised as a place that supports the arts. [...] Fifty seven percent also feel that the arts benefit communities by contributing to resilience and wellbeing while 50% feel their community would be a poorer place without the arts.’¹⁴

‘Being highly engaged with arts, culture and creativity means that residents are also more likely to have stronger connections to community and to land and place’¹⁵

¹¹ Project for Public Spaces ‘What is Placemaking’ <https://www.pps.org/article/what-is-placemaking>

¹² Ministry of Culture and Heritage, *Valuing the Arts in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand* (2022), <https://www.mch.govt.nz/publications/valuing-arts-australia-and-aotearoa-new-zealand>

¹³ Creative New Zealand, *New Zealand and the Arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna Toi* (2020), p. 47.

¹⁴ Creative New Zealand, ‘Survey Findings for Waikato Residents’, (2020), p. 21 https://creativenz.govt.nz/-/media/project/creative-nz/creativenz/legacy-images/ckeditor/attachments/nzarts_waikato_final.pdf

¹⁵ Huber Social, ‘Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in Waikato’ (Sydney: Huber Social, 2022), p. 28, <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/advocacy/researchandreports>.

67%

of New Zealanders agree it is important that where they live is recognised as a place that supports excellence in the arts

66%

believe that major arts facilities are important to create a vibrant place to live¹⁶

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Activate public spaces with arts-based play activities, and the creation of playable spaces that tell stories.

Utilise public art (murals, sculpture, light) to support the creation of safer spaces for all people.¹⁷

Embed artistic expression and cultural narratives in large-scale infrastructure projects to create unique regional identities.

Work with community partners to support the provision of accessible creative spaces and local storytelling.

Advocate to the central government for the development of a Provincial Arts Fund (similar to the Provincial Growth Fund) to support improved community liveability outcomes.¹⁸

Explore and articulate the contribution made by arts activity, festivals and public art to the value of space, place and community in strategies, reports, and public communications.

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Community Services and Facilities

Parks and Reserves
Open spaces
Playgrounds
Libraries
Heritage
Property Services—Community
Land and Buildings
Housing for the Elderly
Emergency Management
Venues, Tourism and Events
Infrastructure
Theatres
Community Halls
I-sites

Transport, Rooding and Footpaths

Roads
Footpaths and Cycleways
Road Safety Interventions and Education

Plans, Policies and Bylaws

Budgets
Policies
Bylaws
Reports
Strategies

Communication and Marketing

Provision of information to news media and stakeholder
Internal communications
Supporting engagement and consultation activities
Managing online and print channels

¹⁶ Creative New Zealand, New Zealand and the Arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna Toi (2020), <https://creativenz.govt.nz/development-and-resources/new-zealanders-and-the-arts---ko-aotearoa-me-ona-toi>, p.12.

¹⁷ National Opinion Research Centre (USA), The Outcomes of Arts Engagement for Individuals and Communities (2021), <https://www.norc.umd.edu/content/dam/norc-org/pdfs/NORC%20Outcomes%20of%20Arts%20Engagement%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf>

¹⁸ Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit | Kānoa, 'The Provincial Growth Fund', <https://www.growregions.govt.nz/established-funds/what-we-have-funded/the-provincial-growth-fund/>

Community Cohesion and Identity

Community cohesion and identity is key to collective wellbeing and a safe and productive society. Participation in community organisations and arts, culture and creative activities positively contributes to community connection.

In these times, community cohesion is an important protective factor in the face of rapid change, polarisation, and disasters. In particular, social inclusion is a powerful determinant of wellbeing.¹⁹

‘Over the next 30 years, Aotearoa New Zealand’s population of seniors will grow from around 850,000 (17 percent of the population) to around 1.5 million (24 percent of the population). And it is not only growing numerically, but also structurally.’²⁰ Artistic, cultural and creative activities can be a powerful way to bring senior and isolated people together, and support wellbeing.

Long-term loneliness has been proven to negatively affect physical and mental wellbeing outcomes.²¹ Worldwide, it is estimated that 25% of older people are isolated.²²

The arts improve inter-generational relationships and connection to family and friends. “The arts act as a catalyst for bridging, bonding and linking social capital—it provides opportunities for engagement that reduce social isolation, encourages community cohesion, mutual support, improved intergenerational relationships and connection to family and friends.”²³

¹⁹ World Health Organization, ‘Social Determinants of Health’, https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health#tab=tab_1.

²⁰ Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, ‘The long-term implications of our ageing population for our housing and urban futures’, <https://www.hud.govt.nz/news/the-long-term-implications-of-our-ageing-population-for-our-housing-and-urban-futures/>

²¹ World Health Organization, ‘Decade of healthy Ageing, Advocacy Brief: Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Older People’, p.2, <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240030749>.

²² World Health Organisation, ‘WHO Commission on Social Connection’, <https://www.who.int/groups/commission-on-social-connection>.

²³ VicHealth, ‘The arts and creative industries in health promotion’, (2020) p.17, https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/VH_Sax-Arts-Review.pdf.

64%

of surveyed New Zealanders say that 'The arts help define who we are as New Zealanders'.²⁴

80%

agree: I feel proud when New Zealand artists succeed overseas.²⁵

In Waikato, attending artistic, cultural and creative events or activities results in connections with diverse people.²⁶

"Residents who attend or create artistic, cultural or creative events or activities at least once a month report feeling more connected to culture and community, to land and place, and self... [They] feel that they have more opportunities to meet people who are different from them."

61% of New Zealanders agree that "the arts contributes to the resilience and wellbeing of their community."²⁷

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Support community groups who provide accessible group activities through increased investment and/or provision of space or other useful services. Currently, these are often run by passionate and long-serving volunteers, and burnout is a major factor.

Invest in infrastructure including shared and multi-use community spaces, and support their long-term maintenance.

Invest in community-driven expressions of arts and culture through grass-roots festivals, touring performances, and work that connects professional practitioners into remote communities. One option to achieve this is through match-funding the Creative NZ Creative Communities Scheme funding into your local community.

Recognise and support the many arts and culture organisations who serve senior and marginalised communities.

Support the development of local capability building to strengthen and support community organisations and activities.

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Community Services and Facilities

Parks and Reserves
Open spaces
Playgrounds
Libraries
Heritage
Property Services—Community
Land and Buildings
Housing for the Elderly

Venues, Tourism and Events

Infrastructure
Theatres
Community Halls
i-sites

Communication and Marketing

Provision of information to news media and stakeholder
Internal communications
Supporting engagement and consultation activities
Managing online and print channels

²⁴ *ibid*, p.15

²⁵ *ibid*.

²⁶ Huber Social, 'Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in Waikato' (Sydney: Huber Social, 2022), p. 50, <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/advocacy/researchandreports>.

²⁷ Creative New Zealand, New Zealand and the Arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna Toi (2020), p.16, <https://creativenz.govt.nz/development-and-resources/new-zealanders-and-the-arts---ko-aotearoa-me-ona-toi>.

Culture and Heritage

The valuing of culture and heritage is key to a thriving community. When we honour our heritage, we are able to chart a hopeful and ambitious tomorrow.

Maintained or managed cultural (historic) heritage plays an important part in our culture by preserving the past, documenting local and community history, and providing evidence of cultural heritage decision-making.²⁸ The Waikato region is home to many key heritage sites, taonga and histories. Investment in our culture and heritage is investment in our people and our future. Cultural wellbeing is a key social impact outcome of activity enabled by the arts, culture and creative sector.²⁹

²⁸ NZ Local Government Magazine 'Cultural Heritage Information and Councils' (Dec, 2021) <https://localgovernmentmag.co.nz/taonga-heritage-strategy/>

²⁹ Dunphy, K & Smithies, J., 'Outcome schema for cultural engagement' (Melbourne, Cultural Development Network, 2018), <https://culturaldevelopment.net.au/outcomes/about-measurable-outcomes/>

66%

of surveyed New Zealanders agree: 'Arts and culture have a vital role to play in the future of where I live',³⁰

75%

of New Zealanders have engaged with (attended or participated in) the arts in the last 12 months.³¹

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Invest in the continued support of nga toi Maaori and the protection of taonga and maatauranga Maaori as essential expressions of Aotearoa.

Support the sharing of local histories, and supporting cultural education in schools that embrace the stories of local communities.

Where possible, invest in maintaining built heritage and recognising sites of significance to both tangata whenua and tangata tiriti.

Engage the knowledge and insights from local experts, mana whenua, and other national support like the team at the Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

Support and invest in multi-cultural activities that celebrate the diversity of communities living in Waikato.

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Governance and Corporate Decision-making functions and support Community Services and Facilities Parks and Reserves Open spaces Playgrounds Public Toilets Cemeteries Libraries Heritage Property Services—Community Land and Buildings Housing for the Elderly Public Swimming Pools Waste Management and Minimisation Emergency Management Venues, Tourism and Events Infrastructure Theatres Community Halls I-sites	Transport, Roothing and Footpaths Roads Footpaths and Cycleways Road Safety Interventions and Education Planning and Regulatory Animal Control Building Compliance Development Engineering Environmental Health Resource Consents/ Enforcements/Land Information Memorandums Plans, Policies and Bylaws Budgets Policies Bylaws Reports Strategies Communication and Marketing Provision of information to news media and stakeholder Internal communications Supporting engagement and consultation activities Managing online and print channels
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³⁰ Creative New Zealand, New Zealand and the Arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna Toi (2020), p.13, <https://creativenz.govt.nz/development-and-resources/new-zealanders-and-the-arts---ko-aotearoa-me-ona-toi>.

³¹ Creative New Zealand, New Zealand and the Arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna Toi (2020), p.16.

Economic Development

The arts, culture and creative ecosystem makes positive contributions to the prosperity of the region, and the country.

As well as generating income for people working in the arts, the creative sector creates tourism opportunities, supports innovation and collaboration, and can be engaged to promote towns and the region.

There is an exciting opportunity for this region to really champion our ngaa toi Maaori as a key component of our economic offering.

A thriving creative sector also contributes to hospitality industries, information economies and digital export. Supporting districts to develop strong arts, culture and creative presentations can become growth opportunities in the emerging 'experience economy'.³² An emergent experience economy in local communities has the potential to

transform opportunities as tourism flourishes both from national and international engagement.

The number of people employed in the arts is growing. Nationally, there are more than 117,517 people whose primary employment is in the arts and creativity.³³ In Waikato, 7109 people are employed in the arts.³⁴

New Zealand's arts and creative sector contributes \$16.3 billion to New Zealand's GDP.³⁵

³² B. Joseph Pine II and James H. Gilmore, 'Welcome to the Experience Economy', Harvard Business Review (1998) <https://hbr.org/1998/07/welcome-to-the-experience-economy>

³³ Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Manatū Taonga, 'Arts and creative sector economic profiles 2023', <https://www.mch.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-03/infometrics-1-page-summary-2023.pdf>

³⁴ Ibid; Ministry for Culture and Heritage, 'Arts and Creative Sector Profile 2023 Infometrics report summary' <https://www.mch.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-03/infometrics-1-page-summary-2023.pdf>

³⁵ Ibid.

94%

of creative professionals in the waikato region participating in the gig economy find it difficult to secure loans for things like mortgages.³⁶

The creative sector includes many different kinds of work, including: visual arts, architecture, advertising, design, fashion, games, media, music, performing arts, photography, publishing, screen, and software.³⁷

There are 35,955 businesses in the arts and creative sector.³⁸ There are 6,974 creatives employed in the Waikato region.³⁹

Nationally, the Arts Sector has 11,641 self-employed workers – accounting for 42% of the sector's workforce and more than double the total NZ self-employment rate (16.2%).⁴⁰

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Maintain and increase Investment in local events, public creative activities and organisations that will encourage tourism and local spending.

Engage artists and creatives in the design of civic spaces and new developments, in order to contribute to a unique sense of place, increased liveability, and attract and retain residents.

Support arts and creativity training programmes that support people to move into the industry and develop workforce pathways (for example Creative Waikato's ELEVATE programme).⁴¹

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Venues, Tourism and Events

Infrastructure

Theatres

Community Halls

I-sites

Community Services and Facilities

Parks and Reserves

Open spaces

Playgrounds

Communication and Marketing

Provision of information to news

media and stakeholder

Internal communications

Supporting engagement and

consultation activities

Managing online and print

channels

³⁶ Kantar Public, 'Creative New Zealand on Air, A Profile of Creative Professionals' (2022), p. 7.

³⁷ See <https://wecreate.org.nz/> for more information.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Manatū Taonga, 'Arts and Creative Sector Profile 2022 Infometrics report summary', <https://mch.govt.nz/sites/default/files/Infometrics-report-summary-2022.pdf>.

⁴⁰ The Big Idea, 'EXCLUSIVE: Arts & Creativity \$14.9 Billion Sector', (2023) <https://thebigidea.nz/stories/exclusive-new-data-shows-arts-creative-sector-economic-impact>

⁴¹ Creative Waikato, 'Elevate Creative Careers Programme', <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/workshop/elevate-programme>.

Tourism

People travel for unique cultural experiences — this is true around the world. In the Waikato region, Maaori culture contributes significantly to tourism and both national and international reputation.

So, the expression of local culture and shaping of interesting spaces has real potential for local and global tourism. Local events and festivals can share unique components of regional life.

In addition, the designation of cities as UNESCO cities of culture can contribute to local identity and economies, raise civic pride, and promote international collaboration and cooperation.

Creative tourism can help to combat challenges of seasonality and sustainability for the tourism sector.⁴²

Creative activation of city spaces within the framework of UNESCO's city of culture can contribute to economic recovery, additional investment, and boost in tourism.⁴³

Creative tourism can support employment and retention of creative professionals in regional towns and city centres.

⁴² The Creative Tourism Network, 'What do we mean by Creative Tourism?', <http://www.creativetourismnetwork.org/about/>.

⁴³ Coventry City Council, 'Evaluation report highlights benefits City of Culture year brought to Coventry', <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/news/article/4818/evaluation-report-highlights-benefits-city-of-culture-year-brought-to-coventry>.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Include creative place-based storytelling in highly-frequented spaces like airports. Work with mana whenua to create powerful narratives and works. (For example, see the Hamilton Airport⁴⁴ and New Plymouth Airport).⁴⁵

Invest and enable a 'City of Culture' programme in regional Aotearoa.⁴⁶

Support the development of Regional Maaori Cultural Tourism initiatives through seed funding and development (See collaboratively funded projects like 'Footprints of Kupe').⁴⁷

Integrate creative expressions of te ao Maaori in all development—led by Maaori organisations to share the unique stories of this space. Follow Maaori leadership and cultural frameworks in developing tourism initiatives.⁴⁸

Invest in unique experience-based tourism that combines creativity, tech and hospitality to create immersive artistic experiences that drive global interest (eg. TeamLab—Japan, MeowWolf—USA).⁴⁹ Waikato has the capability to deliver projects like this—also related to the emerging 'experience economy'.⁵⁰

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Venues, Tourism and Events
Infrastructure
Theatres
Community Halls
i-sites

Community Services
and Facilities
Parks and Reserves
Open spaces
Playgrounds

Communication and Marketing
Provision of information to news
media and stakeholder
Internal communications
Supporting engagement and
consultation activities
Managing online and print
channels

⁴⁴ Hamilton Airport, 'Our Cultural Journey', <https://www.hamiltonairport.co.nz/our-cultural-journey/#Artworks>.

⁴⁵ Creative New Zealand, 'Building a whare manaaki that sings with stories', (2023), <https://creativenz.govt.nz/news-and-blog/2023/12/04/02/19/16/building-a-whare-manaaki-that-sings-with-stories>.

⁴⁶ Gov.uk, 'Government backs Bradford—UK City of Culture 2025—with £10 million funding boost', <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-bradford-uk-city-of-culture-2025-with-10-million-funding-boost>.

⁴⁷ Manea Tupuwae ā nuku | Footprints of Kupe, 'The Footprints of Kupe Experience', <https://maneafootprints.co.nz/experiences/footprints-of-kupe-experience/>.

⁴⁸ For example, see: Ash Puriri & Alison McIntosh (2019) A cultural framework for Māori tourism: values and processes of a Whānau tourism business development, DOI: 10.1080/03036758.2019.1656260.

⁴⁹ Team Lab, <https://www.teamlab.art/>; MeowWolf, <https://meowwolf.com/>.

⁵⁰ Joseph Pine II and James H. Gilmore, 'Welcome to the Experience Economy', Harvard Business Review, <https://hbr.org/1998/07/welcome-to-the-experience-economy>.

Technology and Innovation

Creativity is key to innovation, and the intersection of arts and technology drives new ideas. Creativity can be found in many facets of modern society, but the arts provides a pure distillation of this process which can be utilised to inspire novel approaches and create new opportunities.

Art-informed innovation has the potential to be a catalyst for transformation — provided the right conditions are created to enable it.

The arts can also contribute to increased liveability in main centres and satellite towns, increasing attraction and retention of tech leaders and organisations.

International research shows that 'lifelong participation in arts and crafts yields significant impacts for innovators and entrepreneurs. Arts and crafts experiences are significantly correlated with producing patentable inventions and founding new companies.'⁵¹

Art-informed innovation has the potential to be a catalyst for transformation — provided the right conditions are created to enable it. The arts can also contribute to increased liveability in main centres and satellite towns, increasing attraction and retention of tech leaders and organisations.

A creative society fosters innovation and entrepreneurial risk taking.⁵²

⁵¹ Rex LaMore, Robert Root-Bernstein, Michele Root-Bernstein, John H. Schweitzer, James L. Lawton, Eileen Roraback, Amber Peruski, Megan VanDyke, and Laleah Fernandez, 'Arts and Crafts: Critical to Economic Innovation',

Economic Development Quarterly, p.1, Michigan State University (USA), 2013, <https://doi.org/10.1177/089124241348618>.

⁵² Shahid Yusuf 'From creativity to innovation', Technology in Society vol.31, (2009) pp.1-8.

Innovation springs from the creative application of knowledge. Thus, it has two essential ingredients: creativity – artistic, scientific or other – and a stock of knowledge.⁵³

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Have artists as part of Innovation working groups within council processes to create new ways to solve problems, and to communicate new ideas.

Nurture the intersection of arts and technology and innovation spaces to drive new ideas. (This could be done in partnership with other regional organisations).

Strengthen engagement with regional arts organisations to support strategic initiatives and enable connections between cross-sector organisations.

Encourage an artist-in-residence or 'Imagination and Creativity Officer' in council departments to inspire divergent outcomes.

Embed creativity in technological organisations, through initiatives such as **Creativity Everyday**.⁵⁴

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Community Services and Facilities Parks and Reserves Open spaces Playgrounds Public Toilets Cemeteries Libraries Heritage Property Services – Community Land and Buildings Housing for the Elderly Public Swimming Pools Waste Management and Minimisation Emergency Management Venues, Tourism and Events Infrastructure	Planning and Regulatory Building Compliance Development Engineering Resource Consents/ Enforcements/Land Information Memorandums Plans, Policies and Bylaws Budgets Policies Bylaws Reports Strategies Communication and Marketing Provision of information to news media and stakeholder Internal communications Supporting engagement and consultation activities Managing online and print channels
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⁵³ Shahid Yusuf, 'From creativity to innovation', *Technology in Society*, vol. 31, Issue 1 (2009), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techsoc.2008.10.007>.

⁵⁴ Creative Waikato, 'Creativity Everyday', <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/creativityeveryday>.

Environmental Sustainability

Climate change is a complex and urgent challenge, and it is essential that we establish new paradigms, collective understandings, and ways of living. In Aotearoa, we will benefit from acknowledging and working alongside Maaori and embracing their knowledge in this pursuit.

The arts can help bring people together to support a united collective vision for environmental sustainability. In addition, it is key to support engagement with local creativity, and to support local creative spaces so that communities can have access to sustainable creative experiences that support local communities.

Human influence is key to halting the climate crisis.⁵⁵ The arts can be employed to influence cultural changes which can prompt urgent action.⁵⁶

Creativity can serve as a useful outlet for anxiety around climate change, and a powerful tool for finding imaginative solutions.⁵⁷ Somatic and physical creative practices can be useful tools for processing ecological grief.⁵⁸

The arts can be used to convey key information to the public and help the public to understand difficult or abstract ideas in affective, impactful ways.⁵⁹

⁵⁵ IPCC, 'Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.' ed. H. Lee and J. Romero (Geneva: IPCC, 2023), pp. 35–115, doi: 10.59327/IPCC/AR6-9789291691647.

⁵⁶ Artists and Climate Change, 'Organizations', <https://artistsandclimatechange.com/organizations/>.

⁵⁷ Nilescha Chauvet, Managing Director of GOOD, 'Graham Institute Annual Lecture' (Imperial College London, 2022), <https://www.goodagency.co.uk/the-role-of-creativity-in-a-climate-crisis/>.

⁵⁸ Melody Schrieber, 'Addressing climate change concerns in practice', American Psychological Association, Vol. 52 No. 2, p. 30, <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2021/03/ce-climate-change>.

⁵⁹ Dr Philip Seargeant, Dr Nessa O'Mahony, and Dr Anne Caldwell, 'Climate Creativity: The power of the word to tackle the climate emergency', University of Oxford, <https://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/climate-creativity-the-power-of-the-word-to-tackle-the-climate-emergency>.

Arts and culture can inspire engagement and action in the fight against climate change. “The arts support the sciences because the arts can reach inside our hearts, not just our minds.”⁶⁰

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Work alongside Maaori organisations and value Maaori art forms including, but not limited to: whakairo, waiata, whakatauki, raranga and ta moko, as key expressions of essential identity and knowledge, key to restoring the whenua.

Ensure that communities can have access to sustainable creative experiences that support local communities.

Support regional arts festivals, local tours, community-based creative activations and local venues and creative spaces, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to touring, including transporting large sets and casts.⁶¹

Integrate and value creativity in scientific processes. Include artists and designers in all developments, opening possibilities including using biomimicry in technological innovations for sustainability.⁶²

Invest in local initiatives to explore sustainable public art as a way of redefining green space and creating opportunities for storytelling and engagement through art-based initiatives.

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Community Services and Facilities Parks and Reserves Open spaces Playgrounds Public Toilets Cemeteries Libraries Heritage Property Services – Community Land and Buildings Housing for the Elderly Public Swimming Pools Waste Management and Minimisation Emergency Management Venues, Tourism and Events Infrastructure Transport, Roding and Footpaths Roads Footpaths and Cycleways Road Safety Interventions and Education	Planning and Regulatory Building Compliance Development Engineering Environmental Health Resource Consents/ Enforcements/Land Information Memorandums Plans, Policies and Bylaws Budgets Policies Bylaws Reports Strategies Communication and Marketing Provision of information to news media and stakeholder Internal communications Supporting engagement and consultation activities Managing online and print channels
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⁶⁰ Dr James Renwick, Climate Change Commissioner and Professor of Physical Geography at Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington, ‘Art as Climate Action, Ministry for the Environment Manatū mō te Taiao (NZ)’, <https://environment.govt.nz/what-you-can-do/stories/art-as-climate-action/>.

⁶¹ Advisory Board for the Arts, ‘The Arts and Environmental Sustainability: A Guide to Key Areas’ <https://www.advisoryboardarts.com/the-arts-and-environmental-sustainability-a-guide-to-key-areas>.

⁶² Lukas Gutierrez, ‘Art and Creativity: Essential Components of Sustainability’, <https://sustainable-earth.org/art-and-creativity/>.

Arts in the workforce

Arts, culture and creativity is essential to a thriving wider workforce. Creativity is a driver for innovation, is a feature of emerging business research and is a vital skill set for many future-focussed employers.

Creativity is embedded in modern technology, it is a way we invent new opportunities, ideas and possibilities. It is also a key tool for sharing stories, solving problems, and expressing ideas.

When creativity is woven into workplaces, employees are happier and more productive. Workplace creativity contributes to employees who are more engaged, which contributes to satisfaction, quality of work, and deliverable outcomes.

Waikato residents who have jobs that require creative thinking or problem solving are more likely to have a higher level of satisfaction with their work.⁶³

Increasingly, organisations are needing to report on Environmental, Social and Governance measures (ESG's) within their work. Arts, Culture and Creativity can contribute to social wellbeing, by enabling cultural wellbeing.

Art activities in the workplace can have notable positive effects on the wellbeing of the staff. The effects exist over a wide range of measures, from brief moments of refreshment to longer-term impact.⁶⁴

And the worlds of creativity in the workplace are being explored by researchers in the field of business, innovation, wellbeing, education, neuroscience, psychology, leadership, and more. It is also being talked about by business sources like Forbes, Harvard Business Review, Deloitte, McKinsey and Entrepreneur.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

See creativity as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Health & Safety (H&S) plans. This will nurture the wellbeing of employees, and generate innovative output for businesses.

Support the development and delivery of creative workplace wellbeing initiatives such as **Creativity Everyday**, which support creative problem solving, innovation and wellbeing.⁶⁵

Support council staff engaging with local creative activities as part of their own wellbeing and personal development.

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Community Services and Facilities	Venues, Tourism and Events
Parks and Reserves	Infrastructure
Open spaces	Plans, Policies and Bylaws
Playgrounds	Budgets
Public Toilets	Policies
Cemeteries	Bylaws
Libraries	Reports
Heritage	Strategies
Property Services—Community	Communication and Marketing
Land and Buildings	Provision of information to news media and stakeholder
Housing for the Elderly	Internal communications
Public Swimming Pools	Supporting engagement and consultation activities
Waste Management and Minimisation	Managing online and print channels
Emergency Management	

⁶³ Huber Social, Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in Waikato (Sydney: Huber Social, 2022), p. 41, <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/advocacy/researchandreports>.

⁶⁴ Heli Ansio, Pia Houni, Piia Seppälä and Jarno Turunen, 'Arts Enhances Well-being at Work', (Finland: Arts Equal, 2017), https://sites.uniarts.fi/documents/14230/0/PB_Arts+enhances+well-being+at+work/51fc5258-4ca6-4866-bd21-ccca5c3946a5/.

⁶⁵ Creative Waikato, 'Creativity Everyday', <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/creativityeveryday>.

Council-specific areas of consideration

Civic Engagement	29
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Growth	35
Plans, Policies and Bylaws	38
Arts, Culture, Creativity & Ngaa Toi Maaori	40

The following areas are those which relate specifically to the day-to-day work of Council. There are connections between different areas within Council which facilitate a more holistic and integrated approach to issues and problems and more joined-up solutions. These sections are matched with local government departments

and example initiatives that could be supported through localised investment and activation.

Please note: This will outline a range of local government department areas connected to our sector, and concludes with a specific arts, culture and creativity focus in summary.

Civic Engagement

In the past three decades Aotearoa has undergone a substantive demographic change. This is evident in the ethnic composition of the population, its age structure, and in the increase of those born outside of New Zealand.⁶⁶

In the last two decades voter turnout in Aotearoa, as in other industrial democracies, has been declining.⁶⁷ An added complication is that Aotearoa has a large migrant population with varying experiences of politics and government in their countries of origin.

⁶⁶ Civics, Citizenship and Political Literacy Education for a Diversifying Nation in NZPSA Our Civic Future Civics, Citizenship and Political Literacy in Aotearoa New Zealand: A Public Discussion Paper. <https://nzpsa.com/resources/Documents/Our%20Civic%20Future.pdf>

⁶⁷ Ibid.

Local government is all about community. Councils make decisions about local activity to ensure a healthy environment, thriving families and businesses, safe spaces for all and a culture that supports every individual's sense of belonging.⁶⁸

By collaborating with local government, artists can facilitate processes that amplify the voices of residents, activate neighbourhood assets, and foster a stronger social fabric, building bridges between city staff and communities.

If we want stronger communities with improved outcomes we need councils to work with local storytellers and trusted voices to enhance our collective civics education and understanding. This means engaging with artists to share information in an engaging and accessible way that can communicate effectively with different communities.

The arts contribute uniquely to the works of civil engagement. Validating people's stories and perspectives, and bringing people together around shared goals. The arts are being more consciously and continuously engaged to achieve civic goals, and make change.⁶⁹

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Engage planners, regulatory and community services and artists to create a participatory art project on a particular issue i.e., getting to know your neighbour.

Commission work on a central theme to communicate with diverse audiences (see Kotahitanga⁷⁰ as a local example).

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Community Services and Facilities Parks and Reserves Open spaces Playgrounds Public Toilets Cemeteries Libraries Heritage Property Services—Community Land and Buildings Housing for the Elderly Public Swimming Pools Waste Management and Minimisation Emergency Management Venues, Tourism and Events Infrastructure Theatres Community Halls i-sites	Transport, Roothing and Footpaths Roads Footpaths and Cycleways Road Safety Interventions and Education Plans, Policies and Bylaws Budgets Policies Bylaws Reports Strategies Governance and Corporate Decision-making functions and support Communication and Marketing Provision of information to news media and stakeholder Internal communications Supporting engagement and consultation activities Managing online and print channels
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⁶⁸ LGNZ New Zealand 'Local Government explained' <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/local-government-in-nz/local-government-explained/#:~:text=They're%20responsible%20for%20making,government%20is%20all%20about%20community>

⁶⁹ The Review 'Art as a creative mode of civic engagement' (Oct, 2021) <https://www.uvureview.com/news/art-as-a-creative-mode-of-civic-engagement/>

⁷⁰ Creative Waikato, <https://kotahitangagallery.nz/>

Community Services and Facilities

Libraries, museums, reserves, and community amenities are defined under the Local Government Act as core services of Council.⁷¹ These are all important services that enable the community to participate and celebrate. These are core facilities that enable opportunities for learning, play and communities coming together.

Arts, culture and creativity can have an integral role in the design of local amenities. By incorporating local history or other elements that represent your community, these amenities can become an asset that is truly unique. They can also enhance public appreciation of arts and connect artists with communities. Working

with artists is also a great way to activate community spaces and encourage participation and engagement.

The trend toward the establishment of integrated community hubs⁷² and mixed-use developments, provides opportunities for Councils to ensure maximum benefit for our communities.

⁷¹ New Zealand Government Act, 'Section 11a, 2018)
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0084/170.0/whole.html>

⁷² Hamilton City Council 'Rototuna Village'
<https://hamilton.govt.nz/strategies-plans-and-projects/projects/rototuna/rototuna-village/>

Ensuring facilities include spaces that are accessible to artists and community based arts groups, where they can make and show their work to audiences, is vital for community wellbeing.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Community houses work with local artist(s) to engage migrant communities about their 'sense of belonging'.

Encourage the inclusion of creative spaces (workshops, rehearsal rooms, studios, etc) in other civic developments (buildings, libraries, sports facilities etc).

Support staff in council facilities to support community access to space (activations in libraries, parks, and other council facilities).

Reduce administrative burden on individuals community groups trying to utilise public spaces for creative activity (event permits, space restrictions, busking permits etc).

Proactively address issues in civic bylaws regarding sound levels in public spaces. Take action to create legislative support (District Plan) that protects creative activity in the central city – this includes noise levels in music/performance spaces in connection with new urban residential developments. (see Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan 2023 for example)⁷³

Maintain and increase investment into community providers of service including theatres, venues, and community houses.

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Community Services and Facilities Parks and Reserves Open spaces Playgrounds Public Toilets Cemeteries Libraries Heritage Property Services – Community Land and Buildings Housing for the Elderly Public Swimming Pools Waste Management and Minimisation Emergency Management Venues, Tourism and Events Infrastructure	Planning and Regulatory Building Compliance Development Engineering Resource Consents/ Enforcements/Land Information Memorandums Plans, Policies and Bylaws Budgets Policies Bylaws Reports Strategies Communication and Marketing Provision of information to news media and stakeholder Internal communications Supporting engagement and consultation activities Managing online and print channels
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⁷³ <https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/arts-and-culture/otepoti-live-music-action-plan>

Parks and Reserves

Parks and reserves provide opportunities for people to connect with nature, play and socialise. They also provide space for people to engage in activities that foster community wellbeing.

Arts and culture connect us with our stories, landscapes and places, and New Zealand's history and heritage.⁷⁴ These spaces serve as a hub for community gatherings and events, and often include amenities such as playgrounds, walking trails, and seats.

⁷⁴ Ministry for Arts, Culture and Heritage 'Briefing to the Incoming Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage – February 2023' p.2 <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-03/BIM%20-%20Assoc.%20Minister%20for%20Arts%20and%20Culture%20and%20Heritage.pdf>

Artwork in parks can often perform a dual function, such as a seat, fence, or bridges. The opportunity to integrate art into these functions can make this equipment engaging and interesting.

The Waikato community values greater programming and promotion of youth and family-friendly events.⁷⁵

Storytelling through signage, interpretation, and art can provide educational opportunities and protect the unique cultural heritage of Hamilton Kirikiriroa.⁷⁶

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Support local artists and practitioners to create a strong sense of cultural identity, by integrating history and Māori, Pasifika and other communities into the design.

Engage with local artists to create environmentally aware light-based artworks that provide opportunities for storytelling alongside positive safety outcomes for communities.

Work with local artists on the design and development of art-informed play environments. For more ideas around this, please contact Creative Waikato for information, including the emerging 'Play with Arts, Culture and Creativity' strategy.

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Community Services and Facilities	Plans, Policies and Bylaws
Parks and Reserves	Budgets
Open spaces	Policies
Playgrounds	Bylaws
Public Toilets	Reports
Heritage	Strategies
Property Services — Community Land and Buildings	Communication and Marketing
Planning and Regulatory	Provision of information to news media and stakeholder
Building Compliance	Internal communications
Development Engineering	Supporting engagement and consultation activities
Resource Consents/Enforcements/Land Information Memorandums	Managing online and print channels

⁷⁵ Huber Social, 'Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in Waikato' (Sydney: Huber Social, 2022), p.20, <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/advocacy/researchandreports>.

⁷⁶ Hamilton City Council 'Open Spaces Strategy' p.14 <https://storage.googleapis.com/hccproduction-web-assets/public/Uploads/Documents/Strategies/Papa-Ahuareka-o-Kirikiriroa-Hamilton-Open-Spaces-Strategy-2023-2053.pdf>

Growth

Arts, culture and creativity can be woven into key hard infrastructure projects, to provide distinct places of interest and increase community ownership.

Cultural storytelling, and in particular in collaboration with Mana Whenua, can be pivotal in expressing place-specific identities and ideas.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) can help to protect infrastructure from damage. Public art can contribute to social cohesion, community care, and connectivity, key elements of CPTED.⁷⁷

Culturally relevant art can increase engagement with public spaces and aid urban revitalisation.⁷⁸

Public Art can contribute to feelings of safety and security, and so support engagement and community care within spaces.⁷⁹

Hard infrastructure provides 'third spaces' which can be activated in support of community wellbeing, and it is people who create activity and connection in these spaces. There is a demand for this activation, as growing communities look for things to do and ways to connect with one another.

In the community space, much of this activity, connection and positive outcomes is enabled by volunteers and community groups, who donate their time, skills and energy to serving their communities.

⁷⁷ The International Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Association, 'Primer: What is CPTED?' <https://www.cpted.net/Primer-in-CPTED>

⁷⁸ Siti Syamimi Oma, 'Bringing the New to the Old: Urban Regeneration through Public Arts', *Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Vol. 234, pp.515-524, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877042816315245>

⁷⁹ Partners for Livable Cities, 'Public Art: More than Just a "Picture on the Wall" – a Vehicle for Crime Prevention', <http://livable.nonprofitsoapbox.com/component/content/article/9-livability-live/474-public-art-more-than-just-a-picture-on-the-wall-a-vehicle-for-crime-prevention>

Community activation of third spaces is referred to as soft infrastructure. This is the central and measurable driving force behind the diversity of cultural expression, the quality of creative output, and the continuously growing local, national and international reputation of the creative storytelling of this region.

Investment in people, and investment from people, contributes to the success, sustainability and strength of the creative ecosystem. This, in turn, can make measurable contributions to a thriving community and society.

These ecosystems make ongoing investments into our community, and contribute positively to civic pride, regional reputation, social value, and collective wellbeing. It is vital that there is civic investment and support for the growth and maintenance of all facets of soft infrastructure—with a central focus on people.

