

Original letter
you
Ansley, Rosemary
A

To Whom it may Concern: Wanganui City Council

15/02/2024

I am writing on behalf of an aging community here in Wanganui East (especially those in and around the Masonic Village area) that would like to be able to access facilities in our main central city area with safety and ease of mind when traversing the travelling elements. This at the present time is very unsafe and to be honest extremely frightening for many who would like to be able to get out on their mobility scooters/walkers or even just to cycle along the river with its new wide smooth easy to navigate walk way through to the town centre.

I managed to use a scooter to take the trip from Masonic Dr to the Dublin St Bridge!!! Which as a side issue is another matter entirely with its narrow uneven cycle way and the trying to get to it safely.

My main issue is that Anzac Pd going from Helmore St down to Dublin St Bridge there are:

1. 24 bumpy driveways (often hidden by bush or shrubbery)
2. 2 roads with 1 inch lips both sides and on an angle making going up and down (stop/start) slow so cars coming often have to wait.
3. Andion Lodge and 2 other properties with units, have lots of vehicles coming and going through out the day.
4. There are 5 school vehicle entries/exits from girls college on the this same street that students can access.
5. There are often obstacles on the path way (bins, rubbish bags, vehicles, work repairers, kids toys even) often meaning path access is limited.
6. To top it all off the paths to ride along, undulate sharply even at slow speed, have cracks, ridges from repairs and manhole coverings in the middle making this like an off road experience one finds very difficult to navigate.
7. Crossing at the round-about by Dublin St Bridge with the traffic flow in the last couple of years has been a major concern as a risk hazard and not just for the vulnerable elderly.

As citizens and long standing rate payers of Wanganui, being one I would like to make a small request that will not only benefit our elderly population but be beneficial to others at this end of Wanganui East:

1. The entry way that is already in existence across the road to the grass at the end of Helmore St be opened up for Disability scooters and wheelchairs to get through. At the present it has an opening for walkers and push bikes which is too small.
2. A new piece of pathway put in at this point to link up with the newly appointed walk way along the river. This then takes out ALL the above mentioned elements that hinder safer and is easier access to the Central City.

Then there will only be one road to cross at the end of Helmore St and "one" can go all the way into town along the river walkway with ease (avoiding having to use the Dublin St Bridge).

This would be a win / win for everyone and a very good cost saving measure for our community going forward.

Please please consider this proposal for the benefit of those that have spent years supporting and improving this community not only with their rates but the hard work to get this city to where it is today.

Thank you

Rose Ansley (Resident, Masonic Village, Wanganui East)





Over growth and obstacles on pathway along with the rough paths are often an issue



Along with the busy driveways



Then we have the road crossings



To finish the adventure of Helmore St to the Bridge



PROPOSED OPENING AND PATH FOR EASY SCOOTER WHEELCHAIR ACCESS FROM HELMORE ST TO CITY CENTRE

End Helmore st onto Anzac Pr



Opening where walkers and bikes only can go through



Open up the gate access. Concrete a path across the grass to join the river walkway that goes all the way into the city centre



PROPOSED OPENING AND PATH FOR EASY SCOOTER WHEELCHAIR ACCESS FROM HELMORE ST TO CITY CENTRE

End Helmore st onto Anzac Pr



Put in a crossing

Open up this entrance that is limited to walkers only at the present



Put a path across the grass to join the river walkway that goes all the way into the city centre



Rosemary Ansley
Concerned Elderly

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David Lane
Wanganui District Council
Guyton St
Wanganui 4500

25/02/24

David Lane,

Thank you for your quick response to our call for a pathway at the end of Helmore St to connect to the "River walkway".

I have gone out this week and spent many hours talking to people in this immediate area, leaving information as attached, going back to answer questions and for their signed forms.

As you can see in the short time of our letter to you 15/02/24 there are ⁹³90 out of 120 firm responses YES to wanting a safer corridor to use the river walkway into the City Centre, Kowhai Park or just to enjoy taking family out to walk/exercise along the river.

Some families have individually signed on the same sheet as they often don't go out together.

You will note there are some from the home whose family would take them in wheelchairs and we have only put in the ones that have said they will use the pathway.

We have homes in the area and around Masonic (and others further afield) that would use this path but at present have indicated they:

- found it extremely wet in the grass
- The hidden holes in the ground put them off
- Can't get through the gate
- Great safe passage way but too hard to bike over
- Can't get the baby prams through and muck especially in winter
- Be great for kids and would be much safer option to Kowhai Park
- Scooters get stuck in the the grass and wheels skid
- Impossible for electric wheel chairs and mobility scooters
- A young mothers group would love access through this gate from a safety perspective

And the list goes on. I think you get the picture.

In your council agender you have a responsibility to elderly care and young children's safety and I do believe this sits right in there.

I have listed the persons below that have indicated very strongly for this project to happen and added their signed sheets as well.

We would be very grateful if you would keep us up to date with the progress and are hoping for a response re fixing the issues from the previous letter along Anzac Parade (which I have also enclosed) or a pathway to the river walkway.

We do believe the latter is a much more efficient/cheaper option for all concerned going forward to make our communities future for those that can't drive but need to be able to access the City Centre and other areas safer.

Thank you for your support

Yours sincerely,

Concerned Wanganui East Citizens

Persons that would like to see a crossing and pathway put in at the end of Helmore St to cross over through to the new River Walkway :

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Petitioner names and addresses redacted

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Residents Anzac Parade area:

We are looking for support to have a pathway put into the upcoming submissions at the Annual Council Planning May 2024 for future action. (Please look at the attached sheets)

For easy access and safety purposes both for the elderly and those of us living in this area to be able to use the new river walkway with our mobility scooters or wheelchairs, it is proposed that a new path be constructed opposite the end of Helmore St through to the new walkway.

I have been asked by David Lane from the Wanganui District Council to get residents in this area to support this proposal.

If you think this could be of benefit to you now or going forward please indicate your support below.

1. Yes I would like to see this happen
2. Name:
3. Address:
4. Signature:
5. Date:

Thank you for your time in having your say



First Rung Trust Whanganui District Council LTP submission

The First Rung Trust is dedicated to implementing innovative home ownership programs in the Whanganui district, fostering housing-related education, and contributing to the supply of quality homes in the area. Our initiatives encompass a spectrum of activities, including but not limited to land acquisition, property development, rental and sales management, tenant support, and educational outreach on housing matters.

Comprised of professionals from diverse fields such as law, finance, church ministry, and community engagement, our board shares a common commitment to enhancing the housing landscape in Whanganui.

Since September 2022, the First Rung Trust has been collaborating with Homes For People Trust, based in Palmerston North. Inspired by the significant impact achieved by the organisation in Manawatu and Horowhenua, we have been supported by their expertise in our endeavours to address housing challenges in Whanganui.

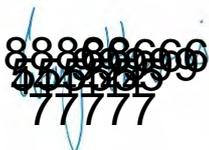
Over the past few years, Homes For People Trust has successfully constructed 29 homes in the Manawatu and Horowhenua regions, providing housing for numerous families and significantly benefiting the community. Presently, the Trust has an additional 29 properties in various stages of development. With this in mind, there exists a mutual recognition of the benefits of replicating their successful model in our district.

In April 2024, the First Rung Trust joined forces with Homes For People to acquire our inaugural property, located at 7 Gilmour Street, Gonville. Identified as a prime location for addressing various community needs, such as housing for first-time buyers, the elderly, and healthcare workers, this site holds immense potential. Positioned between two council-owned lots, there is an opportunity for collaboration with the Whanganui District Council (WDC) to optimize its usage, aligning with recent Council communication (10 April 2024) on addressing the housing shortage.

Looking ahead, the First Rung Trust and Homes For People envision further community investments across mixed tenure developments. We aim to foster meaningful partnerships with the WDC, leveraging our collective resources to make a positive impact on our community.

First Rung would welcome the opportunity to speak to our submission and elaborate on how our projects will positively impact the Long Term Plan (LTP) and the community as a whole.

