



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

**Submissions Received
Speaking**

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 493

Speaking

First name: **Jo**
Last name: **Buckingham**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates?

Disagree

Submitter Comments: The increase to \$3 per hour and the increase from 50c to \$2 is excessive and not in line with how a council can raise revenue per the local government act. Other major towns and cities do not even charge this. Parking revenue should not be relied on by a council for funding activities. Having multiple zones and rates also make it difficult for people to use and understand the parking system. Invercargill has a good example of how to do it right: "Parking is charged in 15-minute increments and you receive 30 minutes of free parking each day*. It costs \$1 for a full hour, \$3 for two hours, and \$4 per hour after that, each day. The minimum charge is 50 cents, and there is no surcharge for using your credit card at a parking kiosk." Tauranga charges \$2 an hour for their on street parking and offers long term parking recognising commuters into the city for work.

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue?

Disagree

Submitter Comments: This is a fundamental misunderstanding of how to get turn over of parks. In Tauranga they use different parking limits in high use areas (P15-60). In Invercargill, parking turnover is encouraged by allowing all people to have 30 minutes free every day. If you choose to park an hour, you do not get the 30 minutes because you are not turning over the park sufficiently. Here are the statistics from Invercargill CC showing how successful this is at turning over parks using the same meters as Whanganui:
<https://fyi.org.nz/request/25811/response/96830/attach/5/Parkng%20Meter%20Information%20for%20GOIMA%20Request.pdf> From Jan to Mar 23 nearly 47% of parks users were using the 30 minutes free

showing turnover of parking while encouraging people to access the city as needed.

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks?

Disagree

Submitter Comments: As above, this is overcomplicating parking fees. There is no reason to increase this other than for increasing revenue, but there is nothing to suggest that this will actually increase revenue or drive other behaviour i.e. not coming to the city for work or business.

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays?

Yes

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre?

Disagree

Submitter Comments: This is actively discouraging people to come into the city for work, play and business. Without sufficient public transport options, people have no option but to park in the outskirts of the city and walk in. Parking meters in these areas will be at detriment to local businesses as people who could work at home will choose to do so. Cost increases to parking will mean people do not spend money in the city on things like lunch and coffee. People have chosen to move to Whanganui because of a lower cost of living and ease of commute and working in the city. This takes away these perks by putting barriers in place for people being active and present in the city centre. Furthermore these parks are used by people using the Palmerston North commuter bus, by putting in additional cost it is likely to make people consider driving. This is against the Council's climate change policy. Note that you will also impact on council staff who have for years been allowed to park on St Hill St over the time limits. If council wishes to attract and retain highly skilled staff, they need to consider what makes Whanganui an attractive pay to work as they do not compete on wages.

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from

Agree

two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times?

Submitter Comments: There is a lack of anywhere to study in this city, it seems absurd that the council has put these barriers in the first place for people who want to study. They should get free parking regardless. Putting paid parking into Rutland St will be at significant detrimental to UCOL and is likely to further push courses online meaning people have no options to study in person in Whanganui

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am?

Disagree

Submitter Comments: Applying a 30 minute free parking for everyone will make this easier to manage and take away the cost of having to produce parking permits for Supergold holders.

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments: The need to raise revenue for the council needs to be better balanced with why people choose to live and work in Whanganui (and thus pay rates). Remove the credit card fee.

Supporting documents

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 483

Speaking

First name: **Tiffany**
Last name: **Davies**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays? **I'm aware of some of these carparks, but not all of them**

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre? **Agree**

Submitter Comments: I would like there to be careful planning on where these meters are installed. Currently disabled members of the community need to walk further to the parking meter due to the new set up - or some community education on how to use the app

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre?

Agree

Submitter Comments: As above - more education on the use of the app so mobility parking permit holders aren't having to walk further than they need to to get to the meters

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am?