Recent Waikato research shows that creative professionals experience significantly lower access to essential resources than those outside of the sector. This includes 8% lower local Employment, 4% less access to affordable housing, and increased anxiety.⁸⁰

Artists in communities provide direct access to creative activities which can have benefits for wellbeing.⁸¹ Investment in

this soft infrastructure delivers on the core work of local government.⁸²

Government investment in creativity not only delivers economic benefit.⁸³ Having accessible community art can “range from individual to collective betterment, and from, community to broader positive societal impacts”.⁸⁴

Supporting local creatives to deliver local community initiatives supports community wellbeing.⁸⁵

It is key to acknowledge and educate the public about the volunteer labour that enables quality community outcomes.⁸⁶

Hard infrastructure projects can hold space for multiple community uses, and low-cost inclusions can promote use.

Accessibility of creative activity is a key driver of wellbeing, so it is vital to invest in the providers of diverse creative activity to ensure that accessibility is maintained, while recognising the valued contributions made by creative organisations.⁸⁷

80 Huber Social, ‘Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in the Waikato: How to Support Our Creative Professionals’, https://creativewaikato.co.nz/site/uploads/CW-Creative-Professionals-Report-2023_Final.pdf, p.13

81 New Zealanders and the Arts Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi 2020, <https://creativenz.govt.nz/Development-and-resources/New-Zealanders-and-the-arts---Ko-Aotearoa-me-ona-Toi>

82 <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/local-government-in-nz/local-government-explained/>

83 <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/govt-investment-arts-delivers-strong-economic-results>

84 Darcy, Clay (2021) ‘Cohesive Magic, Creative Collective Expression: Community Arts in Ireland and Their Beneficial Role in Youth Work and Community Development,’ Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies: Vol.21: Iss.1, Article 6 <https://arrow.tudublin.ie/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1382&context=ijass>

85 See Creative Waikato pilot programme ‘Whiria Te Tāngata’ for example: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/07-02-2024/creative-waikatos-whiria-te-tangata-bears-the-fruit-of-community-investment>

86 NZ Volunteering data and value: <https://www.volunteeringnz.org.nz/research/volunteering-statistics-nz/>

87 https://creativewaikato.co.nz/site/uploads/HS_Creative-Waikato_Wellbeing-and-Arts-Culture-and-Creativity-in-the-Waikato_FINAL.pdf

It is essential to gather data around the use of community space, and what activities take place within them, and by which local groups.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Combine elements of placemaking with civic infrastructure, such as through using light sculptures on public areas, in order to provide safety, community interest and storytelling.

Establish a Creative Ambassador to promote and facilitate connections and opportunities around infrastructure developments.

Prioritise strength-based investment into the soft infrastructure already delivering in your community. Consider implementing multi-year granting, and streamlining reporting requirements.

Work in partnership with creative leaders in your community to activate council spaces, and provide creative communities with spaces and places to make and create.

Explore the development and support of creative hubs in your communities. Examples include: The Incubator (Tauranga), Toi Poneke (Wellington), Te Atamira (Queenstown).

Support the incorporation of creative elements into essential infrastructure in order to create vibrant urban environments. This plays 'an important role in supporting social and economic regeneration'.⁸⁸

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Community Services and Facilities Parks and Reserves Open spaces Playgrounds Public Toilets Cemeteries Libraries Heritage Property Services—Community Land and Buildings Housing for the Elderly Public Swimming Pools Waste Management and Minimisation Emergency Management	Planning and Regulatory Animal Control Building Compliance Development Engineering Environmental Health Resource Consents/Enforcements/Land Information Memorandums
Venues, Tourism and Events Infrastructure Theatres Community Halls I-sites	Plans, Policies and Bylaws Budgets Policies Bylaws Reports Strategies
Transport, Roading and Footpaths Roads Footpaths and Cycleways Road Safety Interventions and Education	Communication and Marketing Provision of information to news media and stakeholder Internal communications Supporting engagement and consultation activities Managing online and print channels

⁸⁸ Lisa Wilkie, 'What is Arts & Creativity in Infrastructure?', Ara Toi Ōtepoti, <https://hail.to/ara-toi/publication/jhKgoah/article/H4HUAhc>

Plans, Policies and Bylaws

Plans, policies and bylaws affect all citizens, including those working in the arts and culture space. There is an opportunity to integrate a holistic approach to these decision making processes which includes and draws on the strengths of the creative ecosystem.

It is also important to have a strategic vision for how city growth may impact and engage with the creative sector — this includes capacity for events in public spaces, development of CBD residential and required sound level consideration and mitigation, provision and support for street performance/busking, public art development and activation, etc.

Creative Waikato is available to support as a strategic advisory partner, in order to provide sector-informed and evidence-based insight to assist council in these developments. For initial information, see our community-led, regional arts and culture strategy, the Waikato Arts Navigator (WAN).⁸⁹ The WAN, alongside the Waikato Performing Arts strategy have been developed to support collective impact in the wider region, while supporting each council to identify their own priorities and focus areas with their communities.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Meet with Creative Waikato to explore how arts, culture and creativity can meaningfully connect with council planning and bylaws.

Adopt the Waikato Arts Navigator as council’s arts and culture policy, and then develop a targeted action plan.

Appoint a Creativity Officer or Creative Ambassador with a purpose to support and deliver positive outcomes for the arts, culture and creative community.

Consider how red tape around live performances and public events can be simplified.

Explore engagement with arts, culture and creative providers for social procurement and positive wellbeing outcomes.

Support the delivery and expansion of the Creative Communities Scheme funding.

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS	
Community Services and Facilities Parks and Reserves Libraries Heritage Property Services—Community Land and Buildings	Planning and Regulatory Building Compliance Development Engineering Environmental Health Resource Consents/Enforcements/Land Information Memorandums
Venues, Tourism and Events Infrastructure Theatres Community Halls I-sites	Plans, Policies and Bylaws Budgets Policies Bylaws Reports Strategies
Transport, Roding and Footpaths Roads Footpaths and Cycleways	

89 Creative Waikato, ‘Waikato Arts Navigator’, https://creativewaikato.co.nz/site/uploads/Waikato-Arts-Navigator-Regional-Strategy_2023.pdf

Arts, Culture, Creativity and Ngāa Toi Māori

As expressed throughout this briefing, arts, culture, creativity and ngāa toi Māori can and should be woven through all facets of the core work of local government in the vision and delivery of a productive, thriving and flourishing district and region into the future.

It is important that in exploring the work of councils supporting all communities to thrive and be connected, we must acknowledge the vital role of our creative ecosystem in being a contributor to that.

Arts, culture and creativity should be activated by all components of local government as an essential contributor to human capital, social cohesion, positive impact and wellbeing.⁹⁰

Local governments can support local activity by advocating to ministries and the central government for increased regional investment in this sector.

Arts, culture and creativity are a core public good that provides measurable benefits for the mental and physical health of all New Zealanders.

The creative ecosystem contributes to our innovation, and to our regional storytelling, both to ourselves and to international audiences.

Artists are skilled practitioners whose work should be utilised to help develop innovative pathways for future success.

⁹⁰ For national and international evidence of this impact, see: Creative Waikato, 'Briefing to Incoming Ministers, 2023/2024', <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/site/uploads/Creative-Waikato-Briefing-to-Incoming-Ministers.pdf>

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT?

Increase Investment in the creative eco-system in a sustainable way that supports community impact, and acknowledges the importance of accessibility and wellbeing.

Develop lasting strategic partnership relationships with Creative Waikato as the regional arts organisation to grow capability, and utilise sector-specific insights and impacts.

Embed the Waikato Arts Navigator as a council strategic document and commit to developing a council-specific Arts Action plan in alignment with your LTP, this briefing advice, and community consultation.

THIS STRATEGIC APPROACH SHOULD INCLUDE

Vibrant and diverse arts, culture and creativity that starts in flax roots community activity and develops through into sustainable creative careers.

Telling our stories and embracing te ao maaori and ngaa toi maaori in all its forms as the unique expression of this country.

Enabling accessible creativity and daily creative expression for all people in our communities.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR 2024-2027

Engage with artists and local advisors, alongside Creative Waikato, to explore the possibilities to embed creative activations across all core council business.

Maintain and increase council investment in the areas of arts, culture and creativity—both within council operational activity, and in community granting and support.

Invest in Creative Waikato as a strategic regional arts organisation (alongside other regional sector organisations in Sport, Economic Development, Tourism etc) to support localised activity, capability and strategic regional impact (in partnership with community trusts and central government).

Work collaboratively to enhance community arts activity and infrastructure through a regionalised partnership approach.

CONNECTED COUNCIL DEPARTMENT AREAS

Community Services and Facilities

Parks and Reserves
Open spaces
Playgrounds
Public Toilets
Cemeteries
Libraries
Heritage
Property Services—
Community Land and Buildings
Housing for the Elderly
Public Swimming Pools
Waste Management and Minimisation
Emergency Management
Venues, Tourism and Events
Infrastructure
Theatres
Community Halls
I-sites

Transport, Roading and Footpaths

Roads
Footpaths and Cycleways
Road Safety Interventions and Education
Planning and Regulatory
Animal Control
Building Compliance
Development Engineering
Environmental Health
Resource Consents/
Enforcements/
Land Information
Memorandums

Plans, Policies and Bylaws
Budgets
policies
bylaws
reports
strategies

Governance and Corporate
Decision-making functions and support

Who we are

Creative Waikato is the regional arts organisation for the Waikato region, which includes 10 local authorities — Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki, Matamata-Piako, Waikato, Waipā, Hamilton, Waitomo, Ōtorohanga, South Waikato and Ruapehu.

Our area of activity and engagement also connects with four Iwi — Waikato-Tainui, Hauraki, Raukawa and Maniapoto.

We have been working extensively across Waikato since 2012 and have experience and understanding of the diverse array of artforms found throughout our region. We are navigators who lead the elevation of creativity in our region

and collaborate to provide opportunities for cultural wellbeing. We provide creative capability development for artists and arts organisations, strategic direction and support for sustainable arts, culture and heritage in our region.

Our vision

Waikato
thrives with
diverse and
transformative
creative
activity

What does this mean?

The arts, culture and creativity are valued and celebrated in our communities.

Our region has robust and flourishing pathways for participation and audience engagement and our creative and artistic professionals.

Ongoing sustainable development of a range of artistic and cultural activities throughout the region.

The arts, artists, arts and cultural organisations and arts activity are seen as being a vital part of the Waikato region and the wellbeing of its people.

What we can do for councils, elected councillors and staff

Provide localised insights and facilitate connections with front-line community and facilitators.

Deliver regionalised activity that aligns with our regional strategy (which links to community trusts, philanthropy and local government).

Serve as regional sector advisory to support policy, cross-department planning, outcomes and insight, and to support activation of the regional strategy and local action plan.

Continue to deliver our capability building programmes and strategic sector influence in the Waikato Region. Supporting creatives, organisations, and other enablers to work collaboratively to develop and deliver innovative district and regional outcomes.

Next steps

Meet together to share our current insights, work and impact.

Connect with council executive leadership and staff to support future development and strengthen our strategic relationship.

Support council engaging with 'Creativity Every Day' as our koha to you and your staff.

Please contact

Creative Waikato CEO

Dr. Jeremy Mayall

jeremy@creativewaikato.co.nz

Key links

<https://creativewaikato.co.nz/>

[https://creativewaikato.co.nz/
advocacy/waikato-arts-navigator](https://creativewaikato.co.nz/advocacy/waikato-arts-navigator)

[https://creativewaikato.co.nz/
news/understanding-the-value-
of-arts-culture-and-creativity](https://creativewaikato.co.nz/news/understanding-the-value-of-arts-culture-and-creativity)

[https://creativewaikato.co.nz/
creativityeveryday](https://creativewaikato.co.nz/creativityeveryday)

Creativity.
Auahatanga.
Wellbeing.
Hauora.
People.
Ngā Tāngata.

Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan



**Creative
Waikato
Toi Waikato**

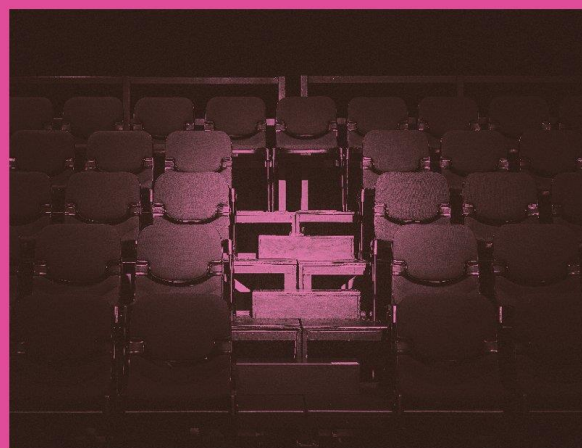
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Background

This plan presents a 2024 strategic overview of Creative Infrastructure in Waikato. It builds upon the foundation of the previous Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan prepared for Creative Waikato by The Stafford Group, in August 2014.

The purpose of this plan was to identify the current facilities available throughout the Waikato, to ascertain any gaps in the facility offering and to determine how to best fill those gaps over the next 30 years. It was the first opportunity for the Waikato region to review current and future creative sector facility needs.



This plan recognised the important role of the creative sector in helping to grow the liveability¹ of the Waikato region and its communities, and provide financial and economic benefit for the region, through driving increased tourism and local resident demand.²

¹ Broad concept which includes a combination of the social, cultural, economic and environmental attributes of a place.

² 'Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plans Summary Document – Prepared for Creative Waikato, August 2014' The Stafford Group & Creative Waikato, p. 1.

The 2014 report included research and analysis which highlighted the most strategic pathway forward — a funding and infrastructure model for the creative sector which offers:

Shared regional facilities (and costs)

Rationalisation of the number of facilities to focus on a fewer number of affordable facilities and venues; and

Ensuring facilities for the next 30 years are more flexible in their design to cater to changing uses and changing market demand needs

This would also include options for non-permanent facilities (pop-ups) which are able to offer far lower capital cost options which avoid the ongoing high annual maintenance and repair cost which existing bricks and mortar facilities create

In addition to recommendations, this report identified some strategic issues and gaps, including:

A lack of asset data management for creative facilities in Waikato

Minimal need for new creative facilities (bricks and mortar) as well as limited interest from funding bodies and Councils willing to fund new development

A lack of rehearsal spaces being the major infrastructure gap identified by creative sector stakeholders which needs to be addressed

The lack of administrative facilities (meeting rooms, back of house supporting facilities) is a further infrastructure gap which also affects the organisational ability of the sector³

Since this report was completed, there has been some progress in areas, but little in others. These will be briefly discussed in this report.

³ 'Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan: Summary Document' — Prepared for Creative Waikato, August 2014' The Stafford Group & Creative Waikato, p. 6.

Purpose

The rate of change over the past 10 years has been unprecedented with a global pandemic, climate crises, civil unrest and technological advances.

There is a need for Aotearoa to have “co-ordinated, connected and cross-sector approaches and policies that align with cohesive objectives which will be essential for our social and economic systems” if we are to thrive.⁴

Innovative and cohesive approaches to issues require a long-term approach beyond our current moment and population. The Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan, prepared in 2014, provided useful data and an understanding of the infrastructure needs

at that time. The purpose of this revised plan is to provide current thinking on the future of creative infrastructure within the Waikato region, and outline potential pathways to get there.

⁴ New Zealand Productivity Commission, 'Looking to the future' <https://www.productivity.govt.nz/publications/looking-to-the-future/read-online.html/>.

⁵ UoG, Culture 21 Actions, <https://www.agenda21culture.net/documents/culture-21-actions>

Definitions

Arts

Activities in which individuals and groups engage in the process of making, developing, shaping and sharing objects, images, words, performances, music, or other forms of aesthetic expression to convey emotion, story, ideas or concepts. Artists make art often through the conscious use of skill and creative imagination especially in the production of aesthetic objects.

Art, or “The Arts” may include specific conventions of practice and presentation which are guided by structures, expectations and formalised infrastructure. For the purposes of this plan it can include, but is not limited to: visual art, painting, music, theatre, dance, poetry, circus, craft, media, ngā toi Māori, Pasifika arts, cultural arts and practices, fashion, film, design, puppetry, and sculpture.

This plan is connected to arts infrastructure like: galleries, museums, theatres, venues, concert halls, libraries, studios, rehearsal rooms, workshops, but can include schools, community halls, pop-up spaces, outdoor amphitheatres, parks, and civic spaces — along with groups, organisations and collectives — to provide the frameworks for artistic expression and development.

Culture

Culture is made up of the values, beliefs, languages, knowledge, art and wisdom, with which a person or people, individually or collectively, expresses both their humanity and the meaning they give to their life and its course.⁵

Access to culture is a human right and common good. Culture helps us to understand, interpret, and transform reality and can include a rich array of different things, including our shared stories, traditions, identities, beliefs and ideas. It includes our ability to access and understand the stories we inherit — we sit, watch and listen.

For this plan, cultural infrastructure includes: hapū and iwi, cultural organisations, marae, fale, culturally-specific and culturally-aware spaces, and other cultural or religiously significant spaces.

Creativity

The ability to turn imagination into action. Creativity is connected to art and culture but also expands beyond those frameworks and can operate with flexibility and freedom. Creativity is a process for innovation, curiosity and play. Engagement with creativity is intrinsically motivated, it has no expected or specified outcome. It is spontaneous, joyful, fun, accessible, challenging, social, repeatable, and doesn't require specific space or equipment.

This Plan defines creativity spaces and places as those aligning to arts and culture infrastructure — but creativity is also able to exist in any private, public and organisational space. It ultimately can occur anywhere and the key requirements are time, space, and encouragement.

Soft Infrastructure

Components of core service delivery related to people. This can include organisations, groups, collectives, and encompasses both the seen and unrecognised contributions made towards measurable growth in our cities and civic spaces.

Soft infrastructure is the services required to maintain the economic, environmental, cultural and social standards of a society. It includes non-physical assets, such as communication, policies, strategies and regulations, the financing of these systems and services, and the future development of training, capability and resources.

Hard Infrastructure

Hard infrastructure, also known as built infrastructure, is the physical infrastructure of space and place that should provide safe and accessible opportunities to engage in societal activities.

For the purposes of this plan this includes: galleries, museums, theatres, venues, concert halls, libraries, studios, rehearsal rooms, workshops, schools, community halls, pop-up spaces, outdoor amphitheatres, parks, civic spaces, marae, fale, and other buildings or created environments that serve to provide opportunity for arts, culture and creativity as per the definitions above.



Arts and Culture Organisations

A group, entity, organisation, trust or society who work with a core purpose in the arts, culture and creative ecosystem. This may be for-purpose or for-profit.

Liveability

Liveability is the articulation of provisions that ensure a place is good for living. Liveability is connected to the long-term wellbeing of individuals and communities. It includes the things that make our cities and towns great places to work and live and play. This includes hard infrastructure like buildings and parks, retail, hospitals and schools, as well as the activation of these spaces.

Other important considerations for liveability are environmental quality, safety, cost of living, happiness, social cohesion, friendliness, and community connection.

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Benefits

The Plan is the result of a research-based development process. It combines desktop research and multi-faceted community engagement with the support of our strategic partner network.

The plan is presented in order to prioritise and guide investment in both hard and soft infrastructure, enhancing access and participation in arts, culture and creativity in the Waikato region.

Benefits in working with Creative Waikato on this plan include:

An informed planning and decision-making process

Sector-informed insights into ecosystem needs and strategic growth

Advocacy with funders, investors and enablers for planned infrastructure developments that align with the Plan

Sector-specific reviews of facility development concepts, including scope for the development of feasibility and business cases

Insights, knowledge and resource sharing specific to arts, culture and creativity

Insights and knowledge into the essential delivery of both hard and soft infrastructure to support civic development and impact

Support and guidance to facilitate collaborative partnerships

Capability building with communities to encourage collaboration and activate community hubs

Facilitation of information sharing, training and community engagement

Increasing insights into regional infrastructure utilisation data to understand demand and inform future development

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How to use

This plan is an evolving advisory document redeveloped in 2024 to address future growth and need in consideration of Waikato infrastructure.

This reference document has been developed to assist our strategic partners and community in both hard and soft infrastructure development, planning, provision and optimisation. Like all high-level plans, this is an initial guide for framing more detailed planning to build from. The Plan is not a replacement for this detailed research and analysis which will be required for future developments (at regional and local levels).

It is recommended that the Creative Infrastructure Plan is considered in alignment with the Waikato Arts Navigator and the Waikato Performing Arts Strategy.

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Limitations

The 2024 Plan presents an initial high-level scan of hard and soft infrastructure in the Waikato. This Plan is based on available data at the time of writing, using secondary data and primary data from third parties.

A high-level plan presents scope and proposed future developments that address community needs. The plan is presented as a regularly-evolving summary and as new information is collated, it will be considered for the next iteration.

The Plan does not replace the need for project-specific planning, analysis and community consultation. Each project needs to consider artform, scope, and community needs. As additional providers and partners undertake or update their existing plans and insights, it is envisaged that this Plan will require updating to remain relevant.

The Plan examines issues at a strategic level for the broadest consideration of the arts, culture and creative ecosystem. It recognises that there may be artform-specific needs in different communities and contexts that may require additional insight.

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Specific limitations noted in the development of the 2024 Plan include:

Sector-wide infrastructure plans do not currently exist on a national or regional level

The complex balance between artform-specific needs and different health and safety requirements is still to be considered

A reliance on existing community infrastructure information from territorial authorities which is currently limited in scope

The impact of COVID-19 on infrastructure sustainability in the region

The impact on funding inadequacies around facility maintenance and gaps in technical provision

Limited engagement with Waikato Tainui in this review of this plan, and recognition of the need to engage more widely with the other Iwi of the Waikato region to ensure we are capturing their aspirations, roles and needs regarding spaces, places and facilities for arts, culture, creativity and ngaa toi Maaori

This is the first refresh of the plan since its initial development. It is also the first to consider soft infrastructure alongside hard infrastructure. In a future-focused consideration of sector development it is vital that all facets are considered

Consider soft infrastructure needs alongside hard infrastructure development

Continue research and impact analysis on arts, culture, and creativity participation and activation in Waikato and how that informs future development

Work with local communities and organisations to understand emerging needs and requirements for increasing access and participation in an equitable and inclusive manner

Continue alignment to regional strategies that inform the background of this plan – Waikato Arts Navigator, Waikato Performing Arts Strategy

Work alongside local Iwi to identify current and future needs and aspirations for Māori

Recognise the guiding framework in the Local Government Act to “promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities”.⁶ The Plan needs to reflect and inform the essential intergenerational impact of both hard and soft infrastructure for arts, culture and creativity on individual and collective wellbeing

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⁶ Taituara, ‘Community Wellbeing’, <https://taituara.org.nz/community-well-beings>.

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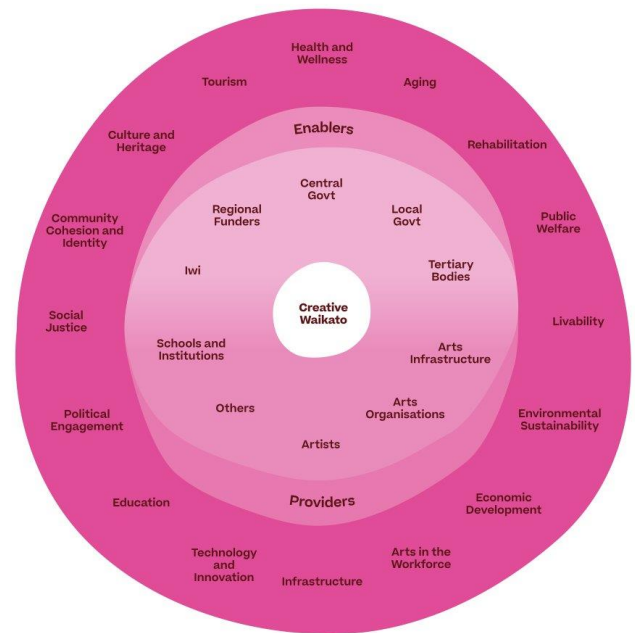
Understanding the creative ecosystem

To achieve the broadest possible impact, it is essential to view the contribution of arts, culture and creativity as part of a system which affects all facets of society.

This system-based approach acknowledges cross-sector opportunities to enable effective outcomes and deliver better public services. This ecosystem approach is fundamental to our regional arts strategy.

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Arts as part of our community ecosystem



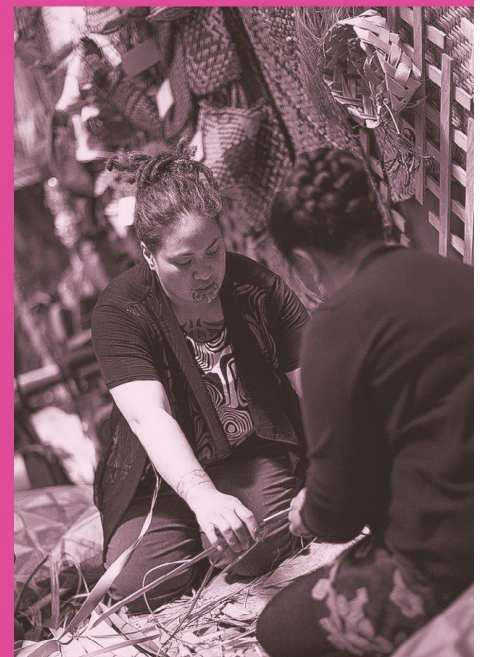
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Waikato Arts Navigator

The Waikato Arts Navigator Strategy (WAN) provides an aspirational vision to see the Waikato region become a place with a vibrant arts and cultural sector that thrives with diverse and transformative creative activity.⁷

This means that there is the ongoing sustainable development of a wide range of artistic and cultural activities.

The WAN is a mechanism to help achieve broader impact. It is a shared language, a way to understand and communicate the value of what we do as a sector, and to find ways to work with one another to enhance the role of arts, culture and creativity in the region.



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⁷ Find the Waikato Arts Navigator and other strategies on the Creative Waikato Website: <https://creative-waikato.co.nz/advocacy/strategy-space>

Five threads

The five threads of the WAN represent key areas of focus that connect across our broader ecosystem.

The ultimate objective of the WAN is to empower key enablers, funders and community organisations to make decisions with the following outcomes in mind. This would lead to transformational systemic change for Waikato and its people.

CREATIVE WELLBEING	CREATIVE PROSPERITY	CREATIVE EXPERIENCES	CREATIVE EDUCATION	CREATIVE INNOVATION
Hauora and wellbeing	Creative economies	People experience local, national, international arts	Participatory art projects	Business partnerships
Positive collective and individual identities	Attract and retain residents	Community and cultural expression	Upskilling creative professionals	Informing local government decision making
Create, grow and strengthen communities	Tourism opportunities	Recreation and interaction	Community art classes and projects	Local problem solving
Inspired responses to challenges	Positive national perceptions	Community engagement and connection	Youth development	Distinct local expression
Strengthened connection to place	Increased investment from funders	Local pride	Audience development	Creative export opportunities

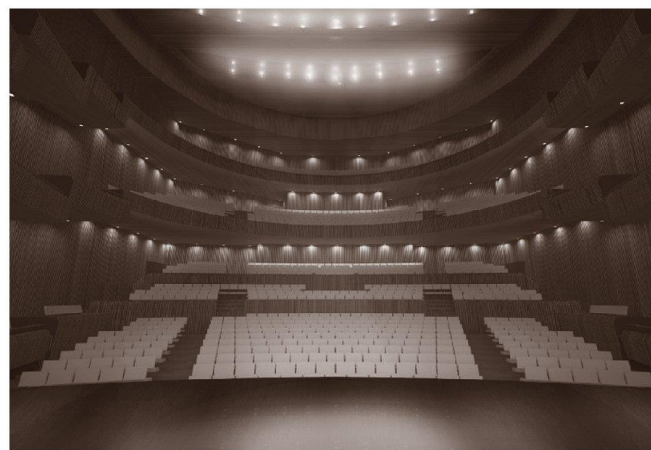
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Performing Arts Strategy

The construction of the Waikato Regional Theatre provided the opportunity to build upon the Waikato Arts Navigator, in order to explore the distinct strengths of local performing arts activity.

The development of the Performing Arts Strategy was an opportunity to meaningfully engage with our diverse communities, and to hear from the people who are already having a great impact on our region, and who also want to see the sector continue to thrive, and help shape the future for this vital ecosystem.



Despite being deeply affected by the covid pandemic, with cancellation of shows, and venues being closed for long periods, the sector showed resilience with its ability to adapt, pivot, and come together to look at pathways forward. Having a strategy that considers the bigger picture of the sector and provides a shared vision or focus for future development is an important way to move forward in a positive direction.

The performing arts in Waikato has the potential in the next 30 years to build upon its rich and varied history to support sustainable growth in the sector, to engage new audiences, and to tell local stories and create opportunities for new practitioners to share their voice.

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The Vision is that:

The Waikato
Performing Arts
ecosystem thrives
through inspiring
communities and
enabling diverse
creative activity.

Drawing from the insights shared by the diverse Waikato community, the pathway for supporting this vision emerged in four strands of focus:



These focus areas provide useful understanding for the future development of this infrastructure plan.

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Hard and Soft Infrastructure

A strategic framework with a long-term view point, recognises that transformational change takes time. There are many elements that must coincide to enable such transformation.

This includes the provision of and support for hard infrastructure (physical assets) and soft infrastructure (people and services), arts activity, regeneration, supporting artists and arts organisations, valuing creativity and creative thinking.

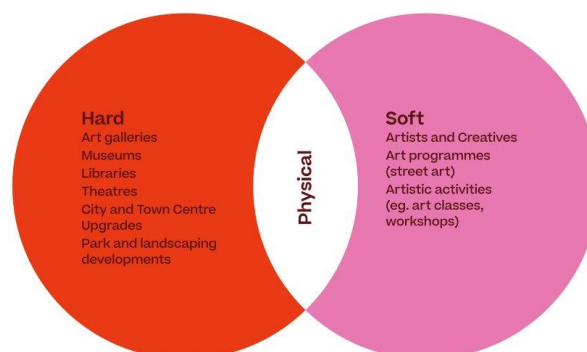
Proactive collaboration and strong advocacy from Councils and other leadership organisations will inevitably empower the broader community to work together towards a common vision.⁸

While hard infrastructure is an important consideration (and formed the basis of earlier iterations of this plan), the 2024 update includes an emphasis on soft infrastructure. A previous lack of data, insight, and sustainable investment have shaped potential issues for the ongoing sustainability of our essential soft infrastructure.

The concept and discussion around soft infrastructure is relatively new.⁹ It is regarded as a fundamental component which forms the basis for a functioning economic, political and/or social system. Most specifically, the function of soft infrastructure has been described as:

“[A] facilitator for the implementation and utilisation of hard infrastructure”

It is important to recognise that our cities and towns have both hard and soft infrastructure. Whilst physical buildings and utilities are critical components of urban development, it is the soft infrastructure that enables the smooth integration of technology and provision of services.¹⁰



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⁸ "Waikato Arts Navigator Strategy" p.43 https://creative.waikato.co.nz/files/uploads/Waikato-Arts-Navigator_Regional-Strategy_ONLINE.pdf

⁹ Turner, C. (2020) 'The infrastructured state: Territoriality and the national infrastructure system', Edward Elgar Publishing in Sutriadi, R 'Soft infrastructure in Smart Sustainable Cities' p.200 <http://journal.pubindikatren.bappenas.go.id/lib/jisdep/article/view/428/172>

¹⁰ Sutriadi, R 'Soft infrastructure in Smart Sustainable Cities' p.200. <http://journal.pubindikatren.bappenas.go.id/lib/jisdep/article/view/428/172>

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Core components of soft infrastructure

Soft infrastructure is associated with the development of human and social capital integral to community-building and the promotion of “high quality” living.¹¹

It is the mahi and expertise required to activate hard infrastructure. Forms of soft infrastructure include programmes and facilitators in libraries, museums and other community resources.

Soft infrastructure encompasses both the seen and unrecognised contributions made towards measurable growth in our cities and civic spaces. Soft infrastructure in the arts, culture and creative sector is a core part of sustainable growth, civic development and placemaking. This directly connects to vibrant communities and this understanding is supported by a wealth of peer-reviewed local and international evidence that demonstrates this impact.

It is vital to consider issues around growth in the context of living and working in a changing city. Growth of certain kinds

(residential) is interwoven with the function of a city which connects both hard and soft infrastructure (events, concerts, activities). The value and impact of this creative soft infrastructure strengthens the economic potential of the city, thriving and active communities, and attractiveness for inward investment. This framing of soft infrastructure supports the understanding that sustainable growth is not just about physical buildings. It must also be about people. People who provide services, activations and community development that deliver core civic outcomes.



¹¹ Brail, S., Mizrokhi, E. and Ralston, S. (2017) Examining the transformation of Regent Park, Toronto. In: N. Wise and J. Clark (Eds), *Urban Transformations: Geographies of Renewal and Creative Change*. Pp. 177-194., London: Routledge in Cambridge Centre for Housing & Planning

Research 'Infrastructure, placemaking and sustainability' A Report for Places for People (May 2020) https://www.cchpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/files/documents/DownloadTemplate_49.pdf

¹² Ibid.

Sustainable civic growth, community cohesion, social wellbeing and economic development are all served through strategic investment in both hard and soft creative infrastructure.

This connection is specifically articulated in the Waikato Arts Navigator as a regional arts strategy. It is also supported by recent local evidence through the Creative Waikato and Huber Social Wellbeing impact study, as well as recent reports by Creative New Zealand on local government and placemaking, and the Review for the Future of Local Government on the focus for community wellbeing.

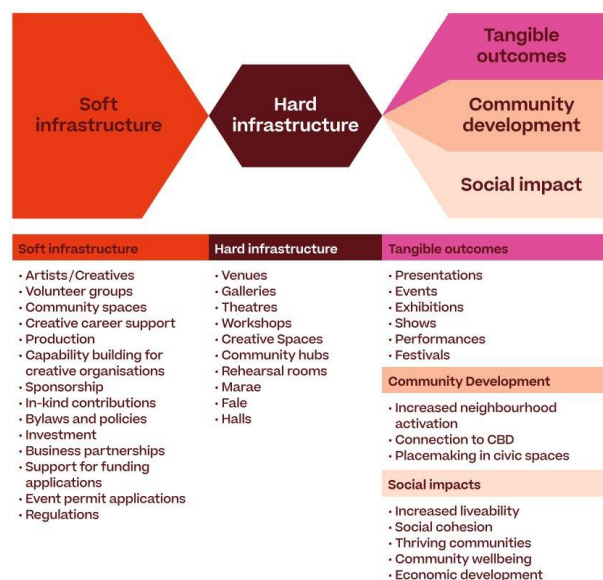
Investing in hard infrastructure means creating safe, accessible and sustainable community spaces. Investing in soft infrastructure means supporting the people who breathe life and vitality into spaces and capital assets. It is essential to have both these things. The community benefits of this activation provides the rationale and social licence for ongoing

future investment and development that enables continued civic, economic and community growth. It is key that the activation, operational and maintenance requirements of all capital projects is proactively included in long term budgeting and project planning.

A place's social and cultural norms, meanings and values are present within their forms of soft infrastructure.¹²

Supporting those people who activate hard infrastructure contributes to distinct local expression and social cohesion.

It is through the soft infrastructure utilising the space and support of the hard infrastructure that the wider impact occurs.



The creative sector is enabled by the passion, expertise and care of volunteers, as well as paid employees. This is the case too in sport, community, and cultural spaces. Ultimately, our community mobilises and connects with or without hard infrastructure, and while investments in hard infrastructure are key to enabling safer, more accessible,

sustainable and engaging experiences, it is important to centre people in these developments. It is key then, to not only measure impact in terms of financial return or asset utilisation, but to consider wellbeing measures, and the ways in which these experiences contribute to things like community cohesion, connection to place and land and self.

Waikato Infrastructure Plan

The Waikato Infrastructure Plan prepared in 2014, provided a benchmark in the identification of current and future sector facility needs. However, some of these projects were not realised.



Priority Projects

The table that follows outlines the “Priority Projects” that were recommended. An update on these projects is provided in addition to new projects which were either not considered or realised at the time the initial plan was prepared.