Sincerely,




Board Chair
First Rung Trust



Whanganui

City of Possibility

Whanganui, the first City of Possibility, leads in possibility design and innovation for a global market of **2 billion consumers** with a **\$US13 trillion spending power**.



Whanganui, the **most accessible city** now and into the future!



Becoming the leading City of Possibility

–A vision for Whanganui now and into the future!

The vision:

- Whanganui becomes the first City of Possibility in the world. That is to say it becomes the most accessible city for the 25% of citizens who currently live with an impairment as well as the 50% of citizens who will live with an impairment after the age of 65. As the first City of Possibility, it will become the global leader in design, innovation, research and development for a global market of access consumers that is close to 2 billion people and has a spending power of \$US13 trillion.

What does this mean?

- Whanganui is the most accessible city in Aotearoa for people of all abilities now and into the future.
- Whanganui becomes renowned as the place to pilot and to test out new ways of doing things that are more inclusive and accessible including for example a pilot to test out a single tear approach to ACC which includes those born with impairments. This could also include new approaches like those being tested by the Toyota Woven City concept in Japan around aging and mobility.
- Whanganui has a thriving Possibility (future centred accessibility) design and innovation sector attracting local and global investment and creating a new sector rich in employment, and overall economic development for the region and the nation.
- The local Polytech becomes the lead training institution for accessible design and innovation in the world and also hosts a hot house to support and nourish emerging access entrepreneurs, designers and innovators.
- Whanganui becomes the centre of Possibility innovation and design internationally, the Silicon - valley if you like of Possibility design!

Investment

An initial investment is required of **\$350 k** for the first year to establish this initiative. This will include resourcing the Possibility Ambassador, catalysing the Designing

futures of Possibility Symposium in 2025, creation of the draft 25-year strategy and importantly attraction of significant local and international investment. This will also enable time to create a thorough long-term business case with costings and forecasts for the next 5 to 10 years. However, the expectation is that each relevant part of Council will allocate a certain amount of investment to projects and initiatives that directly fall under their auspices such as Whanganui and Partners, the Art Gallery and so on.

The Possibility Strategy

- The City of Possibility vision is underpinned by a 25-year strategy and long term resourcing.
- The strategy is updated every few years to ensure it remains relevant and meaningful for the access citizens and the world at that time.
- At the 20 year mark a new 25-year strategy is created and envisioned and the process rolls over again including any key learnings and relevant changes to ensure a future of Possibility is enabled.
- The strategy is created through a combination of community consultation, engagement with futurists, innovators and designers, and Possibility leaders from the access community!

Possibility Ambassador

The role of Possibility Ambassador is established to lead and oversee the direction and delivery of this vision and plan. The Possibility Ambassador will connect locally and internationally with the current leaders, innovators and change agents who are spear heading possibility globally including investors, entrepreneurs, designers, and innovators. They will attract investment to the City and surrounding region.

The Symposium:

This vision and strategy will be ignited by the first ever Designing futures of Possibility symposium in October 2025. Whanganui and the surrounding region will host an international symposium that showcases and promotes the power of Possibility leadership, design and innovation to create an accessible future and to establish new social and economic opportunities for the region. It will build on the UNESCO City Of Design status and invite the sister cities of design to participate and to showcase their leading examples of Possibility design and innovation.

Examples of similar events internationally:

- The Remarkable Summit 2023 Sand Diego
- The Remarkable Summit 2022 San Francisco

Why Whanganui?

- UNESCO City of Design
- The Whanganui River
- Abundance of disability and age facilities located here
- Community appetite for equality and for leadership
- Local civic and business leaders are looking for new opportunities to grow the community and economy significantly.
- A number of world leading practitioners in accessibility live here in Whanganui and the surrounding region.
- The Global Centre of Possibility is now located here along with its founder Minnie Baragwanath.

Possibility examples:

- Kara technologies– Sign Language avatar
- Toyota cars– TheWoven City

The Opportunity:

- There are close to 2 billion people worldwide who live with a disability due to birth, accident and or aging. This equates to approximately 25 %of the population. By 2030 this number will have increased and closer to 30% ~~the~~ population will live with at least one impairment. As we age, it is likely that ALL of us will in fact experience a disability at some stage in our lives.
- This community has created many of the most transformative innovations of our world- today yet this story and truth is not well known or understood.
- This market is estimated to have a spending power of close to \$13 trillion US and is desperate for goods and services that will transform their lives by removing disabling barriers.

Theory of Change (TOC):

- The TOC that underpins this 25year City of Possibility concept and Symposium, is that unless we embrace a Possibility approach to Leadership Design and Innovation, unless we understand what it means to be truly 'with' our access leaders, designers and innovators we, society will never create a fully accessible future for all. Instead, we will continue to design people, talent, creativity and contribution out of our society, economy and communities. In this VUCA (Volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) world we currently live in, we also run the risk of losing many of the hard fought for gains by the access community which could propel this community even further back than we are at present.
- The choice is ours. I invite the leaders of today to determine the legacy we wish to leave for future generations. Are you with me? Are you with us the access citizens of Aotearoa and the world?

Possible Partners:

- Whanganui City Council
- Central Government
- Whanganui and Partners
- UNESCO–City of Design
- Iwi
- Toyota
- Southern Cross Health care
- Spark
- GDI–Global Disability Innovation hub UK
- Remarkable Sydney and USA
- + N Partners
- NZ Govt and WhaiKaha Ministry of Disability
- MBIE
- Thrive
- Whanganui Enterprises
- Laura Ferguson Trust
- Other??

Background information and materials

To learn more about Minnie, Possibility Leadership design and innovation and the concept of 'with':

- Visit www.gcop.co.nz
- View www.minnieb.co.nz
- Read book 'Blindingly Obvious'

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Mouri Ora Mouri Awa Mouri Tangata

Te Awa Tupua

Flora and fauna

Biodiversity

Interconnected well-being

Wānanga

Connection

10 year history community operational management

Core services

Degraded infrastructure

Attention needed

Community hub

Realisation of natural beauty

Climate change resilience

Beautification

Environmental stability

Dune Forest

Sustainability

Well-being on the coast

Indigenous wisdom

Horizons Regional Council Te Pūwaha

Community and hapū Collaborative Engagement

Whanganui District Council Coastal Action Plan

Covid-19

Castlecliff Rejuvenation Phase 1

Castlecliff Rejuvenation Phase 2

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

Draft 1033

Draft 1032

PROGRESS CASTLECLIFF



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Foreword

Progress Castlecliff is a broad, membership based incorporated society and a registered charity with thirty years of working for better for Castlecliff. Progress Castlecliff operates as an umbrella to a number of operational arms that all share administrative services, governance and vision for Te Kaihau-o-Kupe (Castlecliff)

Principal among these are

- Castlecliff Coastcare (submitting independently)
- Castlecliff Library and Community Hub
- Ngā Ringaringa Waewae
- Duncan Pavilion - Administration and bookings

In addition we advocate for Castlecliff (e.g. this submission) and have the agility and contacts to see opportunity to build pride and do good in our community – recent examples being [“paint up the park” Dec 2023 Basketball Court painting](#) [partnership with Fleet Line marking with help from the WDC Public Art fund](#) and [last Sunday \(28 April\) partnering with Castlecliff Four Square for an awesome Community day that saw Six60 spend 90 minutes meeting fans old, young and new from not only Castlecliff but all over the rohe.](#)



[Click here to read “Adventures in a Time of Transformation” – a summary of the last 10 years of our community consultation and artists impressions of the Ngā Ringaringa Waewae planned delivery of North Mole aspirations.](#)

Progress Castlecliff welcomes the more systematic and transparent way WDC have approached this LTP under new Mayor & CEO. We find entry point business cases give a insight into how the many new & competing wants have been presented to Council and (crucially) what recommendations were and (by deduction from LTP when published) what did and didn't make the adopted draft LTP proposals.

We believe strongly in localism - that local communities and hapu at place are the best placed to identify, direct and even deliver good for their communities. We are also constitutionally only mandated to advocate for Castlecliff. Accordingly we have generally made “no response” on issues that affect other suburbs or affect all suburbs equally. But you can presume our support for council working with and through other community groups and you may generally assume our support for the initiatives they support.