Disagree

Submitter Comments:

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments:

Supporting documents

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 964

Speaking

First name: **Julian**
Last name: **Emmett**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates? **Neutral/Don't know**

Submitter Comments:

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue? **Disagree**

Submitter Comments:

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks? **Neutral/Don't know**

Submitter Comments:

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays? **Yes**

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre? **Neutral/Don't know**

Submitter Comments:

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre?

Agree

Submitter Comments: Also enforcement of fines is needed to discourage the rampant abuse of mobility car parks.

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments: Make it possible to enforce rules around mobility carparks at supermarkets etc.

Supporting documents

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 1174

Speaking

First name: **Nerrily**
Last name: **Frith**
Organisation: **Grey Power**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue? **Agree**

Submitter Comments: No one enjoys paying for parking but, it may cut down on congestion

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks? **Agree**

Submitter Comments: Same as above

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays? **Yes**

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times? **Agree**

Submitter Comments: Good move

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre?

Agree

Submitter Comments: Higher penalties with those using disabled Car Parks without ability stickers.

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments: Enforcement of rules is needed

Supporting documents

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 1538

Speaking

First name: **George**
Last name: **Hewitt**
Organisation: **NA**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates? **Disagree**

Submitter Comments:

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue? **Disagree**

Submitter Comments:

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks? **Disagree**

Submitter Comments:

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays? **No**

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre? **Disagree**

Submitter Comments: I catch a bus every day with 30 + Palmerston North commuters, ucol students and high school students from Rutland street I am a commuter with Cerebral Palsy I greatly rely on this bus to get me to Palmy. If there were parking meters on Rutland street it would discourage me and 30+ others from using this bus daily to Palmerston. If you are trying to incentivise Public transport use this installing these paid parking machine would greatly impact our desire to use this bus, which at the moment makes it so much easier to get to Palmy.

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times?

Disagree

Submitter Comments:

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre?

Agree

Submitter Comments: As a mobility park user I would use these parks

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments: Putting parking machines on Rutland street would great impact me and many others that use the commuter bus to Palmerston North

Supporting documents

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 1644

Speaking

First name: **Trichka**
Last name: **Joubert**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates?

Agree

Submitter Comments: I would like to acknowledge the importance of maintaining the financial stability of the Council by increasing parking tariffs. I want to express my concern and disagreement regarding the increase of parking prices for Council employees. I understand of increasing it to members of the public. As a dedicated member of the council's workforce, I believe it is essential to address the impact this decision has on our financial well-being and overall morale.

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays?

Yes

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments:

Supporting documents

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 860

Speaking

First name: **John**
Last name: **Maguire**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates?

Disagree

Submitter Comments: See comments to next question.

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue?

Disagree

Submitter Comments: No. Council should be looking for ways to encourage people to go into town and spend money. Increasing the parking charges will have the opposite effect. One of the reasons given for the proposed increase in tariff is to reduce the amount of time people park on Victoria Avenue. Likewise, the proposal to introduce parking meters to currently free parking areas near Victoria Avenue is stated to be for the purpose of reducing parking on Victoria Avenue. Will that really be the result? In any event, what a strange result that is being sought. Obviously, whole day parking on the Avenue should be discouraged but for people shopping or eating out etc, the longer they stay the more money is going into the local economy. There has to be a sensible way in which this can be reconciled, for example the first half hour free and then a rising fee per hour for each hour after that up to a limit of say 3 hours.

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks?

Disagree

Submitter Comments:

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays?

I'm aware of some of these car parks, but not all of them

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre?

Disagree

Submitter Comments: See comments above. Council should not be discouraging people from going into town to spend money.

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre?

Agree

Submitter Comments: There needs to be a disabled parking space outside The Gatshack on Ridgeway Street.

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments:

Supporting documents

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 725

Speaking

First name: **Jessica**
Last name: **McKenzie**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates?