Status

Working well and/or complete	
In progress or needing some future development	
Stalled, cancelled or postponed	
Potential future priority	
Project not listed in 2014 report	*

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Project	Location	Types of Uses	Primary Partners	Update 2024	Status
Waikato Regional Theatre (upgrade to Founders Theatre)	Hamilton	Performing Arts	Hamilton City Council and Others	<p>Investigation into remedial and development work for Founders Theatre was undertaken in the 2015-2016 financial year. Founders Theatre closed in 2016 for safety reasons.</p> <p>In 2017, Momentum Waikato worked with support from Creative Waikato to engage in community consultation to develop a new Waikato Regional Theatre (WRT). In 2018 Hamilton City Council funded \$25million and the Hamilton Hotel site on the South end of Victoria Street was identified as the preferred site.</p> <p>Waikato Regional Property Trust (WRPT), which owns the theatre, formed via the appointment of its first trustees in October 2018. Work on the new site began in 2021. Demolition of Founders began in 2023</p>	
Upgrade of The Meteor Theatre	Hamilton	Performing Arts	Community	<p>Ownership transferred from Hamilton City Council to The One Victoria Trust in February 2014. By 2017, the Trust had successfully raised the \$1.1 million necessary to complete required upgrades and earthquake proofing. Meeting the requirement of full transfer of ownership. The Meteor successfully sourced crowdfunding for the refurbishment and installation of new bathrooms in 2021.</p> <p>*** Challenges exist around operational funding where sustainable investment and support will be ongoing. Increased civic investment is required to support future accessibility for communities</p>	
New major performing arts auditorium—NZ Conservatorium of Music	University of Waikato—Hamilton	Performing Arts	University of Waikato Foundation and Others	<p>This was stalled due to covid.</p> <p>The University is adding a much-needed extension to its performance arts building—the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts.</p> <p>Originally opened in 2001, the Academy is a purpose-built arts building and is regarded as a top facility for teaching and performance. This space is available to local, national and international groups and artists to use for practices, concerts and performances.</p> <p>A proposed extension will include a new art gallery space allowing for larger installations, and additional music practice rooms with the appropriate acoustics, lighting, outlook and arrangements necessary for students to learn and practice in. No timeframe as yet.</p>	
Upgrade for Waitomo Cultural Centre	Te Kuiti	All creative expression but particularly for growing Kapa Haka	Waitomo District Council and Others	<p>Now called the “Les Munro Centre”, there have been some Council funded upgrades since 2014 including the main hall, floor coverings, foyer, stage, bathrooms, gardens and kitchen.</p>	
Upgrade for Clarence St Theatre	Hamilton	Performing Arts and storage	Community Trust and Others	<p>Hamilton City Council gifted Clarence Street Theatre to the Clarence Street Theatre Trust in 2015. Building upgrades including roof refurbishment is still required.</p> <p>Covid was a major hurdle for the theatre as extended lockdowns, limited capacity, and lower audience engagement added complication.</p> <p>Clarence St Theatre has a new manager and is looking at opportunities for future development and activation.</p> <p>*** Challenges exist around operational funding where sustainable investment and support will be ongoing. Increased civic investment is required to support future accessibility for communities</p>	

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Project	Location	Types of Uses	Primary Partners	Update 2024	Status
Development of multiple rehearsal spaces	Multiple locations	All forms of rehearsal and production facilities	Councils and Others	This is an ongoing need and has not been fully investigated or realised.	
Creation of cultural, sculptural and art trails linking towns and creative sector venues	Throughout the Waikato to help tell the sub regional and regional history	Visual art form display, event and communication information, Māori creative expression and welcome	Councils and Others	<p>The Sculpture Park – Waitakaruru Arboretum The art-in-nature experience invites families and friends to share a walk, and children to be outdoors on a creative adventure. www.sculpturepark.co.nz</p> <p>Boon Sculpture Trail – Kirikiriroa/Hamilton Boon Sculpture Trail brings together artists from across Aotearoa, to create and install temporary outdoor sculptures in Kirikiriroa Hamilton. www.boonarts.co.nz/bst</p> <p>Te Ara Wai journeys – Wāipa District Self-guided tour of culturally significant sites tearawai.nz</p> <p>Te Ahurei Māori Tourism – Māori Art Walking Tours of Hamilton CBD Celebrating Māori art and storytelling in Kirikiriroa/Hamilton. www.facebook.com/teahureimaoritourism</p> <p>Tainui Waka Tourism – Regional Māori Tourism Organisation (RMTTO) for the Tainui Waka region. Vision is: "Sharing our stories with the World". www.facebook.com/tainuiwakatourism</p> <p>Te Awa River Ride The 65km Te Awa River Ride is one of the most scenic cycling and walking trails in New Zealand. Art component still in development www.te-awa.org.nz</p> <p>Five Waikato River trails – Karapiro, Arapuni, Waipapa, Maraetai, Whakamaru Strategically placed art along trails. www.waikatorivertrails.co.nz</p> <p>Waka Kotahi Waikato expressway Concrete pou and waka erected on historic sites throughout State Highway 1 Huntly bypass route www.monarc.co.nz/latest-work/case-studies/waikato-expressway-huntly-bypass/</p> <p>The Adventure Trail Highway Ruapehu The Adventure Highway Arts Trail is a celebration of creativity. A trail which includes galleries, studios, cafes, restaurants, and art stay accommodations, each telling a story of the region's cultural heritage and contemporary artistic flair. www.visitruapehu.com/maps/the-adventure-highway-art-trail</p> <p>Hamilton Airport Cultural Transformation Rejuvenation of brand – pekapeka (long-tailed bat). Natural attributes aligned to Ranginui (skyfather), Papatuanuku (earthmother) and everything in-between connection to place, purpose and planet. Meaning interwoven into building. All artists whakapapa back to Waikato www.hamiltonairport.co.nz/our-cultural-journey</p>	

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Project	Location	Types of Uses	Primary Partners	Update 2024	Status
Development of multi-purpose facility (all art forms)	Ngāruawahia (possibly as part of Tūrangawaewae Marae)	All creative expression but particularly for growing kapa haka	Tūrangawaewae Trust Board and Others	<p>Globox Claudelands has become a regular venue for kapa haka. Less restrictions around food vendors and minimal entry fee has made this a popular event.</p> <p>Te Matatini has established 12 new Pou Takawenga positions which will be conduits between regions (incl Tainui) and Te Matatini.</p> <p>Possible plans for a Toi Māori Hub for the purpose of housing taonga from the Kingitanga, which have been gifted through generations.</p>	
Upgrade of The Plaza	Putaruru	All creative expression but particularly for performing arts	South Waikato District Council Local/regional Trusts, Foundations and Others	LTP 2020-21 – Putaruru Town Concept Plan included creation of "The Plaza Creative Arts Hub" precinct.	
Outdoor amphitheatre development	Hamilton	All creative expression	Hamilton City Council and Others	Two current proposals – Hamilton Gardens and Founders Theatre site – neither currently confirmed – but Creative Waikato was part of initial community consultation.	
Development of Riverlea Theatre	Hamilton	Performing Arts + storage	Hamilton City Council and Others	Purchased land from Council in 2016 and have been working to fundraise for a new building.	
*Creative Space Development in Otorohanga	Otorohanga	To be determined	Otorohanga District Council and Others	*Creative Waikato has been engaging in community consultation around this project.	
Development of public art space/gallery	Hamilton (possibly as part of current Museum)	All forms of fine art, craft	Hamilton City Council and others	Initial plans for the Waikato Regional Theatre included provision for a Public Art Gallery. A brief feasibility study was completed for this in 2023 by Creative Waikato, however, it appears that no current provision has been made for this.	
Rehearsal space and artists studios	Hamilton	All forms of rehearsal and studio facilities	Councils and others	Potential for mixed-use artist studios, gallery, venue hire spaces. Examples are Toi Poneke (Wellington), The Incubator (Tauranga), Te Atamira (Queenstown), The Piano (Christchurch).	
Ngāa toi Māori creator space	Hamilton or location in region	Inclusion of space for carving along with other artforms	Hamilton City Council (and/or other District Councils) and others	Collaborative artist studio space.	
Increased investment in community organisations	Multiple locations	All creative expression	Local trust, foundations, Council and Others	<p>These should be strength-based community led initiatives for arts, culture and creativity outcomes.</p> <p>*** Creative community organisations balance accessibility and sustainability through civic and philanthropic investment. Future growth and long-term activation require long-term investment.</p>	
Development of Storage facility	Hamilton	Costume storage, stage props, lighting equipment, instruments etc	Local trusts, foundations and Others	Potential for storage facilities specifically for performance. Example "Green Green Room" in Wellington.	

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Current Landscape

Current Hard Infrastructure Landscape

There is no currently available data that frames the full region. A complete map of the scale and scope of this is still to be developed. Key components include:

Theatres (includes: Waikato Regional Theatre, Clarence Street Theatre, The Meteor Theatre, and a number of local and regional community theatres)	Galleries
Community halls	Marae
Venues (concert halls, bars, alternative venues)	Cultural centres
Schools (halls, performing arts facilities)	Creative hubs and workshops
Museums	Dance schools
	Libraries
	Community houses
	Parks and Gardens

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Key Strategic Considerations

The current societal context provides important considerations for future development, including:

Cost of living crisis and impacts on access and engagement	Collaboration between groups to increase feasibility, optimisation and where appropriate, rationalisation of facilities
Economic recession and potential reduction in funding for creative community service providers	Communication, collaboration and advocacy across social sectors, to increase the perspective and understanding of the value and contributions of arts, culture and creativity to community
Negative trends in social cohesion and mental health. Need for additional investment to support positive outcomes	Exploring shared-use facilities with sports, community and other partners across boundaries, communities, education, and other stakeholders
Increased engagement in community creative activities, and increased costs for delivery, with reduced funding opportunities	Increased sector investment and support to navigate funding challenges and the decline in revenue and increased costs due to recent years
Changing demand for spaces, places and mixed-use facilities in diverse communities	Climate change and environmental sustainability and how this can be acknowledged and mitigated by communities, enablers and existing infrastructure
Multi-agency response required to identify and address needs	
Lack of backbone mechanisms to facilitate increased utilisation of available civic spaces (council, school, community spaces)	

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Current Soft Infrastructure Ecosystem

The scope and activation of soft infrastructure in the Waikato is hard to specifically articulate. This work is in continued development. Focused areas of delivery include (but are not limited to):

Toi Maaori organisations (kapahaka, cultural groups, marae, hapu/iwi)	Visual Arts groups
Theatre groups and organisations	Music groups and organisations
Musical theatre groups and organisations	Literature groups and organisations
Dance groups and organisations	Event organisers
Societies of arts	Festival organisations
Creative community organisations	Craft and object organisations

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Strengths Analysis

Challenges

Artists, arts groups and venues receive modest amounts of investment which is disproportionate to the value and effort that is provided. The impact of the pandemic and competition for the leisure dollar makes it increasingly difficult for the arts, culture and creative sector to become self-sustaining.

There is an access, participation and equity balance that creates increasing complexities for community infrastructure. Providers of community infrastructure often need to balance the costs of delivering services against the prices that community members can reasonably expect to pay to use and/or engage in the services. If the core service measure is around access, participation and wellbeing for all people in our communities, then it is essential that civic, philanthropic, government and other investment is increased to support.

Aotearoa's arts and cultural sector remains on an emergency footing following the past three years of pandemic disruption.¹³ In 2020, The Ministry of Culture and Heritage provided some respite through various Arts and Culture COVID Recovery Programmes and these did result in some successful outcomes.¹⁴ However, due to these programmes being short-term the potential of these initiatives will not be fully realised, nor their long-term effects measured.

The cost of living is also having an adverse impact on artists and audiences, with inflation continually rising. This directly impacts provision of service, and impacts the communities, artists, creative and organisations who utilise and engage with local hard infrastructure.

¹³ The Conversation 'We need to break the cycle of crisis in Aotearoa New Zealand's arts and culture. It starts with proper funding' February 2023 <https://theconversation.com/we-need-to-break-the-cycle-of-crisis-in-aotearoa-new-zealand-arts-and-culture-it-starts-with-proper-funding-59772>

¹⁴ Beehive.govt.nz 'Govt investment in arts delivers strong economic results' (May 2023) <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/govt-investment-arts-delivers-strong-economic-results>

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Insights into the situation for our sector include:

The median total income for Creative Professionals is \$37,000. This is comparable to what self-employed New Zealanders earn (\$39,900), but considerably lower than the median income for those earning a wage or salary (\$61,800)

The median income for creative work is \$19,500. This is lower than total income as nearly half of creative professionals also hold down a job outside of the sector to supplement their income

Overall, only 18% of creative professionals agree they are fairly compensated for their time, with two thirds indicating that they do not feel fairly compensated

Almost all (94%) creative professionals participating in the gig economy find it difficult to secure loans for things like mortgages, and four in five find it difficult to predict how much money they are going to make, and struggle with the lack of holiday and sick pay¹⁵

Other strategic considerations

Core creative civic infrastructure is often managed and maintained by community trusts; This contributes to increased risks to sustainability. Because these trusts do not have the scale of operational support that might exist if spaces were council managed, capital expenditure and upgrades require extensive and intensive fundraising campaigns, contributing to burnout and the closing of key community spaces. There is a need for sustainable long-term investment from council into the future, in recognition of the public good and community wellbeing that community groups facilitate from these spaces. It is important that this is maintained.

There is a lack of safe and reliable rehearsal space. For the health and safety of performers it is important that there are spaces with appropriate flooring, heating, lighting and accessibility. There is a lack of consistent space in Waikato communities for these purposes. It is worth noting that these design features can be of benefit to other users of these spaces too, including whānau, disabled communities, our elders, and participants in sport and recreation activities.

Social inequity and deprivation is a strategic reality. There are large components of the Waikato region which include deprived and isolated communities. People in those communities often have lower levels of access to and participation in creative activity. They also have limited access

to hard infrastructure. For isolated communities there is often a lack of available infrastructure to provide any opportunity for positive impact.

Post-COVID fiscal cliff. The period of 2020-2023 saw an unprecedented investment in the arts, culture and creative ecosystem from central government. This increase in funding was the largest update in the national arts funding levels in more than a generation. As a result there was increased activation, access and activity. But this funding was fixed until June 2024. Which means many organisations have increased their operation and impact—but there is no ongoing support available. For Waikato, the arts sector Covid Recovery Funding that came into the region via Manatū Taonga was \$10,519,180.

This figure encompasses Recovery funding only (Creative Spaces, Cultural Installations and Events, Cultural Activators, Innovation Fund, Regeneration Fund and Capability Fund). It excludes emergency relief funding (CSERF, Arts and Culture Event Support Scheme)

Some of this funding is also allocated to other regions as there are multi region projects. The approved amount for projects focused solely on the Waikato region is \$5,106,890.¹⁶

This will create a challenge for our communities who have grown used to an increase in available support and the positive impacts that has enabled.

¹⁵ Kantar Public, Creative New Zealand and New Zealand On Air, 'Profile of Creative Professionals', <https://creativenz.govt.nz/-/media/project/creative-nz/creativenz/publicationfiles/2023-profile-of-creative-professionals/profile-of-creative-professionals---main-report---pdf.pdf>

¹⁶ Figure from Manatū Taonga reporting, see: <https://www.mch.govt.nz/>

Opportunities

Artists, creatives and associated organisations are resourceful groups. They regularly stretch any investment received into creating positive outcomes and serving the liveability of our communities.

The creative ecosystem is currently one of the largest funders and enablers of creative activity when we acknowledge volunteer hours, in-kind support, and provision of service above and beyond market rates.

While this is a positive contribution, it is vital that enablers, civic partners, and investors acknowledge and value that contribution to ensure that sector burnout is reduced and that artists and creatives can have access to sustainable careers and quality of life. If we want to be an innovative and resourceful region we need to embrace imaginative opportunities to work differently and explore creative opportunities to prioritise

investment and support into both hard and soft creative infrastructure, and acknowledge the essential balance between those areas of activity.

The Waikato Arts Navigator provides a useful strategic framework to inform future opportunities that encourage collaborative investment, strategic partnerships, and to explore avenues for embedding creatives into activities beyond the obvious delivery areas.

Other opportunities to strengthen the creative infrastructure of the Waikato can include:

Utilising and repurposing council owned spaces to support community activities

Exploring development of creative spaces as part of civic revitalisation

Working with Sport Waikato to embed creative spaces in Sporting infrastructure

Encouraging the provision of empty commercial space for accessible art activity

Investing in public art as a contributor to civic safety

Investing in public creative programming and events to encourage the development and sharing of local stories

Work with creative organisations to limit red tape and regulation when providing creative services and events

Embed provisions that contribute to the protection of arts, culture and creative activity in city centres and civic environments

Recommendations

This 2024 revision of the Creative Infrastructure plan builds upon earlier insights, but presents new high-level opportunities for shaping a Waikato Region that thrives with diverse and transformative creative activity.

Whilst this plan acknowledges that each different territorial authority will have different requirements, expectations and levels of investment, it is essential for future planning to be established and a prioritisation of the types of infrastructure and service provision that will be required for thriving future communities.

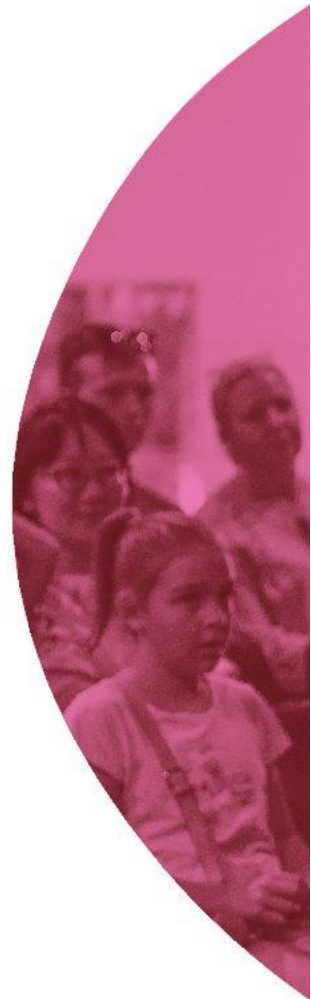
Key recommendations of the 2024 plan are:

Develop an arts action plan in alignment with the Waikato Arts Navigator for each territorial authority (in partnership with Creative Waikato)	1 year
Embed sector-informed policies and guidelines to enhance creative activity in local communities (events, performance, public art, etc)	1-3 years
Contribute to the next stage of development of this plan to provide further insights, scope and location specific data points for further analysis. (This should highlight data around the use of spaces, and prioritise supporting community access and use of these spaces)	1-2 years
Proactively explore the inclusion of creative spaces in all future civic, sport and community infrastructure projects	2-5 years
Encourage the development of multi-use space – but acknowledge the artform specific safety requirements and expectations in the development process	1-5 years
Increase investment into soft infrastructure in the arts, culture and creative sector	1-3 years
Engage with strategic sector advisors to explore opportunities for creative outcomes in connection with placemaking, civic story-telling, parks, CBD developments, and public communications	1-3 years

Disclaimer:

Information, data and general assumptions used in the compilation of this report have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. Creative Waikato have used this information in good faith and make no warranties or representations, express or implied, concerning the accuracy or completeness of this information.

Interested parties should perform their own investigations, analysis and projections on all issues prior to acting in any way with regard to this project. All proposed infrastructure approaches made within this document are high level concepts and should be further developed in consultation with any contributing parties. Proposed approaches represent recommendations based on the findings of the research that informed the report. All final decisions remain the responsibility of the respective property owners.



18 April 2024

E te kaipānui, tēnā koe

Creative New Zealand's Support for Creative Waikato in Long-Term Plans 2024-2034

Creative New Zealand is the national arts development agency of Aotearoa New Zealand, responsible for encouraging, promoting and supporting the arts in New Zealand for the benefit of all New Zealanders. We do this by investing in the arts, developing the arts, advocating for the arts, providing leadership in the arts, and by partnering for the arts.

Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori are an important part of developing strong and thriving towns and cities, and connected and healthy communities. We encourage Council to recognise in its decision-making the essential role arts and creativity play in the wellbeing of your residents.

We write to offer our support for the great work that Creative Waikato continue to undertake in your region by supporting and strengthening arts and creativity in the Waikato – and, in turn, enhancing the wellbeing of Waikato communities.

The Creative Waikato team play a vital role in providing a diverse range of opportunities for Waikato residents to engage with and participate in the arts. They also provide important support and training for artists, creatives and arts organisations. They have a proven track record of developing initiatives and projects that meet the needs of both the arts community and audiences. We often use the Creative Waikato 'model' to talk about meaningful regional arts development when we are meeting with councils throughout Aotearoa. Last year they were also part of two different panels we hosted with local government leaders to highlight what can be achieved in community wellbeing outcomes by investing in regional arts organisations.

It's exciting to see Creative Waikato continuing to develop strategic resources including the Waikato Arts Navigator, Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in the Waikato, Performing Arts Strategy and the new advocacy resource Joyful Steps to Community Advocacy which offer engaging, insightful and valuable support to both artists, creatives and the wider public.



As your Council works through its Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 budget deliberations, we encourage Council to continue to work with and resource Creative Waikato as the integral pin in your plan to support arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi in your community.

Currently, Creative Waikato are working with Hamilton City Council, Waikato District Council, Waipa District Council, Otorohanga District Council, Ruapehu District Council, South Waikato District Council, Waitomo District Council, Hauraki District Council, Matamata-Piako District Council, Thames-Coromandel District Council and have also made a connection with the Waikato Regional Council, offering a strong framework for how councils can best engage with their local arts communities.

We know through our own research that participating in arts, cultural and creative activities build united and resilient communities, increases community wellbeing, and offers ways to express our unique cultural identities. Importantly, these activities also attract and accelerate economic activity, and can equip people with the skills needed for the workforce of the future.

Creative Waikato as a regional arts organisation offers a strategic and unique opportunity for councils in the Waikato to work collaboratively and undertake collective action that will deliver greater impact for their communities. Creative New Zealand hopes that Creative Waikato will continue to be supported in its role as a vital link between the Council, your arts whānau and the wider community.

Ngā mihi nui, nā



David Pannett

Senior Manager, Strategy & Engagement
Pou Whakahaere Matua, Rautaki me te Tūhono



Support for investment in arts, culture and creativity.

Creative Waikato have engaged our community of supporters, leaders and advocates to share their insights into the role of civic investment in the creative ecosystem.

This is presented as support to our LTP submission.

Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori are vital parts of the communities and identity of the Waikato. They make valuable contributions to social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing by connecting people to place, shaping community identity, and building social cohesion. As Supreme Court Justice Sir Joe Williams said at Creative New Zealand's national arts sector conference Nui te Kōrero in 2021, "No meaningful social change occurs without some filmmaker, some songwriter, some artist, some poet, triggering the possibility long before anyone realises what the triggering was." It is important that councils recognise the essential role of the creative sectors in the wellbeing and resilience of your residents as you make decisions for the future in the LTP.

- David Pannett, Senior Manager, Strategy & Engagement - Creative New Zealand

Arts, culture and creativity are vital in enhancing wellbeing and vibrancy in communities. The arts provide a medium for connection that transcends space, time, and language.

We have seen first hand how projects such as Kotahitanga: United Through Creativity contribute to social cohesion, inspiring conversation in hard times and making sense of difficult concepts. A Huber Social report on subjective wellbeing relating to arts, culture and creativity in the Waikato region found that engagement with and access to the arts correlates with higher overall wellbeing. Whilst there are hard choices to be made, the wellbeing of our communities into the future need to be at the forefront of decisions today.

- Dennis Turton, CEO - Trust Waikato

Arts, culture and creativity are important because they are central to the expression of our values and identities as communities. Whenever we visit a new place and want to understand something of what makes it special and different to other places, we invariably look to its creative expressions to get a sense of that identity. Places that do this well are memorable, and draw people back again, whether that's to visit repeatedly, or to live in, because they have a clear sense of identity and vibrancy.

Sam Cunnane, Kaiwhakahaere Rōpū Matua – Group Director, Te Pūkenga|Wintec

Beauty is an important part of life and community. At Fosters we work hard to retain beauty in the built environment we create, and we recognise the important role that Arts and Culture plays in placing beauty in our community. We believe this enough to allocate funding each year to local creative organisations to ensure they can continue to create beauty in our community, and stretch and challenge our thinking as a society. Hamilton, for example, would be a much poorer, and less beautiful, place without the significant contribution of BOON through the street art. Art creates stories and connections that reflect and enhance our community. Core infrastructure is important at a functional level, but without an investment into arts and culture in the city, the city is lifeless and barren. We need continued investment in economic good times and bad into arts and culture if we want to maintain and grow the wellbeing of our city.

Leonard Gardner, Director – FOSTER CONSTRUCTION GROUP LIMITED

The creation and promotion of events has become a critical component of urban development strategies across the globe. Cities have become stages for continuous streams of events resulting in places actively hanging their identities on the events that they provide. Two great examples of this are Melbourne who now labels itself as “the worlds event city” and Seoul who claims to be “one of the most eventful cities in the world”. The continuous theme of cities promoting themselves by utilising an event component shows the crucial need for events and activations to be factored into daily life in a modern city.

The thriving arts scene and cultural diversity that makes up Hamilton city, opens the door for a number of activities that contribute to this scene. The interest created with these activities builds on the fantastic organisations that already draw visitors to the central city including Creative Waikato, Waikato Museum, Clarence Street Theatre, The Meteor, the soon to be completed Waikato Regional Theatre and the many local entertainment offerings as well as the multitude of cultural festivals that have become a mainstay on the event calendar.

Vanessa Williams, General Manager – Hamilton Central Business Association

Britain’s war-time leader Winston Churchill was once asked if arts funding should be cut in favour of the war effort. His retort was: “Then what are we fighting for?” Art in communities is as vital as sports parks, libraries, marae, business parks, roads and poo pipes. Churchill’s comment was an astute recognition that art, in its many forms reminds us of our history, allows us to escape the current and reimagine a future. The recent inclusion of art works into infrastructure such as bridge overpasses, even our city’s latest wastewater treatment station provide a sense of place, tell a story, create a reason to stop and contemplate or simply be a place for attraction and congregation. Over centuries, arts has told us of history and stories, heroes and heroines, conflicts and successes, and have been used to mark places of importance to people, our community and our country.

Kelvyn Eglinton
General Manager – Craigs Investment Partners
(Previous CEO of Momentum Foundation Waikato)

Investing in toi Māori is a commitment to safeguard and elevate our pūrākau, our tūpuna, our mātauranga. It gives voice to the silenced echoes of our landscape – not the dominant rhetoric that perpetuates our systems and institutions. The arts? We're the pulse of a thriving society, a stage where we boldly test limits, defy norms, and forge grounding alliances. It's about venturing beyond the ordinary, where we embrace our rangatiratanga in the avant-garde of innovation. Because, really, who doesn't crave that cutting-edge?

Waimihi Hotere, Kaihautū Festival Director – Matariki Ki Waikato

Arts, culture, and creativity are who we are, how we express ourselves and what we do. When you watch a Marvel movie or a netflix show – that's art. When you listen to the Cure or Roddy Ricch – that's art. When you put on clothes – that's culture, when you go to a comedy show and laugh at your everyday experiences being reflected back at you – that's creativity. Like it or not, everything you do is a result of art, culture or creativity. After all, you've gotta be pretty creative to come up with the idea of a car when all you've seen are horses.

Cities that embrace art, culture and creativity for their own sake are great places to live, and great places to live are thriving places. You can't expect a city to continue to grow without growing the number of reasons people want to live there. Hamilton is a great place to live, good playgrounds, good amenities, conveniently located etc etc but the time is coming where these reasons aren't enough to attract new people to Hamilton, either as residents or manuhiri.

Organic growth can't be paused, it either continues or it stops. Arts, entertainment and culture are organic, and they are growing in Hamilton! If we take away the sun and the rain the plant doesn't just wait in the same state, it withers. If council withdraws support, the arts aren't going to be patiently waiting to resume when support returns – you'll have to rebuild everything from the ground up.

Moreover, Hamilton is a proudly diverse city – cultural activities provide platforms for diverse voices to be heard, promoting inclusivity and understanding. What are we saying to our minority groups if we withdraw support for their cultural activities, but the Christmas parade still goes ahead?

Arts and culture investment is not just an investment in the present; it's an investment in the long-term vitality and resilience of our communities, and not just something fun around the edges.

Gus Sharp, General Manager – Waikato Regional Theatre

Arts, Culture and Creativity are important for all of our communities. They enhance our lives in a way that builds our individual and collective health and wellbeing. The joy and connection created through participation with arts, culture and creativity, in any way, is enormous.

They are a critical way that the diversity of who we are as a community can be shown, and for many, is a place where individuals are enhanced because they see themselves in what is represented on walls, in public spaces or on stages.

It is often the creative elements of our city that inspire us as a family to connect with friends. They are also the things that we share with visitors to our city. They are the things that we connect with and are proud of. The investment in arts, culture and creativity is a valuable one. It is an investment in all our people and overall community wellbeing.

Andy Mannering, Community Engagement and Partnerships Manager – Kainga Ora (Waikato)

Art, culture and creativity are an intrinsic part of our local and regional tourism offering and competitiveness as a visitor destination. These sectors are essential vehicles for the realisation of our stated vision “Taakiri tuu te koorero ki te ao” (Sharing our stories with the world). Art, culture and creativity are also invaluable platforms for enhancing social, cultural and economic well-being and these sectors should therefore be funded as a core function and obligation of Councils to their respective communities and to the making of communities.

Craig Muntz, Secretariat, Tainui Waka Tourism Inc.

Arts and culture provide vibrancy and inspiration to a community. A lack of this expression reduces creativity, connection and perspective. Nods to diversity and story-telling build a sense of belonging, empathy and pride of place. Councils need to invest in arts and culture to empower the community to innovate, be inquisitive and to problem solve. Surely a community becomes richer in soul and more desirable with a strong arts and culture offering?

Steve Mills, Head of Client Services – DesignWell

It's hard to argue with the fact that creative participation nurtures a sense of togetherness, so as we approach this period of Long-Term Plan (LTP) development for our region's local authorities, communities and elected members can't simply consider arts, culture and creativity as “nice to have”.

At the heart of Council responsibilities is the commitment and call to foster ‘community wellbeing’... there is no better way to ensure this through investment (attention, time, resources and funding) in creative projects that broaden collective experiences, harness opportunities for expression and encourage the expansion of ideas and innovation.

In turn, Councils must consider the role of supporting infrastructure (and associated maintenance) to sustain and grow the creative sector as well. After all, these are the assets that drive “community-building”, connection and cohesion, creating value far beyond their ‘bricks and mortar’ status.

A community that can access art and culture is a community that is healthy, aligned and unified, a society that recognises the value of diversity while cultivating empathy and understanding... what more could we want for our region!?!

Amanda Hema, CEO – South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT)

Funding through grants and sponsorships is our lifeblood. Without these, our work ceases, and our community will be the poorer for it. There will be less stimulus for our mental well-being, less fun things to do, and creatives will not be able to thrive and will sadly forsake our city for better opportunities elsewhere. Other cities in NZ see the merit of art and are investing strongly in it, yet Hamilton seems hellbent on going backward through its proposed cuts in funding to the Arts and other community groups.

Nancy Caiger, Arts Advocate

The Waikato Society of Arts has been providing and nurturing opportunities in visual arts for 90 years in Kirikiriroa, with art classes, workshops, studio space for artists and community groups, continual free public art exhibitions, artist talks, mentorship, and national art awards. It is these long-term programmes that provide stability for people, well-being, constant purpose, connectivity and dialogue, pride in what they can achieve, confidence to become a valuable member of the wider community and a gateway to higher aspirations in visual art. Recognising the quieter work done by groups like the WSA is important to the role they play in the fabric and culture of our community. Without the support through funding and sponsorship, costs rise to participate in art for all ages, we lose artists who are also employed as art teachers and arts groups who nurture, educate, support, and enrich our environment over a long time. They create the social capital everyone else thrives from, including Council. The artists that pass through our doors are the storytellers of our history, present ideas, dreams, politics, diversity, youth, wisdom, and growth within the Waikato region and Aotearoa, captured for everyone to enjoy and come together with no barriers. Valuing art and those that bring it into the community is what makes a city healthy, vibrant and a place people want to visit and live in.

Julie Johnstone
Operations Manager – Waikato Society of Arts

At Seed Waikato, we listen to and amplify the voices of our young people. We continue to hear how Arts, Culture and Creativity are critical to their growth, development and wellbeing. They share how having access to spaces and places that are safe for them to be courageous in expressing themselves in creative ways has reminded them of their mana and individual gifts. Their confidence then ripples out into the world, giving them the hope that it's worth making this world a better place.

When creativity is shared, it creates the conditions for collective healing, which is critical to our young people believing that everyone's a changemaker. We tautoko the mahi of Creative Waikato as the advocates and navigators of cultural wellbeing in our region, and are honoured to work alongside them in creating a thriving Waikato.

- Tania Pointon, CEO - Seed Waikato

As we move forward it's important to continue to share about the things we care about and celebrate the joy that engagement with arts, culture and creativity brings. And at a time of community consultation it is vital that we use our voices to speak about the things we value.

This is a time to do that.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7778
Name:	Matt Holl
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)**

I wish to speak to;

1. How a simple dispute resolution process can be used as a simple consultative process to avoid works from making conflicts work, get community buy in, and give opportunity to model outcomes.
2. Some simple thoughts on evolved governance, oversight, and training.
3. Identification of some works reduction ideas,
Example: Last time there were traffic lights on Wainui Bridge the traffic lights were thrown in the Harbour.
4. Some simple thoughts on Three Waters.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?**Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?****Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here****REVIEWING OUR SERVICES**

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

More detailed information about the budgets for each of these services can be found in the supporting documents

Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7779
Name:	Craig E. Maxwell
Organisation:	Rate payer
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Why is the Council rates going up once again

1. You ask for feedback on food waste bins but still went ahead with it.
2. My road has no street lights.
3. My road has no foot paths.
4. I have my own water tanks so you can't charge me.
5. I do my own sewage that I was made to get that cost money yearly.
6. I pay for my rubbish bags.
7. Who oked the new subdivision that spills human shit into harbour everytime it overflows before it was upgraded first.
8. The one lane bridge should have been done also first.
9. Your policy on dogs has put a lot of dog shit in parks along with human shit in harbour and I love all animals but you need poo bins for dog owners.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7780
Name:	[Confidential]
Organisation:	
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	Yes

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Corporate and council leadership should not account for over 20% of expenditure from rates. We live rurally with no water, stormwater or septics connected to town supply. We pay for rubbish collection through paid bags so most of our rates are going to pay for salaries and community initiatives

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Corporate and council leadership should not account for over 20% of expenditure from rates. We do not accept that the increases in infrastructure that are needed will be supported by the increase to salaries for managers and leadership teams. We do not support salaries for top officials not being made public.

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

Management roles and salaries

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7781
Name:	Lisa James
Organisation:	Raglan Business Chamber
Attending hearings:	Yes
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

See attached.

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

Next year, as part of our Long Term Plan process, we will be reviewing the services we provide. Have a look at the services on page 18 of the Consultation Document.

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?

26 April 2024

To: Waikato District Council Councillors and Staff

RE: 2024-2025 Enhanced Annual Plan

The Raglan Business Chamber would like to ask you to consider retaining the funding you provide to Waikato Screen NZ Ltd.

Waikato Screen is a not-for-profit, promoting and supporting the screen sector. Primarily they are an economic development agency specific to the screen sector.

We are asking both the Waikato District enhanced annual plan and the Waikato Regional Council LTP to support the work Waikato Screen do, and ask for funding to continue.

The screen sector is worth 3.5 billion to New Zealand and 1.5 Billion to Auckland alone.

Waikato Screen has only been a fully funded May 2023 and it is vital to have the support from both our local council and the Waikato Regional Council for us to continue delivering on our As we start to gain traction in our first year of being a funded agency it is to increase our piece of the screen sector for the Waikato Region.