Our responses to set questions

Davis Library

We support Option 3: Keep the Davis Library days and hours as they are (add \$2.30 per property per year)

Having the Davis closed as proposed may stop our Castlecliff Library and Community Hub from issuing library cards etc on closed days as our volunteers need to ring thru to help customers for some transactions. Beyond this in a cost of living crisis the "commons" ie public spaces offering low or no cost activities become more crucial than ever to struggling families. Closing the main library for an entire day a week to save households under 5 cents per week is NOT supported.

Whanganui East Pool

Repertory Theatre

Rotokawau/Virginia Lake Aviary

Mainstreet hanging flower baskets

New Zealand Glassworks

Drop off points for rural rubbish

No response

Gonville Library

We support Option 1: Keep Gonville Library days and hours as they are

Having the Gonville Library closed as proposed may affect our Castlecliff Library and Community Hub even more than the proposed day-a-week closure of the Davis.

Beyond this in a cost of living crisis the "commons" ie public spaces offering low or no cost activities become more crucial than ever to struggling families. Closing the Gonville library for an entire day a week to save households under 2 cents per week is NOT supported.

Winter Gardens

Level of Community Grant Funding

We support Option 1: Increase the community grant funding by \$100,000 (this is Council's preferred option and is included in the proposed 10.6% rates rise)



As an organisation that may hope to receive funding our costs have increased so this will really just maintain the current level of community grants. We believe community led projects deliver excellent value to Council (well ours certainly do)

Do you have any further comments on service cuts?

Service cuts that affect free of low cost activities and services available to all are regressive and will cost not save struggling household budgets.

Funding of core infrastructure - roading, footpaths and three waters

Hotel and Car Park

No response

Royal Whanganui Opera House

No response

We do note however that the 20 year cost of a new fly system ONLY is \$6/property/year LESS than a new fly system AND a new stagehouse. This seems incongruous.

Marae Development

No response

Whanganui Surf Lifesaving Service

We support Option 1 - Funding of \$1 million to WSLs as contribution to this project

Pākaitore Reserve Paving and Crossing

No response

Rapanui Road Trail

We support Option 1 – Provide full funding for this project at \$2.4 million, provided that a feasibility study is conducted

Progress Castlecliff believe our beaches are important resource for Whanganui residents and one of the key reasons Whanganui has been experiencing growth well exceeding landlocked areas in our region like Palmerston North. Investing in healthy access to our coast should be a priority even in constrained times.



Asset Sales

How would you strike the balance?

Long-term Investment - would you prefer to...

No response

Would you like to speak in support of your submission at a hearing?

Yes

Would you like to attach any files to your submission on the Long-Term Plan 2024-34?

This document.

Fees and charges Policy

no response

Revenue and Financing Policy

Do you have any comments to make about the draft Revenue and Financing Policy?

We note with disappointment that the General Rate continues to be based on LV (Land Value)

We believe over 95% of councils in NZ use CV (Capital Value) and believe that this would produce a fairer distribution of the rates burden in Whanganui.

We note with disappointment that we have not received requested data on the impact of this but have calculated the affect on total rates paid per suburb based on current (2023) LV/CV and draft LTP figures of using the industry standard CV over LV as changing the total general rated burden per suburb by approximately

Aramoho	-3.5%
Bastia/Durie Hills	8.0%
Putiki	
Castlecliff	-8.9%



Gonville	-7.6%
Springvale	7.6%
St Johns/Otamatea	8.9%
Whanganui Central	0.6%
Whanganui East	-2.1%

We believe that the choice of Council to continue to use LV over CV for general rates makes Whanganui Council an outlier in terms of rating and unfairly sees outer and traditionally "poorer", "outer" areas like Castlecliff, Gonville, Aramoho & Whanganui East bearing a disproportionate share of Whanganui's rates burden.

We do NOT believe using a basis for the rating system that comparatively disadvantages "poorer" suburbs to the benefit of "richer" suburbs is a fair or appropriate way to calculate rates in a LTP that is presented as trying to alleviate the rates burden on struggling families.

Would you like to speak to your submission on either of the following consultation items?

Fees and Charges 2024/25

No

Draft Revenue and Financing Policy

Yes

Parking Bylaw and Parking Controls 2024

No response other than to "Do you have any comments about Council's Parking Bylaw?"

Progress Castlecliff operates the Duncan Pavilion. Freedom camping in summer can occupy parks to the extent that users of the Pavilion have difficulty parking. We ask that the carparks near the Duncan be designated as P240 or similar and/or freedom camping signage be improved to address this problem

The carparking outside the Rangiora Street dairy is designated P15 but this is not enforced by Council with locals often disappointed to be unable to stop to pickup milk, return books to the Castlecliff library etc due to cars parked for extended periods. We believe this long standing issue would quickly resolve if Council did occasionally have parking officers enforce these parking times and ask that Council ensure it's staff are resourced and tasked with enforcing Council's parking rules in Castlecliff.

Would you like to speak in support of your submission at a hearing?

Yes



Development Contributions Policy

Do you agree that the amount of Development Contributions collected should be increased in order to offset the burden on rates?

Yes

Extension of Areas

We note this would raise more funding from outer suburbs like Castlecliff with sections more likely to have infill subdivision and housing than inner suburbs. This may adversely affect the development of badly needed new housing. We are also concerned on possible implications for Iwi led affordable housing developments intended for Castlecliff.

We **DISAGREE STRONGLY** with the extension of development contributions to Castlecliff while Castlecliff continues to pay 8.9% more general rates under Whanganui's LV based calculation.

Aramoho	-3.5%
Bastia/Durie Hills	8.0%
Putiki	
Castlecliff	-8.9%
Gonville	-7.6%
Springvale	7.6%
St Johns/Otamatea	8.9%
Whanganui Central	0.6%
Whanganui East	-2.1%

Council is proposing to move from a 'site-based demand' measure to an 'occupancy-based demand' measure.

We broadly support this as being equitable and perhaps mildly encouraging of smaller, more affordable homes over "MacMansions" but again note that Council adoption of CV for General Rates would do far more to ensure larger dwellings (which are able to accommodate more people and have higher CV's) will be paying higher levels of General Rates than this change to development levy policy.



Remissions

We agree with extending the rates remission policy to Community Groups and Trusts and social housing but are concerned that this should be available fairly

It should be based on the USE of a property not the Ownership of a property ie

- should be available where a property is rented/used for public good
- not be given where the property is not in use for public good
- should be available to mixed commercial developments there is a mix of uses (examples being the Gonville, Castlecliff. Hakeke St and Aramoho libraries) on condition the rebated rates are pro rata (ie normal rates are paid on the proportion NOT used for public good AND the full amount if any rebate is passed back to the Community Group/Trust or social housing tenant by the landlord as lower OPEX or rental.

We question the feasibility of the proposed "Remission of the targeted rate for Council's kerbside recycling and food scraps service". It would be rare for the owner of a multi-tenant commercial property to provide this service with individual businesses instead dealing with their own recycling and (in case of food businesses) food scraps. So most properties occupied by a mix of small businesses wouldn't qualify. In the rare case they did qualify this presumes the landlord would go to the effort of claiming rebate they receive no benefit from.

Would you like to speak in support of your submission at a hearing?

Yes



Issues not covered in the consultation document

Progress Castlecliff welcomes the more systematic and transparent way WDC have approached this LTP under new Mayor & CEO. We find entry point business cases give a insight into how the many new & competing wants have been presented to Council and (crucially) what recommendations were and (by deduction from LTP when published) what did and didn't make the adopted draft LTP proposals.

Progress Castlecliff also wish to submit on the following point-of-entry business cases...

Coastal Action Plan

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/projects/point-of-entry-business-cases/coastal-action-plan.pdf>

We note that (via the Ngā Ringaringa Waewae partnership) the North Mole carpark and associated community aspirations remains on track (as confirmed in meeting at Council 29 April) so consider the probability of the 2024/25 dunes investment this covers to be "Highly Probable"

Duncan Pavilion

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/projects/point-of-entry-business-cases/duncan-pavillion.pdf>

We note the recognition of the issues the building faces due to long delayed maintenance. A detailed line item level accounting of Council expenditure on the Duncan over the last 10 years is requested. We also request any quotes, costings or detailed proposals in relation to option 2.