Agree

Submitter Comments: Higher fines for longer periods of over parking. Not sure what they are now, haven't had a parking ticket in years. But most councils charge about 20 to 50 bucks for a ticket. Maybe for being over by more than an hour though, and not paying the parking originally. I'm happy to pay for parking and raise the cost. I'll just walk further. People are lazy, they will pay.

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue?

Agree

Submitter Comments: Brilliant idea. Seriously. Like I said, people are lazy and they will pay. It's still cheaper than most places in the world. Would be nice to have more places to park, but they are there, just have to walk. No biggie.

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks?

Agree

Submitter Comments: Agree! Also give way larger fines to assholes that park in disabled parks that don't show a disabled label.

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays?

Yes

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre?

Agree

Submitter Comments: We have got away with it for years now, why not. Walk even further away, encourage people to walk. Be blunt. Just say that.

Walk! Yeah maybe add a couple more disability parks in those spots to counter the complaints from the lazy ones who will claim they can't walk...

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre?

Agree

Submitter Comments: Oh lovely, I said that earlier and was thinking I don't recall seeing as many as there could be. Nice work!

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am?

Neutral/Don't know

Submitter Comments: Make it 8am till 12am perhaps. Not sure why they need till 2? What can't you get done in 4 hours using the same car park.

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments: Seems like a case by case issue really.

Supporting documents

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 623

Speaking

First name: **Jo**
Last name: **Meiklejohn**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays? **Yes**

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times? **Disagree**

Submitter Comments: If you own a car, if you upkeep a car, if you pay for fuel for your car. You can pay for parking. If you are fit you should consider the option of walking further instead of just outside. UCOL supplies some car parks onsite. The argument was it

helps attract students if they dont get free parking UCOL an asset to our community could close. Shopping areas need a minum of carparks before consent this was waived for UCOL. If a business requires free carparking to remain open do you provide it. Consistency, Transperancy of operations. Under the transport legislation, regulations and rules where does it give the roading authority or Council the ability make exemption to them, whne the exemption is open to abuse, is elitist, discriminatory and a whole heap of other words.

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre?

Neutral/Don't know

Submitter Comments: They get extra parking time on normal meters and disabled meters. As a card holder often I can get a carpark closer to where I want to go than the disabled one. How many thousand of cards has Sommerville active in Whanganui to teh percent of three extra?

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am?

Neutral/Don't know

Submitter Comments: Are they needed, now I am retired I am never in town during those hours usually later where I combine business with socialisation

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments: only the exemption for UCOL as stated

Supporting documents

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 111

Speaking

First name: **William**
Last name: **Payne**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates?

Neutral/Don't know

Submitter Comments: I avoid paid parking at any possible opportunity. It is an unfortunate cost that adds up and we unfortunately do not have an over abundance of available city parking.

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue?

Neutral/ Don't know

Submitter Comments: I avoid paid parking at any possible opportunity. It is an unfortunate cost that adds up and we unfortunately do not have an over abundance of available city parking.

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks?

Neutral/Don't know

Submitter Comments: I avoid paid parking at any possible opportunity. It is an unfortunate cost that adds up and we unfortunately do not have an over abundance of available city parking.

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays?

I'm aware of some of these carparks, but not all of them

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre?

Neutral/Don't know

Submitter Comments: I avoid paid parking at any possible opportunity. It is an unfortunate cost that adds up and we unfortunately do not have an over abundance of available city parking. Also I want to know how many prime parking spaces are taken up by business staff.

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times?

Neutral/Don't know

Submitter Comments: This should be taken up with the students of UCOL and set in relation to their needs.

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre?

Neutral/Don't know

Submitter Comments: This should be based on the needs of the disabled peoples that will be using parks. I do agree that there does seem to be very few of these parking spots.

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am?

Neutral/Don't know

Submitter Comments: As stated in other questions, this should be based on the needs of gold card members.

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments:

Supporting documents

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 824

Speaking

First name: **Henry Ian**
Last name: **Sands**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates?