Waikato Screens role includes:

- Attract and market film production to our region
- Support film productions pre and during filming
- Connect our people to possible opportunities within the production
- Connect the production to business and encourage them to use locally
- Assist with iwi liaison and connect to the appropriate iwi and hapu
- Connect and facilitate with council processes and protocols
- Offer training and career pathways
- Inspire youth into the world of film through workshops and school visits

The Raglan Business Chamber have personally seen the benefits that Waikato Screen provide through supporting the screen/film industry in the Waikato. in 2023 they have supported and facilitated a number of projects:

- 2 x Indie Films - Ruapuke, Port Waikato
- 2 x Corporate Commercial Productions - Ruapuke, Raglan
- Waka Kotahi Commercial – Huntly/Meremere
- Music Video- Raglan
- Major International Feature Film in Huntly – (Mayors and WRC Chair attended and 10 youth from local schools including RAS students)

In January 2024 Waikato Screen secured and supported a Japanese Netflix production to film in Raglan.

Waikato Screen ensured that the production company stayed local where they could and brokered some invaluable relationships. There was beautiful engagement from the community and the Japanese crew felt especially welcomed by the beautiful powhiri and marae cooked on the first day.

The Japanese Netflix production in Raglan was conducted and received very well with mutual benefit to production, Raglan businesses, Hamilton City and local people. 50 crew stay in Hamilton for 5 days working and 2 days of down time being tourists in Hamilton. Other economic spend included

- local coffee shops and restaurants
- rented locations, driveways, unit base sites (Raglan Club, Raglan Rugby Club, Kokore on iwi land)
- local security company was contracted for all security
- local background actors, production assistants and beach drivers were employed (100 pax)
- donations made to surf life saving, marae for powhiri and koha for full crew meals provided by the marae.

Post Analysis income calculations

NB. actual figures confidential to the production company but there are industry based calculations Waikato Screen can use.

\$195,000 - Local crew accommodation and per diems for 130 people @ approximately \$300 per day

\$5000 - Local vehicle hire and drivers

\$30,000 - Hamilton accommodation for Japanese crew days off,

\$15,000 locations

\$20,000 parking,

\$5,000 donations

\$100,000 , local extras and staff

\$370,000 Minimum Spend 5-7 days in Waikato & Hamilton Districts (85% spend in Raglan-Waingaroa)

We believe that asking the Waikato District Council for \$28,500 annually as a contribution to supporting the local economy through Waikato SScreen is a valuable addition, that will hold many benefits in the long run. Their focus when facilitating a production is to encourage companies back to the local communities they are filming within, and we can say we know this to be true.

We appreciate your support so Waikato Screen can continue to enrich our communities economically and culturally.

We would welcome speaking to our support of Waikato Screen. Thank you for your consideration

Lisa James

Chair

Raglan Business Chamber

2024/25 ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Sub ID:	7782
Name:	Karuna Deobhakta
Organisation:	Waikato Tainui
Attending hearings:	No
Would like details kept private:	

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you have any comments on our draft work programme for 2024/25? (Our Draft Capital Works Programme)

See attached submission

Q2 Do you have any comments on our draft development contributions charges for 2024/25?

Q3 Do you have any comments on our draft fees and charges for 2024/25?

Q4 Add any additional supporting material you have here

See following pages.

REVIEWING OUR SERVICES

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Q5 Are there any council services you want us to look into reducing?



**RESPONSE TO THE WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN
2 MAY 2024**

This response is filed for Waikato-Tainui by:

Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated

PO Box 648

Hamilton 3240

INTRODUCTION

1. This response is made on behalf of Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated (formerly known as Waikato-Tainui Te Kauhanganui Incorporated).
2. Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated (Waikato-Tainui) is the representative governing body for the 33 hapuu and 68 marae of Waikato (see **Appendix A**) and manages the tribal assets for the benefit of over 89,000 registered tribal members. It is also:
 - (a) the trustee of the Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust, the post-settlement governance entity for Waikato-Tainui for the purposes of the Waikato Raupatu Lands Deed of Settlement 1995 and the Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995;
 - (b) the trustee of the Waikato Raupatu River Trust, the post-settlement governance entity for Waikato-Tainui for the purposes of the Waikato-Tainui River Deed of Settlement 2009 and the Waikato Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010;
 - (c) the mandated iwi organisation for Waikato-Tainui for the purposes of the Maaori Fisheries Act 2004; and
 - (d) the iwi aquaculture organisation for Waikato-Tainui for the purposes of the Maaori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004.
3. Waikato-Tainui provides this response to the Waikato District Council's Annual Draft Plan, on behalf of our marae, hapuu and iwi members.

BACKGROUND TO WAIKATO-TAINUI

4. Waikato-Tainui marae are kaitiaki of our environment and regard the holistic integrated management of all elements of the environment (such as flora, fauna, land, air and water) with utmost importance.
5. Waikato-Tainui are tangata whenua and exercise mana whakahaere within our rohe (tribal region). Our tribal rohe is bounded by Auckland in the north and Te Rohe Pootae (King Country) in the south and extends from the west coast to the mountain ranges of Hapuakohe and Kaimai in the east. Significant landmarks within the rohe of Waikato include the Waikato and Waipaa Rivers, the sacred mountains of Taupiri, Karioi, Pirongia and Maungatautari, and the west coast harbours of Whaaingarua

(Raglan), Manukau, Aotea and Kawhia moana, the eastern areas of Tikapa Moana (Firth of Thames), and principally, New Zealand's longest river, Te Awa o Waikato.

6. Both through its hapuu and collectively as an iwi, Waikato-Tainui has maintained ahi kaa, continues to exercise mana whakahaere, rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga, and upholds and exercises Waikato-Tainui tikanga, kawa, maatauranga and reo within the Waikato-Tainui Rohe.
7. We acknowledge and affirm the intrinsic relationship Waikato-Tainui holds with our natural environment.
8. Waikato-Tainui entered into a Deed of Settlement regarding our Waikato River claim under Te Tiriti o Waitangi in 2008 ("2008 Settlement"). This was followed by the signing of a revised Deed in 2009 and ultimately, enactment of the Waikato- Tainui Raupatu (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 ("Settlement Act"). The settlement marked the genesis of the Crown's statutory recognition of Te Mana o te Awa and the establishment of a "co-management" approach between Waikato-Tainui and the Crown regarding matters relating to the Waikato River.
9. Waikato-Tainui is deeply concerned about the introduction of the proposed Fast Track Approvals Bill (FTAB) and the impact this legislation may have on development, infrastructure, and environmental protections within the rohe.
10. Waikato-Tainui seeks assurance from the Waikato District Council that should the Bill be passed into legislation, WDC will do everything within its power to ensure that:
 - (a) Fast tracking processes do not adversely affect the rights, interests, responsibilities and opportunities of Waikato-Tainui;
 - (b) The co-management and co-governance principles that underpin our Joint Management Agreement, 2008 Settlement and the Settlement Act are recognised and upheld in planning and decision-making; and
 - (c) Our marae, in relation to the matters above, are able to exercise their mana whakahaere on issues relating to the marae.

WAIKATO-TAINUI POSITION

11. Waikato-Tainui reiterates that any long term plan should not undermine but rather strengthen:

- (a) our ability to exercise our mana whakahaere within our rohe, as guaranteed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi and our Te Tiriti o Waitangi Settlements;
 - (b) Our rights, interests and responsibilities of our iwi and hapuu through increased engagement and decision-making processes within any new regime.
 - (c) recognition and provision to provide for the sustainable health and wellbeing of our taiao / natural environment;
 - (d) provisions to recognise and uphold existing Tiriti settlement frameworks and arrangements (in terms of purpose, principles and processes);
 - (e) arrangements to provide for and incentivise the active participation of iwi and hapuu from the outset of any infrastructure or development projects that may impinge on their rights (including in pre-application and pre-council approval processes).
12. Waikato-Tainui's relationship with, and respect for, our taiao gives rise to the responsibilities to protect the mana and mauri of the environment and exercise mana whakahaere in accordance with our long established tikanga. Mana whakahaere has always included the need to realise our rights, interests, and responsibilities, including in relation to economic and proprietary interests. Waikato-Tainui has rights and interests (including economic and proprietary interests) and responsibilities in respect of wai and whenua. We expect those rights, interests and responsibilities to be recognised and upheld.
13. A key driver for Waikato-Tainui is to create opportunities for the iwi and its members, while ensuring the health and sustainability of our taiao and all natural and physical resources. We look to ensure the sustainable economic use of those resources for the benefit of the iwi, including any related opportunities through policy and law reform.

OVERVIEW OF THE WAIKATO-TAINUI POSITION REGARDING THE WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN

14. Waikato-Tainui has a range of rights and interests including, but not limited to:

- (a) The 1995 Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement (and the Waikato Raupatu Settlement Act 1995), the 2008 Settlement and Settlement Act
 - (b) Tikanga and customary law; Common law (including the common law relating to aboriginal title and customary law); and
 - (c) The Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.
- 15. Waikato-Tainui seeks to ensure that these rights and interests are recognised and protected with any policy development.
- 16. In 2008, alongside the River Settlement signing, we also entered into the Kiingitanga Accord. Central to this agreement is the mutual commitment of both Waikato-Tainui and the Crown to embark on a new era of co-management, which serves as a cornerstone of the settlement.
- 17. Our settlement aimed to establish a relationship wherein the Crown would honor and collaborate with Waikato-Tainui in good faith, recognizing them as a Treaty partner. As outlined in the Kiingitanga Accord, this entails the Crown engaging with Waikato-Tainui at the outset when formulating legislation or policies, or when making decisions that impact the Waikato River, its waters, or their management
- 18. As mentioned earlier, the Kiingitanga Accord also incorporates the principle of Te Mana o te Awa. This principle acknowledges that the Waikato River possesses its own life force (mauri) and is a singular, indivisible entity. Furthermore, it reflects the profound connection between the Waikato River and the people of Waikato-Tainui.
- 19. This is reinforced through Te Ture Whaimana – The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River. This is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato-River and any activities affecting the catchment. It prevails over any inconsistent national policy statements and national planning standards as set out under the River Settlement. The objectives of Te Ture Whaimana clearly provide for:
 - (a) The restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River;

- (b) The recognition that the Waikato River is degraded and should not be required to absorb further degradation as a result of human activities;
- (c) The protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora and fauna.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF RESPONSE

- 20. There are several points Waikato-Tainui wishes to raise regarding the Waikato District Council's Annual Plan. It is recognised that development of policies and regulations within an Annual or Long Term Plan must be done in accordance with Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Waikato-Tainui settlement legislation. Waikato-Tainui emphasises the importance of direct engagement with iwi and hapuu as co-partners to ensure an equal agreement between both parties.
- 21. Waikato-Tainui principally supports the aim of the Waikato District Council's draft plan to better support communities and improve infrastructure and service provision.

WAIKATO-TAINUI OUTSTANDING AND REMAINING CLAIMS

- 22. Waikato-Tainui have a number of unresolved outstanding (Wai 30) and remaining te Tiriti o Waitangi grievances that are currently being negotiated with the Crown under the Treaty settlement negotiations process. These include (but are not limited to) claims in relation to the West Coast Harbours (Kaawhia, Aotea, Whaaingarua and Manukau) and Taamaki Makaurau. These claims are comprehensive in nature and extend to matters concerning whenua, the takutai moana, the moana itself, social, cultural and economic issues.
- 23. The claims themselves and the approach to negotiations is underpinned by the principles of mana motuhake, mana whakahaere and te mana o te moana. These principles are reflected in a Takarangi Framework (see **Appendix B**) and aspire to achieve autonomy, decision making rights, and co-governance/co-management rights to ensure the health and wellbeing of the moana.
- 24. Redress mechanisms in this regard are still being developed and negotiated with the Crown. Waikato-Tainui reserve the right to have discussions with the Waikato District Council once redress is confirmed to ensure that the Annual Plan and upcoming

Long-Term Plan supports the implementation and aspirations of settlement for the iwi.

PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

25. Waikato-Tainui and the Waikato District Council are partners in the management and protection of Waikato and Waipa Rivers. Governed by the principles of Te Ture Whaimana, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and conditions stipulated within our Joint Management Agreement (JMA).
26. We are aware that the proposed changes by government from a Three Waters system to Local Water Done Well, may create some inconsistencies or raise concerns about the way water is currently managed and protected.
27. Waikato-Tainui urges the Waikato District Council to develop a robust engagement system within any policy developed to implement an Annual or Long Term Plan. As effective collaboration with iwi in decision-making processes will be crucial for the sustainable development and management of natural and physical resources within the region.
28. Waikato-Tainui also recommends that the Waikato District Council works in collaboration with the Waikato Regional Council, and other councils within the rohe to better plan infrastructure and development within a shared area of control. If there are projects or infrastructure that is overlapping, councils may be able to evenly distribute the costs of development. This collaborative effort will ensure there is no double up in the allocation of funding.

CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND RECOGNITION

29. Waikato-Tainui takes a deep interest in the development, protection and maintenance of the physical and natural environment within our rohe.
30. Waikato-Tainui acknowledges that development and building of infrastructure will be beneficial to the local economy, however concern arises as to whether the Council will sufficiently engage and consult with iwi and hapuu that have asserted customary rights or interests within these areas of development.

31. The introduction of the Fast-track Approvals Bill creates additional concerns around the level of engagement and consultation with iwi and hapuu surrounding lands that have unsettled or unprotected rights, as there is no requirement for applicants under this regime to consult with parties unless they have legislated rights in the area listed for approval.
32. Waikato-Tainui acknowledges that although we have outstanding claims that are yet to be settled, our right of consultation and engagement with the Waikato District Council remain strong within the scope of our JMA.
33. Waikato-Tainui expects early engagement once the Waikato District Council has notification of a project or development that may impede on our existing or unsettled rights and interests.
34. Waikato-Tainui is worried that in absence of early engagement, fast tracked planning and development can lead to issues in terms of long-term sustainability. Waikato-Tainui wants to ensure that our future generations do not suffer because of insufficient or rushed planning processes.
35. Therefore, Waikato-Tainui seeks to continue to work in partnership with Waikato District Council to achieve the common goal of a thriving and sustainable economy and environment.
36. Additionally, to enable equitable opportunities for Maaori development and to preserve, protect and restore our natural environment, Waikato-Tainui seeks inclusion in planning, design and decision-making processes relating to the projects proposed within our area of interest.
37. To adequately prioritise the preservation and recognition of Maaori cultural heritage sites, a strong engagement process must be included in the Annual and Long Term Plan to ensure that iwi, hapuu and whaanau rights are protected, maintained, and appropriately acknowledged within the Annual and Long Term Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

38. Waikato-Tainui advocates for the integration of sustainable practices and policies into the upcoming Long Term Plan, including initiatives to mitigate climate change,

protect biodiversity, and promote eco-friendly infrastructure development. This sentiment is echoed in our Tai Timu, Tai Pari, Tai Ao Environmental Strategy Plan, which we strongly advise Waikato District Council to consult consistently when evaluating any development proposals.

SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION

39. It is imperative that the Annual and upcoming Long Term Plan addresses existing socio-economic disparities and works towards fostering a more inclusive society. We urge Waikato District Council to prioritise initiatives that promote social equity, affordable housing, accessible healthcare, and educational opportunities for all residents, including Maaori and other marginalised communities.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

40. Waikato-Tainui acknowledges that adequate infrastructure is essential for the prosperity and well-being of Waikato residents. We therefore in principle support the Waikato District Council's proposal to improve assets and add to current infrastructure to meet population need.
41. However, the proposed overall rates increase in the Annual Draft Plan of 13.75% for 2024/25 is highly concerning.
42. Many of our whaanau live in rural areas, with limited access to basic services such as transport, healthcare, education, water infrastructure, libraries, playgrounds etc.
43. A general rates increase of 13.75% is unaffordable for our vulnerable whaanau, who are not assured improved access to infrastructure or service provision.
44. Increasing rates so significantly will have a hugely detrimental impact on our whaanau as wages are not rising to match the rate of inflation or cost of living. If this proposal is to go ahead, Waikato District Council must ensure mechanisms are in place to mitigate any adverse effects stemming from changes in funding.
45. Waikato-Tainui seeks to directly engage with Waikato District Council on this matter to look at alternative funding streams for the development and infrastructure proposed within the Annual and Long Term Plan.

46. Additionally, Waikato-Tainui urges that the Waikato District Council allocate sufficient resources towards the development and maintenance of critical infrastructure, including transport networks, water supply systems, and community facilities in under serviced areas, with a particular emphasis on addressing infrastructure gaps in areas with high Maaori population density.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

47. Waikato-Tainui recognises the importance of economic growth and prosperity for the Waikato region. However, we emphasise the need for sustainable economic development that respects cultural values, promotes local businesses, and creates opportunities for meaningful employment and entrepreneurship, especially for Maaori and other underrepresented groups.
48. Waikato-Tainui has developed a Social Procurement Strategy, outlining the needs and aspirations of our Waikato-Tainui whaanau. This data was gathered through various engagements on a range of kaupapa relating to te Taiao, housing, economic development, education, health and wellbeing. Within this strategy, Waikato-Tainui have developed a range of initiatives that target current need. Waikato-Tainui urges the Waikato District Council to work with iwi, hapuu and Maaori businesses to create a collaborative plan, to achieve better outcomes for both Maaori and non-Maaori residing within the Waikato region.
49. Increasing opportunity within local economies to engage or receive contracts for development will enable more self-sufficient communities, that are less dependent on local and regional authorities in the long term. Therefore, Waikato-Tainui requires Waikato District Council to develop strong consultative processes within local communities, to ensure that economic development benefits not only local authorities, but the whaanau living within these development areas.

PROJECTS WITHIN ANNUAL PLAN

50. The Annual Plan has provided a list of projects that the Waikato District Council will undertake from 2024 -2025. We note that this is not a comprehensive list and therefore seek regular updates as the list is added to, so that we can adequately engage with the council prior to commencement of any development or infrastructure update.

51. From the list provided, Waikato-Tainui urges the Council to prioritise any wastewater or water projects listed, whilst obiding by the principles and objectives outlined in Te Ture Whaimana.
52. Waikato-Tainui stresses that water related projects should be treated with urgency as the strain on our current water supply and wastewater network requires eliviation. Any delay in this development will mean that systems and water supplies are subject to undue stress with increasing population need.
53. Waikato-Tainui seeks more information on the Huntly Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade. We see this project as being a priority project within the community and seek inclusion in discussions or decisions made in relation to this project.
54. Of the projects listed as being delayed beyond 2024/25, Waikato-Tainui seeks the Waikato District Council's options surrounding solutions and funding for the following projects:
 - a) Pokeno wastewater pump station; and
 - b) Te Kauwhata Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade.
55. Of these two projects, Waikato-Tainui requests some clarity around how the WDC plans to restore Lake Waikare. The restoration of this lake is difficult and restricted as discharges from the Te Kauwhata wastewater treatment plant continue to degrade the quality of the wai.
56. The Te Kauwhata Wastewater Treatment Plant (TKWWTP), has recently undergone Stage 1 of its upgrade. This upgrade was a response to the Council's failure to meet existing discharge consent conditions.
57. Mana whenua have raised concerns regarding discharge sites, especially where they relate to cultural effects. It has been recommended that options for continued discharge to Waikare and Whangamarino should be rejected.
58. If discharges from the Te Kauwhata Wastewater Treatment Plan continue to be diverted into Lake Waikare, it will be near impossible to fully restore this water body to a healthy and thriving state. We therefore urge the Waikato District Council to note this as a high priority project and to provide some insight into how this project is

going to be dealt with and what other propositions the Council has for discharge sites.

59. Additionally, Waikato-Tainui supports future proofing sports fields with better drainage and lighting, particularly in Ngaruawahia, Huntly and Tuakau.
60. Our Tainui whaanau use these facilities quite regularly and would like to see improvement in these areas. However, Waikato-Tainui seeks equity in planning processes so that services are provided in areas that are of close proximity to our whaanau.

COST SAVINGS

61. Waikato-Tainui supports the cut in funding to Te Waka, as we have not seen this group provide improved economic development opportunities to our whaanau.

CONCLUSION

62. Waikato-Tainui's relationship with, and respect for, our taiao gives rise to the responsibilities to protect the mana and mauri of the environment and exercise mana whakahaere in accordance with our long established tikanga. Mana whakahaere has always included the need to realise our rights, interests, and responsibilities, including in relation to economic and proprietary interests. Waikato-Tainui has rights and interests (including economic and proprietary interests) and responsibilities in respect of wai and whenua. We expect those rights, interests and responsibilities to be recognised and upheld.
63. A key driver for Waikato-Tainui is creating opportunities for the iwi and its members, while ensuring the health and sustainability of our taiao and all natural and physical resources. We look to ensure the sustainable economic use of those resources for the benefit of the iwi, including any related opportunities through policy and law reform.
64. Waikato-Tainui appreciates the Waikato District Council's commitment to long-term planning and community engagement. We trust that our submission will be considered thoughtfully in the revision of the Annual plan and the development of a Long-Term Plan for the period of 2025-2034. We look forward to continued collaboration towards a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future for all residents of Waikato.

DATED

2 MAY 2024

TE WHAKAKITENGA O WAIKATO INCORPORATED



Marae Tukere

General Manager, Oranga

Address for Service:

Taipu Paki

General Manager, Rights & Interests

PO Box 648

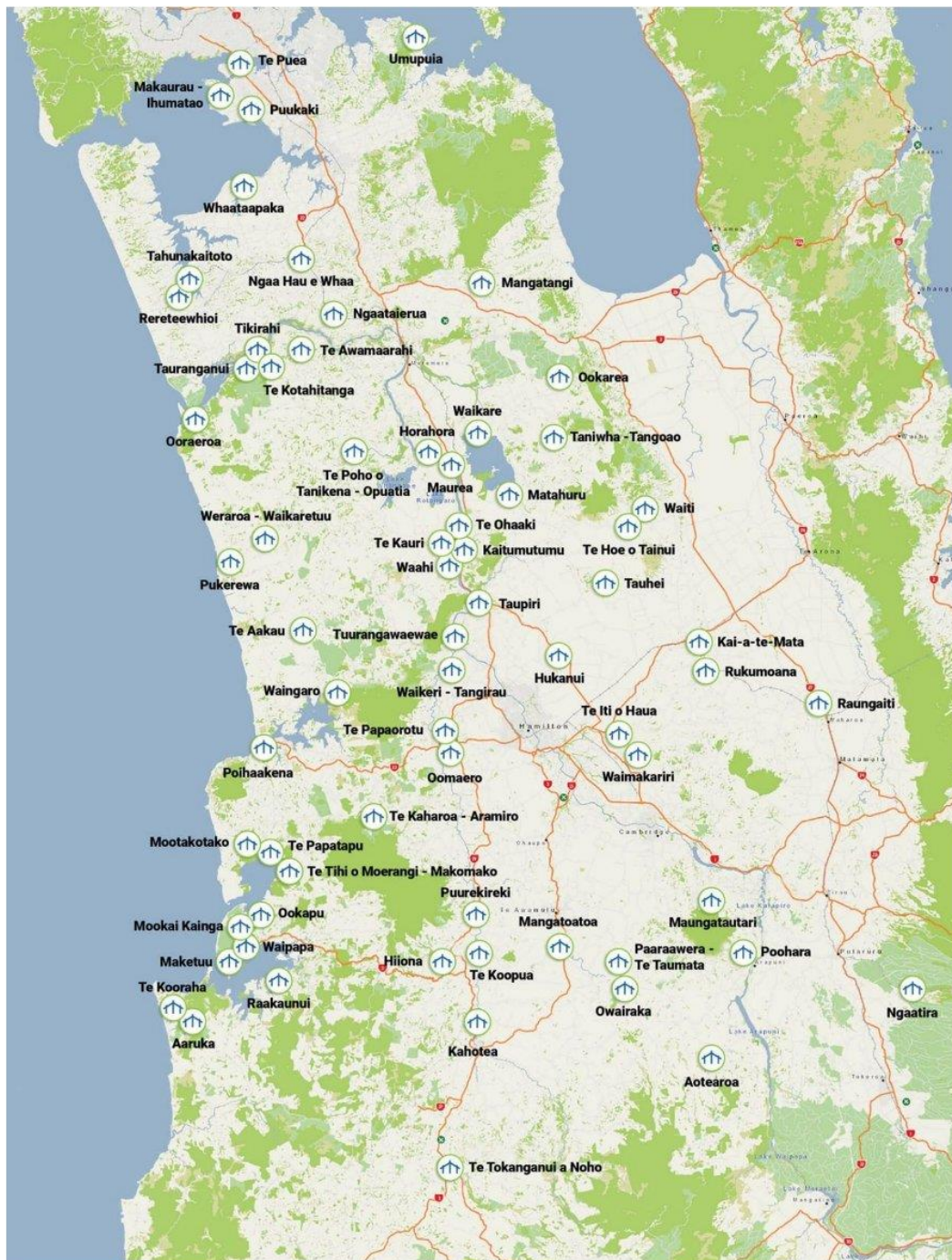
Hamilton

Telephone:

07-858 0400

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – Waikato-Tainui 68 Marae



APPENDIX B – Waikato-Tainui Remaining Claims Takarangi Framework



SUBMISSION

To: Waikato District Council
consult@waidc.govt.nz

Submission on: **Draft 2024/25 Annual Plan**

Date: 26th April 2024

Submission by: Director – Chris Woolerton
Middle Ridge Farms Ltd
Waring Road
RD1
TAUPIRI 3791

Middle Ridge Farms requests the opportunity to speak to this submission during the hearing process.

The intention of the Waikato District Council's proposed Enhanced Annual Plan 2024/25 was too "re-set, investigate and find ways to potentially lower our level of service, find other funding sources, advocate to government and investigate other savings".

Middle Ridge Farms has taken this approach when formulating this submission.

Do you have any comments on our proposed draft works programme for 2024/25:

GENERAL RATE:

Middle Ridge Farms acknowledges that there are affordability issues, government regulations and district growth to address when preparing annual budgets.

Our farming enterprise along with other ratepayers in the district are also affected by government regulations and rising costs with reduced margins.

As a farming practise when times are tough, we focus on doing our core essentials to get us through that period by applying cost cutting measures. All capital projects get delayed if they are not the absolute "must haves" for continuing to supply.

The proposed rate increases of 13.75% will further affect our cost structure and ability to operate during this period. This will also have a great impact on the district at large.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that WDC finds further savings in the annual budget to lower the proposed rate increase of 13.75% to assist all rate payers get through these difficult economic times.

PROPOSED DEBT:

Middle Ridge Farms is concerned with the level of debt proposed. WDC's proposed \$100 million increase, is an 50% increase on WDC's existing debt levels.

WDC is proposing to do this when it's indicated that it is in a "pausing, investigating and re-setting" process. If WDC is in an investigating mode and is unsure of what is coming down the pipeline, prudence should apply to borrowing.

This debt servicing will cost WDC \$5,000,000 in interest (at 5%). WDC's proposed new debt will put more pressure on WDC's ability to fund the core essential services to see us through this "paused" period.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that WDC should review its capital projects list to only include 'core essentials' to reduce the proposed debt increases.

ROADING:

As an rural ratepayer Middle Ridge Farms relies heavily on roading to operate its business, it is a means for survival. The current district roading network has significant issues and is in need of higher levels of renewals, repairs and maintenance.

In particular more attention is required on the road corridor beyond the carriageway. The water tables and trees often cause the premature degradation of the carriageway. Adequate funding of this work needs to be in place.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that WDC continue with the current level of roading renewals as an absolute minimum, in this proposed budget and future budgets. Roading is the core service rural ratepayers receive from WDC, and it is the lifeline for the rural community and district at large.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends WDC has adequate funding for work in the road corridor beside the carriageway is budgeted for.

DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION CHARGES:

The existing Draft Development Contribution charges proposed are measured currently against the 2021/2031 LTP figures. The table provided shows movement relative to the 2021/2031LTP. When the proposed DC charges are compared to the current 2023/2024 charges there is an average 15% drop in DC for 2024/2025. The DC should be raised subject to inflation change and take into consideration the rate increase that WDC have imposed historically as well as the new proposed rate. Existing rate payers should not be expected to pay for growth. This also needs to apply to developer agreements. An inflation change rate and rate increase should be included to allow a mechanism to capture the shortfall over time.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that these proposed changes are compared against the current 2023/2024 charges.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that the proposed increase is calculated with the rates increases and inflation rate factored in.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that the DC charge is calculated sufficiently so that the current rate payers are not required to pay more for growth.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that Developer Agreements also have the same rigour applied to them as DCs.

DRAFT FEES AND CHARGES:

Middle Ridge supports the fees and charges being a user pay system. There is a significant amount of capital proposed to be invested in organisational support. We support the increase in charges to pay back the general rate funding of this purchase.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends the fees and charges be increased to make the costs recoverable as user pays.

CURRENT RATING MODEL:

The current funding model is not fit for purpose. There is tension between ratepayers and residents. When residents and ratepayers ask for a higher level of service there is risk that the ratepayers are unable to afford this level of service. Undue pressure is then placed on Council to find middle ground of affordability vs delivery leading to friction and angst amongst all parties.

Council needs to look for other sources of income rather than relying on Ratepayers. While Central Government does provide funding it is always with condition's and rarely enough.

Council needs to look to new strategy's if rate and fees are to be affordable moving into the future. Council needs to find strategic partners to help with the building and financing of infrastructure in our community's.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends WDC lobby's Central Government on different funding models and pushes back when new rules/laws appear that will add cost to delivery of services.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Middle Ridge appreciated the submission process and the work WDC has put into; preparing and presenting this proposed Annual Plan for 2024/25

Middle Ridges Farms commends WDC on introducing an in-house enterprise project management office to oversee delivery. This lifts the level of accountability with contractors and recommends it continues.

Middle Ridge Farms commends WDC on the partnership for CCRV installation across the district and recommends it continues particularly in rural areas where boy racers and the like are damaging the roads, intersections and causing a nuisance.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that WDC continue funding existing budgets for the Rural Advisory Panel, community boards and other community committees.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that the representatives on the Economic Rural Advisory Panel and Heritage Forum are selected through a democratic process. And that the panel members are publicly identified like the community boards representatives.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that the key performance indicators for response times for service requests and timeframes are adopted WDC.

Middle Ridge Farms Ltd recommends that WDC stops budgeting for new walking and cycling connections.

Middle Ridge Farms Ltd recommends that WDC does not adopt the Waikato Regional Council's public transport funding proposal.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that general rate payers do not fund the Huntly water upgrades as per proposed 2024/2025 Annual Plan.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that WDC only budgets for the disposal of WDC owned old, condemned or erosion-effect buildings.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that WDC reduces the Waikato Hamilton Tourism funding from \$150,000 down to \$75,000.

Middle Ridge Farms recommends that WDC removes all funding to Te Waka.

Middle Ridge Farms thanks WDC for providing the opportunity to submit to this proposed draft Annual Plan for 2024/25.

Attachment 3: Social media engagement data and comments

Facebook post – [25 March 2024](#).

Post impressions: 12,514

Post reach: 11,672

Engagement: 755

Link clicks: 140

Shared: 18

Facebook post – [26 March 2024](#).

Post impressions: 30,233

Post reach: 16,825

Engagement: 2,405

Link clicks: 270

Shared: 0

Facebook post/video – [5 April 2024](#).

Post impressions: 6,947

Post reach: 6,050

Engagement: 627

Link clicks: 25

Shared: 21

Facebook post – [19 April 2024](#).

Post impressions: 33,896

Post reach: 30,811

Engagement: 10,485

Link clicks: 888

Shared: 25

Facebook post – [24 April 2024](#).

Post impressions: 11,001

Post reach: 10,655

Engagement: 1,155

Link clicks: 106

Shared: 11

4:55:11 PM 25 Mar 2024

CreatePost



Waikato District Council

You can now have your say on our draft Annual Plan which includes proposed rates increases and planned projects for the next year. Check it out and have your say by 26 April - <https://ow.ly/R8nc50R0LRt>



OW.LY [\(view link\)](#)

 20

Details

Source: [Facebook page](#)
Action time: 4:55:11 PM 25 Mar 2024
Action type: Create
Record type: Post
Application: Hootsuite
Collection time: 5:01:31 PM 25 Mar 2024
Collection type: Realtime
Hashtags:
Brolly reference: [Brolly link](#)
Export generated: 2:16:34 PM 03 May 2024


Tags

No tags

Notes


No notes

Comments

- 


Kelly Bale

6:14:21 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

They only just went up and we got nothing more we actually got less.
- 


Judi StanleyHunt

11:15:13 AM 28 Mar 2024 Create

Kelly Bale absolutely true
- 

Suzette Farrer

6:57:01 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Won't make the slightest difference what people say, the council have already decided ☐
- 

Mark Smit

8:02:38 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Suzette Farrer Not at all its the elected members that have the biggest influence but submissions are collated and analysed by policy analysts and presented to Council, with elected members with guidance from CEO and Chair who make the final decision



Suzette Farrer

8:10:17 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Mark Smit like I say, it will make no difference ☐



Teraumoko Waina

7:30:14 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

It's already \$160 a week for 40 weeks. That's getting seriously ridiculous.



Emerald Reid

10:00:17 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Teraumoko Waina tell me about it 😊



Jessica Fitzgerald

7:40:43 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

It's always "proposed increases" yet it always goes up regardless. Last time we all voted on what option % increase we would prefer and that was ignored. Whats the purpose of consulting if the decision is already determined?



Mark Smit

8:03:39 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Jessica Fitzgerald Why dont you do nothing then.



Jessica Fitzgerald

8:23:00 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Mark Smit exactly what I plan to do 😊



Mark Smit

8:32:12 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Jessica Fitzgerald Ok but I encourage you to have you say. Have agood evening



Jessica Fitzgerald

8:35:37 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Mark Smit i did last time and the option with the most votes was ignored. Waste of my time so wont be doing again. Have a good night too.



Tamara Huaki

8:00:25 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Nevada Huaki 😊



Dan Manford

8:10:38 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create



8:10:30 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Same as the Pookeno decision, They will finalise the decision and waste our time and money to organise an after hour meetings, so Councillors can claim extra money ☐ and they can show it in the book that there was a meeting with the community, They are nothing but a JOKE



Sheri Freedom

8:43:42 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Pile of woke projects that are pointless no doubt and mean while rates go up and we get no say councils are all puppets of the WEF agenda



Jax Graham

9:21:51 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Sheri Freedom WOKE PROJECTS? example please???



Carol Te Ohaere-Fox

9:55:58 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

Tell me you're going to drop my exorbitant rates bill and I'll stop laughing



Brian Robertson

10:29:02 PM 25 Mar 2024 Create

That seat is not going to hold much more.



Dylan Rintoul

8:16:19 AM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Ruscelle Rintoul



Judi StanleyHunt

11:14:56 AM 28 Mar 2024 Create

Really what's the point as your going to put the rates up no matter how much WE don't want that and how much WE are struggling , everything is going up ☹

3:50:12 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create Post

 **Waikato District Council**

We're hitting the road this April to host a number of drop-in sessions throughout our district to discuss the Draft Annual Plan 2024/25. This is a great opportunity for you to come and have chat with our team and learn more about what we're seeking feedback on. See all drop-in times and locations on our website, <https://ow.ly/fNnV50R1NKO>



OW.LY [\(view link\)](#)

 128

Details

Source: [Facebook page](#)
Action time: 3:50:12 PM 26 Mar 2024
Action type: Create
Record type: Post
Application: Hootsuite
Collection time: 3:50:19 PM 26 Mar 2024
Collection type: Realtime
Hashtags:
Brolly reference: [Brolly link](#)
Export generated: 2:17:49 PM 03 May 2024

Tags

No tags

Notes

No notes

Comments



Margaret Pratt
4:27:24 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Where is the drop in plan for Horotiu, considering the number of residents in that area and the proposed new building growth,would welcome your feedback



Waikato District Council
5:44:14 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Kia ora Margaret, unfortunately we won't be able to make it to Horotiu. However, we do have drop-in sessions in Te Kowhai and Ngaaruawaahia, attended by your local councillors as well as council staff - both sessions are a 10 minutes drive away.