We also note the diversity and high level of community use the building has under Progress Castlecliff management of bookings – higher we contend than any comparable Council asset and at a lower cost to Council than any comparable Council asset.

In relation to options 1 and 2 the loss of the asset to the community is completely and utterly unacceptable to Progress Castlecliff, the overwhelming majority of Castlecliff and indeed the many in the wider Whanganui community who enjoy the asset be it for WC/changing rooms, yoga, community meetings, prayer, birthdays, whanau events, coastcare, weddings, funerals, baptisms, open studios, business meetings, volunteer beach cleanups, surfing events, Vic Uni climate change conference, Iwi & Hapu events or any of the myriad of other diverse bookings it gets each year. Under these options we advise that the risk identified "Progress Castlecliff and community are frustrated with council." Is certain rather than "Highly Probable" and with all due respect suggest the consequence to Council is unlikely to be "moderate"

Options 3, 4 & 5 do not include OPEX in year 1. This is unreasonable, the building does need attention now – for example on Friday night at a Castlecliff Library book launch the



volunteers are used to the buildings "quirks" lit the steep steps for the 60+ attendees using batter powered fairy lights on the handrails (the outside lights leave the bottom steps in shadow and worse are on a short timer that regularly plunges the steps that are lit into darkness with people part way up them!)

We strongly advise Council to budget for restoration and point out that much or most of this cost is in fact "deferred maintenance" (aka years of neglect).

Should option 5 (surf club) in fact be an option within the given time frame it is one Progress Castlecliff would support ONLY following a community consultation and community assent clear to a proposal clearly detailing priority for public use and functionality not inferior to the level of service the community currently enjoys.

Library Hub refurbishment

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/projects/point-of-entry-business-cases/library-hub-refurbishment.pdf>

We welcome Council commitment to the library hubs. Given the CAPEX expenditure envisaged Progress Castlecliff hopes and expects WDC Libraries will be entering into long term contracts with Progress Castlecliff and other operators for the duration of the assets lifespan/CAPEX repayment period (10 years?) allowing Council to be assured the CAPEX is well invested and allowing Progress Castlecliff to enter into a long term lease and give our library volunteers and community assurance their support of the library will be respected.

We question the RoI (return on investment) metric used and believe it is significantly higher on the case of library hubs. For example the contribution by Council to run the Castlecliff Library (covering rent, utilities & staffing) is in the region of 25k or 5% of the cost of the (Council employee staffed) Gonville library. While there are some costs Council covers (Council staff time, books, equipment) and the size, range of activities and numbers of customers will be lower for Castlecliff the RoI for Castlecliff must be several times that of Council staffed libraries.

We request that our library co-ordinator and volunteers are involved in refurbishment decisions. (noting with thanks that WDC libraries staff do currently do this well)

Manuka Street upgrade

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/projects/point-of-entry-business-cases/manuka-street-upgrade.pdf>

The case for the work is understated. The damage to road surface is caused by the road being dangerously narrow forcing vehicles to drive right on the uncurbed edge of the road when passing. We welcome the long overdue STRONGLY ask that Council deliver the planned "amenity" investment at the same time. We find it hard to see how the



intent of the funding is met by the works as proposed. An on road bike lane on an unlit very open stretch of narrow road like this seems a staggeringly bad idea! The MINIMUM deliverable from this is that Castlecliff people should be able to safely walk, push prams and cycle to Castlecliff Health.

The intersection of Manuka with Cornfoot is also dangerous and the scene of a number of accidents. Priority needs to be given to Manuka along with road islands to narrowing Cornfoot to reduce the 12m width at that point to 6m to make crossing safer for our Tamariki. We believe this is part of the work council propose to delay. To point out what should be obvious we have within the last year had several incidents including the life hit and run life threatening injury of a child there. That Major survived is a miracle. It is NOT OK to rely on miracles for the survival of our tamariki, we need safer roads. It is NOT OK for our elderly on scooters to have no safe way to the nearest medical centre.

This work needs to be done NOW. We oppose a dangerous on road "cycle way" that will attract cyclists (and scooters and even pedestrians) but fail to keep them safe as it is both inherently unsafe and likely to delay indefinitely the safe and necessary provision of a safe, separated shared pathway.

North Mole works

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/projects/point-of-entry-business-cases/north-mole-works.pdf>

We thank Council for their continuing work with Progress Castlecliff via our Ngā Ringaringa Waewae collective and expect this relationship to exemplar the delivery of mahi under the guidance of Te Awa Tupua and Kawa.

Ocean Outfall Maintenance

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/projects/point-of-entry-business-cases/ocean-outfall.pdf>

The business case states the benefits of the scheduled maintenance as "Reduced risk of wastewater blockages and overflows to the stormwater system or the Whanganui River."

"Ensure the intended dilution/mixing of the wastewater with the ocean is met and the coastal environment is protected from any effects of the treated wastewater discharge."

It follows that not performing the scheduled maintenance carries the risk of more sh*t in our Awa and on Castlecliff beach.

We STRONGLY oppose this proposed cut.



SW Pump Stations (Castlecliff) and stormwater attenuation additions

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/projects/point-of-entry-business-cases/pump-stations-castlecliff-projected-sea-level-rise.pdf>

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/projects/point-of-entry-business-cases/stormwater-%E2%80%93-attenuation-additions.pdf>

We STRONGLY oppose doing nothing with the attendant increase in flood risk to the Heads Road industrial area, Port and residential properties.

Playground Provision and Parks and Reserves Furniture

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/projects/point-of-entry-business-cases/playground-provision.pdf>

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/projects/point-of-entry-business-cases/parks-and-reserves-furniture.pdf>

We believe that cutting this investment into the common wealth that is public playgrounds is precisely the wrong response to a cost of living crisis. Providing poorer playgrounds to the public is regressive, it disproportionately disadvantages poorer whanau by degrading access to free, healthy public play space. Please leave this expenditure in for the health of our Tamariki who need to play, our elderly and parents who deserve somewhere to sit in our parks and families who deserve the cheap wholesome good of picnics on tables and under shelters in our parks.

Power up the Park

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/projects/point-of-entry-business-cases/power-up-the-park.pdf>

We thank Council for the provision of this funding. We look forward to using our recognition and charity status to work as the delivery partner for Council to attract local businesses and funders to make this funding stretch further and do more.



Rangiora Street Public Toilet Replacement

<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/projects/point-of-entry-business-cases/rangiora-street-public-toilet-replacement.pdf>

We STRONGLY oppose delay in this work. Council deferring maintenance on the Duncan Pavilion toilets has put them at risk and these are out only year round public toilets.

This funding MUST remain in the LTP. If or when refurbishment of the Duncan Pavilion is complete or public toilet provision in a possible new WSLSC facility should become clear prior to this works commencement in year two and may reduce the cost but to fail to plan for this replacement is quite literally planning for failure!

General comments

Public Transport

Progress Castlecliff thank Council for pushing for The Tide bus funding and note it's success. While this has been normalised as Horizons Regional Council operations we wish to acknowledge that this would not have occurred without WDC going above, beyond and outside the box to push for it. We appreciate, hope and trust WDC will continue to strongly advocate for and support better Public Transport for Whanganui.

Te Pūwaha / Port Whanganui

Progress Castlecliff thank Council for it's continued commitment to the Te Pūwaha partnership and Whanganui Port.



WHANGANUI FLORAL ART GROUP
Club Rooms: Riverside Christian Church Hall
Mathieson St, Whanganui

Patron:	Lynne Gray
President:	Michael Unverricht – 027-3790262
Secretary:	Val Bartrum – 3455026 or 021-2093741
Treasurer:	Leonie Lennox – 027-4070569
Bank Account No.	03-0791-0555570-00

Val Bartrum (Secretary)
178A Great North Road, Otamatea, Whanganui 4500

30 April 2024

The Policy Team
Whanganui District Council
101 Guyton Street
Whanganui 4500

POLICY SUBMISSION

Dear Policy Team

I am writing on behalf of our Members – who wish to make a submission in support of retaining the Mainstreet Hanging Flower Baskets.