Agree

Submitter Comments: Coming from Waverley to Whanganui for weekly shopping it will be helpful to have free parking on saturday or sunday

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue?

Agree

Submitter Comments: It will be helpful for pensioners.

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks?

Agree

Submitter Comments: Will take a load from Vict. Ave

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays?

I'm aware of some of these carparks, but not all of them

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre?

Agree

Submitter Comments: Easy access for walking distance to the shops

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments: No comments, you guys doing great job.

Supporting documents

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 125

Speaking

First name: **Anthonie**
Last name: **Tonnon**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates? **Agree**

Submitter Comments: Strongly support, see attached.

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue? **Agree**

Submitter Comments: Strongly support

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays? **Yes**

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times? **Disagree**

Submitter Comments:

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am?

Neutral/Don't know

Submitter Comments:

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments:

Supporting documents

Horizons%20and%20WDC%20groups%20Parking%20Questions%20-%20Anthonie%20Tonnon.docx.pdf

Horizons / WDC groups - Anthonie Tonnon - Public Transport Representative for Whanganui District Council to Horizons Regional Council.

With regards to parking of cars, bikes and other micro-mobility options in Whanganui

1. Are there any issues or challenges in our district which stand out to you?

Whanganui is seeing a very high use of city centre car parking, reflecting strong economic and retail growth in the city centre in the last ten years, and relatively cheap and abundant on-street parking compared to other centres - particularly in the form of angle parking on main streets. It is seeing a lower use of active modes like cycling, walking, and public transport, and lower use of council car parks, and parks just outside the retail centre. The lower use of active and public transport modes reflects much less convenient availability and support for these options from the 1990s to the 2010s, and migration away from these modes to private cars, which also became cheaper to purchase over this time. However, it is worth noting that active and public transport modes are becoming much more convenient, and this presents opportunities as noted below.

Whanganui is also seeing very high use of the private car to transport school children. This is despite good shared pathways to encourage travel by bike or other active transport, and despite dedicated school bus services - which are well-used, but still have plenty of spare capacity.

The lower use of council car parks and parks outside the core reflects the higher desirability of on-street parks on the main streets, and the fact that much parking in the city centre is still free and not time-limited, meaning that city commuters and students, who in other cities would consider walking, cycling, taking public transport, or paying for long-term parking, are taking parks close to the city centre for 8 hours a day, meaning they are not available for shorter term, higher-value shoppers.

Whanganui is now at a point where it will not be able to continue the strong growth of people and retail activity in the city centre retail area by the private car alone. Any increase in parking - whether on-street or off street, would require expensive infrastructure, and increase the growing traffic congestion throughout the city. But because of the poor spatial efficiency of cars, increases in parking would only result in very modest gains in the amount of people and economic activity in the city centre.

However, Whanganui is in the fortunate position of having opportunities to bring many more people into the city centre without adding to traffic and parking congestion, because of the investments it has made in shared pathways, the progress it has made in public transport planning with Horizons Regional Council, and because it has a very strong geography for walking, cycling and public transport. It also has the opportunity to encourage the highest value travellers to the city to make better use of the city's parking infrastructure like the council parks and the parks near the centre that are currently free. What is needed to make more of these opportunities is a rebalancing of incentives.

In general, traffic responds to induced demand. If there is cheap, abundant parking, car use and traffic congestion will expand until this is full - and this has been the story of the last ten years. If the response to this is to build more parking at a similar price, the new supply will also soon become full.

However, if there is a reversal of induced demand - for example the amount of parking decreases, or parking prices rise - traffic and parking congestion drops in the city, but this can happen without any decrease to foot traffic and economic activity, particularly if there is public transport service and active transport infrastructure ready to take more people. This is the situation Whanganui is in for active transport, and should soon be in for public transport, if network improvements are made through Horizons regional council.

Even in a city where traffic congestion is high and all available parking is utilised, many more people can be brought into the city centre by encouraging public transport and active transport, which can move many times more people for the space they take up on roads, footpaths and dedicated pathways.