Margaret Pratt
5:48:40 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Waikato District Council ,thanks for that but we are not either of those two we do have our own identity and have done for many years. How do you

propose to explain issues for horotiu at a Ngaruawahia meeting when they are wanting answers for their area and same for the Te Kowhai area



Waikato District Council

6:07:52 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Hi Margaret, while the sessions themselves are not located in Horotiu directly they are attended by the councillors that represent the ward Horotiu sits within and can discuss any questions you may have for your town.



Pam Kennedy

4:36:25 PM 29 Mar 2024 Create

Waikato District Council is that because you have to travel further to get to Horotiu since the road closures.



Marjo Plessius

10:04:22 PM 29 Mar 2024 Create

Waikato District Council you can't even spell Ngaruawahia. That says a lot of your staff. Unless you have changed the name?



Stephanie N Greg Carter

3:03:18 PM 30 Mar 2024 Create

You are in Tainui area so instead of macrons they double the vowel hence Ngāruawāhia becomes Ngaaruawaahia.



Anne Hooker

4:09:49 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Waikato District Council where is a meeting for Horsham downs as it has different things to gordonton and taupiri , we get left out all the time as we are just sitting in a little corner of w d c waiting to be swallowed up by Hamilton city



Jo Shortland

5:10:25 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Hi Will these drop ins include an update on the plan? Or are you more wanting people to read the plan first and come with questions or suggestions? Thanks ☐



Waikato District Council

5:48:30 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Kia ora Jo, great question! Each drop-in session will be attended by local councillors and some council staff - they will be able to provide an update or talk you through the plan, and answer any questions you may have.



Jo Shortland

7:21:54 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Waikato District Council thank you ☐



Jake Fyalka

11:49:32 AM 27 Mar 2024 Create

Waikato District Council can we just say no, its time for austerity. The

council is super top heavy, its time to slash some jobs instead of take more from us when inflation is so high. Go get your money from central government, as we dont get 15% raises every year to cover your giant tax increase.



Joy Rikys

3:17:45 PM 27 Mar 2024 Create

Jo Shortland sadly these plans seem to be a waste of time. I am still waiting for 10 year plan in 2009 to become a reality.



Cheryl Reid

2:12:29 AM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Jake Fyalka this Coal-ition gubbament are in Co-governance by STEALTH with the Atlas Network est 1981 and are not interested in helping. Libertarian losers☐☐



Chris James

6:09:27 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Hello, Could you actually break down the actual percentage increases per area for rates. Like its great that you have been transparent with the on going costs but it would be also nice to know the percentage increases also.



Waikato District Council

6:15:30 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Kia ora Chris, you can find a rates breakdown starting from page 23 of the 2024/25 Draft Annual Plan Consultation document. You can find that document here, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Erin Stables

12:45:46 AM 29 Mar 2024 Create

Waikato District Council have you considered reducing your wastage of money and only spending on the basics like every other business will be doing to get through the next couple of years, you could consider a reduction in staff there are many options to help save costs and reduce rate rises. It is very obvious driving around that the basics aren't being done at all.



Grunta Bruce

7:22:23 AM 02 Apr 2024 Create

Erin Stables I would love to own a business were your clients have to give you money by law or else



Erin Stables

8:19:58 AM 02 Apr 2024 Create

Grunta Bruce yep makes for very sloppy management and ceo has been there far to long. I think there needs to be a clean out and get back onto what matters in the region



Dan Manford

9:08:38 PM 09 Apr 2024 Create

Grunta Bruce cone or traffic controllers business



Chris James

6:09:43 PM 26 Mar 2024 Edit

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Dan Manford

9:08:38 PM 09 Apr 2024 Create

Grunta Bruce cone or traffic controllers business



Chris Bryson

6:18:04 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Waikato District Council are you planning to accommodate those who work and

have meetings outside standard office hours?. If not, why not?



Jan Sedgwick
8:19:51 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Chris Bryson 6.30 - 8 pm !



Dan Manford
7:14:45 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Waikato District Council Jacqui Church, Why Pokeno always used as a Cash cow ?? 13.20% ?? Do you guys need a new Calculator ?? We can provide that and would be much cheaper



Matty Osborn
2:15:33 PM 28 Mar 2024 Create

Dan Manford you would think Waikato District Council could atleast get the name spelt right



Rawiri Kara
8:07:00 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Matty Osborn they finally are spelling it correctly, you mean...?



Rawiri Kara
8:07:27 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Dan Manford Pōkeno, or Pookeno, in the local Maori dialect.



Matty Osborn
8:07:54 PM 01 Apr 2024 Delete

Dan Manford you would think Waikato District Council could atleast get the name spelt right



Dan Manford
7:15:31 PM 26 Mar 2024 Edit

Waikato District Council Jacqui Church, Why POKENO (Yes It is Pokeno) always used as a Cash cow ?? 13.20% ?? Do you guys need a new Calculator ?? We can provide that and would be much cheaper

Indicator	Indicator Type	Indicator Category	Indicator Sub-category	Indicator Unit	Indicator Description
...



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Matty Osborn

8:07:54 PM 01 Apr 2024 Delete

Dan Manford you would think Waikato District Council could atleast get the name spelt right



Lynda Evelyn

7:20:22 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Ask them about their 20 minute city plans and how it will affect your life getting to work, shopping, holidaying, visiting family, friends, and just your everyday living?????



Lynda Evelyn

7:22:08 PM 26 Mar 2024 Edit

Ask them about their 20 minute city plans and how it will affect your life getting to work, shopping, holidaying, visiting family, friends, and just your everyday living????? Ask how much it will cost you to travel from one area to another and how they will know you have left your area????!!



Carolyn Sim

7:42:08 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

What exactly are we getting for this increase of over 12% ?????? Everyone thinks Auckland is expensive, hasn't had to pay Waikato rates



Kylie Maxwell

8:30:04 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Carolyn Sim more roadworks 😊 ☐



Carolyn Sim

8:30:57 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Kylie Maxwell well shit, they haven't done the one's we paid for with the last increase



Brenda Gerard

9:29:20 PM 27 Mar 2024 Create

Kylie Maxwell you mean more road cones, ridiculous number of them in Pokeno



Dan Manford

9:16:51 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Carolyn Sim for Jackie's make up expenses and ribbon cutting events



Dan Manford



Dan Manford
9:17:30 PM 01 Apr 2024 Delete

Carolyn Sim for Jackie's make up expenses and ribbon cutting events



Dan Manford
9:17:48 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Carolyn Sim for Mayors ribbon cutting events



Anne Williams
9:21:40 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Brenda Gerard everywhere



Elizabeth Perkins
7:46:52 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Wasting more rates money.stop trying to justify all the money you have spent, another paid evening for the council members.



Jan Sedgwick
8:20:45 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Elizabeth Perkins no / it's a legal requirement to consult



Leone Stables
8:46:56 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Jan Sedgwick that would be great if consults were heeded



Bronwyn Joy
7:48:37 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Yeah rates... Tuakau Ryders rd, houses using the same road as the chicken factory... no repairs because "apparently" there's not enough users... but the road is broken. Water floods every winter and it's not the stream doing it ... its the infrastructure not able to cope with the new subdivisions



Mum Ball
2:46:34 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Bronwyn Joy Sounds like freedom loving communist Zimbabwe where rates and taxes are used to fund the lifestyles of those in power.The capital city has huge potholes but the former PM and mayor had enormous mansions with many bedrooms with golden taps and seats on the loos in each ensuite.The commies rule for their own benefit not the ordinary citizens.




Cheryl Reid
2:08:06 AM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Mum Ball that's not communism 🤔 it's fascism



Kevin Bak
8:10:03 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create


Money grabbing council's paying themselves high salaries and giving the poor rate payers nothing but promises



Kylie Maxwell

8:28:41 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Kevin Bak so they can drive those flash cars. Sheeple gotta stop paying then what they guna do 🤔



Sandra Davies

4:04:29 PM 28 Mar 2024 Create

Kevin Bak to much power the government passed on to them . Disgusting how they treat money ☹️



Robb Turnbull

8:15:21 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Feed back fck me, just fix the roads and shit ,don't waste money on idle chit chat that you don't listen to you fn waste of spacers, pull finger out your asses and do what your paid for,not public relations when your only opinion is your at end of the day



Kylie Maxwell

8:27:39 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Waste a gas you just make your bulshit bylaws anyway. You just gotta put it out there like you care when really. Your all government crooks 😏 ☐



Kylie Maxwell

9:20:12 PM 26 Mar 2024 Hide

Waste a gas you just make your bulshit bylaws anyway. You just gotta put it out there like you care when really. Your all government crooks 😏 ☐



Bruce Lee

10:42:15 PM 26 Mar 2024 Create

Best you leave now to get over all the rediculous rate payer humps and crossings you numbnuts put in what a joke you lot are i have never seen Hamilton in such a dirty discusting state as it is now...



Jan Sedgwick

10:21:45 PM 29 Mar 2024 Create

Bruce Lee great point ! Except Waikato district is not Hamilton . Doh !



Trina Parker

5:58:38 AM 27 Mar 2024 Create

Why are farms expected to pay extraordinarily more than houses in town (based on valuations) - yet there are only say 2 people living on 100ha, have in most cases no street lights, footpaths, rubbish or recycling, water or sewerage.



Jean-Francois Levesque



4:38:03 PM 27 Mar 2024 Create

Trina Parker they just want to milk not the cows, but the ratepayers



Sandra Davies

4:05:13 PM 28 Mar 2024 Create

Trina Parker just be grateful you have space many would love ♥.



Jane Crosbie

10:00:31 AM 29 Mar 2024 Create

Sandra Davies everyone can have the same large spaces as Trina Parker. They just have to work their butts off to pay for the huge mortgages that come with it. You can too if you're prepared to pay for it.



Dave Walsh

5:18:56 PM 29 Mar 2024 Create

Sandra Davies this has to be the dumbest comment of the year ☐



Marjo Plessius

9:57:29 PM 29 Mar 2024 Create

Sandra Davies jealous? How would you like the hard work, the headaches, the enormous mortgage cost and the rates?



Jane Crosbie

4:03:02 AM 30 Mar 2024 Create

Dave Walsh I have a 33 acres lifestyle block that is organic. We negotiated 2 mortgages plus a revolving credit facility to buy it. Paying the banks off is taking a lifetime. Anyone can have what I've got. They just have to want it bad enough to work their butts off and spend a lifetime paying banks back. People think our land has somehow magically fallen into our laps, that we are somehow luckier than they are. Nope. Just means we were prepared to pay the price. And work our arses to pay all the Bill's. I am very grateful for what I have. But I worked like a dog to pay for it. I EARNED it from the sweat off my back.



Jane Crosbie

4:05:34 AM 30 Mar 2024 Edit

Dave Walsh I have a 33 acres lifestyle block that is organic. We negotiated 2 mortgages plus a revolving credit facility to buy it. Paying the banks off is taking a lifetime. Anyone can have what I've got. They just have to want it bad enough to work their butts off and spend a lifetime paying banks back. People think our land has somehow magically fallen into our laps, that we are somehow luckier than they are. Nope. Just means we were prepared to pay the price. And work our arses to pay all the bills. I am very grateful for what I have. But I worked like a dog to pay for it. I EARNED it from the sweat off my back and sheer hard slog. Anyone else can do the same. They just have to want it bad enough.



Bruce Henderson

9:20:22 PM 30 Mar 2024 Create

Trina Parker Just because they can..



Kaye Ferguson

1:49:40 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create



1:52:40 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Trina Parker because rural people need and use town infrastructure. The industry relies on town workers, water provision, roading etc. Many services provided in town have a separate rate rural people are not charged. Commercial properties also have big rates.



Mum Ball

2:40:28 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Jane Crosbie I agree. Sandra sounds so uncaring and very power hungry in her attitude. Get her out of office



Jane Crosbie

3:48:21 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Mum Ball hi. What office is Sandra in? Perhaps her comment wasn't meant the way it sounded. But I'm done with all the people telling me how lucky I am, how grateful I should be for what I have, when I had to slog my guts out and work like a dog to earn what I now own. And yes a lot of us are grateful for what we have, and we full well know anyone can have what we've got. They just have to pay the same price we did.



Jane Crosbie

3:59:49 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Kaye Ferguson yes they do. My husband has his own small business in Pukekohe. His rates and rent are very high. But our rural property rates are double what he pays. I'm a person who takes pride in paying their bills, pride in paying my taxes so we can have schools, hospitals, and roads, I don't begrudge the council one bit charging us rates. I don't begrudge paying taxes either. You could reverse it and say towns people too reap the benefits of the beautiful countryside us folk spend our lives looking after and making beautiful so New Zealand can earn billions of tourist dollars from being so clean and green. It is unwise to compare the 2 in the manner you are, we both make huge contributions to NZ and we need each other, city and rural.



Martha J Washington

5:59:55 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Kaye Ferguson so why should rural support concrete dwellers? Would it work the other way around?



Julian Jackson

9:20:13 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Trina Parker maybe because it's a business vs a house that's not a business?



Warren Tolson

11:44:22 AM 02 Apr 2024 Create

Trina Parker they hopefully earn enough and may pay their rates, maybe, council needs money to spend! usually not on the right things, hence state of infrastructure!



Trina Parker

6:00:22 AM 27 Mar 2024 Edit

Why are farms expected to pay extraordinarily more than houses in town (based on valuations) - yet there are only say 2 people living on 100ha, have in most cases no street lights, footpaths, rubbish or recycling collections, water or sewerage.



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Dave Walsh

5:18:56 PM 29 Mar 2024 Create

Sandra Davies this has to be the dumbest comment of the year ☐



Marjo Plessius

9:57:29 PM 29 Mar 2024 Create

Sandra Davies jealous? How would you like the hard work, the headaches, the enormous mortgage cost and the rates?



Jane Crosbie

4:03:02 AM 30 Mar 2024 Create

Dave Walsh I have a 33 acres lifestyle block that is organic. We negotiated 2 mortgages plus a revolving credit facility to buy it. Paying the banks off is taking a lifetime. Anyone can have what I've got. They just have to want it bad enough to work their butts off and spend a lifetime paying banks back. People think our land has somehow magically fallen into our laps, that we are somehow luckier than they are. Nope. Just means we were prepared to pay the price. And work our arses to pay all the Bill's. I am very grateful for what I have. But I worked like a dog to pay for it. I EARNED it from the sweat off my back.



Jane Crosbie

4:05:34 AM 30 Mar 2024 Edit

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Bruce Henderson

9:20:22 PM 30 Mar 2024 Create

Trina Parker Just because they can..



Kaye Ferguson

1:49:40 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Trina Parker because rural people need and use town infrastructure. The industry relies on town workers, water provision, roading etc. Many services provided in town have a separate rate rural people are not charged. Commercial properties also have big rates.



Mum Ball

2:40:28 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Jane Crosbie I agree. Sandra sounds so uncaring and very power hungry in her attitude. Get her out of office



Jane Crosbie

3:48:21 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Mum Ball hi. What office is Sandra in? Perhaps her comment wasn't meant the way it sounded. But I'm done with all the people telling me how lucky I am, how grateful I should be for what I have, when I had to slog my guts out and work like a dog to earn what I now own. And yes a lot of us are grateful for what we have, and we full well know anyone can have what we've got. They just have to pay the same price we did.



Jane Crosbie

3:59:49 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Kaye Ferguson yes they do. My husband has his own small business in Pukekohe. His rates and rent are very high. But our rural property rates are double what he pays. I'm a person who takes pride in paying their bills, pride in paying my taxes so we can have schools, hospitals, and roads, I don't begrudge the council one bit charging us rates. I don't begrudge paying taxes either. You could reverse it and say towns people too reap the benefits of the beautiful countryside us folk spend our lives looking after and making beautiful so New Zealand can earn billions of tourist dollars from being so clean and green. It is unwise to compare the 2 in the manner you are, we both make huge contributions to NZ and we need each other, city and rural.



Martha J Washington

5:59:55 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Kaye Ferguson so why should rural support concrete dwellers? Would it work the other way around?



Julian Jackson

9:20:13 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Trina Parker maybe because it's a business vs a house that's not a business?



Warren Tolson

11:44:22 AM 02 Apr 2024 Create

Trina Parker they hopefully earn enough and may pay their rates, maybe

,council needs money to spend !usually not on the right things ,hence state of infrastructure!



Trina Parker

6:01:25 AM 27 Mar 2024 Edit

Why are farms expected to pay extraordinarily more than houses in town (based on valuations) - yet there are only say 2 people living on 100ha, have in most cases no street lights, footpaths, rubbish or recycling collections, water or sewerage. What justification do you have to put rural land owners rates up in equivalence with the rest of the council areas?



Jean-Francois Levesque

4:38:03 PM 27 Mar 2024 Create

Trina Parker they just want to milk not the cows, but the ratepayers



Sandra Davies

4:05:13 PM 28 Mar 2024 Create

Trina Parker just be grateful you have space many would love ♥.



Jane Crosbie

10:00:31 AM 29 Mar 2024 Create

Sandra Davies everyone can have the same large spaces as Trina Parker. They just have to work their butts off to pay for the huge mortgages that come with it. You can too if you're prepared to pay for it.



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Jodi Goodall

7:00:40 AM 27 Mar 2024 Create

What so you can do nothing



Pauline Hendrikse

5:57:58 PM 27 Mar 2024 Create

I am wondering what is planned for Te Kowhai to bother going...everything pretty much that I have read says keeping rural title for Te Kowhai area for the next 30 years only be development on demand.....so guess that's why you happily shut our road access off . Maybe sell the expensive future park off thst you purchased and put it where the plans for development in the next 30yrs are which is Horotiu and Ngaruawahia not Te Kowhai!!!



James Gollan

7:22:08 PM 27 Mar 2024 Create

What an utter joke, People whom are supposed to obtain a Resource Consent are given passes even though the effectson others are astronomical.



James Gollan

9:55:08 PM 27 Mar 2024 Edit

What an utter joke, People whom are supposed to obtain a Resource Consent are given passes even though the effects on others are astronomical.



Kevin Bak

10:21:20 AM 28 Mar 2024 Create

Is that to talk to people or con people



Kevin Bak

10:21:40 AM 28 Mar 2024 Delete

Is that to talk to people or con people



Jenny Kelly

5:43:29 PM 28 Mar 2024 Create

Where was that slogan coined?



Wednesday Adams

9:27:47 PM 28 Mar 2024 Create

Where can I see the draft plan. Have looked on the website but can't find it.



Erin Stables

12:48:46 AM 29 Mar 2024 Create



Waikato District Council is it published anywhere the rate take of rural as a percentage of the total for council and then how much is spent rural compared with residential. Would be good to see how spend verse income actually looks.



Harry Crawford

6:54:27 AM 29 Mar 2024 Create

Watch out for the potholes



Lyn Wilkinson

6:42:00 PM 29 Mar 2024 Create

All councils are operating fraudulently, it's about time the people start standing. We need a new system completely



Clifford Manhire

8:53:23 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Lyn Wilkinson the councils are a government organization talk to the government the councilors are just puppet's to the government just slaves



Lyn Wilkinson

8:55:00 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Clifford Manhire Doesn't make it right...We do !.rotten from the top down



Clifford Manhire

9:23:57 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Lyn Wilkinson I think home owners should wake up because the hammer is about to fall National will just pick up where Labour left of of ..the same with the wage rises tomorrow people are rubbing there hands together but sadly they will give you the rise but on the 2nd and 3rd kiss your rise goodbye because fuel ☐ will go up food will go up but packinsave countdown Woolworth 4 square will tell you different. Road user's will go up again lots of places in New Zealand your gold card is useless unless your live in the city .



Lyn Wilkinson

9:32:18 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Clifford Manhire Up to us all to change the rotten system. NZ is a corporation, and everything is operating fraudulently...We can't just say " this is what they're doing " . WE must say NO.



Clifford Manhire

9:36:09 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Lyn Wilkinson the problem is that half the population of this country are blind to the fact or they are so brainwashed or they won't rock the boat because of fear .you watch the younger generation now there head's are looking at the ground .



Lyn Wilkinson

9:45:36 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Clifford Manhire Well, we need to change this...There need to be community meetings to explain what's happening.Most know something is

up, but don't know what to do. A good start is getting to ratepayers meetings.



Lyn Wilkinson

9:46:04 PM 31 Mar 2024 Edit

Clifford Manhire Well, we need to change this...There need to be community meetings to explain what's happening. Most know something is up, but don't know what to do. A good start is getting to ratepayers meetings.



Clifford Manhire

9:48:04 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Lyn Wilkinson there is a guy now down the south island has already started on this very subject and has a petition out he is gaining a lot of support.



Clifford Manhire

9:48:52 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Lyn Wilkinson he is heading up this way so I here and he is right up on this



Lyn Wilkinson

9:50:34 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Clifford Manhire We are getting the ball rolling in Hamilton too...We have to



Rachel Freedom

10:45:49 AM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Lyn Wilkinson All Councils have been served noticed, a few CEOs did a runner, but most have ignored. <https://publicnoticesnz.com/proclamation-judicial-formal-notice-served-to-all-nz-councils/>



Lyn Wilkinson

10:59:47 AM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Rachel Freedom They really do just ignore. The only way we will take back the power is completely not paying rates and creating a new system. We need this to be on mass though, not just a few, and this is unlikely to happen unless we have many public rallies.



Lynda Evelyn

1:15:03 AM 02 Apr 2024 Create

Lyn Wilkinson I think they are changing themselves into mini governments?!



Lyn Wilkinson

9:01:14 AM 02 Apr 2024 Create

Lynda Evelyn They are all controlled by an entity outside NZ.



Lynda Evelyn

9:32:44 AM 02 Apr 2024 Create

Lyn Wilkinson that's right, WEF, does that make it right? NO, not one councilor has spoken out to say what is happening and the theft by raising rates to pay for their treason! These people were elected by the people and

the people pay their wages. OUTRAGEOUS, should ALL be in jail! Just like the pandemic, none of these treasonous people spoke up, the doctors who did lose their careers, while patients all around them suddenly died or had the most dreadful long term side effects and MANY are dying of weird cancers now as we speak ☹️ I HAVE NO RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO KNOW AND SAY NOTHING!!!



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9:33:13 AM 02 Apr 2024 Edit

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John Crawford

8:34:20 PM 29 Mar 2024 Create

Oh council... you've done it again... NOT good for those paying your wages.. learn to step aside of dog shit.. but NO.



Rick EJ O'Kane

3:02:07 AM 30 Mar 2024 Create



Bev Kipa

7:53:30 AM 30 Mar 2024 Create

Yeah I wonder why I pay rates. No water drainage on my street. I'm the last house at end. So all the water runs into my section. my house is starting to lean to 1 side. Apparently there's no money for this. But they have money to build flash building in town. While mine is getting washed slowly down hill.



Kiri Anderson

8:03:18 AM 30 Mar 2024 Create

Question, does the person who originally proposed a 13% rates rise also live in the Waikato region?



Sally Waggy

9:48:14 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Kiri Anderson and the 7% last year ...



Dan Manford

9:06:56 PM 09 Apr 2024 Create

Kiri Anderson Jacqui Church Jacqui Church lives on a lifestyle block and pay way less than. Our small section house



Greig Metcalfe

9:04:08 AM 30 Mar 2024 Create

Who does your spelling of place names



Rawiri Kara

8:07:55 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Greig Metcalfe what's the issue with them?



Madas Dan Beattie

10:05:24 AM 30 Mar 2024 Create

Why hasn't council planted fruit trees or veges everywhere to help with the food cost crisis we are living in? Corrupt asf.



Vivian Sagorio

3:57:18 PM 30 Mar 2024 Create

I have my picbtakin on that lake



Ann Robson

4:35:54 PM 30 Mar 2024 Create

>Like you would listen LOL



Selwyn Henry

5:44:27 AM 31 Mar 2024 Create

ENSURE THATS WERE GOOD PUBLIC RATE ARE SPENT ARE FOR GOOD PUBLIC PURPOSE NOT JUST SMALL GROUPS THAT HAS THE TRANS/LGBT TICK.



Lynda Evelyn

11:26:45 AM 31 Mar 2024 Edit

Ask them about their 20 minute city plans and how it will affect your life getting to work, shopping, holidaying, visiting family, friends, and just your everyday living????? Ask how much it will cost you to travel from one area to another and how they will know you have left your area????!! Look on the front page of your rates bill, is there an 'Area #' written in the colour blue?



Charmaine Andresen

5:18:41 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Love the doggy ☐



Martha J Washington

6:06:39 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Can we tell you that you work FOR us and not us be subservient to your loaded beauracry! How about you stop spending money on rubbish that's not needed

and go back to basics like everyone else.



Dan Manford

9:04:56 PM 09 Apr 2024 Create

Martha J Washington Jacqui Church Jacqui Church



Clifford Manhire

10:25:54 PM 31 Mar 2024 Create

Here comes all the bull shit and lies you are all been coned waky waky people can't you see what's happening here .



Donna Maree

10:20:43 AM 01 Apr 2024 Create

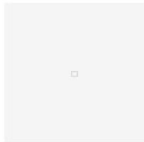
They don't give a rats what the people want. Its a box ticking exercise to say they consulted with their ATMs



Ripi Joseph

1:13:19 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

More stolen whenua going out the back door



Jame Smith

4:13:05 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

The best option is to sell up and leave for south East Asia ! Get out while you can



Anne Looney

4:32:10 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Don't bother coming to my place, a visit from you won't change a thing, you already have your orders and its about making money not friends



Lynda Evelyn

9:32:13 PM 01 Apr 2024 Edit

Ask them about their 20 minute city plans and how it will affect your life getting to work, shopping, holidaying, visiting family, friends, and just your everyday living????? Ask how much it will cost you to travel from one area to another and how they will know you have left your area???!!! Look on the front page of your rates bill, is there an 'Area #' written in the colour blue? 1 scoffer who hasn't woken up to the truth yet. Oh well there's still time



Ross A Smith

10:21:49 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Its easy. No more cycle lanes, speed humps or, non-conforming rainbow crossings. Millions saved right there.



Rik Deller

10:53:00 PM 01 Apr 2024 Create

Lets have a chat and we'll ignore anything you say.



Tama Here

7:09:09 AM 02 Apr 2024 Create

Screw council you fraudulent pack of a holes who DONT listen to the public..



Grunta Bruce

7:18:23 AM 02 Apr 2024 Create

That river tax is a ripoff



Tama Here

9:01:31 AM 02 Apr 2024 Hide

Screw council you fraudulent pack of a holes who DONT listen to the public..



Lyn Wilkinson

9:08:45 AM 02 Apr 2024 Create

Council have to realize that they work for us and we don't write submissions, we write demands....Look up the word submit people. Everybody, and I mean everybody should stop paying rates until our demands are met. Start getting to your rate payers meetings and organize public rallies. These woke individuals need to have their batteries removed.



Rob Van Der Kroft

1:30:19 PM 02 Apr 2024 Create

Time to cut councillors pay .



Dan Manford

9:07:44 PM 09 Apr 2024 Create

Rob Van Der Kroft Jacqui Church and councillors will be getting 15% hikes

11:45:18 AM 05 Apr 2024

CreatePost



Waikato District Council

We're consulting on our 2024/25 Annual Plan, and we really need your feedback! Check out this video of our Mayor and Councillors as they talk through the challenges we're facing. Read the consultation document and provide your feedback here <https://ow.ly/hq2c50R8Svq>

Facebook page video



OW.LY [\(view link\)](#)

 53

Details

Source: [Facebook page](#)
Action time: 11:45:18 AM 05 Apr 2024
Action type: Create
Record type: Post
Application: Hootsuite
Collection time: 11:46:31 AM 05 Apr 2024
Collection type: Realtime
Hashtags:
Brolly reference: [Brolly link](#)
Export generated: 2:14:35 PM 03 May 2024

Tags

No tags

Notes

No notes

Comments



Dan Manford

1:54:56 PM 05 Apr 2024

Create

I believe after spending all these money on marketing, you will listen to the feedback ??



Dan Manford

1:57:12 PM 05 Apr 2024

Create

If the inflation is 9%, how would you justify 13.75% increase??



Waikato District Council

3:16:16 PM 05 Apr 2024

Create

Kia ora Dan, our costs are dictated by business price indexes not consumer price indexes - the inflation is different. For example according to researchers Infometrics construction costs are up 27% over the last three years (compared to 19% for consumer price inflation).



Dan Manford



3:28:20 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council and who are these researchers?? Council people right?? They might get 13.75% in their salary hike but normal rate payers won't



Dan Manford

4:21:02 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

What was the cost for this video ??



Dan Manford

4:21:11 PM 05 Apr 2024 Delete

What was the cost for this video ??



Dan Manford

4:22:23 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council could you tell community what was the cost for this recording? And other promotions??



Dan Manford

4:54:35 PM 05 Apr 2024 Delete

Waikato District Council could you tell community what was the cost for this recording? And other promotions??



Tyrone Brown

6:08:40 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

Dan Manford exactly!! Nothing get fixed asap but we pay for it



Stream24+

6:22:39 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

Dan Manford tyutyu



Stream24+

6:22:51 PM 05 Apr 2024 Edit

Dan Manford Ngaaruawaahia Pound Pups Pool Party 2024 LIVE LINK

→ <https://streameventszone.online/999+HDTV/Ngaaruawaahia LIVE>

LINK → <https://streameventszone.online/999+HDTV/Ngaaruawaahia>



Stream24+

6:22:53 PM 05 Apr 2024 Hide

Dan Manford tyutyu



John Coleman

6:41:58 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

Dan Manford gota pay jacquis wage bro



Michael Waldegrave

12:28:03 PM 06 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council how much did you pay the researchers for figuring that out ?



Brad Collier

3:13:17 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

Yeah more speedbumps just what we need



Carolyn Sim

4:27:24 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

They talking about the cost of roading. How about holding those roading contractors to their actual prices they used to win the contract. Penalise them for missing completion dates, stop wasting money on traffic management. They are a licence to print money. They don't take down roading signs, because to much effort. New works signs are being put up weeks before jobs actually start. Leaving stop go signs out, when no actual contractors are even on site. Just drove through one on Harrisville road. Sign's out cones for Africa not a single actual road worker to be seen, plenty of white hard hat's standing around pointing at each other, even Waikato District Council utes parked up on side of the road. This was at 3.30 pm and no one is doing any actual work. And yet they are saying that the road will be shut next week Come on ☐



Sel Martin

8:28:32 PM 16 Apr 2024 Create

Carolyn Sim Same thruout the country The Cone Manufactures must Giving some one in High places free ice cream cones flavouered with gold nuggets



Sel Martin

8:28:50 PM 16 Apr 2024 Edit

Carolyn Sim Same thruout the country The Cone Manufactures must Giving some one in High places free ice cream cones flavouered with gold nuggets in them



Dan Manford

4:52:57 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

Same here, After spending thousands on promotions and community meetings etc, We will not listen to the public and We will increase the rates by 13.75% and will work on the same projects we discussed last year :), Good on you Waikato District Council, We are all on the same boat Scotland 🇬🇧 ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐



Rachel Freedom

7:25:48 AM 06 Apr 2024 Create

Dan Manford same Agenda.



Tyrone Brown

6:06:39 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

So when will the Ngaruawahia toilets by the point be rebuilt ??? It's been over a year and you are making videos about other random shit that needs to be fixed?? Come on



Tyrone Brown

6:06:45 PM 05 Apr 2024 Hide

So when will the Ngaruawahia toilets by the point be rebuilt ??? It's been over a year and you are making videos about other random shit that needs to be fixed?? Come on



Tyrone Brown

6:12:12 PM 05 Apr 2024 Edit

So when will the Ngaruawahia toilets by the point going to be rebuilt ??? It's been over a year and you are making videos about other random shit that needs to be fixed?? Come on its a sad look for the town when tourists park there and see some Porta loos that we pay for every week while nothing is fixed



Dan Manford

6:14:39 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council what's the cost for this promotional video ? Is it on rate payers?? Why wouldn't you use this money on right things?



Rachel Freedom

7:26:58 AM 06 Apr 2024 Create

Dan Manford why start now?!



Stream24+

6:22:16 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

asdfasdfasdf



Stream24+

6:22:27 PM 05 Apr 2024 Hide

asdfasdfasdf



Barbara Barrant

6:25:24 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

On our rates in Pokeno we pay \$23 towards the Pokeno Hall. This has been the same amount for sometime regardless of how many more houses have been built and are contributing. . How is this money spent in the upkeep and improvement of the facility?



Tioario Rsyoo

10:37:59 PM 07 Apr 2024 Create

Barbara Barrant Welcome! Partner, i never thought Bitcoin Mining investment was real until I was introduced to Mrs Martha Liam She

explained to me how it works and I gave it a try! I'm still surprised I received my profit! This is awesome! invest in Bitcoin Mining and earn extra income. If interested click on the link below and contact Mrs Martha
□□□ <https://www.facebook.com/MarthaLiam49>



Tioario Rsyoo

10:38:06 PM 07 Apr 2024 Hide

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□□□ <https://www.facebook.com/MarthaLiam49>



Tyrone Brown

6:45:00 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

We still have a pot hole down waipa height road with white paint around it from 3 months ago. I will take a picture of it tomorrow so you can come fix it like we all pay for



Dan Manford

7:52:00 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

Tyrone Brown they can only talk big projects to justify their increase, pot holes aren't their priority Jacqui Church Jacqui Church



Tyrone Brown

8:37:41 PM 05 Apr 2024 Create

Dan Manford exactly!! Why not come with a truck loaded with tarseal and fill it on the day instead of just spraying a white circle around it and leave it for 3 months and more



Shymananda Dasa

5:13:26 AM 06 Apr 2024 Create

Scary, nowonder h town is fuked



Trish Forsyth

7:18:15 AM 11 Apr 2024 Create

Shymananda Dasa not in Waikato District Council area



Suzie HullObrien

9:20:50 AM 06 Apr 2024 Create



Hold road contractors to price, followup, completion date, road signage checks.
\$\$\$ Hold 'Cones for Africa' accountable..check !! \$\$ Get rid of pet projects! Roads, water, drains, and listen very hard to feedback from rate payers..you need us and we are watching



Suzie HullO'Brien

9:24:46 AM 06 Apr 2024 Edit

Hold road contractors to price, followup, completion date, road signage checks.
\$\$\$ Hold 'Cones for Africa' accountable..check !! \$\$ Get rid of pet projects! Roads, water, drains, and listen very hard to feedback from rate payers..you need our rates, then listen, we are watching and can become difficult



Jelly James

11:56:32 AM 06 Apr 2024 Create

Abandon uneconomic recycling and uneconomic landfill "diversion". Get back to basics.



Alexander Stoehr

10:37:48 PM 06 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council you should spend the money more in a smart way. Do not fix roads which do not need to be fixed but are on a plan. Fix roads which are broken. Halls are nice but you should build down bureaucracy. In your draft the renewal for the nga office pretty high amount. Do you think a renewal is needed or should the money not be used for more urgent projects?



Carolyn Eyre

8:54:03 AM 07 Apr 2024 Create

Thanks for feedback Alexander Stoehr We are holding a drop in session Pukekawa Friday 19th or Onewhero this Tuesday - would be great to see you and chat further about your queries. More details on sessions across the district; <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Carolyn Eyre

8:54:11 AM 07 Apr 2024 Hide

Thanks for feedback Alexander Stoehr We are holding a drop in session Pukekawa Friday 19th or Onewhero this Tuesday - would be great to see you and chat further about your queries. More details on sessions across the district; <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Natasha Kristoffersen-Tuck

11:54:40 PM 06 Apr 2024 Create

Rates were increased last year, our roads are a complete mess (messaging up our cars) and little to no improvements have been seen around North Waikato (Tuakau and Pokeno); how can this council justify another rate increase in less than 8 months? We also don't have water provider now that Watercare is not it (despite owning the water plant in Tuakau, how does that work?). What exactly am I paying MORE rates for?



Alexander Stoehr

8:50:34 AM 07 Apr 2024 Edit

Waikato District Council you should spend the money more in a smart way. Do not fix roads which do not need to be fixed but are on a plan. Fix roads which are broken. Halls are nice but you should build down bureaucracy. In your draft the renewal for the nga office pretty high amount. Do you think a renewal is needed or should the money not be used for more urgent projects? Also a lot of consulting costs.