We believe that the hanging baskets give Whanganui its unique character, and we know that our visitors (and locals) always comment favourably on them.

Encouraging visitors to our city is an important Council focus, and losing the baskets would appear to be a step backwards, and would diminish Whanganui's welcoming charm. They complement and enhance our beautiful and historic buildings – and are a major attraction for both national and international visitors to our city.

To support this submission, our Club would be prepared to hold a fundraising event – in order to contribute proceeds to this very worthy cause.

We are willing to come and speak to Council in support of our submission.

KIND REGARDS

Val Bartrum (Secretary)
val@bartrum.net

Carolyn Bates Submission to Whanganui Council LTP 2024

From : Carolyn Bates, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	I am happy to answer questions regarding this submission.
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I write to raise my concerns specifically regarding:

Paying to Park / Provision of Change Machines

As I raised last year, but it seems no changes have been put in place, I repeat:

I recommend Whanganui Council provide **at least one location** in the city where drivers are able to access change to use in parking meters. Parking in Wanganui (for me) is an extremely frustrating exercise: Sourcing "change" continues to be a challenge - Banks either will not provide or charge for the privilege.

Shops, at best, are reluctant to provide coins. Spending any, or even larger amounts is no guarantee to securing coins. As a volunteer I find it a disincentive to give my time to support Whanganui Charities if it is going to cost me to "do good works", plus what ought to be an easy activity is a disincentive to visit Wanganui to shop.

Not for Profit - Parking / Helping Volunteers do good work

I recommend Council provides more flexible parking options for Seniors. Council provide a facility for SuperGold Card holders to park for free between 8.00am and 11.00am, Monday to Friday, in the CBD. I am a holder of a SuperGold Card but feel I and others are being disadvantaged. The majority of times I come to the Whanganui CBD is to attend meetings or to volunteer at various Not for Profit's I am involved in eg - Wanganui Branch of Diabetes New Zealand or - Brain Injury Association of Whanganui I am a Board Member and do what I can to support those organisations as well as activities at Community House, recently I helped at their Neighbours Day Sausage Sizzle.

I also attend meetings with a range of Not for Profit entities in Whanganui which provide support to the Marton Community - this is as: (a) Chair of the Marton Community Committee; and (b) Coordinator of the Marton Health Network.

A number of entities have their offices in Whanganui therefore meetings and supplies / literature are located there. You will appreciate that being involved in Not for Profits in the Whanganui and beyond area is not an inexpensive activity. I and many others willingly give our time, many (such as I) have the cost of travel to cover, so to also have to pay to park is an added deterrent.

I am aware that there is free parking in areas beyond the CBD but: (a) For some walking is not as easy as it was; and (b) I for one frequently have to pick up or return items to "the office". Generally my meetings mean I have to be in Whanganui no earlier than 10am and frequently much later than 11am, depending on the meeting / reason to be there eg one regular meeting begins at 1pm. It would be beneficial if parking rules allowed for a maximum of two hours (as is available presently), but not limited to between 8am and 11am. Ideally, it would be available for the time up to 5:30 any day.

I understand there are plans to expand the area(s) where paid parking is applicable, I am not supportive of that, nor do I support the plan to increase parking charges. I see that as another deterrent to shoppers.

Other topics you have in your consultation document:

Funding

I was pleased to learn you will work to secure alternative funding to help keep rates increases to a minimum.

Swimming Pool

My concern with the closure of the swimming pool is how youngsters will learn water safety. The likelihood that they will travel to an alternative (to me) is unlikely if they can simply swim in the river, which in itself is a greater hazard to their safety! I do not support the pool closure. I suggest consideration of reduced hours or days eg for part of the year.

Library services

Even as someone who does not live in Whanganui, I have regularly used your libraries, so the thought of closing any is a concern, but acknowledge the cost saving. Perhaps it could be trialed for a few months, or has there been research done already to speak to the current users? Two libraries are mentioned to have the facility closed one day a week. If that is decided, the ought to be closed on different days, to allow users access to the other facilities on those days.

The Repertory Theatre

I am not supportive of closing the theatre, but selling it appears a potentially acceptable alternative ONLY IF, the sale is to an entity / group who will continue its use. I regularly come to Wanganui specifically to attend performances at the theatre. I would hate that the city lose such an asset.

The Aviary

I do not wish to see the closure of the Aviary.

Hanging Baskets

I think the loss of the Hanging Baskets would be sad. I recommend you contact local service entities eg Lions Club. In Marton the local Lions do a great job with their hanging baskets.

Glassworks

To me that should be user pays - I thought it already was.

Winter Gardens

I support keeping the Winter Gardens Open.

Community Grant Funding

I support the proposed increase to Community Grant Funding.

Opera House

I support the stagehouse proposal.

Marae Development

I do not support the development to be funded from rates, but if alternative funding could be sourced that would be acceptable. To me there always appears to be opportunities which non Maori are excluded for, there has to be a way to tap into Maori funding for this project.

Wanganui Surf Lifesaving Service

I am supportive of any Lifesaving initiatives.

Pākaitore Reserve Paving / Crossing

\$830,000 seems a huge amount, I do not support the spending of that amount.

Men's Shed

I think this should be funded, the facility provides a great space for people to socialise as well as repair and create all manner of different things.

Putiki Emergency Response

I would have anticipated funding would have been covered by Civil Defence, not the Council - perhaps I do not understand the details for the scan information in your consultation document on page 44.

Discontinuing the Digital Strategy

Considering Whanganui has a growing Digital network (much better than the other councils), I am disappointed at the suggestion of discontinuing this.

If you have any queries regarding the above please feel free to call me on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Whanganui

15th April 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission to Ten Year Plan – Seeking Programme for Turning Facility in Nathan Street

This submission follows previous submissions to Council’s Annual Plan and seeks Council support to establish a financial programme for land purchase to resolve long-standing problems associated with the lack of a turn facility in Nathan Street. The submission is made on behalf of residents in the street.

By way of background, Nathan Street in Springvale is formed in two parts, both no exit. This submission relates to the southern portion, accessed off Treadwell Street. At the time most residents purchased their properties in this street a roading designation existed, allowing for the extension of the road over 120m of undeveloped land. Since then, however, Council has allowed the designation to lapse, leaving no plan for resolution of long-standing problems associated with turning vehicles.

The failure to complete the intended road connection over many years has created many issues for residents. The road lacks sufficient width to accommodate turn movements involving large vehicles and this problem has only worsened as more frequent and additional waste collection services have been added. The residents currently bear the brunt of this problem, with private property being damaged by vehicle movements and noise and disruption regular features.

Council has created this problem by allowing the roading designation to lapse and only Council can now resolve it. It now seems that connection of the road is unlikely to be achieved in any realistic time frame. Hence it is now sought that Council commits to a financial programme to purchase land to establish a turning head in Nathan Street.



The plan above, currently shown on Council’s District Plan maps, shows the intended street layout dating back decades. It really is time for Council to discuss options for the future with residents, make a new plan and let residents know that Council is committed to resolving, not ignoring, this problem.

As a resident I would invite Councillors to come and visit the street, see the difficulties presented by the lack of a turn facility and the damage being caused, both to the road surface and to resident's driveways and fences. Residents have been patient, the problem however needs to be resolved before even more trucks associated with recycling services start to visit the street.

Kind regards

John Baxter

██████████6

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Baxter', written in a cursive style.

[REDACTED]
Whanganui.

18th March, 2023.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write on behalf of the 22 houses in Nathan Street, Whanganui. This is a 'no exit' Street, with absolutely no area in which to turn any sort of vehicle, large or small at the end.

The Street and houses were developed around 1990 and since then nothing has been done to Alleviate a turning problem.