One thing that can alleviate parking availability and traffic congestion is price: a higher price for parking on main streets will see more short term car parks available for shoppers who set a higher value on being able to park close to their destination, and will also see other drivers switch to active or public transport modes, or move to other, cheaper areas to park a little further from the main street.

This is particularly pressing in the case of Saturday mornings - where the combination of high demand (higher than a Monday or Tuesday) and free parking is causing some of the city's highest traffic and parking congestion. Simply charging the same as a weekday on this day would reduce traffic and increase availability of parking.

The great thing about this opportunity is that it is not just revenue neutral - it is actually revenue positive. Any increase in parking charges will also decrease the burden for other council costs on rates. Other cities like Queenstown have seen higher parking charges and a decrease in parking spaces reduce traffic demand and improve traffic congestion in the centre. They have also been able to use the increased revenue to fund improved public transport. Furthermore, whenever parking charges are increased, public transport patronage rises - leading to better economic viability of the public transport network and lower public subsidies.

For the issue of traffic congestion around schools - one thing that can make a difference is to reduce the perceived convenience of doing a school drop off by increasing the distance between drop off zones and the schools. This may help to encourage parents and school children to plan to use the bus or an active transport mode and reduce traffic congestion during the school peak.

Any reduction in availability and perceived convenience of parking on main streets would also reduce the high traffic congestion, particularly on Victoria Avenue between Ridgeway and Ingestre streets. If any reduction of carparks is combined with the installation of cycle parking or micro mobility facilities - this could actually see more foot traffic on the main street, even though traffic decreases. While Whanganui has a high quality shared pathway on St Hill street, more prominent and abundant bike parking on Victoria Avenue would help to encourage more people to use this pathway to get to the main shopping area. It is worth noting that In the space of one car park, bike parking can be installed for many more people than the average inhabitants of a car.

Draws Avenue serves as a positive example here. More than a dozen car parks were removed in 2021, and replaced with seating and bike parking. Two years on, retail activity is higher even though there is less parking, and the cycle parks are now well used for much of the week.

There are other things that Whanganui can do to aid more traffic coming into the city without the need for car parks, and these are covered below, but in essence, the simplest thing that Whanganui

can do for all modes is to use the lever of price - this will improve the availability of parking, as well as the uptake of cycling, walking and public transport.

2. Are there any opportunities you would like to see explored through this review?

- Higher pricing for car parks that reflects the value and opportunity cost of land the parks take up.
- Extending parking charges to Saturdays.
- Limiting parking and drop off areas very close to schools. Moving official drop off zones a 600 metre walk or more away from schools so that the perceived convenience of driving children to school is lower.
- An expanded area for time-limited, market-priced car parking on streets just outside the core retail area, like Rutland street.
- More availability of bike parking - most importantly in the form of simple and cheap bike parking, as well as more specialised e-bike and e-scooter parking.
- Some reduction of angle parking on congested main streets - especially when replaced for bike parking or micro mobility facilities.
- Adding funding to Public transport and public transport infrastructure through increased parking charges.

3. Do you think the amount currently charged for parking is fair?

The amount charged for parking is significantly below that of other centres in New Zealand.

Because car users don't generally price their ongoing maintenance, RUT or licensing costs for their vehicles, they tend to underestimate how much it costs them to use their car. Therefore they generally account for a rough cost of petrol and parking for a trip to town. At the current cost for parking of 50c for half an hour - a trip by bus at \$2 each way feels more expensive than a trip by car.

4. Is parking management in the district currently interfering with active/public transport goals in any way?

Our public transport goals are definitely made more difficult by the current low cost, high availability and perceived convenience of parking in the city centre. We could achieve a better balance and help encourage better use of public transport by increasing parking charges and expanding parking charges to Saturdays.

At school pick and drop off time, the theoretical ease of dropping children off leads people to use their car. However, the reality is that all of Whanganui pays a high cost for this perceived convenience in the form of school time traffic congestion, and many parents spending unpaid time in their cars driving their children to and from school.