Carolyn Eyre

8:54:03 AM 07 Apr 2024 Create

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Mcfizzle Aldizzle

3:45:44 PM 07 Apr 2024 Create

I see animal control has brand new Ford Rangers 🤖



Mel Kev McTainsh

7:26:51 PM 07 Apr 2024 Create

I totally understand like all.. the need for more money.. I just don't understand why people in the country, with no street lights, no footpaths, no water supplied, no sewerage treatment processes in place have to pay for Rubbish stickers . pretty crappie roads.. Have to pay the amount of rates stipulated and get bugger all for it.....dont understandhow this is calculated....Please tell us how and why????



Dan Manford

8:24:34 PM 07 Apr 2024 Create

Mel Kev McTainsh inexperienced councillors and mayor



Mel Kev McTainsh

7:33:12 PM 07 Apr 2024 Edit

I totally understand like all.. the need for more money.. We understand that NZ Aotearoa is becoming really expensive to live in.. I just don't understand why people in the country, with no street lights, no footpaths, no water supplied, no sewerage treatment processes in place, . pretty crappie roads ..the rubbishtruck rocking past and picking up our bag is the highlight that WDC do for us.. still have

to pay for bag stickers.. Have to pay the amount of rates stipulated and get bugger all for it.....dont understand how and by whom this is calculated....Please tell us how and why???



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8:24:34 PM 07 Apr 2024 Create

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Mel Kev McTainsh

7:34:59 PM 07 Apr 2024 Edit

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8:24:34 PM 07 Apr 2024 Create

Mel Kev McTainsh inexperienced councillors and mayor



Rachael Leigh

8:38:01 PM 10 Apr 2024 Create

Like you've highlighted in your marketing video: times are tough right now. For all of us. Whether it's the impact of the weather & environment or lack of maintenance of our infrastructure (that we have all been charged for in our rates for many years - what has that money been spent on instead of what it was intended for?) Please just focus on the core costs to run a town: water supply, waste water removal, refuse removal, MAINTAIN existing infrastructure and assets such as libraries, pools, and halls. Pull your belts in!! Like all of us are having to do!! We are not getting anywhere near a 13.75% increase in our wages or salaries yet you are expecting us to come up with that to pay for your views of what our district needs! Back to basics for the time being please Waikato District Council . Wait until we are all in a position to flourish. Otherwise you will be seeing more house sales than what is currently happening. Displacing our whanau is not the right thing to do right now. Please listen.



Rachael Leigh

8:39:17 PM 10 Apr 2024 Create

To add: roading contractors need to be held accountable in some form.



Shymananda Dasa

8:27:15 AM 11 Apr 2024 Hide

Scary, nowonder h town is fuked



Trish Forsyth

7:18:15 AM 11 Apr 2024 Create



Shymananda Dasa not in Waikato District Council area



Mcfizzle Aldizzle

8:00:15 PM 20 Apr 2024 Delete

I see animal control has brand new Ford Rangers 🐾

11:05:13 AM 19 Apr 2024

CreatePost



Waikato District Council

We're proposing a 13.75% general rates increase for the next year. What does this mean for your rates bill? Use our rates search to compare what you currently pay and what you could pay if this proposed increase is approved by Council <https://ow.ly/Xpo150RhKJy>



OW.LY [\(view link\)](#)

 502

Details

Source: [Facebook page](#)
Action time: 11:05:13 AM 19 Apr 2024
Action type: Create
Record type: Post
Application: Hootsuite
Collection time: 11:05:24 AM 19 Apr 2024
Collection type: Realtime
Hashtags:
Brolly reference: [Brolly link](#)
Export generated: 2:22:58 PM 03 May 2024

Tags

No tags

Notes

No notes

Comments

- 

Suzette Farrer

11:07:50 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Why do you say proposed? It's probably is going to be raised to that amount regardless ☐
- 

Louise Williams

11:45:02 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Suzette Farrer proposed because it'll probably go higher than that...
- 

Kathy Barakat

3:13:05 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Suzette Farrer i think you are exactly right
- 

Waikato District Council

4:14:25 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Suzette, no final decisions will be made until the end of the consultation period. From there your Mayor and Councillors will read through all submissions and make a final call. You can read through what we are proposing and make your submission here:
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Waikato District Council when is the end of the consultation period?



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G'ma Buga

4:44:32 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Suzette Farrer I don't know about "look forward to" but I am certainly expecting it to be at least this 13.75%



Waikato District Council

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Kia ora Erin, next Friday, 26 April.



Dave Freeman

7:32:14 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council mass public meeting will let you know what people think of rates hikes, all the Mayor's, regional and city need to make a stand to Government about the shortfall that is now causing the issues of City Councils going broke. And it's world wide, the modeling was obviously wrong.



Leanne Sands

7:36:30 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council yet another joke/lie



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8:35:30 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Leanne Sands they just need to stop wasting money....



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8:40:50 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create



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Rebecca Cook

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Jennifer Pulman

8:36:14 PM 22 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council make submissions...? Because who will agree to this in the first place? Of course it's the motions you need to go through. Inflation means you need to increase, that's fine. But near 14% is ridiculous, ain't no one's wages increase that volume (including Waikato District Council employees I'd say)



David Yeo

11:08:50 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

It means Mt rates go up and I'm paying for a whole lot of services I get nothing in return from or use.



Mith Chell

11:27:06 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

David Yeo very true I'm thinking the same



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David Yeo exactly



Leah Clark

1:04:46 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

David Yeo ☐ this



Trish Louisa

1:07:53 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

David Yeo I agree! We're rural, on tank water, pay for our rubbish on top of

this.



Ian Wrigley

1:16:58 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

David Yeo so you have your own helicopter and never use the roads?
Never go into town, never use the facilities, a rubbish bin, have no pets to register no kids that go to the library, never go to a park or reserve? You're having a laugh man



David Yeo

1:23:56 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Ian Wrigley I said a whole lot not nothing at all.



Peter Neil

1:30:33 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Ian Wrigley The two nearest towns to me are in Waipa and HCC. Our road has zero work done in over 20 years. The nearest WDC library is over 60m km



Peter Neil

1:31:30 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

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Carol Te Ohaere-Fox

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David Yeo absolutely agree with this...my rates will be over 7k a year...dont know how ppl pay the exorbitant rates in the Waikato



Anne-Louise Fowlie

1:37:38 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Excactly! No one in this council wants to take responsibility for the up keep of our road, we have no foot paths, no street lights and pot holes you could bury a body in. We pay the highest rates for very little.



Greg Wiechern

2:57:59 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Trish Louisa At least you don't have to pay the fixed water, urban stormwater and waste water charges totalling \$2300 on every urban property no matter how big or small



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Greg Wiechern and water meters on top



Hari Jones

8:12:27 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Trish Louisa go off grid then ☺



Trish Louisa



8:17:05 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Hari Jones we pretty much are. Solar power, water tanks, septic tank. Rates don't go down. No footpaths and we pay for our rubbish. Only recycling and that's so limited, now.



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Rochelle O'Leary

11:11:10 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Brendon O'Leary



Jennifer Smith

11:12:30 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Greedy @#%#\$% who don't give a %\$@#%\$ about what people in the district actually want!



Zelda Fourie

11:42:45 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Jennifer Smith well said!



Zelda Fourie

11:42:55 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create



Conrad Fourie



Suzette Farrer

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Jennifer Smith

11:13:50 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create



Take, take, take, take, take, when we are already forking out so much more extra than we did before, yet our pay remains the same.



Resa Mutanu

12:36:13 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Jennifer Smith it's called inflation. Not councils fault



Lynz Martin

2:04:58 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Resa Mutanu its got nothing to do with inflation Imfao... go check out previous increases and come back and tells us



Lynz Martin

2:05:17 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Resa Mutanu its got nothing to do with inflation Imfao... go check out previous increases and come back and tell us



Anton Leek

11:14:29 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

And stil you cock-wombles won't tarseal the road leading to mine.....



Anton Leek

11:14:37 AM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

And stil you cock-wombles won't tarseal the road leading to mine.....



Diane Ford

11:14:49 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

I am absolutely sick to death of all the increases on everything. We got nothing useful for it. A new path in pokeno that is very fancy and flash but we don't need it to be that fancy and slippery just like the path they did in tuakau that now needs yearly spraying to make it safe to walk on. We are all struggling so much but big businesses are making huge profits. We need to say enough is enough



Micth Chell

11:27:44 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Diane Ford very true



Resa Mutanu

12:33:57 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Diane Ford wdc is not a big business though. And they're having heaps of money cuts from national government. We're also in a recession! Shit gets more expensive. That's not councils fault. As much as I understand the frustration, what are people proposing to do different then? Go the meetings, have your say. Best you can do



Resa Mutanu

1:27:27 PM 19 Apr 2024 Unhide

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Jan Sedgwick

3:22:02 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Diane Ford didn't you just get a tennis court , a library and council hub is coming , huge upgrade to the main road



Diane Ford

4:04:15 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Resa Mutanu no they r not a big business but they are spending unnecessary money on things



Diane Ford

4:05:08 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Jan Sedgwick not me personally. Things r being upgraded that don't need up grading



Resa Mutanu

6:07:15 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Diane Ford unnecessary for you doesn't mean it's unnecessary for others in the community maybe?



Resa Mutanu

6:07:21 PM 20 Apr 2024 Hide

Diane Ford wdc is not a big business though. And they're having heaps of money cuts from national government. We're also in a recession! Shit gets more expensive. That's not councils fault. As much as I understand the frustration, what are people proposing to do different then? Go the meetings, have your say. Best you can do



Jan Sedgwick

6:08:50 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Diane Ford these are in Pokeno ! What do you want the council to do just for you (incidentally with other peoples money ??)



Diane Ford

6:15:25 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Jan Sedgwick things like what we already pay for in our rates - rubbish collect..... recycling? Roads which we all pay for in rates. WOFs. Road tax. Busses for our children to get to school. I am not asking personally I am asking for everyone. Things r so hard atm interest rates r nearly killing everyone. Don't attack me for having an opinion.



Jan Sedgwick

10:37:13 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Diane Ford I'm sorry you see it that way and it wasn't my intention . I was genuinely interested in your solutions



Cara Tnz

11:18:31 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Wowsa ,that's a massive hike... many of us get very little for rates paid too. If only we all got a 13% pay increase to keep up with these whopping hikes?



Taryn Brown

11:30:03 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Cara Tnz agreed!! ☐☐



Shirley Warner

11:41:03 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Cara Tnz Hamilton City Council are putting rates up 19.9% this year then 15% for the following three years. We aren't getting 20% pay rises to cover this extra cost. Plus of course, the annual WRC rates will hiked up as well.



Jenny Harris

12:55:01 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Cara Tnz I would also like to deal with less nightshade self seeding on my property



Mieke Smit

1:28:42 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Jenny Harris yes, massive increase this year. But also from property owners not taking responsibility for weeds on the edges or outside of their hedges. It's not all the council! They used to come to look after the drain. Haven't been for years now



Jess Poolton

3:39:49 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Jenny Harris gorse and privet too.



Carley Taylor

6:24:33 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Council took \$200 off for no rubbish collection - privet every where!



Jan Sedgwick

3:20:48 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Jess Poolton talk to the regional council - not the district one



Brenda Wendt

5:25:47 AM 21 Apr 2024 Create

We struggling to pay now, I guess we will be selling our home we have lived in for 30 yrs. Can't rent either too expensive. Will have to caravan. Definitely no choice now. Thanks council.



Hannah Smith

11:19:57 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kylee Bee



Cara Tnz

11:20:40 AM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Wowsa ,that's a massive hike... many of us get very little for rates paid too. If only we all got a 13% pay increase to keep up with these whopping hikes? Wondering if rural folk can get subsidised septic tank and water services, and maybe a few streetlights, rubbish collection and roadside maintenance including uncontrolled gorse? And.... Massive plug for animal desexing that's so desperately needed in our communities and increasingly unaffordable... (steps off soap box momentarily). that's a pretty gross hike.



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11:30:03 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

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Definitely no choice now. Thanks council.



Chris Bryson

11:22:53 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council can we be clear that the 13.75% is only GENERAL rates as my waste water is approx 18% so, please make comms transparent.



Waikato District Council

4:03:43 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Chris, thank you for your feedback, we will keep this in mind. Yes, the 13.75% increase for is for the general rate only. Don't forget to make a submission, this will help your Mayor and Councillors determine their next steps, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Mieke Roshelle Rutherford

11:23:19 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

How can you justify that when Auckland's rates are half of Waikato!! And not to mention why should we pay the increase if you the council fail to fix roads and footpaths ...



Chris James

11:26:57 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Mieke Roshelle Rutherford and they havent sent valuations out either so you'll get potentially increase in property value and then your rates increase on top of



George Strombo

11:48:27 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Mieke Roshelle Rutherford well of course aucklands half of ours. They have a million people we have what 45000 at the most. They have three wastewater facilities... we have 17



Trish Forsyth

12:21:39 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

George Strombo and Aucklands separate water and wastewater bills



Trish Forsyth

12:22:03 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

George Strombo and Aucklands separate water and wastewater



Resa Mutanu

12:35:15 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Mieke Roshelle Rutherford erm...Auckland had 1.6 million people! Waikato has not even a third of that



Resa Mutanu

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Mieke Roshelle Rutherford erm...Auckland had 1.6 million people! Waikato has not even a third of that. Also roads are waka kotahi not just council



Tim Ross

11:26:36 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

You aren't proposing Jack. You have already made the decision. Stop pretending like we have a say.....that matters. What a load of bs!



Coral L Vryer

11:29:51 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Tim Ross 100%



Waikato District Council

3:58:45 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

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Waikato District Council My feedback is simple. There is no need for an increase of 13.75%. Give us transparency and show us, your rate payers where dollar for dollar this increase is being allocated.



Torrie Martin

11:27:01 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

That's a massive spike!



John Fredrick

11:27:12 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Budget better! You all need help to live within your means... like we are trying to do



Rai Ringer

11:55:10 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

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Elizabeth Liz

3:59:54 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create



We do, WDC does not



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4:03:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Delete

We do, WDC does not



Waikato District Council

4:08:13 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora John, thank you for your feedback. Please consider making a submission, this will help your Mayor and Councillors determine their next steps, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Tohehaia Rangiuiia-Tairakena

5:03:12 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Why not reply to some real opinions?



John Fredrick

5:16:05 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Tohehaia Rangiuiia-Tairakena it's the catch. They must ask for public opinion... we get too busy... they tick a box and push it all through.



Tohehaia Rangiuiia-Tairakena

5:18:47 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

John Fredrick seems to me like they answer opinions they wanna hear and not real life situations. And realistically the only people they wanna listen to are the people who can afford these absurd hikes in rates, that pay for fuck all anyway. Take a bit of accountability and answer the people that want answers



Tohehaia Rangiuiia-Tairakena

5:18:54 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

John Fredrick seems to me like they answer opinions they wanna hear and not real life situations. And realistically the only people they wanna listen to are the people who can afford these absurd hikes in rates, that pay for fuck all anyway. Take a bit of accountability and answer the people that want answers



Sarah Vander

3:00:19 PM 26 Apr 2024 Create

John Fredrick and its all steered questions, not really giving our opinion at all, just what they want to hear



John Fredrick

3:39:44 PM 26 Apr 2024 Create

Sarah Vander I wrote feedback. But feel like it's on deaf ears



Sheryl Hartnett

11:27:20 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Get rid of some of the over paid people who do sweat all for the salaries. Cut your cloth to suit! With all the new housing developments going up all around the place, you must be making a small fortune in extra land rates. How could you be crying poor?



Ian Wrigley

11:27:29 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

It is what it is. If you want services you need to pay for them.



Ian Wilson

11:45:33 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Ian Wrigley Services like water and sewerage are separated from this! That's going to skyrocket next to pay for the Huntly upgrade for sleepyhead that council didn't require from them! Same with Pokeno. Almost no reserve contributions or full infrastructure payments from the developers. That is being paid by ALL of Waikato. PROGRESS? Only in the rates of those who have been paying for 50 years and are paying again Progress my arse!



Ian Wilson

11:45:38 AM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Ian Wrigley Services like water and sewerage are separated from this! That's going to skyrocket next to pay for the Huntly upgrade for sleepyhead that council didn't require from them! Same with Pokeno. Almost no reserve contributions or full infrastructure payments from the developers. That is being paid by ALL of Waikato. PROGRESS? Only in the rates of those who have been paying for 50 years and are paying again Progress my arse!



Ian Wilson

11:46:32 AM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Ian Wrigley Services like water and sewerage are separated from this! That's going to skyrocket next to pay for the Huntly upgrade and all infrastructure for sleepyhead that council didn't require from them! Same with Pokeno. Almost no reserve contributions or full infrastructure payments from the developers. That is being paid by ALL of Waikato. PROGRESS? Only in the rates of those who have been paying for 50 years and are paying again Progress my arse!



Celia Lumley

12:36:04 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Ian Wrigley rubbish, I live rural, we don't get any services. Roads all have massive pot holes, no foot path for kids to walk to school. Rubbish is collected at letterbox, but have to by certain bags, plus pay in rates. Reserves aren't looked after, the list goes on



Ian Wrigley

1:15:03 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Celia Lumley the very things you mention, and many more. You're welcome to stand for local government or at least join your community committee if

you feel you can do better. Regardless of how well you think it's being done, things like roads water waste etc all cost money and nothing has gotten any cheaper.



Ian Wrigley

1:15:24 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

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Celia Lumley

2:08:56 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

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Brenda Stewart

2:47:33 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Celia Lumley , we don't even get out rubbish collected at letterbox. We now have to take it to te uku ☹️



Ian Wrigley

10:13:01 PM 20 Apr 2024 Edit

Celia Lumley the very things you mention, and many more. You're welcome to stand for local government or at least join your community committee if you feel you can do better. Regardless of how well you think it's being done, things like roads water waste etc all cost money and nothing has gotten any cheaper.



Micth Chell

11:28:30 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Blood Suckers



Micth Chell

11:28:37 AM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Blood Suckers



Becca Thompson

11:31:07 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Just how greedy do you have to be?! What the hell do you actually do to justify this hike?! I pay more in Huntly rates than my sister pays on the North Shore, and her house is worth more than double mine!!! 😡



Shirley Warner

11:42:39 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Becca Thompson Hamilton city council rates are increasing 19.9% this year and next three years 15% per year.



Becca Thompson

11:45:37 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Shirley Warner we also have to pay for our water on top of rates.



Shirley Warner

11:46:21 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Becca Thompson that will soon come for Hamilton too.



Elizabeth Mills

11:33:12 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

This council needs to make some cut backs. Stop purchasing land for the future. Sick of seeing post of your land purchase then they say not sure what they will do with it. Like going to develop a park in Pokeno on swam land. What the hell is that going to cost to develop. It's rate payers money and before anything is purchased us as ratepayer should be able to have a yes or no on it. We pay \$5.000 per year lived here 12 years get less and less each year but pay so much more. They were \$1800 12 years ago



Waikato District Council

3:57:46 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Elizabeth, thank you for your feedback. Please ensure you complete a submission form to make sure your voice is heard. feedback from our communities is very important to us and we encourage everyone to make a submission to help determine our next steps, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Waikato District Council

4:10:27 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Kia ora Elizabeth, thank you for your feedback. Please ensure you complete a submission form to make sure your voice is heard. Feedback from our communities is very important to us and we encourage everyone to make a submission to help determine our next steps, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Erin O'Connell

11:34:18 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

You say you are 'proposing' an increase. If this is true, please put together the correct pathway for us residents to oppose this high of an increase!



Waikato District Council

3:56:50 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Erin, feedback from our communities is very important to us and we encourage everyone to make a submission to help determine our next steps, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan> No final decisions will be made until the end of the consultation period. From there your Mayor and Councillors will read through all submissions and make a final call.



Sarah Vander

2:58:34 PM 26 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council sure... Treat us like we're idiots. Reposting the same answer each time. Like a broken friggin record. Absolute crap



Nima Riini

11:37:29 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council Are you hosting any consultation meetings with community, or is this post to inform rate payers what you plan to approve? I'm still trying to understand or clarify how there is a \$400+ increase on rates. Where will this money be invested and how it will be invested. My concern is that the government is already making significant job cuts across many sectors and yet the councils are wanting more money from rate payers. Could the increases to rates be achieved in increments rather than one large hit over a year?



Waikato District Council

3:55:41 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Nima, thank you for your feedback - We have a number of posts up on Facebook and have held 18 community meetings throughout the district this month to talk with our communities, with another two to go - You can see this times here, <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/annual-plan-drop-in-sessions> If you have missed a meeting and would still like to discuss the proposed changes, please contact your local councillor, <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/people/mayor-and-councillors> Feedback from our communities is very important to us and we encourage everyone to make a submission to help determine our next steps, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Elizabeth Liz

4:05:40 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Nima Riini That was in their longterm plan but they scrapped that longterm plan because they want more money.



Waikato District Council

4:21:38 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Elizabeth, our Mayor and Councillors agreed to defer the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan by 12 months, opting instead to prepare an 'enhanced annual plan' for the 2024/25 financial year. This approach

provides more time to address immediate challenges in our district, particularly concerning water infrastructure and understanding the complexities around central Government's Waters Done Well policy, as well as Waka Kotahi funding, affordability, and QV rates revaluation timelines.



Waikato District Council

4:22:31 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Kia ora Elizabeth, our Mayor and Councillors agreed to defer the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan by 12 months, opting instead to prepare an 'enhanced annual plan' for the 2024/25 financial year. This approach provides more time to address immediate challenges in our district, particularly concerning water infrastructure and understanding the complexities around central Government's Waters Done Well policy, as well as Waka Kotahi funding, affordability, and QV rates revaluation timelines. You can read more about the decision here: <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/news/article/2024/02/26/waikato-district-council-proposes-to-push-pause-on-2024-2034-long-term-plan>



Nicki Bayford

11:37:37 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Nigel Bayford there goes another \$400 ☹️



Ky Brendon

11:38:14 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

That's huge for Pokeno. Does it mean you'll provide a better rubbish and recycling service? Will you get a move on with our community parks and facilities? I want to know what the benefit is to Pokeno, because there isn't much here to justify an increase that high.



Codie Bedford-Moir

11:38:52 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Tyler Mapstone lol



Lee Weller

11:40:45 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

I know that the system NZ wide is about gathering revenue, hence infill housing/rates, more roads/road tax revenue, smart meters/water tax but what about a few incentives ie those of us who try to reduce our electricity consumption, who live in cooler houses and put on jerseys, or open windows for fresh air instead of air con, who save water by not flushing toilets as much, don't wash their cars, but get a hike in water rates anyway. Who plant a garden to sustain themselves and wildlife and encourage birds and Monarch butterflies and bees. Who use their own tree prunings as fire starters, instead of cutting down trees willy nilly and upsetting the natural water cycle. Those that compost and don't spray glycosophate, who hand weed for example to protect natural water quality. Maybe a bonus system, a small credit system to encourage restraint, accountability, and resourcefulness. It would be so rewarding and show our children that we can make a difference, instead of just adding financial burden and stress to an already overloaded minority of work/to live/to survive battlers.



Jonathan Bennett

8:36:17 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Lee Wellertax is love



Lee Weller

9:10:41 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Jonathan Bennett not sure, to have tax means the privilege of working, to be taxed helps someone, to not be able to pay tax is a stress. Love can be stressful, so maybe tax is a necessary life requirement, like Love ☐



Jonathan Bennett

6:05:38 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Lee Weller hmmm, maybe you are right. It's a quote from a ex green party mp who did some illegal taxing of her own.



Kylie Harrison

11:40:58 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Means I might lose my house ☐ our rates are so high already 🙄



Rachel Freedom

12:08:04 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kylie Harrison that's the plan, folk need to wake up to what's a play here.



Rachel Freedom

12:08:12 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Kylie Harrison that's the plan, folk need to wake up to what's at play here.



Sandra McGuire

1:18:26 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kylie Harrison make sure you do a submission.



Codie Lyn

4:17:28 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kylie Harrison isn't it shit... I feel like renting is a way better option ATM



Waikato District Council

4:30:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Kylie, your feedback is a very important step in this process. Please ensure you complete a submission form to help your Mayor and Councillors determine their next steps, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Rachel Freedom

7:09:04 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create



The Delphi Technique!!!



Jodi Wakelin

11:42:04 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Wade Jellie □



Brittney Ross

11:43:49 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Dylan Aitken



Jonathan Lovatt

11:47:16 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

And what is WDC going to guarantee will be done for thus, will there be full accountability on non performance? Will there be an audit on wasteful spending? If you are going to charge more then we who fund this, should be allowed to see exactly what it is spent on and not just in a summary format, books should be open for all to see.



Daniel Knight

1:17:55 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Jonathan Lovatt Not a lot to ask for at all.



Daniel Knight

1:19:21 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Just cut back on the coffee and you be able to afford it.



Gina Roberts

11:48:10 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Oh awesome an extra 13% on rates, and we pay extra for rubbish bag stickers so our rubbish gets collected, extra for water and drive on pot holed roads



Rebecca Wilcox

11:48:55 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Yeah your calculator can't find my address.....



Matt Stockton

11:49:26 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Every one of us has to live within our means. When costs go up we have to cut elsewhere. Why can't the council do this?



Rachel Freedom

12:07:35 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Matt Stockton because it's not their money, and obviously there's no accountability.





Rebecca Wilcox

11:49:35 AM 19 Apr 2024 Delete

Yeah your calculator can't find my address.....



Roger Kennard

11:49:52 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Ringa Muru



Wayne Borst

11:55:39 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

To pay for your flash office and electric cars. While the rest of us struggle to have a roof over our heads.



Dean Addison

11:58:45 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Wayne Borst I agree - we're do these guys get their figures from - - some 1 rekons budget better - he s probably on the board that's raising the rates - seriously- give us a break guys



Lisa Watts

11:55:55 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Nicole Kingi



Waikato District Council

11:58:18 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

It's not too late to let us know what you think about the increase and the draft Annual Plan. Have your say now - <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



David Yeo

12:05:55 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

It won't change any thing.



Rachel Freedom

12:10:20 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

David Yeo just a box ticking exercise.



Lee Weller

12:28:53 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

David Yeo probably not, but at least you can have a say. It's a bit like voting, it's still a privilege. Some countries people would love to be even asked.



Tania Mackinnon



Torrie Martin

12:48:50 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

David Yeo facts!



Sabine King

12:51:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council waste of time. You don't listen anyway.



Elton Sharplin

1:06:27 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council as if our opinion would matter.b



Bruce Horrox

1:27:21 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council stick the increase up your ****



Darren Roberts

1:56:27 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council im getting the impression the people don't believe you.....,we all know once something had been mentioned in the news or socials.....it soon because real



Lynz Martin

1:59:22 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council fycking joke..



Bruce Horrox

2:04:14 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Waikato District Council stick the increase up your ****



Lynz Martin

2:04:22 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Waikato District Council fycking joke..



Tim Ross

2:28:16 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council Be transparent and show us the invoices on what you are spending our money on. You want our buy in, show us the true costings, incomings and outgoings. Thats my challenge to you. Otherwise stop posting bs, like you give a damn what we think.



Tim Ross

2:28:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

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Alaine Sanson

2:32:07 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create



Waikato District Council are you reading these comments, or are you turning a blind eye.. I'm sure you get the picture how everyone is feeling about the so call proposed rate rise☹️



Les Cox

2:45:55 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council We had our say about the targeted rate for gully work around Tamahere and the majority voted against it but you still went ahead with it!, don't pretend you listen to what people want.



Kathy Barakat

3:10:55 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Elton Sharplin totally agree, they have already made up their minds and we can go jump.



Nepz Nepe

3:27:54 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council... I can let you know right now what I think... I think you're a pack of revenue gathering fuckn idiots... 13% increase for what exactly ??? How do you justify that much of a "proposed" increase ???



Nepz Nepe

3:28:01 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

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Jaxx Reddish

4:22:28 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council you are a joke! We have such crap infrastructure and you approve new subdivisions where we have to take care of our own waste water then up the rates anyway for nothing - no new playgrounds, no new green area/parks and household waste needs to be looked at and restructured - that's just the start!



Jaxx Reddish

4:24:13 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

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Darren Roberts

4:35:05 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

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Angela Thomas

4:37:49 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council absolute bs times are tough enough for people let alone doing these rates increases!!!



G'ma Buga

4:42:05 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Lee Weller all hale the thought of the so called priviledge!



Angela Thomas

4:50:37 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Waikato District Council absolute bs times are tough enough for people let alone doing these rates increases!!!



Debra Bruce Brooks

5:58:11 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council we have given feedback before and then you just do what the f**k you like.



Dawn Newall

6:43:54 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council we got a 3% wage rise this last collective so where do you propose we find the other 10% ?????? And yet I bet you all got waaaaayyyy more of a wage increase than us, just remember who actually pays for your wage increases in our taxes before you hike up the next increase. Otherwise you may find our taxes won't be available to pay your wages.



Bill Smith

7:29:52 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council Even if I come up with a brilliant idea that saves the council millions they can't implement it as it won't have been advised to the ratepayers for "consultation". I know consultation is a legal term that really means advise or inform. Unless my wonderful idea has been advised to all ratepayers it can't be implemented. But we'll find that the council will say that very few made "submissions" so they'll implement what was advertised for consultation (information). We only need to drive around the city to see the huge waste of money in stupid projects spawned by the previous governments ideology.



Andrea Daly

9:39:56 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Bill Smith what would it take to change the process? It's very out dated and not well used. It's really not working for the people/community.



Hero Williams

1:25:33 AM 21 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council ludicrous money ☐ hungry decisions ☐ not beneficial to those who really ☐ need it .wasted money being spent on roading that was sweet.



Sarah Vander

2:48:16 PM 26 Apr 2024 Create

Lee Weller having a say that's not heard is pointless. They'll do what they

want in the end. It's a political tactic to cover their arses before they screw us over, again.



Kylee A Phillips

12:03:10 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

How tf can you justify that



Elaine Sanson

12:04:14 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

My mother finally gets her house mortgage free/free hold and now she has to deal with this shit on the pension. Seriously sickening how the rates are proposing/going up that much, even at all. There is nothing to show for the past hike in rates, what is this GREEDY hike for? JACK ☐!!!



Elaine Sanson

12:04:19 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

My mother finally gets her house mortgage free/free hold and now she has to deal with this shit on the pension. Seriously sickening how the rates are proposing/going up that much, even at all. There is nothing to show for the past hike in rates, what is this GREEDY hike for? JACK ☐!!!



Amy Grinter

12:05:07 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kaycee Smith I'm sorry HOW MUCH



Lori Grinter

12:42:49 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Amy Grinter revolting increase



Amy Grinter

1:58:37 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Lori Grinter hi there, I have some negative feedback



Amy Grinter

1:58:52 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Lori Grinter hi there, I gave some negative feedback on the link posted below



Lori Grinter

2:31:46 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

I have now too



Carl Tepania

12:06:42 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

House prices have dropped, RV hasnt changed yet a rates increase proposal ☹



Jonathan Lovatt

12:09:46 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

And what is WDC going to guarantee will be done for this, will there be full accountability on non performance? Will there be an audit on wasteful spending? If you are going to charge more, then we who fund this should be allowed to see exactly what it is spent on and not just in a summary format, books should be open for all to see.



Daniel Knight

1:17:55 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Jonathan Lovatt Not a lot to ask for at all.



Daniel Knight

1:19:21 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Just cut back on the coffee and you be able to afford it.



Alysha Harper

12:10:22 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Piss off man. Living is hard enough as it is!



Alysha Harper

12:10:29 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Piss off man. Living is hard enough as it is!



Keri Scott Spencer

12:10:37 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Disgusting!



KD Suvarna

12:13:19 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Ash Ash



Erin Maree

12:15:20 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

\$600 extra... for what?! We already pay extra for our rubbish to be collected and extra water costs, not to mention rural postage when we are barely rural! This is a joke... cut costs internally - no one can afford to keep up with these rising rates!



Louise Sargent

12:28:52 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Erin Maree I agree, rural also and they are cutting the rural delivery as well, so how does that work if we pay more rates?



Gavin Wolfe


12:35:41 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Louise Sargent rural delivery isn't paid for by rates.



Louise Sargent

12:36:36 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create


Gavin Wolfe yes I realise that I was just referring to the above comment re rural postage 😊



Barbara Barrand

12:48:45 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Erin Maree Plus we no longer have a inorganic collection. Increased cost for less!



Karl Walter

12:22:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Who the actual f is going to say "yes please! I want to pay more in rates! 😊"



Conrad Fourie

12:24:55 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Please can the Council declare the state of the Debt publicly so we can see how you are wasting our hard earned money So many unfinished projects but yet we sign up for more Bullshit. Tell and show the people how you have managed their money by openly showing us the Debt you have created



Conrad Fourie

12:25:00 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Please can the Council declare the state of the Debt publicly so we can see how you are wasting our hard earned money So many unfinished projects but yet we sign up for more Bullshit. Tell and show the people how you have managed their money by openly showing us the Debt you have created



Casey Eddy

12:27:30 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Yeah keep taking from us. The greed is disgusting.



Resa Mutanu

12:38:07 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Casey Eddy do you think that money is making council rich? It goes right back into the work, assets etc



Casey Eddy

12:39:18 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Resa Mutanu I'm allowed my opinion thank you for yourz 😊. And yes most are getting/wanting another payrise. So yes they do get rich



Resa Mutanu

2:18:46 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Casey Eddy You're confusing opinion with facts though ☹



Resa Mutanu

2:20:00 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Casey Eddy You're confusing opinion with facts though ☹ if people working at council do it for the money, they'd be in commercial businesses. No one

in the public service sector is in it for the \$ - fact!



Resa Mutanu

2:20:37 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Casey Eddy You're confusing opinion with facts though ☹ if people working at council do it for the money, they'd be in commercial businesses. No one in the public service sector is in it for the \$ - fact! If you want to know what people there are making, that info is accessible



Jenni McClelland

4:52:55 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Resa Mutanu man youre in for a big surprise of you dont think "theyr in it for the money" they are getting paid mega bucks to follow the 2030 (now 2027) agenda



Resa Mutanu

4:26:45 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Jenni McClelland Bahaha. Do you know people who work at council & compare their salary to any corporate business? Then I'm sure you'd be surprised



Rachel Mikaere-Smith

12:27:39 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

I for one, getting ripped off. I don't use council water, have no foot paths, let alone street lights or rubbish collection and rural mail? Unheard of. Council how the hell do you justify my rates for nothing.



Resa Mutanu

12:37:32 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Rachel Mikaere-Smith but you live in a democracy where we all pitch in



Mike Richards

2:51:03 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Rachel Mikaere-Smith I'm in the same situation, self sufficient in water, power and septic. The only council service I get is a once a week rubbish collection for the recycling bin, yet I pay thousands in rates every year.



Mike Richards

2:55:17 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Rachel Mikaere-Smith I'm in the same situation, we have to be self sufficient in water, power and septic because there are no services. The only 'council service' I get is a once a week collection for the recycling bin, yet I pay thousands in rates every year.



Jan Sedgwick

8:39:24 PM 21 Apr 2024 Create

Mike Richards but , presumably you drive on roads that have signage etc , ever had a coffee in a cafe ? Then that is monitored for meeting health regs . Or your hair cut ? Same same - or borrowed a library book ? Or parked in a marked parking space outside a shop and walked on a footpath to get in or used a toilet when out ????? All paid for by

peoples rates



Mike Richards

10:41:52 AM 23 Apr 2024 Create

Jan Sedgwick ah yes like the great swathes of council land covered in gorse and wooly nightshade that we have been complaining about for years as it encroached onto our properties, Road signs tear are damaged or stolen and nothing is done even after reporting it, footpaths that are cracked and broken, even sunk in places that are not fixed for months, if at all, after being reported, rubbish bins not being emptied, or just not where they need to be, public toilets that are filthy and not serviced regularly...I get your point



Leanne Sands

12:30:57 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

i dont use your manky water i have septic tank. shit gravel road and you have all the cards. i pay for my rubbish to be taken. Waikato District Council your a friggin joke!!!



Leanne Sands

12:31:01 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

i dont use your manky water i have septic tank. shit gravel road and you have all the cards. i pay for my rubbish to be taken. Waikato District Council your a friggin joke!!!