Consequently because this end of Nathan Street is a no exit street, with no turning, vehicles including trucks, trailers, large contractor vehicles and rubbish trucks (3 on Mondays,) have to either back all the way back down the street, or turn into our driveways, ruining our driveways, including smashing paving stones, or bump up the gutter destroying the grass burn. This is causing many frustrations to all of those on the receiving end of the damage.

At present the street is 8 metres wide and the rubbish trucks are also 8 metres long, thus creating a turning problem. So, to alleviate this problem and not upset the residents they complete a 5 point turn, thus tearing up your road seal. Last time the Council resealed the street it was less than 2 weeks before the road was once again torn up.

This torn up seal, as you might imagine leaves loose chips with tar on them, which is transported by our car wheels into our driveways, then into garages and then inside our homes and onto carpets. Try explaining this to the woman of the house; creating a major cleaning problem.

To avoid this happening some of the residents have taken to placing road cones in their driveway or orange tap across the entrance.

The other major problem is if these heavy vehicles, (rubbish trucks have up to 8 tons on the front axel,) do enter our driveways, which is one turning option, not only do they crack the concrete between curb and fencing, (this is still evident today,) they also break the concrete pavers on our driveways. Plus they sink the ground down that they drive on, making our driveways very uneven.

Mine has both horizontal and vertical cracks opening up, so they need to be replaced. Three of the residents have already replaced these at their own expense.

If these heavy vehicles go further into the driveway they also break or collapse the pavers in the drive. Mine have been repaired three times so far. The Resident at the end of the street has had her front fence post broken, simply because there is nowhere to turn at that point except to use her driveway.

At this point in time, we have been in contact with your roading engineer over a period of the last 5 years. Amiable of course, but still nothing happens.

As a result of our phone calls and emails over a period of years, we have had a visit from a Councillor and a Roading Engineer, and your Alliance performance Manager. They all agree we need something done, but still nothing happens.

Excuses, such as:-

- 1) We will do it in the next financial year.
- 2) There is a contingency fund we may be able to use.
- 3) We have urgent work at Mangamahu to do this year.
- 4) We can possibly work on it after Christmas.
- 5) I have drawings on my computer ready to start when money becomes available.
- 6) We require 18 metres for a turning circle, we can only get 15 metres in this street as it is only 8 metres wide. (Anything would be better than what we have now.)
- 7) Then you replace the roading Engineer and it all starts again.

As this street is only 8 metres wide one must realise the stupidity in not having some form of turning circle, which has to create problems as we have pointed out during the last few years.

Please note on file the torn up seal on the street, the cracked concrete and the vehicle problems, including a photo of the fire engine in the wrong street. The large trucks now try to back down the street causing all sorts of problems, especially around parked cars. I am sure this creates a safety issue.

We are told when recycling comes into being for households, that there will be more large trucks on the move, thus exacerbating the problem we have now.

So on behalf of us 22 residents, could we please have some form of turning circle to accomodate most drivers that enter our no exit street.

As every time we see the indiscretions of drivers, especially on Mondays, or receive our increased rate demand we have yet another frustrated Neighbourhood Support meeting. Usually concerning the lack of activity by Council for our minor problem in the big picture.

Hopefully as part of the turning circle concrete work, my cracked 12 sq. m. of Curb to Fencing drive an also be replaced.

Yours in hopefully anticipation.

John Baxter.

Ph [REDACTED]



Submission of Bushy Park Tarapuruhi Trust Education Committee

Whanganui District Council Draft Long Term Plan 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Long Term Plan

We wish to speak to this submission.

Introduction

Whanganui has attracted global attention for recognising the rights of nature through Te Awa Tupua legislation. That Act contains visionary thinking that is inspiring people around the world who seek to repair humanity's relationship with nature, thereby increasing our own well-being. We would like this 10 year plan to share that vision of re-valuing and working with our natural heritage.

The draft plan has no balance between highly-funded cultural and art heritage commitments on one hand and unfunded natural heritage on the other. Our impressive Art Gallery has a great collection of art inspired by natural landscapes. Our wonderful museum has a great collection of extinct bird bones and stuffed rare birds. At Bushy Park Tarapuruhi, the endangered birds are singing in the stunning landscape and we are helping to prevent further extinctions. All three institutions educate the public. Two get funded for this by WDC, we don't. Is the balance of support right? Does it reflect a future focus set of values or perpetuate a last century hierarchy?

Background

In our submission to the Council last year we asked for \$20k toward the running of our nationally important ecosanctuary and \$20k toward the popular education programmes we offer. We received encouragement before, during, and after our submission from many Councillors. We hoped that like Zealandia (Wellington), Sanctuary Mountain (Waikato) and Rotokare (Taranaki) we might also get some support from our local Council.

We were rejected for on-going funding and referred to Community Grants. We met Council staff and carefully tailored our request to the fund's criteria and were rejected. Finally we again poured many hours into an application to the Climate Change fund as we are replanting a carbon-sink forest, growing trees and involving the community in action for the future. We were approved for a \$20k grant for one year. We submit you should increase that fund as demonstrably climate change is an accelerating issue. As far as we can recall that was the first WDC funding for Bushy Park Tarapuruhi. It helped employ an energetic educator fixed term, part-time. We need on-going funding or we will be back to square one.

Opportunity: We are an investment in sustainable growth.

Bushy Park is a success story with the million dollar predator proof fence protecting an unbelievably lush forest and a growing roll call of native birds, lizards, insects, fungi etc. We have free entry which means we see a real cross section of locals. We know visitation already in the many thousands is increasing. Visitors stay for hours increasing the likelihood that out-of-towners will overnight. Looking at the events like night tours, behind the scenes tours, teacher education etc run by better staffed sanctuaries we know we could go "next level" If we can retain a full time education/ community relations staff member.

Our tree planting meets the visitors' eyes from the carpark. Tree protectors carefully installed by secondary students late last year are helping nurture ecosourced trees- many transplanted by primary and Intermediate students. Well-being is certainly enhanced by action for nature.

Around the country we see ecosanctuaries inspiring people to go home and set predator traps, plant native trees and better control cats. The stunning return of native birdlife around Wellington started by Zealandia is remarkable. Young and old alike are getting involved which is the antidote to depression and anxiety about the future. Wellingtonians tell us our forest at Bushy Park is much better than that at Zealandia. Can WDC see the opportunities?

Footnote

Last year Horizons held a council meeting in the Homestead and toured the park afterwards. Their long term plan reflects their assessment of the park as a top rank site, they drafted an increase in their modest on-going financial support, especially around weed and pest management. It is a welcome affirmation. We would welcome our District Council to visit and be similarly inspired.

This is the second submission I have made to the Whanganui District Council – I made and presented a submission to the Council in 2018. The issue was then and is now, the maintenance of footpaths in Whanganui, in particular the difference in the gap between pavers, or the difference in the levels of adjoining pavers. A young woman walking her dog had tripped outside our place in 2016, and was taken away in an ambulance. Then, in 2017, I had tripped in King's Avenue in 2017, and broke my right arm, which has ended in preventing me from driving. It is still painful, 4 years later, and I have to rely on others for transport, or walk on the road. I raised the issue of the state of the pavements with the then CEO Mr Nicholson, who seemed to believe that my motive was the 'wholesale' replacement of pavements, and ordered that my correspondence was to be ignored. I notified the Council of the lips of at least 6 joins of at least 10mm in Bedford Avenue, the street I live in, but to no avail.

I was at that time referred to the Roothing Transport Asset Management Plan, being told that this included the 'measure of footpath settlement, bumps, depressions, cracks and scabs and that Council attend to cracks greater 10mm. The wholesale footpath renewals are programmed on a prioritised process.'

I could not find the Roothing Transport Asset Management Plan on the WDC website, and no reference to 10mm criterion. I was told at this time that 'Council **does not**, contrary to your statement above, attend to gaps which are 10mm or greater, so this statement in your letter is inaccurate'. Well, this was told to me by Council, so clearly there was some confusion.

Recently, I have seen in the media, reports of an amputee being tipped out of his wheelchair, because of uneven pavements, and also complaints of residents at a retirement village trying to deal with poor pavements outside a Retirement Village. So again, I would like to raise this issue with Council, as clearly nothing much has changed.