5. Are there ways that parking management could better support active/public transport goals?

Whenever parking charges increase, public transport use also increases, so we could best support public transport by increasing the cost of parking, and the hours in the week it is charged for. Public transport use also increases when there is less availability and convenience of parking, so reductions

in parking, and particularly free unlimited parking near the centre would increase public transport use.

For school traffic - decreasing the perceived convenience of the school drop-off will make a big difference to public transport use to schools. The bus system aims to have most people within 600 metres of a bus stop. If there is a similar distance between school drop off zones and schools - the gap in perceived convenience between drop off and taking the bus decreases.

On the active transport side - Whanganui has a strong network of shared pathways, but active modes have little presence on the main streets. Creating more cheap and simple bike parking on streets like Victoria Ave and Ridgeway Street would make a big difference and help encourage people to think of taking active transport to get to the main street.

6. Do you feel there are enough bike/micro-mobility parks in the district? And - are there any areas you think it would be beneficial to have more of these kinds of parks?

On Victoria Avenue there is a real lack of bike parks, especially considering the very large amount of parks for cars by comparison. It would not take very much space to rebalance this.

Another street with very little bike parking is Ridgeway Street. Some streets have other poles of various kinds that bike users can tie to, but on Ridgeway there are almost no safe places to park a bike.

Parking Bylaw and Controls 2024

Submission # 1366

Speaking

First name: **David**
Last name: **Watson**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Parking Tariffs

Do you agree with the proposal to increase parking tariffs to help off-set rates?

Agree

Submitter Comments: I agree with increasing parking tariffs but I am less sure about the driving reason behind the increase being to offset rates. There needs to be a detailed long term vision for what the CBD will look like in the 2030s and beyond and changes to bylaws, parking provision, fee structures etc. should work towards this. Personally I would expect that the mass of parking currently along Victoria Avenue will be seen as a negative in less than a decade as people move towards wanting destinations with a mix of entertainment, shopping, food etc. that they can enjoy all day and into the evening, perhaps before going to the Opera House for a show, rather than in and out to visit one store. This will be exacerbated by an increase in active and public transport and eventually self-driving vehicles.

Do you agree with the proposed increase in parking tariffs on Victoria Avenue?

Agree

Submitter Comments: Given (as stated in the parking statement of proposal) full occupancy of Victoria Avenue car parking occurs at the same time as parking is currently free for super gold card holders (i.e. 11am-1pm weekdays) it seems likely that changing the charging structure will have no effect on peak occupancy as the main occupants are unlikely to be paying. This makes extending super gold card holder entitlement into the weekend a lose-lose from a financial and congestions point of view.

Do you agree with the increase in parking tariffs for side streets and off-street car parks?

Agree

Submitter Comments:

Are you aware of the council's off-street parking bays? **Yes**

Parking Meters

Do you agree with the proposal to install 14 new parking meters in the town centre? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

UCOL Student Parking

Do you agree with council's proposal to lengthen the parking exemption for UCOL students from two to three hours, in order to accommodate typical lecture times? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

Mobility Parking

Do you agree with the proposal to add three more mobility parks to our town centre? **Agree**

Submitter Comments:

SuperGold Card Senior Parking Scheme

Do you agree with the proposal to expand the SuperGold card parking scheme to include Saturdays from 8am-11am? **Disagree**

Submitter Comments: [repeat of above] Given (as stated in the parking statement of proposal) full occupancy of Victoria Avenue car parking occurs at the same time as parking is currently free for super gold card holders (i.e. 11am-1pm weekdays) it seems likely that changing the charging structure will have no effect on peak occupancy as the main occupants are unlikely to be paying. This makes extending super gold card holder entitlement into the weekend a lose-lose from a financial and congestions point of view.

Parking Bylaw

Do you have any comments about the council's
Parking Bylaw?

Submitter Comments:

Supporting documents