Aroha Gaylor

12:32:46 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

I've given feedback (rave) but have no faith the council will actually take any notice. Council decisions are made, feedback is process, tick box, done.



Resa Mutanu

12:36:58 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Aroha Gaylor not true. Feedback is actually taken pretty seriously, although execution isn't always as easy as people think



Waikato District Council

3:42:52 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Aroha, no final decisions will be made until the end of the consultation period. From there your Mayor and Councillors will read through all submissions and make a final call,
<https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Glen Cox

12:35:13 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

We moved to the Waikato 3 years ago, 1st year got 7% rate rise, 3rd year another 7% rate rise, now 4th year going to get 13.75% rate rise? We have to pay extra for

rubbish stickers to get our bin collected, and had to pay 10s of thousands to get water detention tanks on our residential property to ease the load on the inadequate stormwater system you provided. Sort your sh#t out Waikato District Council, the expense to live in the Waikato is unbelievable, I can drive 10 mins north over the boarder to Auckland and pay less than half the rates for the equivalent house that we have now and get access to better services too, you really are taking the piss



Glen Cox

12:35:19 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

We moved to the Waikato 3 years ago, 1st year got 7% rate rise, 3rd year another 7% rate rise, now 4th year going to get 13.75% rate rise? We have to pay extra for rubbish stickers to get our bin collected, and had to pay 10s of thousands to get water detention tanks on our residential property to ease the load on the inadequate stormwater system you provided. Sort your sh#t out Waikato District Council, the expense to live in the Waikato is unbelievable, I can drive 10 mins north over the boarder to Auckland and pay less than half the rates for the equivalent house that we have now and get access to better services too, you really are taking the piss



Kylee A Phillips

12:37:08 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

How tf can you justify that



Reg Law

12:37:19 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato rates are already some of the highest in the country and you wanna raise them... Again...



Jennifer Smith

12:39:03 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Greedy @#%#\$% who don't give a %\$@#%\$ about what people in the district actually want!



Zelda Fourie

11:42:45 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Jennifer Smith well said!



Zelda Fourie

11:42:55 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Conrad Fourie



Mieke Roshelle Rutherford

12:40:19 PM 19 Apr 2024 Delete

How can you justify that when Auckland's rates are half of Waikato!! And not to mention why should we pay the increase if you the council fail to fix roads and footpaths ...



Chris James

11:26:57 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Mieke Roshelle Rutherford and they havent sent valuations out either so you'll get potentially increase in property value and then your rates increase on top of



George Strombo

11:48:27 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Mieke Roshelle Rutherford well of course aucklands half of ours. They have a million people we have what 45000 at the most. They have three wastewater facilities... we have 17



Trish Forsyth

12:21:39 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

George Strombo and Aucklands separate water and wastewater bills



Trish Forsyth

12:22:03 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

George Strombo and Aucklands separate water and wastewater



Resa Mutanu

12:35:15 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Mieke Roshelle Rutherford erm...Auckland had 1.6 million people! Waikato has not even a third of that



Resa Mutanu

12:35:53 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Mieke Roshelle Rutherford erm...Auckland had 1.6 million people! Waikato has not even a third of that. Also roads are waka kotahi not just council



Kylie Maxwell

12:49:47 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Theives



Makenzee Wells

12:52:10 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

You're actually insane for this but please, continue to make us pay extra for water and rubbish collection on top. If you want no one to be able to afford to live here, just say so.



Jenny Harris

12:54:09 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Man my recycling collection had better be amazing for that increase!



Megan N Brodice Ryder

12:55:35 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council when uou say you search by valuation no or address, it differs as our address is not found yet i put in the valuation no and bingo - address is exactly what I put in search. whoops an extra \$10 a week on top if i am correct. so thankyou i did not bother to contest with the rate changes as i knew i had run out of breath before starting 🤔🤔

**Waikato District Council**

3:39:28 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Megan, if you are having issues locating your property on our database, please PM us here on Facebook, phone us on 0800 492 452 or email us at info@waidc.govt.nz - We can help locate the correct info from there.

**Megan N Brodice Ryder**

3:57:00 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council don't worry i used our valuation no in search instead if my comment was read properly thanks

**Megan N Brodice Ryder**

7:02:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Delete

Waikato District Council don't worry i used our valuation no in search instead if my comment was read properly thanks

**Megan N Brodice Ryder**

12:56:09 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

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7:02:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Delete

Waikato District Council don't worry i used our valuation no in search instead if my comment was read properly thanks

**Bruce Henderson**

12:56:46 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Your 13.75% on top of the HCC 19.9%, not a problem, ratepayers got plenty of money to throw at councils to get nothing back..not

**Waikato District Council**

3:37:39 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create



Kia ora Bruce, you don't rates to Hamilton City Council on property within Waikato District Council. Please ensure you complete the submission form - No final decisions will be made until the end of the consultation period. From there your Mayor and Councillors will read through all submissions and make a final call. <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Bruce Henderson

3:53:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council, try again, that explanation doesnt make sense..



Karen Leathem

5:59:58 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Bruce Henderson, we pay waikato district rates, which are quite different from hamilton city council rates.



Bruce Henderson

6:38:37 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Karen Leathem How are they different? Its still a cost and added to the HCC rates become quite expensive, specially when we pay for empty buses to tour the city..



Waikato District Council

7:11:56 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Bruce, you may be thinking the Waikato Regional Council. If you live in the Waikato District you pay rates to us and Waikato Regional Council. However, if you live in Hamilton you pay to Hamilton City Council and Waikato Regional Council, not district.



Waikato District Council

7:12:15 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Kia ora Bruce, you may be thinking about the Waikato Regional Council? If you live in the Waikato District you pay rates to us and Waikato Regional Council. However, if you live in Hamilton you pay to Hamilton City Council and Waikato Regional Council, not district.



Karen Leathem

7:26:58 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Bruce Henderson two different councils for a start. If you live in Pokeno you live within the waikato district council catchment area. The waikato regional council covers the area from tuakau all the way down to taupo where the waikato River starts, a big difference. Hamilton city council is a different catchment area and has nothing to do with us living in the waikato district council area. The reason aucklanders don't pay a regional tax Now is it is incorporated into their rates as they all live within the catchment area of the old auckland regional area, which came into play when Auckland became a super city.



Bruce Henderson



7:40:02 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Karen Leathern Not in Hams, we used to pay WDC as part of our city rates but that changed 7 or 8 years ago. We now pay WDC rates separately, and now I get robbed by 2 councils to the tune of about 6 year with our rates virtually doubling over the next 4 years. We also pay for lake taupo which is 2hrs south..



Jan Sedgwick

7:20:07 AM 21 Apr 2024 Create

Bruce Henderson no . It's REGIONAL council



Shirley Ann Boyde

12:56:57 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

I would like the rates to be based on property value rather than Improved value. I use as much or less of any Council services than any of my neighbours yet I have to pay much much more in rates just because I have a newer house!



Jan Sedgwick

2:06:24 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Shirley Ann Boyde that simply doesn't make any sense '



Waikato District Council

2:30:05 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Shirley, rates are calculated using a number of different categories, including your properties valuation, the area you live in, etc. You can learn about how your rates are calculated here:

<https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/rates/how-your-rates-are-calculated>



Waikato District Council

2:38:03 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Kia ora Shirley, rates are calculated using a number of different categories, including your property valuation, the area you live in, etc. You can learn about how your rates are calculated here:

<https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/rates/how-your-rates-are-calculated>



Greg Wiechern

2:52:15 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Shirley Ann Boyde So much is fixed charges, it makes little difference in rates. A small 2 bedroom unit is going up to over \$4,000



Uma Duga

4:40:00 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Shirley Ann Boyde we are all fighting a losing battle Shirley! The way TLA rates are calculated is convoluted to say the least! Huntly's David Whyte gave the best explanation some short time back - and even that was tricky to follow.



Shirley Ann Boyde

5:48:43 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council I was a District Councillor a while back so I have an understanding of how things go. My comment was that I felt a land based value rating would be fairer.



Jan Sedgwick

7:23:02 AM 21 Apr 2024 Create

Shirley Ann Boyde your comment that you use 'fewer services' shows how little you must have understood the basic principles of democracy - astonishing for someone who should have understood the general precept a council is based on in a democratic society



Shirley Ann Boyde

12:35:55 PM 21 Apr 2024 Create

Sorry if I misled you Jan. I do understand. I was trying to make the point that I get charged more rates based on the fact I live in a higher valued house than my neighbours. For example if both had 1012sq mtr sections with one a new house say at \$800,000 and one older house at \$400,000 both using the same services then the \$800,000 property pays considerably more in rates - hence my question - why not base rates on land value - at least in a residential area.



Te Marae Tapara

12:58:07 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Damn ☐



Razy Wymer

1:35:09 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Te Marae Tapara fs ☐😬



Te Marae Tapara

1:38:51 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Razy Wymer im already in arrears 😬☐



Razy Wymer

1:41:02 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Te Marae Tapara the rebate income threshold is ridiculous too ☐☐



Haze Richards

1:50:17 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Te Marae Tapara same sis fs



Te Marae Tapara
1:51:31 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Razy Wymer well Ill meet it this year ☐☐😬



Te Marae Tapara
1:52:01 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Haze Richards we got this ☐



Te Marae Tapara
12:58:12 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Damn ☐



Razy Wymer
1:35:09 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Te Marae Tapara fs ☐😬



Te Marae Tapara
1:38:51 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Razy Wymer im already in arrears 🙄☐



Razy Wymer
1:41:02 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Te Marae Tapara the rebate income threshold is ridiculous too ☐☐



Haze Richards
1:50:17 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Te Marae Tapara same sis fs



Te Marae Tapara
1:51:31 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Razy Wymer well Ill meet it this year ☐☐😬



Te Marae Tapara
1:52:01 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Haze Richards we got this ☐



Wiremu Stevenson
1:00:04 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

The sad thing is, it's gonna get increased no matter the dispute and everyone is going to pay it 🙄



Bruce Henderson
1:01:37 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Get rid of those empty buses running around our city, its an absolute waste of money.



Laurence Carroll

1:14:37 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Sooo how much is the Council cutting back or not increasing expenditure on?



Waikato District Council

3:35:34 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Laurence, the proposed general rate increase of 13.75% is to keep services ticking over, complete pre-planned projects and maintain your infrastructure to the standards that have been set for us. You can find full details what we are proposing, including draft budgets and forecasting documents on our Annual Plan consultation page, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Gem Gem

1:14:49 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Craig Sharpe are you actually joking



Brendan Long

7:43:32 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Gem Gem an absolute joke



Mike Croton

1:15:17 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

It means sweet f all. Means we pay a whole lot more and get nothing extra I'm return ☐



Mike Croton

1:15:39 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

It means sweet f all. Means we pay a whole lot more and get nothing extra in return ☐



Laurence Carroll

1:16:08 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Mmmm where is the photo of? It looks like Mt Pirongia in the background? Thanks.



Nana Bee

2:31:14 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Laurence Carroll Raglan. Mt Karioi in the background.



Waikato District Council

2:41:11 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Laurence, this Mt Karioi, this view is from the Raglan Harbor.



Peter Neil

1:17:18 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

How about reducing the staff salaries.



Sharyna Newport

1:18:33 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Ngati-Te Ata Newport □□□



Trish Louisa

1:20:42 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Thank you for making life more expensive. Very much appreciated... not. Everything is going up, except quality. Road dug up into Hamilton via Tuhikaramea Road. Lasted a week and had its first potholes - cluster of 3! Increase might be acceptable if you genuinely consulted with those of us who have no choice but to pay rates! Take your tongue out of your cheek and actually listen!



Waikato District Council

1:50:21 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Trish, Tuhikaramea Road falls under Hamilton City Council. You can report any issues with their roading network on their website, <https://hamilton.govt.nz/do-it-online/report-it/>



Trish Louisa

3:32:16 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council yep, was giving an example of inferior workmanship.



Kevin Hodges

1:22:27 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

When this happened during the French revolution, what was the fate of the French aristocracy



Sandra McGuire

1:23:33 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Wow solo Mum rate increase of \$600. Would love to understand in common English what that will get me. Also would love it if my wages would up that much but I'm grateful I have a job. More people are going to struggle to pay rates on top of all the other increases. Workers and beneficiaries alike.



Anke Van Dijk-Jansen

1:27:39 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

And what are you intended on spending our money on? Do we get a say in how OUR money will be spent? Will there be accountability that it's been spend wisely and in top priorities?



Waikato District Council

3:32:38 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Anke, the proposed general rate increase of 13.75% is just to keep services ticking over, complete pre-planned projects and maintain your infrastructure to the standards that have been set for us. You can find full details what we are proposing, including draft budgets and forecasting documents on our Annual Plan consultation page, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Waikato District Council

3:33:58 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

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Michelle Dingle

1:27:44 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

"Propose" = "Already decided and just saving face"



Waikato District Council

3:29:26 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Michelle, no final decisions will be made until the end of the consultation period. From there your Mayor and Councillors will read through all submissions and make a final call.



Tess Marie

3:48:42 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council with all due respect, "consultation" seems to be the final box ticking exercise for council before steamrolling ahead regardless. Your plans are pretty much set in stone at this point. Nobody believes you will listen to opposing views. I'm sure we would all LOVE to be wrong. Please prove us wrong!! Happy as to offer my apology at that point if required



Anke Van Dijk-Jansen

1:28:45 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

And what are you intended on spending our money on? Do we get a say in how OUR money will be spent? Will there be accountability that it's been spend wisely and in top priorities? Or is this just a follow on from Hamilton city's exact rate increase and you think you can now just get away with this?



Waikato District Council

3:32:38 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Anke, the proposed general rate increase of 13.75% is just to keep services ticking over, complete pre-planned projects and maintain your infrastructure to the standards that have been set for us. You can find full details what we are proposing, including draft budgets and forecasting documents on our Annual Plan consultation page, <https://shape.wakatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Waikato District Council

3:33:58 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

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Anke Van Dijk-Jansen

1:33:17 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

And what are you intended on spending our money on? Do we get a say in how OUR money will be spent? Will there be accountability that it's been spend wisely and in top priorities? Or is this just a follow on from Hamilton city's exact rate increase and you think you can now just get away with this? Our salaries haven't been following inflation for years, neither have they gone up 13.5%!!!



Waikato District Council

3:32:38 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Anke, the proposed general rate increase of 13.75% is just to keep services ticking over, complete pre-planned projects and maintain your infrastructure to the standards that have been set for us. You can find full details what we are proposing, including draft budgets and forecasting documents on our Annual Plan consultation page, <https://shape.wakatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>





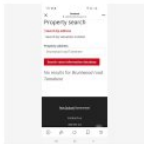
Waikato District Council
3:33:58 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

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Deborah Weir Honnor
1:34:33 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

So because I can't locate my property on your system, does that mean I'm exempt from paying your rates??



Waikato District Council
1:48:09 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Deborah, if you type in 'Bruntwood Road', leaving out 'Tamahere', the search should result in all properties on that road. If you continue to have issues, please phone us on 0800 492 452 or email us at info@waidc.govt.nz



Lynz Martin
1:57:47 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Deborah Weir Honnor ohh no they will find a way for you to lol



Paul J Ayres
1:38:02 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Holy hell!!!! That makes our residential rates over \$5000 a year!! For what? We still have to pay for water a rubbish collection on top. You could atleast fix the roads and mow the grass around here. Way to kill every household that's already struggling to make ends meet. Maybe take a pay cut for a change.



Kristen Beattie
9:45:02 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Paul J Ayres right?! How can they charge so friken much and we still have to pay for those????!! Its daylight robbery.



Kylee Smith

1:43:07 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Rick Bell



Nick Greene

1:45:47 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Stop wasting money on stupid crap get ya spending down tell the top dogs to take a pay cut the people cant afford rises if you cant curb ya spending step down simple



Nick Greene

1:46:06 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Stop wasting money on stupid crap get ya spending down tell the top dogs to take a pay cuz the people cant afford rises if you cant curb ya spending step down simple



Kevin Hodges

1:48:45 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

When this happened during the French revolution, what was the fate of the French aristocracy



Kevin Hodges

1:48:48 PM 19 Apr 2024 Unhide

When this happened during the French revolution, what was the fate of the French aristocracy



Alice Macpherson

1:57:18 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

What do we get out of these? We already pay for rubbish and water unlike Hamilton and have the same rate cost pretty much. At least in Hamilton we had foot paths on our street and road wide enough for 2 cars to drive down, lots of nice big open library's that make you want to go(if your not going to extend into that empty lot and make something nice at least knock out some walls and add some widows) and working public toilets at playgrounds, is the point ever going to be fixed?



Waikato District Council

3:28:38 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Alice, we're currently working with Mana Whenua, including the Office of the Kiingitanga and the Ngaruawahia Community Board to deliver new toilets at The Point. This also includes a new carpark and repairing the fire damaged building. Once we have confirmed dates we'll share



Brad Anderson

1:57:38 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Katie Marie



Katie Marie

1:58:11 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create



Brad Anderson glad to be GONE



Brad Anderson

1:59:11 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Katie Marie hey we see you as a country are struggling and we're listening, here's some more added road taxes and increase in rates just help yall along xx



Katie Marie

2:00:51 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Brad Anderson I remember the days when I used to be surprised 😊



Hope Spooner

2:00:28 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Take a pay cut you fucking jokers



Hope Spooner

2:00:34 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Take a pay cut you fucking jokers



Nick Greene

2:03:25 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Stop wasting money on stupid crap get ya spending down tell the top dogs to take a pay cuz the people cant afford rises if you cant curb ya spending step down simple



Carol Weatherley

2:05:10 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Can't believe we are having another rise, can't see any changes as to where the money goes, cut back on morning teas lunch ect, I am a pensioner, I have a 150 + taken out every fortnight without thinking of other things that have to paid.. shocking, We also are higher than a lot of bigger towns, has anyone noticed that. Oh and by the way we also mow the council's curb grass, we don't get paid for that, that's out of our pocket, another cost 😊



Shane Tattley

3:00:45 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Carol Weatherley joke aye pot holes everywhere water taste like shit and not drinkable bloody shameful



Shane Tattley

3:00:51 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Carol Weatherley joke aye pot holes everywhere water taste like shit and not drinkable bloody shameful



Carol Weatherley

3:56:42 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Shane Tattley sure is Shane, 😊😊

**Waikato District Council**

4:10:08 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Carol, thank you for your feedback. Please ensure you complete a submission form to make sure your voice is heard. Feedback from our communities is very important to us and we encourage everyone to make a submission to help our Mayor and Councillors determine our next steps, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>

**Ursula Yan**

4:53:14 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Carol Weatherley to fund their electric cars

**Carol Weatherley**

4:54:39 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Ursula Yan oh true forgot about that

**Mieke Smit**

9:37:08 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Ursula Yan I could not afford an electric car! The purchase price is out of this world. Wonder if they pay outright or borrow for them?

**James Purchase**

2:06:06 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Be good if the search tool worked

**Waikato District Council**

2:30:45 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora James, if you are having issues with the search tool please give us a call on 0800 492 452 or email as at info@waidec.govt.nz

**Nati Bradford**

2:10:11 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Why are you pushing people to breaking point and raising the rates that high is beyond words for most people right now. How about you show us exactly what you spent our rates on and we will tell you where to cut your spending. Sorry but this is a huge insult to most rate payers right now. I personally think it should be less than 5% right now as we are all struggling to keep our heads above water as it is.

**Waikato District Council**

2:17:12 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Nati, we have an draft operational budget available through the Annual Plan submission page as well as further documents on what we are

consulting on that affect the rates. See those documents and be sure to have your say here, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Sharon Napia

7:03:15 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Nati Bradford this exactly.



Lexi Piggott

2:16:43 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Hopefully this is another step from the establishment that wakes people up



Sandy Rawlings

2:17:04 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Proposed = intended. Say it how it is!



Waikato District Council

3:25:08 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Sandy, no final decisions will be made until the end of the consultation period. From there your Mayor and Councillors will read through all submissions and make a final call.



Sue Forlong

3:35:58 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council oh come on! Every time there is a proposed increase it happens regardless of what submissions people put in and a huge reliance seems to be put on the fact that the average person lacks the confidence to even look into what it means to put a submission in



Carol Te Ohaere-Fox

2:21:20 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

People won't buy in the Waikato soon...they won't be able to afford the rates bill....specially if you're retired...Huntly is ridiculous



Olivia Gwen Murtagh

2:24:37 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

So what are we going to get for our money. Same as now with nothing extra. Ripped off is what this increase is. It's not a proposal it's been decided already!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Waikato District Council

2:46:14 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Olivia, you can find a draft operational budget, forecasting and various other documents available on our Annual Plan consultation page.

These show what we are proposing and how these could affect your rates:
<https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



NE Spring

2:27:33 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

This is what getting back on track looks like! Massive layoffs, no support, cost of living crisis and unregulated immigration No one to blame 6 months in other than this coalition of privilege and consumption. Without economies of scale for water, wastewater and treatment plants, rate payers fund infrastructure upgrades.



Cara Tnz

2:51:15 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

NE Spring it's like Robin Hood back to front... robbing from the poor to pay for the rich?



Jonathan Bennett

8:37:52 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

NE Spring lol, yes, this issue was only created in the last 6 months



NE Spring

8:40:21 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Cara Tnz it will s!



NE Spring

8:40:36 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Cara Tnz it so is!



Karl Walter

2:29:19 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Proposing??? Who the actual f is going to say "yes please! I want to pay more in rates! 😊"



Iziah Zhavia Kereopa DeThierry

2:33:45 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Well I guess everyone can look forward to a higher rent increase next year 😊



Annette Campbell

2:37:44 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

You seem to think we have bottom less pockets. We are all suffering with all the costs of living. So maybe its time the council worked with in what they all ready get like we all have to. We are not getting higher rates of pay to cope with the costs rising constantly. Maybe time to stop the "team building " weekends away and other functions that are not necessary. Remember all these rates rises when the next election comes around people.



Bridget Smith

2:41:29 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Marie-Darren Oliver.... 🤔



Marie-Darren Oliver

2:47:27 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Bridget Smith Now thats not a small increase :(



Bridget Smith

2:48:14 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Marie-Darren Oliver I know right!!! I nearly had a stroke! 🤔🙄👩



Chris Wright

2:47:40 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Pay More ..Get Less



Waikato District Council

2:50:16 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Check out this video from your mayor and councillors explaining what's proposed and why your feedback is important, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjlzbzQX0UY>



Amanda Furze

5:46:48 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council WHAT A FKING JOKE YOU ARE the people in the waikato community have already spoken and you haven't listened thats not Democracy that's a dictatorship! Your a joke flicking through the legal requirements to cover your own asses saying we all have a voice and a say and have already mad3 the choic3 for everyone rather than letting the actual PAYING PEOPLE VOTE LEGALLY ON THIS MATTER CAUSE YOU KNOW YOU WILL LOSE WHAT A PATHETIC BUCH OF WANKERS!



Amanda Furze

5:47:05 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Waikato District Council WHAT A FKING JOKE YOU ARE the people in the waikato community have already spoken and you haven't listened thats not Democracy that's a dictatorship! Your a joke flicking through the legal requirements to cover your own asses saying we all have a voice and a say and have already mad3 the choic3 for everyone rather than letting the actual PAYING PEOPLE VOTE LEGALLY ON THIS MATTER CAUSE YOU KNOW YOU WILL LOSE WHAT A PATHETIC BUNCH OF WANKERS!



Priti Nandan

7:22:15 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council



Sarah Vander

3:17:51 PM 26 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council Stock standard response, again. This a reflection of you not giving a shit to actually answer anyones questions. I've sent 4 emails to Jacqui Church since April 4th and not one response. Her EA assured me she'll respond, that was 2 weeks ago. Obvious where the middle class stand with her. On the bottom of her shoe; the shoe that kicks us while we're down. So out of touch with reality. All the counsellors who condone these hikes are just as bad. Can't even fix the roads, another shitty job done outside Tuakau College, already falling apart 2 weeks later, and nothing through the town. What about Pokeno Road, cant even see the lines because of erosion!! Been like that for over 18 months. As long as they're seen to be doing something with our rates, huh? Must think we're stupid. What a joke. The buck stops with the mayor; get rid of her and the counsellors need to start giving a shit. It's bad enough you won't listen to your "have a say" responses. It's clear by everyone's responses it's opposed. Bit let's brace for the hike, anyway, huh? Any nice getaways for the staff planned with the extra \$\$\$?



Sarah Vander

3:17:56 PM 26 Apr 2024 Hide

Waikato District Council Stock standard response, again. This a reflection of you not giving a shit to actually answer anyones questions. I've sent 4 emails to Jacqui Church since April 4th and not one response. Her EA assured me she'll respond, that was 2 weeks ago. Obvious where the middle class stand with her. On the bottom of her shoe; the shoe that kicks us while we're down. So out of touch with reality. All the counsellors who condone these hikes are just as bad. Can't even fix the roads, another shitty job done outside Tuakau College, already falling apart 2 weeks later, and nothing through the town. What about Pokeno Road, cant even see the lines because of erosion!! Been like that for over 18 months. As long as they're seen to be doing something with our rates, huh? Must think we're stupid. What a joke. The buck stops with the mayor; get rid of her and the counsellors need to start giving a shit. It's bad enough you won't listen to your "have a say" responses. It's clear by everyone's responses it's opposed. Bit let's brace for the hike, anyway, huh? Any nice getaways for the staff planned with the extra \$\$\$?



Nicky Boulton

2:53:35 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

That was difficult to read, wordy as and didn't get to the point, I can't believe in this day n age when everyone is struggling you have "proposed" put such a hefty financial burden, it's 3 times higher than inflation.....ridiculous



Waikato District Council

3:22:38 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Nicky, our costs are dictated by business price indexes not consumer price indexes so the inflation is different - for example according to researchers, construction costs are up 27% over the last three years (compared to 19% for consumer price inflation). You can read more around

our estimated budgets and what we are consulting on here,
<https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Samantha Jones

5:03:17 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

waikato district Waikato District Council and by you forcing us to give you more of our already taxed, hard earned wages to spend on massively over inflated construction costs, we are doubly being shot in the foot as this will keep inflation high and therefore interest rates! Do better budgeting, your eyes are bigger than your wallet and you have already milked the taxpayers dry!!



Brendan Weight

2:56:21 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Hello. I do not approve of the current council spending, and do not accept this rates increase. If Waikato District Council chooses to become more efficient and live within their means then we can talk again, but i reiterate that I do not accept this increase.



Waikato District Council

3:19:07 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Brendan, thank you the feedback - Please remember to complete a submission form with your thoughts. Our Mayor and Councillors will look through all submissions before making a final call.
<https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Brendan Weight

11:03:12 AM 22 Apr 2024 Create

Kia Ora. I have submitted feedback as requested, although I suspect it will come to no avail based on the low amount of real information contained within the document. I maintain that I do not support this proposed increase in rates imposed by a council that insists on increasing debt by 30% as well as increasing the burden on local constituents.



Kayla Cox

2:56:28 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Not to mention the 13 percent approx pending rates rise from regional council!stop spending money u don't have by taking it from people already struggling to pay rent or mortgages and put food on the table!!



Mike Richards

3:00:08 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council I want to know why is the increase almost double the

cost of living increase. Why are we being ripped of by this massive increase at a time when families and many elderly are barely able to put food on the table or heat their homes?.



Waikato District Council

3:17:24 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Mike Richards, check out this video from your mayor and councillors explaining what's proposed and why your feedback is important, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjlzbzQX0UY>



Mike Richards

3:39:45 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council the Mayor and council members are deaf when it comes to 'feedback'. Proof of my point, I asked Council member David Whyte to explain the massive increase some two or three weeks ago and his response was very aggressive and abusive, basically telling me to stick my questions where the sun never shone and piss off, he didn't give a dam what I, as a rate payer, thought.



Mike Richards

3:58:18 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Waikato District Council the Mayor and council members are deaf when it comes to 'feedback'. Proof of my point, I asked Council member David Whyte to explain the massive increase some two or three weeks ago and his response was aggressive and written with total contempt. Basically telling me to just piss off, he didn't give a dam what I, as a rate payer was asking.



Chanté Te Kanawa-Pittman

3:09:41 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Instead of moaning about it here, do it on the feedback form. Council's legally have to go through all feedback, submissions, proposals of the public and consider these moving forward. Even if the opposed decision goes ahead, atleast you know you had a say and then submit more. Maybe another feedback or complaint. Read the plans and always submit your feedback. Yes it's heaps of reading and mahi but atleast we get the chance to do that.



Chanté Te Kanawa-Pittman

3:10:29 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

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Kathryn Guy

3:25:02 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

@ Phillip Guy



Mitchell McIntosh

3:25:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Removing already established speed bumps is purely a waste of money.



Mike Croton

3:34:35 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

It means sweet f all. Means we pay a whole lot more and get nothing extra in return ☐



Andrea Daly

3:38:59 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Very disappointing. Usually a big advocate for WDC work but this one hurts. Would help if they also looked internally first, did a cost budget review across the board like so many other orgs are doing and stack that first before coming out asking for more again. What is the increase in head count and salary budget increase alongside the benefits etc. it's a hard time for so many, and at a high government level they are driving cost out, hard to know if this happening at a local govt level. Frustrating for tax payers that are coping it at some many tax points.



Waikato District Council

4:12:47 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Andrea, thank you for your feedback. We really appreciate it. Feedback from our communities is very important to us and we encourage everyone to make a submission to help our Mayor and Councillors determine our next steps, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Natalie Harnett

6:31:44 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

what she said ↑



Andrea Daly

3:39:57 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

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Natalie Harnett

6:31:44 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

what she said ↑



Sue Forlong

3:40:51 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

For one thing, I believe that in this day and age, people's comments and opinions on social media platforms should be taken into account also without requiring submissions due to some feeling overwhelmed by the thought of the prospect of any potential process of doing this!



David Whyte

5:12:41 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Sue in the last while WDC have been harvesting Facebook comments and submitting as part of the feedback process. So the comments are captured. However formal submissions are to be encouraged as this is more robust.



Sue Forlong

5:21:50 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

David Whyte I myself have made a submission, I just know that it can seem a difficult prospect to many



Dave Freeman

7:38:02 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

David Whyte submissions suck the energy of most and the total letdown from now action taken leaves most people a bit peeved of, most will say, never again, what a waste of time, put spin on this is unacceptable sorry.



Dave Freeman

7:38:07 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

David Whyte submissions suck the energy of most and the total letdown from now action taken leaves most people a bit peeved of, most will say, never again, what a waste of time, put spin on this is unacceptable sorry.



Cara Tnz

10:53:40 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

totally agree... formal submissions aren't readily accessible for everyone, and to be frank - often full of language that isn't easily understood. Comments and engagement in posts like these speak volumes - it's still "voice" ... and should be received as feedback... pleased to see harvesting happens... so maybe comments should fly ☐ keep them up people!



Andrea Daly

3:41:54 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Very disappointing. Usually a big advocate for WDC work but this one hurts. Would help if they also looked internally first, did a cost budget review across the board like so many other orgs are doing and stack that first before coming out asking for more again. What is the increase in head count and salary budget increase alongside the benefits etc. it's a hard time for so many, and at a high government level they are driving cost out, hard to know if this happening at a local govt level. Frustrating for tax payers that are coping it at so many tax points. Final point move with the times. Take all of these comments and drop them in as a submissions. The process is pointless when it's all in these comments. The process deters people away and the true essence and voice of the people is not always represented. Just an idea.



Waikato District Council

4:12:47 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Andrea, thank you for your feedback. We really appreciate it. Feedback from our communities is very important to us and we encourage everyone to make a submission to help our Mayor and Councillors determine our next steps, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Natalie Harnett

6:31:44 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

what she said ↑



Karl Walter

3:43:21 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

Proposing??? Who the actual f is going to say "yes please! I want to pay more in rates! 😊"



Row Robinson

3:51:31 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Good of you to live within your means! How do you stop a 'cost plus' mentality? Do you think I or anyone else can increase their income just because they overspend? I'm ashamed of you! Fiscal responsibility please!



Bethney Waiters

3:53:43 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

4K a year on rates for my average income whanau. Ouch



Jonathan Fletcher

3:54:41 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

More money People simply don't have



Elizabeth Marshall



3:56:51 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

I totally agree with Jenny, the recycling better improve outstandingly.



Elizabeth Liz

4:01:47 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

And to add insult to injury, the new valuations haven't gone on yet?



Waikato District Council

4:07:14 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Elizabeth, yes, you are correct. A property revaluation is currently underway and the data is expected to be released by 8 May 2024. Unfortunately, this timing isn't ideal for our ratepayers as we will have already consulted on the 2024/25 Annual Plan based on current property values. Please consider making a submission of our proposed Annual Plan - Your feedback is very important to us, this will help your Mayor and Councillors determine the best course forward, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Elizabeth Liz

4:13:28 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Submission has been made even though I know you will ignore everything we say.



Jessica Kathryn

4:05:09 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

That's huge! It's already gone up so much since I bought my house just 3 years ago



Waikato District Council

4:23:01 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Jessica, feedback from our communities is very important to us and we encourage everyone to make a submission to help our Mayor and Councillors determine our next steps, <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Elsie Cropp-Vaimea

4:08:04 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Glad you ain't my council granted mine will increase rates too ☹️



Charly Bee

4:15:22 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create



Joke!!!



Shaan Spence

4:15:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Join the dots!



Jo Russell

4:17:46 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

In my opinion, I don't believe anyone wants a rates increase. Especially that large. If any increase is required, it should only ever be <5%. Rates have almost doubled since 5 years ago.



Waikato District Council

4:28:58 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Jo, thank you for your feedback. Our Mayor and Councillors are aware of the impact this may have on our ratepayers. Check out this video from your mayor and councillors explaining what's proposed and why it's important for the our communities to provide feedback:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjlzbzQX0UY>



Jo Russell

4:37:59 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council we area rural and have tank water, solar, and pay for rubbish collection. The postie is no longer every day either. The huge cost in rates doesn't reflect the services we receive.



Jo Russell

6:22:56 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Waikato District Council we area rural and have tank water, own septic tank, solar, and pay for rubbish collection. The postie is no longer every day either. The huge cost in rates doesn't reflect the services we receive.



Jaxx Reddish

4:20:13 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

For what???????



Waikato District Council

4:26:26 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Jaxx, you can read what we are proposing on our Annual Plan consultation page here: <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan> Your feedback is important, please take the time to complete a submission form while you're there.





Tim Ross

4:23:09 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

You aren't proposing Jack. You have already made the decision. Stop pretending like we have a say.....that matters. What a load of bs!



Coral L Vryer

11:29:51 AM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Tim Ross 100%



Waikato District Council

3:58:45 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Tim, no final decisions will be made until the end of the consultation period. From there your Mayor and Councillors will read through all submissions and make a final call. Your feedback is important to us, please consider making a submission:

<https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>



Tim Ross

9:18:48 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council My feedback is simple. There is no need for an increase of 13.75%. Give us transparency and show us, your rate payers where dollar for dollar this increase is being allocated.



Teraumoko Waina

4:29:03 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

It's disgusting to increase when so many are struggling. I'd really appreciate it if Waikato District Council could clean up our shared boundary at market street in pokeno. I maintain my side and your rubbish is pushing our fence over.



Waikato District Council

4:35:32 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Teraumoko, thank you for your feedback. Please use the below link to our reporting tool, along with details of what you are experiencing - The appropriate team will be assigned to investigate:

<https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/report-it>



Karen Elliott

4:33:25 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create



That's ridiculous putting them up again, wasn't it 7% last year?



Sandie Hunt

5:24:05 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Karen Elliott way above the rate of inflation!



Jamie Walters

4:36:48 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

What a joke



Eric Doyle Hood

4:44:37 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

As well as taking public parks for the private housing sector now rates increased shows the extraction only public asset and many is real



Clara Splinter

4:59:08 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

I don't wanna play this game anymore, put me back to where I came from please, can I refuse to work, so no tax can be given, no way in hell its so impossible, I'll be doomed, my house will be taken from me, life as we know it, and you have won again...



Jennifer Tan

5:00:33 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

How can people survive?