The CEO referred me to NZS4044, which did not help – it related **only** to the material used in paving – concrete, compacted fill etc, not anything about the surface tolerances for footpaths. It is a standard for the construction of new footpaths, not about gaps between pavers at all. I asked ACC, Ministry for Internal Affairs, Ministry of Transport about national standards for gaps in pavements, but there is none.

I was also advised that Council uses 10mm vertical level difference as the threshold for maintenance jobs to fix trip hazards, although I am unsure if this is yet included in Council plans at all. Council refers to cracks and trees – but this does not apply to many falls, including one that occurred outside our place and my fall. To clarify, these falls are due to the lip where pavers are laid end-to-end and for whatever reason, one or other slab sinks so that there is a difference in height, a lip, and it is this which trips people up.

On-line, there was a reference to the Guidelines for Footpath Inspection and Fault Grading Standards Whanganui District – when I clicked on that link, I got a message:-

Page not found

Sorry, but the page you were trying to reach doesn't exist!

We may have a broken link on our site or you may have misspelled something.

Use the main menu above to get you back on track.

Also on-line, Council's website says 'Every three years the council conducts an inspection of footpath faults based on a standard set of criteria.' When I click on that, I get a 16 page document with photos of pavements in various conditions, and put into 5 groups (depending on their condition) with some comment, but not what I am looking for.

Are these 2 different documents, or not?

There are 3 further issues. One was the difficulty at that time in finding a 'complaints' process – having said that, checking on-line shows that there are now a number of ways to make a complaint – it looks much better and easier now – well done!

Secondly, I do believe that repairs are made **when notified**. I would like to think that there are regular, ongoing inspections.

My final issue concerns a woman badly injured in a fall on uneven and unmaintained pavements within a shopping centre in Whanganui with a number of shops a GP Practice, post office etc. The centre is owned privately. The injuries caused continuing severe pain over a long period of time, and required surgical intervention. My issue is what responsibility does the Council have to see that the centre is safe and properly maintained.

My submission is, in essence, a plea to the Council, to consider the safety of those perhaps older, those who do not or no longer can drive. They have no option but to walk. This means that Council must take the maintenance of pavements seriously, and prioritise this. It seems, in light of recent newspaper articles, that this was neglected or not seen as very important in the past, but it is very serious for those of us who have no option. I have discussed this with Damien Wood, who has helped me to understand the demands on Council finance, and also 'gets' my concerns - for those who do a lot of walking, the possibility of tripping and being injured is a constant fear.

Proposed Rapanui Road Walking and Cycling Trail

Printed Name	Address	Contact	Signature	Comment
Jan Pavano	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Put the path in. Save lives!!!
Jeanette Mesly	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Safer Pedling
Lynn Abbott	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Lynn Belllett	Save lives!
Don Gordon	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	✓
WALTER LENNOX	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	W.G. Lennox	Will be very popular and much used
Graeme Carey	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	G.C. Carey	Will be safer & enjoyable
Anne Caseloy	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	a Caseloy	✓
Anne Condon	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	
Barbara Gordon	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Rapanui Rd is a race track!
JIM GORDON	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	
LINDA JOHNSTONE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	
Cindy Maddox	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Very fast traffic and narrow.
John Maddox	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Narrow and fast
Nonnie Cooper	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	It would be so much safer.
JOHN STRASGATOR	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Safety Factor
Sandra Rogers	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Be great for Whanganui
Bue Campion	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Would be a wonderful asset.
Carolyn Shingleton	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Safety!
John Baxter	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Safety First Up.
Ross McBeth	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	" " "
Bryan Christie	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	A.S.A.P. (School Child could bike)
JIRI KRIVANEK	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	
Wenne Evans	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Jolly good idea,
Margaret Wright	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	yes please
Julie Kease	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Safer riding needed.
TREVOR KEARIE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	
ADRIAN PIKE	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Yes please asap.
Marcyie Campbell	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	Yep!
Sharon McCulloch	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[Signature]	

Request for safe Rapanui Road cycle/walking track

The Whanganui Tramping Club's (WTC) cycling group submits the following petition in support of the Kai Iwi Beach Community Group's presented business case for a shared pathway between Highway 3 and Mowhanau Drive.

Given the high numbers visiting the Bason Reserve and Kai Iwi Beach, Rapanui Rd is extremely busy and dangerous for cyclists and anyone walking along this stretch of road where drivers regularly exceed the 100kph limit.

Importantly, WTC cycling members believe the requested pathway would benefit all Whanganui citizens driving, riding or walking to, and from, Kai Iwi Beach - and that it would attract tourists.

We urge the Whanganui District Council to recognise the need for a shared pathway that allows Whanganui residents to bike and walk, safely, the full length of Rapanui Road.

We thank the WDC for accepting and considering our petition.

Request for Whanganui District Council to support/fund a shared cycle/walking track from State Highway 3 to Mowhanau Drive, Kai Iwi Beach.

It is with some urgency, the Whanganui Tramping Club's cycling group asks the Whanganui District Council (WDC) to please consider the need for Whanganui cyclists and walkers to have a safe, shared track from the city boundary to Mowhanau Drive, Kai Iwi Beach.

Known as the BOMBS, our 40 members ride together in three groups every Tuesday. During the rest of the week, we meet as friends to cycle both in and out of the city boundaries.

We're extremely grateful to the WDC and Waka Kotahi for building the shared tracks we now have within our city. And we thank both agencies, for the recent addition stretching along the riverbank from the Dublin St Bridge to the earthworks opposite the Aramoho Shopping Centre.

However, what we lack in Whanganui is a substantial, safe track outside the city boundary which we can use for recreation and to train for the multi-day rides many of us do on North and South Island cycle tracks.

At present we ride a number of roads which can be dangerous for cyclists. These include Tayforth, Rapanui, Brunswick, Blueskin Roads, State Highways 3 and 4 and No 2 Line from Durie Hill to Fordell.

Most of us have experienced near misses and the fear we will one day lose someone due to the speed and poor driving standards of some drivers passing and approaching us.

Aware the WDC is preparing its long-term plan, and, that the Mowhanau/Rapanui Rd community has submitted a business case for a safe cycle track to be installed along Rapanui Rd, we urge the WDC to please support, this proposal.

Apart from the benefits a Rapanui Rd cycle track would provide to our local community, we see it as a tourist attraction for out-of-town cyclists and walkers just as the riverside track leading onto Linton Army Camp in Palmerston North has proved to be.

Finally - aged between 65 and 85 (in general), BOMBS members cycle to stay fit and healthy and enjoy the company of like-minded friends. Time and again we see our members cycling when, for health reasons, they can no longer tramp or go for long walks. To have a long, safe track out to Kai Iwi beach and back would be invaluable for them, along with the many thousands likely to use it.

We thank the WDC for considering our petition.

John CASANELIA SUBMISSIONS Casanelia, John

① MORE BIKE RACK WITHIN THE
CBD.



Funding of core infrastructure - roading, footpaths and three waters - Areas of urgent safety needs in our existing footpaths and shared pathways. We would like the Whanganui District Council to consider prioritising these within their LTP.

The Wanganui Harrier Club is a volunteer run, not-for-profit organisation. We are focused on the well-being of the Whanganui Community, encouraging people to be active. We are one of the most affordable health and well-being options in our area.

Wanganui Harrier Club requires safe places to be able to run and walk in order to operate. We are very fortunate to have the new shared pathways available for running and walking around Whanganui. We use footpaths and shared pathways for training runs and walks, small club trophy races, medium sized races (open to the public and other harrier clubs) and large events (such as Masters Games and the PAK'nSAVE Whanganui 3 Bridges Marathon).

Members of our club have expressed concerns regarding safety in the following areas of footpaths or shared pathways.