Kendra Jane

5:13:22 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Don't you think we pay enough for rates Waikato District Council Surely rubbish could be included in this ridiculous suggestion.



Ali Clark

5:31:07 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

I wouldn't be so opposed to this increase if the things that were being done by council/council contractors were done properly/permanently rather than having to be redone using more of our rates money. Do it once do it right. I'm sure others will agree



Wolf Sprengel

5:32:03 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

What will be your salary increase coming out of the our rates increase? What is the legal option to sack the whole lot of you?



Clara Ranger

5:38:06 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Wages haven't gone up in our household... how are we supposed to pay more rates??



Clara Ranger

5:40:39 PM 19 Apr 2024 Delete

Wages haven't gone up in our household... how are we supposed to pay more rates??



Wolf Sprengel

5:42:28 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

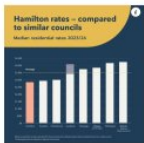
Are the councils instruct to charge on behalf of the World Economic Forum (WEF)?



Fe Rooney

5:42:36 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Omg. We already have the highest rates in the country. This is too much.



Krista Earl

6:33:39 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Fe Rooney ☐ agree!



Andrea Daly

9:12:58 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Krista Earl absolutely agree. How has it got so out of whack comparatively to others. Seriously. Way to stagnant and same same for too long.



Janice Munro

5:48:06 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

That's shocking we here at Port Waikato are on tank water have septic tank no bus services no real shops what the hell do we get really for an increase of this size this is a area of low wealth it is not fair or right



Janice Munro

5:51:14 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

You are just assholes



Janice Munro

5:51:18 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

You are just assholes



Steph White

5:58:27 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

It means I probably can't afford to pay! No! Just stop Waikato District Council in these hard times. No pay increase (if you're even lucky enough to even get one) & for those of us in government agencies, lucky if we still have a job, can match that ludicrous increase in one year! Absorb the cuts you need to make, not rob

struggling ratepayers. What would we get for this?!! Nothing. How can you not manage the books with all these new housing subdivisions & extra rates???? No increase should be needed



Kylee Grigg

6:07:10 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

An absolute joke!!!! Things are hard enough for everyone with the cost of living without our rates going up nearly 14%!! What is it going towards?.....another stupid project the whole town is against 😞 but you'll do anyway so there's no point filling in the form cos this is really just a heads up for us all ☐☐♀



Samantha Holmes

6:11:54 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

If the council really does listen to the community like they say they do. Then they wouldn't raise the interest rate so high. So let's see team if they actually do as they say.....Pffff not holding my breath though



Gary Michael Jackson

6:25:26 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Some of the highest rates around in Waikato, including regional rates. But what services do we get? Not much that I can see in my area. I understand there might not be as much money as Auckland, but coming from that area, at least we had better services, specifically rubbish collection and recycling. That's just the start! You guys are way behind the 8 ball in your decision making and implementation of long term plans. Unfortunately, I have no faith that any increase would be spent wisely.



Gary Michael Jackson

6:26:39 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Some of the highest rates around in Waikato, including regional rates. But what services do we get? Not much that I can see in my area. I understand there might not be as much money as Auckland, but coming from that area, at least we had better services, specifically rubbish collection and recycling. That's just the start! You guys are way behind the 8 ball in your decision making and implementation of long term plans. Unfortunately, I have no faith that any increase would be spent wisely. I hope I get proven wrong, but I won't hold my breath.



Denise Hodgins

6:35:28 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

I can not afford this rates increase. Please cut some services, wages and extra spending the council does. What areas have been looked at within the council to cut rates rather than increase rates?? How do I pay off my rates over 10 years for next year?



Denise Hodgins

6:35:56 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

I can not afford this rates increase. Please cut some services, wages and extra spending the council does. What areas have been looked at within the council to cut rates, rather than increase rates?? How do I pay off my rates over 10 years for next year?



Denise Hodgins

6:36:24 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

I can not afford this rates increase. Please cut some services, wages and extra

spending the council does. What areas have been looked at within the council to cut rates, rather than increase rates?? How do I pay off my rates over 2 years for next year?



Joseph Beskalo

6:48:39 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

How about I stop paying rates all together?.



Simon Humble

6:48:52 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

☐ more rates increases for more services. Yeah right. Good tui ad.



Lucy Marshall

6:51:10 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

What if no one pays the next bill... ☐



Lucy Marshall

6:52:20 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

What if no one pays the next bill... ☐ or maybe half if you get rubbish collection...



Megan N Brodice Ryder

7:02:06 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Waikato District Council when you say you search the rate database by valuation number or address, it differs as our address was not found, yet i put in our valuation number - bingo - address is exactly what I put in search. whoops an extra \$10 a week on top if i am correct. so thankyou i did not bother to contest with the rate changes as i knew i had run out of breath before starting 🤔🤔



Waikato District Council

3:39:28 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Megan, if you are having issues locating your property on our database, please PM us here on Facebook, phone us on 0800 492 452 or email us at info@waidc.govt.nz - We can help locate the correct info from there.



Megan N Brodice Ryder

3:57:00 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council don't worry i used our valuation no in search instead if my comment was read properly thanks



Megan N Brodice Ryder

7:02:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Delete

Waikato District Council don't worry i used our valuation no in search instead if my comment was read properly thanks



Te Aurere Zana

7:09:39 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Dwayne





Priti Nandan

7:20:47 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

You guys fking kidding us????



Nikki Owen

7:25:07 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Katherine Ouellette ☐☐



Katherine Ouellette

7:51:05 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Nikki Owen yes I've read that today EVERYTHING GOES UP, but not our pays.. rough reality



Martin Pim

7:25:38 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

There is great resistance to this level of increase to both Hamilton and Waikato District. Both Councils need to wake up to the current financial environment and STOP SPENDING.



Adam Gould

7:34:13 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

con artists



Sandra Tana Pavich

7:36:25 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Your lucky you don't live in Kaipara outer rates are going up 800-,over 1k a year.....over 25% increase Biggest rate increase in the whole of NZ Dargaville ratepayers and residents have formed a committee to take the Kaipara District Council to court over it .



Sandra Tana Pavich

7:36:54 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Your lucky you don't live in Kaipara our rates are going up \$800-,over 1k a year.....over 25% increase Biggest rate increase in the whole of NZ Dargaville ratepayers and residents have formed a committee to take the Kaipara District Council to court over it .



Sandra Tana Pavich

7:37:54 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Your lucky you don't live in Kaipara our rates are going up \$800-,over 1k a year.....over 25% increase Biggest rate increase in the whole of NZ Dargaville ratepayers and residents have formed a committee to take the Kaipara District Council to court over it . We have shit footpaths, shit roads, no nothing



Sandra Tana Pavich

7:38:00 PM 19 Apr 2024 Hide

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7:39:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

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Anthony Cuthill-Coutts

7:40:20 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

To be honest.. Waikato is a global gem in your environment . Your wonderful clean rivers. The trees.. The best farming country in this world.. The best horses . And so much more . Right out to that amazing coast line. So special.. Yes rates as well as anything in our lives have skyrocketed .. The whole world has the same problems. Your wages are not keeping up with this inflation.. It's not fair.. I had my farm in Kauri Rd Onewhero.. Nature's Nurseries.. The soils in those places are gifts of God.. Wish I never had to sell my Kauri Rd nursery



Erin Stables

7:45:02 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

All other businesses are reducing costs and staff to manage through tough times. Your management is so bad you just keep draining the rate payers. Time for a change think a new CEO is required stop spending on crap. Look after only the basics until inflation and interest rates aren't breaking your rate payers. It is a joke watching this.



Andrew Giltrap

7:46:04 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Erin Stables not sure they would understand how to cut costs



Erin Stables

7:48:30 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Andrew Giltrap it should have to pass a vote from the rate payers we get very little for the money we spend



Wolf Sprengel

7:46:45 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

Are the councils instructed to charge on behalf of the World Economic Forum (WEF)?



Wolf Sprengel

7:48:29 PM 19 Apr 2024 Edit

What will be your salary increase Waikato District Council coming out of the our rates increase? What is the legal option to sack the whole lot of you?



Julie Sefton

8:02:54 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

It doesn't matter what people say, they will still hike it up. ☹️



James Ellinger

8:07:04 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Brandon Barker



Wendy Mahon

8:24:23 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

It seems to me the decision is already made so we ratepayers have to wear it regardless this hike up is ridiculous considering we have to pay to have rubbish collected that sometimes does not even get picked up I oppose this increase



Kayla Hau

8:40:10 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Larissa Newlands



Deanna Holst

9:01:25 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

I would love to know where the money goes for new developments as surely the council charges them to cover new and existing roading, water, sewage etc when they are being built. It seems as though we are being penalized for existing dwellings. Just criminal to keep increasing rates.



Janette Baxter

8:52:28 AM 21 Apr 2024 Create

Deanna Holst me too I am with you on that



Clint Greer

9:07:29 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

You increased the rates my 11% last year. We see absolutely no value in what we receive. This is blatant thievery.



Larry Anderson

9:09:41 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Voting against 3 waters was a vote for rate payers to shoulder the cost. Oh well ... wait until they tell us privatisation is a better model.



Creedz Taane

9:23:33 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Is this because the Waikato District Council is in so much debt they pass the buck on to the rate payees to pay there debt to over seas investors



Wayne Bryant

11:38:07 PM 19 Apr 2024 Create

Ripping us rate payers off even more!! How about we meet halfway 6% rate rise and 6% wdc staff decrease in wages



Evan Gregory

6:42:18 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Is this from our mayor who campaigned on keeping rates low in her local blurb around tuaksu/port Waikato and now voted in seems only interested in the next envelope opening event



Evan Gregory

6:42:40 AM 20 Apr 2024 Edit

Is this from our mayor who campaigned on keeping rates low in her local blurb around Tuakau/port Waikato and now voted in seems only interested in the next envelope opening event



Carley Taylor

6:44:47 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

I already pay \$105 per week to stay here - that doesn't include mortgage, food, fuel and power! The daily motorbikes on the road and the park doing wheelies and also on the walkways! Yes I've reported to all appropriate authorities- 3 years on ... put some more bollards up ?! Every day I come back From Work and they Are there. No peace & quiet - also we have a HUGE problem with dogs straying - I can't take my dogs for a walk because there's always stray dogs around it's just getting ridiculous now and yes I've complained about that as well.



Carley Taylor

6:45:21 AM 20 Apr 2024 Delete

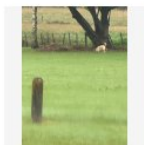
I already pay \$105 per week to stay here - that doesn't include mortgage, food, fuel and power! The daily motorbikes on the road and the park doing wheelies and also on the walkways! Yes I've reported to all appropriate authorities- 3 years on ... put some more bollards up ?! Every day I come back From Work and they Are there. No peace & quiet - also we have a HUGE problem with dogs straying - I can't take my dogs for a walk because there's always stray dogs around it's just getting ridiculous now and yes I've complained about that as well.



Carley Taylor

6:46:53 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

I already pay 105 to live here that's without mortgage petrol power and food. It wouldn't be such a kick in the teeth if council stepped it up with the stray dogs as I cannot take my dogs for a walk. Also the motorbikes every day on the park across the road Please put up some more bollards or something to stop them



Angella Gregory

6:58:11 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Why doesn't Waikato District Council listen to the people on this post?? PEOPLE CANNOT AFFORD THIS RATE RISE! And stop trying to validate the rate rise. We are being ripped off.



Wate Lewai

7:21:49 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

I see you guys wasted money on the speed bump in Horotiu and that small roundabout you have up heading to Ngaruawahia. What exactly are your plans for future projects? Maybe instead of focusing on the increase and all and look at small things that can be reduced to help the local community.



Rob Chester



Rob Chester
7:22:15 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Let's chat about rates, shall we? Picture this: Auckland Central versus little old Pokeno. Guess what? You'll be pleasantly surprised to find out that rates in Auckland Central are actually more wallet-friendly than those in Pokeno—nearly double the cost! Crazy, right? Now, I get it, you might hear that the proposed 13.75% increase is up for discussion. But let's be real here—it's pretty much set in stone. Cue the eye roll! So, mark my words, check back in a few months, and you'll see I'm spot on. And don't even get me started on those bin collections and the itty-bitty recycling bins! Seriously, in a world where folks are handing back their house keys left and right due to sky-high living costs, it's only fair to wonder: Where's the support? The Annual Plan? Meh, not giving us much to work with! So, let's talk about wasteful spending and staff who only show up on Social media at high profile events taking selfies to look good. Our voices should be heard because we deserve better!



Rob Chester
7:23:47 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Ange Norton



Shirriffs Elliott Samantha
7:40:26 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Highly against the proposal. Have lived in the area for 5 years, paying rates for 3 and have seen absolutely no improvement to services in our area in that time. Still on the old green bins and rubbish bags I used to have as a child 20 years ago when living in Auckland! Our local town needs more businesses and an upgrade. Many Local parks don't accommodate for young children and we spend most of our time traveling into Hamilton to meet the basic needs. We already pay way more than Hamilton rates (over 1500) and even with the increase, we will still be paying more for a lot less services. Absolutely disgusting you expect rate payers to fork up yet more money for nothing in return that benefits us and our families.



Tim Hooper
7:58:40 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

I would like to know what is so important and beneficial in your plan, to justify such a large increase?



Ken Bennett
8:13:27 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Off the grid for the win ☐



Trish Murray
8:20:59 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Apparently my property doesnt exist when doing a search!



Jason Sayers
8:34:47 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

If my rates go up then you better fix my f%\$kin road asap



Bec Woods
8:35:31 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council a \$500/600 increase is insane. People aren't going to be able to afford this. And what are we even getting for it?! My house isn't worth that

much and these rates are abhorrent. There's got to be other ways you can cut costs.



Diana M Ruri

8:35:41 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

There should be some kind of process that considers the feedback on Facebook comments, rather than being expected to follow the arbitrary form. I just mean, read the room, so many people don't understand consultation. We weren't taught that at school Waikato District Council



Ash Hamilton

8:41:50 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Cost of living crisis and you propose this??? Seriously wtf? You guys are so out of touch with reality its a joke!! How about you look at reducing unnecessary expenditure and implementing cost saving measures before taking more out of our pockets that we don't have!!!



Janet Boyd

10:18:20 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Ash Hamilton someone has to pay for our mayor to go overseas for the Anzac celebrations.



Ash Hamilton

10:41:52 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Janet Boyd haha yeah what a joke aye



Tamara Bull

8:45:56 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Rates go up, rents go up! Not to meant interest rates are still high. An landlords will still get blasted for having their rents high ☐☐



Tamara Bull

8:46:18 AM 20 Apr 2024 Edit

Rates go up, rents go up! Not to meanton interest rates are still high. An landlords will still get blasted for having their rents high ☐☐



Emma Williams

8:54:24 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Dillon Williams



Shadae Cullingford

10:24:06 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Dujon Cullingford



Sarah Cooper

11:09:15 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Lesley Cooper



Britta Robson



11:19:42 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Read the room WDC  



Srujith Rao

11:20:58 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Very disappointed. Your proposal for a 13.75% rates increase is outrageous! It's already hard enough for families to make ends meet, and now you want to burden us with even more taxes? Absolutely not. We oppose this increase vehemently and demand that you reconsider. Stop squeezing every last cent out of hardworking citizens



Sarah Cooper





11:36:38 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

How the hell do our Pensioners afford over \$100 a week for an average priced home in the area? These huge increases year after year are just cruel!



Samantha Prenter

11:39:57 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

 \$1M spent on a chalk painting on the ground (thats already fading) Hamilton rates-payers would have been 100% fine without that insane "purchase". Maybe if HCC controlled their poor spending habits, instead of raising rates bills   Cause we dont have a lack of rates problem, council have a spending & integrity problem 



Jax Graham

12:05:53 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

THEIVES!!!! AND NO MATTER WHAT ANY RATE PAYERS SAY YOU WILL STILL TAKE IT!!!!



Jan Gee

12:54:33 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council please advise everyone where they can find the minutes of each town's meetings on your website, or how to obtain these, which outline the Council's answers to some of the questions raised at these meetings. Please also provide links to WDC's past annual financial statements for income & expenditure (2022/2023) & showing list of assets owned by WDC. I understand WDC recently purchased ie this year, the Hershelle St Masons Lodge in Ngaruawahia for over \$1 million dollars. Why? Arguably under "parks & reserves" BUT Especially in 2024 & given many towns need basic infrastructure upgrades such as wastewater, water, sewerage, purchasing an almost dilapidated building that most likely needs EQ strengthening is obscene to your ratepayers. Ngaruawahia does not presently need a new (old) hall so how does Council justify this kind of excessive spending on "assets" and land purchases???



Wolf Sprengel

2:11:07 PM 20 Apr 2024 Edit

What will be your salary increase Waikato District Council coming out of our rates increase? What is the legal option to sack the whole lot of you?



Wally Davies

2:34:21 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Ford rangers electric cars why



Mark Lloyd

3:41:26 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

I notice Jacqui church, wafting around in a brand new Kia Carnival that cost 80k plus. I bet she takes this post down as she can't stand negative posts! VIVA DEMOCRACY.



Rik Samuels

4:43:13 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council We provide our own water at \$400 plus per tank load, we clean our own drains at our own expense, mowe and maintain our own side walks at our own expense, empty our own septic's shit holes st our iwn expense, we pay to remove our own rubbish weekley at our own expense, what exactly are we paying for in this increase? Pathetic!!!!!!



Rik Samuels

4:43:19 PM 20 Apr 2024 Hide

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4:44:17 PM 20 Apr 2024 Edit

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Dan Moore

5:02:31 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

And to get nothing for it here in the country side of @



Ariana Grandeur

6:40:05 PM 20 Apr 2024 Create

RUBBISH.



Mike Wendt

11:01:57 AM 21 Apr 2024 Create

So what are we going to get from this rise in rates, we don't get much as it is. We don't even hear from the council members we elect until election time when they want us to elect them again, no presence from them between elections.



Nati Bradford

5:50:20 PM 21 Apr 2024 Create

Perhaps new projects need to be put on hold until they can be afforded. Most of us want new Shiny things but if we can't afford them we can have them. Maintaining things should be so expensive. Wonder how many payises where given to staff and councilors etc as tax payers we should have the right to know all the details as you seem to want to bleed us dry.



Nati Bradford



5:51:05 PM 21 Apr 2024 Edit

Perhaps new projects need to be put on hold until they can be afforded. Most of us want new Shiny things but if we can't afford them we can have them. Maintaining things shouldn't be so expensive and wouldn't need to raise rates so high. Wonder how many payraises were given to staff and councilors etc as tax payers we should have the right to know all the details as you seem to want to bleed us dry.



Ash Hamilton
6:10:41 PM 21 Apr 2024 Hide

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Janet Boyd
10:18:20 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

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Ash Hamilton
10:41:52 AM 20 Apr 2024 Create

Janet Boyd haha yeah what a joke aye



Vicky Ward-Hahn
9:23:35 PM 21 Apr 2024 Create

So that means in 2 years the rates would have gone up 20.75% ☐. They have only recently gone up 7%. Someone is taking the piss!



Vicky Ward-Hahn
9:23:39 PM 21 Apr 2024 Hide

So that means in 2 years the rates would have gone up 20.75% ☐. They have only recently gone up 7%. Someone is taking the piss!



Beverley Shields
2:13:52 PM 22 Apr 2024 Create

How about looking at your work force. Do you really need that many people in the flash office at Ngaruawahia?



Kayla Renee
12:30:44 PM 23 Apr 2024 Create

There are already more houses being built which means more revenue so why do you need a price increase? Most of us are already struggling to pay the bills because everything has gone up! You are no longer helping the people you are crippling us more.



Kerra Curray
1:04:23 PM 23 Apr 2024 Create

Paolo Evener Curray 🇳🇵



Matthew Scarborough

5:21:11 PM 23 Apr 2024 Create

And how exactly do you think people can afford this????? I just got my latest rates bill through and it's already through the roof. Percentage increases year upon year compound very quickly to become unaffordable. About time councils lived within their means and stop frittering away money on pet projects.



Zoe Bashforth

2:06:23 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Key infrastructure spend on roads, three waters, safety and the like is reasonable and needs to happen for safe, healthy communities. We don't need vanity projects. It's straightforward, triage what needs to be done. Put robust estimates together for essentials, and leave it there. People can't afford, and don't want fluff that adds no value to their quality of lives and well being. Adhere to your local government 4 well being pillars and invest accordingly.



Sarah Vander

2:46:08 PM 26 Apr 2024 Create

I've sent 4 emails to Jacqui Church since April 4th and not one response. Her EA assured me she'll respond, that was 2 weeks ago. Obvious where the middle class stand with her. On the bottom of her shoe; the shoe that kicks us while we're down. So out of touch with reality. All the counsellors who condone these hikes are just as bad. Can't even fix the roads, another shitty job done outside Tuakau College, already falling apart 2 weeks later, and nothing through the town. What about Pokeno Road, cant even see the lines because of erosion!! Been like that for over 18 months. As long as they're seen to be doing something with our rates, huh? Must think we're stupid. What a joke. The buck stops there; get rid of her.



Sarah Vander

2:46:14 PM 26 Apr 2024 Hide

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Jessi Crowther

6:30:24 PM 28 Apr 2024 Create

Cory Crowther □


11:05:17 AM 24 Apr 2024

CreatePost




Waikato District Council

Time is running out to have your say on our draft Annual Plan which includes a 13.75% general rates increase and planned projects for the next year. Learn more and have your say by 5pm this Friday, 26 April. <https://ow.ly/MTYS50RjsKZ>



OW.LY

[\(view link\)](#)



76

Details

Source: [Facebook page](#)
Action time: 11:05:17 AM 24 Apr 2024
Action type: Create
Record type: Post
Application: Hootsuite
Collection time: 11:05:29 AM 24 Apr 2024
Collection type: Realtime
Hashtags:
Brolly reference: [Brolly link](#)
Export generated: 2:21:05 PM 03 May 2024


Tags

No tags

Notes

No notes


Comments



Phil Dee

11:29:19 AM 24 Apr 2024 Create


And jacqui church advocated,pre voting, to bring rates down?! What a joke.



Rachel Freedom

4:33:03 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Phil Dee surprised??



Phil Dee

6:41:51 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Rachel Freedom never. That's why I didn't vote her way.



Jared Richardson

11:30:17 AM 24 Apr 2024 Create

As a rate payer U should b lowering our annual rates because U have shown us

tht Ur wasteful with the way U spending our money but once again I can guarantee U won't even acknowledge this comment cause Ur to high up on Ur greed pedestal to even care Waikato council is a bloody disgrace



Sammy Royal

11:47:33 AM 24 Apr 2024 Create

What's the point? You won't listen to us, you'll just carry on wasting our money on whatever you choose!



Rachel Freedom

11:52:00 AM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Delphi Technique in action.



Aaron James Wyatt

12:01:23 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council your a bunch of parasites on us rate payers. The services we receive are totally inadequate compared with the price we pay. You overcharge and under deliver.



Mike Richards

12:03:37 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

You are only 'consulting g' because you legally have to. In reality there is no legal requirement to actually listen to those of us you are scamming. By this stage of the snatch and grab the decisions have already been made and the councils position well entrenched in your own greed.



Mike Richards

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Mike Richards

12:05:12 PM 24 Apr 2024 Edit

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Chris Freeman

12:06:14 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council couple of questions, What do you plan on doing if families simply do not have the available funds to pay for this proposed increase? it seems alot of people are in the same boat judging by the response from your last post on this matter, secondly, will failed projects such as the speed bumps outside of the horotiu school have the funds that were wasted on this project to install then

deconstruct, Re funded by any form of outside consultants who were involved in this project along with any internal investigations into who made these decisions thinking they were a good idea in the first place?



G'ma Buga

2:54:21 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Chris Freeman pity about the broken toilets at The Point. Right by the children's playground and skatepark. 2yrs using portable toilets while the proper ones sit wrapped in gladwrap. ☐



G'ma Buga

2:55:21 PM 24 Apr 2024 Delete

Chris Freeman pity about the broken toilets at The Point. Right by the children's playground and skatepark. 2yrs using portable toilets while the proper ones sit wrapped in gladwrap. ☐



Rai Ringer

10:59:16 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Chris Freeman 100%



Rob Chester

9:40:56 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

Chris Freeman Do an OIA request on this post, they have to respond to it...



Coral L Vryer

12:23:42 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Absolute disgrace! How about you chill on the feel good projects and instead live within your means for now? We all have to look at our spending with the way inflation is and so should you. People would be much happier if you just pulled that belt a bit tighter to get through the tough times instead of still spending up large like families aren't already struggling. It's our money that's being wasted. Going off the feedback people have given you majority wants the same. Stop the mindless spending.



Rachel Freedom

4:31:50 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Coral L Vryer well said!!!



Carol Te Ohaere-Fox

12:33:54 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Ppl don't have the money for increased rates so how about put non essential projects on hold and not increase rates...Waikato rates are a ridiculous amount already without the increase



Mitchell McIntosh

5:11:12 PM 25 Apr 2024 Create

Pokeno getting a 6.3 million dollar library. Woop



Cathie Windsor

12:54:19 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

I am always impressed with what Waikato District Council manages to do with its funds. Your cycle trails lure us down and recently was blown away by the gardens, which I have not bothered with before to my regret. We live in an area of Auckland with no public transport, no linking cycle ways, or even paths.



Sandy O'loan

2:31:43 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Cathie Windsor Hamilton Gardens are paid for by the Hamilton City Council. Not Waikato District Council unfortunately. Which means those living 15 Minutes away from them have to pay the new Visitor Entrance Fee into them 😊



G'ma Buga

2:55:01 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Cathie Windsor Chris Freeman pity about the broken toilets at The Point. Right by the children's playground and skatepark. 2yrs using portable toilets while the proper ones sit wrapped in gladwrap. ☐



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G'ma Buga

2:56:16 PM 24 Apr 2024 Delete

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Sandy O'loan

3:26:01 PM 24 Apr 2024 Edit

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Martin Pim

4:54:59 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Cathie Windsor But Cathie, its not the councils funds, they are our funds.



Cathie Windsor

7:59:51 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Martin Pim Yes. I know how rates work.



Jan Sedgwick

7:41:34 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

Cathie Windsor pretty sure you are talking about the great network of cycling trails around Hamilton - not WDC



Trish Murray

3:42:53 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

One of the obfuscated benefits of doing these submissions, regardless of what you think will actualise, is the critical thinking involved to verbalise what you don't like which helps clarify what you do want. Silence from fear or apathy can be viewed as complicity.



Tim Ross

4:09:06 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

How about you schedule one of your self-indulging podcasts and invite the very people who you are supposed to represent (your ratepayers) and let's have a discussion face to face and so all can hear. Stop hiding behind your submission forms.



Jan Gee

4:10:04 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

I asked questions below but we are simply ignored. Please provide links on how people can access public information about WDC financials & its spending on assets in 2022/23 & 2023/24 years please. Waikato District Council please advise everyone where they can find the minutes of each town's meetings on your website, or how to obtain these, which outline the Council's answers to some of the questions raised at these meetings. Please also provide links to WDC's past annual financial statements for income & expenditure (2022/2023) & showing list of assets owned by WDC. I understand WDC recently purchased in this year, the Hershelle St Masons Lodge in Ngaruawahia for over \$1 million dollars. Why? Arguably under "parks & reserves" BUT Especially in 2024 & given many towns need basic infrastructure upgrades such as wastewater, water, sewerage, purchasing an almost dilapidated building that most likely needs EQ strengthening is obscene to your ratepayers. Ngaruawahia does not presently need a new (old) hall so how does Council justify this kind of excessive spending on "assets" and land purchases???



Waikato District Council

4:24:37 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Kia ora Jane, minutes and agendas for public meetings can be found on our website here <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/council-committees-boards>. Annual Reports with financial info can be found here: <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/reports/reports>. Our Long Term Plans and Annual Plans with proposed budgets and projects can be found here: <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans>



Jan Gee

4:55:13 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council thanks. The public should be advised of this information. By the way it's Jan, not Jane



Jan Gee

7:13:28 PM 30 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council this is not the link for the minutes about the local meetings in each town on the rise. Please provide these to the public.



Jan Gee

7:14:10 PM 30 Apr 2024 Edit

Waikato District Council this is not the link for the minutes about the local meetings in each town on the rates rise. Please provide a link to these & make them public.



Aimee Pollock

4:28:43 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

We are so f**ked



Laura Smith

4:31:38 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

You won't listen to people anyway



Martin Pim

4:50:14 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

STOP SPENDING.



Jan Gee

5:00:28 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Waikato District Council the public minutes link you provided above does not seem to show the records of minutes of all meetings held in each town for the consultation process for the 2024/25 Annual Plan. Can you provide a link to the questions posed to WDC at each meeting & Council's response. Thanks



Emma Gonzales

5:38:10 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Please make sure you all fill out the questionnaire, I know they will still go ahead but at least then they can see we tried? I gave them hells bells in mine. Just disgraceful and disgusting.



Sheri Freedom

5:43:41 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

You will take no notice of what anybody says You will go ahead with your pathetic woke projects that most rate payers don't need or want but you tend to cater to your own woke needs and then us the ratepayers pay for it Maybe stop wasting money on crap



Kathy Barakat

8:31:51 PM 02 May 2024 Create

Sheri Freedom totally agree you will take no notice, never mind the submissions , get out and walk the streets to hear what we think .



Sheri Freedom



Sheri Freedom
5:44:05 PM 24 Apr 2024 Edit

You will take no notice of what anybody says You will go ahead with your pathetic woke projects that most rate payers don't need or want but you tend to cater to your own woke needs and then us the ratepayers pay for it Maybe stop wasting money on crap



Kathy Barakat
8:31:51 PM 02 May 2024 Create

Sheri Freedom totally agree you will take no notice, never mind the submissions , get out and walk the streets to hear what we think .



Rob Mes
6:06:14 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

13.75%rates increase for what ,have a street light ,no tar seal to my gate ,pay for my rubbish etc so who am I funding ,all these new subdivisions ,that want parks etc ,,that should be on them ,different rates for new areas so they can get all the crap they want n leave established areas as is ,water tanks for new builds would be a good start ,loew impact on existing inferstructure ,no rates increase ,as for reading, public opinion was against using the Huntly quarry to be use as a dump for Auckland crap so why should my rates pay for upkeep on tanui bridge because of 50 ton trucks hammering it all day ,needs to be way more accountability if you going to raise our rates by that much ,no more free lunches etc



Muni Mohitesh Nadar
9:03:33 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

People of the district: No Rate increases because families are struggling - find better ways to spend. Council: Guess no one's going to say anything so we'll just increase it again and continue being one the highest rate districts in the country with unexplained spending. Oh and we'll do a podcast cause that's trendy. □



Adam Twyde
9:05:32 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Stop ripping us off!



Kathy Barakat
8:49:06 PM 02 May 2024 Create

Adam Twyde yep could be right



Adam Twyde
9:06:27 PM 24 Apr 2024 Edit

Stop ripping us off! Why does your council find it so easy to spend other peoples money. Dirty rotten swines.



Kathy Barakat
8:49:06 PM 02 May 2024 Create

Adam Twyde yep could be right



Adam Twyde

9:07:13 PM 24 Apr 2024 Edit

Stop ripping us off! Why does your council find it so easy to spend other peoples money. Dirty rotten swines. Your people are finding new jobs when the local elections come.



Kathy Barakat

8:49:06 PM 02 May 2024 Create

Adam Twyde yep could be right



Priti Nadan

9:22:18 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create



Priti Nadan

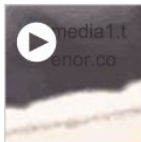
9:22:31 PM 24 Apr 2024 Delete



Priti Nadan

9:27:02 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Just wait till the interest rates come down and then you guys can go ahead and start some planned projects... just wait let us breath in between the high mortgage rates and inflation....



Glenn Perry

9:42:28 PM 24 Apr 2024 Create

Just another stealth tax Don't forget the Regional rates will go up the same with sod all return on our funds Pity we can't put our income up every year like these muppets do



HePiko HeTaniwharau

2:38:05 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

I hope one of those projets is cleaning the pollution coming from the waipa river in the photo you have posted?.



HePiko HeTaniwharau

2:38:17 AM 25 Apr 2024 Edit

I hope one of those projects is cleaning the pollution coming from the waipa river in the photo you have posted?.



HePiko HeTaniwharau
2:38:36 AM 25 Apr 2024 Edit

I hope one of those projects is cleaning the pollution coming from the waipa river in the photo you have posted.



HePiko HeTaniwharau
2:38:56 AM 25 Apr 2024 Edit

I hope one of those projects is cleaning the pollution coming from the waipa river in the photo you have posted?.



Milan Lukan
5:49:38 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

this year no one has work, my income hasn't increased in 25 years. give us a break can't cope with cost of living as it is.



Mitchell McIntosh
7:07:15 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

Just remember a group of people on 200k plus a year made the decision to raise taxes 13 percent. It won't affect them so who cares?



Matty Osborn
7:47:32 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

What's the point in having our say? Most of the comments here are against the proposal but you have already made up your minds about the increase



Kathy Barakat
8:42:27 PM 02 May 2024 Create

Matty Osborn totally agree



Kayla Cox
8:15:11 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

Just another kick in the guts for all the people losing their jobs this year or nearing retirement and wondering if they will be able to hang onto the home they worked all their life for. .in order to pay their huge ever-growing rates bill



Teraumoko Waina
9:07:23 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

Kayla Cox yes, I'll need close to 200,000\$ for rates ,at current level, for next 30 years if I want to stay in pokeno. That's just for the privilege of owning my home before any other costs. Absolutely outrageous and no rates relief for pensioners.



Kayla Cox
9:19:15 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

Teraumoko Waina yip.totally agree.people will be forced to sell when they

fall into arrears



Suzie HullO'Brien

8:36:12 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

WDC find another way other than increase. Come on...be creative!!!



Sheri Freedom

8:38:05 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

Here is what is happening in NZ we are the first country where all our councils have signed us up to a dystopian future even just listen to the first 5 minutes and you will get the gist it also explains why they are putting our rates up so high <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/vaaZVcVRcMBbTy6T/?mibextid=oFDknk><https://www.facebook.com/share/v/vaaZVcVRcMBbTy6T/?mibextid=oFDknk>



Sheri Freedom

8:38:21 AM 25 Apr 2024 Hide

Here is what is happening in NZ we are the first country where all our councils have signed us up to a dystopian future even just listen to the first 5 minutes and you will get the gist it also explains why they are putting our rates up so high <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/vaaZVcVRcMBbTy6T/?mibextid=oFDknk><https://www.facebook.com/share/v/vaaZVcVRcMBbTy6T/?mibextid=oFDknk>



Rob Chester

9:37:10 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

... A 13.75% increase that will go ahead regardless and on top of that we have to pay for our rubbish to be collected. 6 bin tags cost me \$9 last night when they should really be part of our rates. How can WDC justify being one of the highest rate paying areas per capita in the country, and then add on 13.75% in addition to what struggling households are already paying, and then expect rate payers to pay for amenities such as Rubbish collection. It's a legal form of Robbery the long term plan factored in a 3.5% increase not 13.75%. Disgusting!



Tractor Man

10:06:59 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

So can you tell us what percentage of our rates are spent on administration



Ange Westbury

11:33:50 AM 25 Apr 2024 Create

Can U make the dog park in Ngarauwahia bigger, it's horrible when U get 15 ppl in there , there's certainly enough land to extend it, for small part for small and large dogs, that silly chestnut tree needs to go, it's bad for the poor doggy's feet gets into their paws and causes cysts, So if U put the fees up, like our rates, Are U gonna invest money into our dog parks as well?



David Van Der Poll

1:06:09 PM 25 Apr 2024 Create

Nor the right time council,we are all struggling as it is



Ursula Yan

3:27:53 PM 25 Apr 2024 Create

As if it's going to change a thing



Jess Beaumont

8:47:58 PM 25 Apr 2024 Create

Layla Rose Lee Andrew Jason Case



Kim Kingi

9:27:36 PM 25 Apr 2024 Create

What planned projects ?



Aimee Pollock

1:06:53 PM 29 Apr 2024 Hide

We are so f**ked 