- 1) Kowhai Park
- 2) Dublin Street Bridge
- 3) Cobham Bridge to the State Hwy 4 roundabout
- 4) Bollards on shared pathways

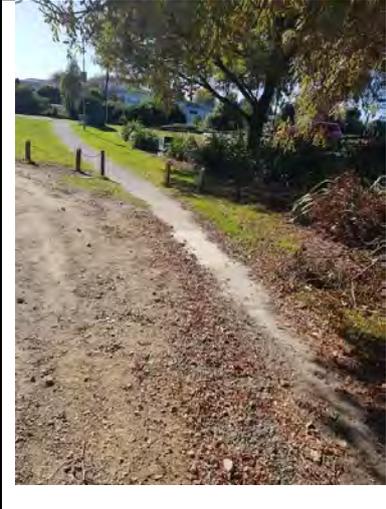
All of these areas are well used by the general public for walking, running and cycling. They help to keep vehicles off the road by encouraging active transport. Improvements to these areas will benefit Whanganui residents and could potentially eliminate a serious accident occurring. These could be completed as separate projects and each area highlighted would improve useableness of the shared pathways and safety considerably.

Kowhai Park

The shared pathways in Kowhai Park are great, and they showcase this beautiful area well. Unfortunately, there are sections where the shared pathways do not meet up, meaning that pedestrians and cyclists do share spaces with cars, creating potential for vehicle accidents. There is also no sign-posted speed limit in this area, and cars are often travelling at a speed that appears too fast for the number of pedestrians and cyclists in the area.

Issue 1 – No shared pathway connecting Dublin St Bridge to shared pathway beside Kowhai Park. The majority of pedestrians and cyclists go through the gravel area where cars park and drive (and can occasionally be seen sliding or doing doughnuts). This is an issue that will most likely be solved when the Dublin St Bridge is rebuilt, but as this is not likely until 2028 or later, in the meantime some safety improvements are required.

Proposal:

		
<p>Path widened + wooden posts extended to the left of this current footpath + footpath kept tidy.</p>	<p>Wooden posts moved 2-3 metres to the left and extended all the way to the shared pathway, creating a barrier between vehicles driving or parked and pedestrian/cyclists access. Path can remain gravel/shell rock.</p>	<p>Rocks to the right removed and path to join up with new shared pathway here.</p>

Issue 2 - No shared pathway connecting shared pathway beside Kowhai Park to the stopbank (James McGregor Memorial Park) shared pathway. The majority of pedestrians and cyclists go on the roadway here, behind parked cars in the carpark and around a blind corner by the stopbank.

Proposal:

		
<p>Removing this carpark and extending the shared pathway.</p>	<p>Widening the footpath on the right side of the bridge by making bridge one-way for cars or possibly removing vehicle access altogether.</p>	<p>Connecting the shared pathway to this part of the stopbank shared pathway and having a barrier at the bottom between vehicles and pedestrians or cyclists. This would be easier if bridge was one-way or had no access for vehicles.</p>

Issue 3 – Cars travelling too fast through Kowhai Park.

Proposal – 20km/hr or lower speed signs at all 4 entrances to the park. Speed bumps installed at appropriate places. Signage added for cars where shared pathway crosses the road. Also, limiting cars through some areas of the park.

Dublin Street Bridge

On the up-river side of the bridge, both entrance ways on to the bridge are dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists. On the Dublin Street side, there is a big drop off at the end of the footpath. On the Whanganui East side, the cyclists are pushed straight out on to the road, potentially close to traffic turning the corner.

Cobham Bridge to the State Hwy 4 roundabout

The 80km/hr stretch between the Cobham Bridge and State Highway 4 roundabout is hazardous for those using the underpass that goes under the bridge by Putiki, as it then has no pathway on the up-river side of the road. The majority of pedestrians and cyclists use the pathway with the barrier (on the down-river side of the road), and then have to cross the busy State Highway 3 (80km/hr zone) at the roundabout. The underpass, which is much safer for crossing, is hardly utilised.

Proposal – a barriered shared pathway is built on the up-river side of SH3 to join up the Cobham Street Bridge underpass with the footpath beside SH4.

Bollards on shared pathways

The old wooden style bollards are a trip hazard, hard to see and cannot be removed for events. The newer bollards are much more visible, but some also cannot be removed for events.



Old bollards. These need replacing over time.



Propose all new bollards are removeable, like this one near Trafalgar Square.



Downer New Zealand Limited

www.downer.co.nz
www.downercareers.co.nz

Target Cost Estimate – Rapanui Road Pathway

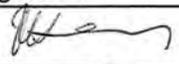
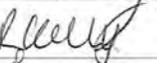
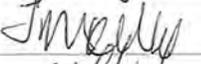
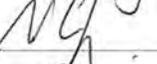
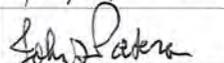
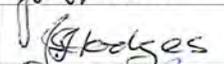
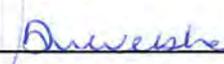
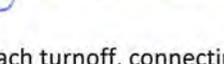
Stage 1

***excluding 270m of wetlands.**

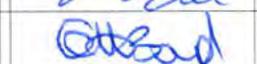
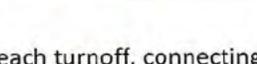
Stage 2

Stage 3

Proposed Rapanui Road Walking and Cycling Trail

Printed Name	Address	Contact	Signature	Comment
John KAY				Great idea - please extend down Francis and
VICTORIA KAY				Tayforth Roads.
Roger Kelly				Great idea.
Joanne Kelly				would be fantastic.
Neda Cowie (Mrs)				Would make it safer -
Pete Murray + Jade Murray				All for it! Will be safer, usable for young rural families
Victoria Hardy				Sounds fantastic
George + Christine Hardy				Great.
Cameron + Helen Hardy				Awesome.
Trish Watt				Great Idea!
Estelle Dawes				Fantastic
Kyle Pearce				Cool idea
Ger Luby				Great
Stephanie Pea				Brilliant idea.
Petra Paterson				Great idea. Even better to make it a
John Paterson				Especially help to make road safer for all. ^{Multi purpose trail!}
Jenny Hodges				Good Idea!
Margaret Reid				A long awaited cycle/walk track, Yes, great
Jason Reid				Good Idea
Barbara Wilson				would be really good.

Proposed Rapanui Road Walking and Cycling Trail

Printed Name	Address	Contact	Signature	Comment
S Caseloy				Excellent idea, think "Pish Pish" will give Sogley for exercise
L. Caseloy				Excitant, idea. Go for it.
T. Wakefield				Cool idea, fully supportive
D Broughton				Supportive of this
J Broughton				Support a cycle way.
F KIRK-MOORE				Fully supported by myself. Great idea
W MOORE				FULL SUPPORT - please fund for all
Dan King				Great idea to get bikes off road!
Kate King				Sounds fab for children
Vanessa Ford				Great - Way to go.
Jeanette Reddy				Fantastic! Go for it.
Erchan Reddy				Great Idea. I'm all for it.
Elizabeth Price				Very much needed
Gabrielle Boyd				Very much needed
ANDY STANTON				Great Idea. Really needed.
Wendy Humman				MUCH NEEDED FOR ALL!
Ian Williamson				Good Idea.
DANIEL CASSE				SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT OPTIONS
ALEX GAUTHIER				FULLY SUPPORT THIS IDEA

Proposed Rapanui Road Walking and Cycling Trail

Printed Name	Address	Contact	Signature	Comment
Lam & Sumita Dale				Fully support this project.
Anna & Bruce Jones				So excited. We love biking to town safely.
Phillip & Janice				Support this project.
Marcus Williamson				Support
TRENT WILLIAMSON				Support
Karen & Damon				Support
Gordon Pedersen				Support.
Nami Johnston				Need to support safety on this busy road.
Ange Cox				100% support!
Hamish Cox				Support.
DOUG PENN				Good Idea.
Ryan Johns				Support.
Kimmi Nash				Support.
EJ Gadsdorn				support - great idea ☺
S.G. & A.J. Fox				support enforce lane for all cyclists
James O'Donn				100% agreed!!!
Cathy Upchurch				Whoopie!!!
Angela Barnister				support - safety first
JO MARSH				Fully support this.
Greg Southern				Not sure about details.

Cycling Trail

Proposed Rapanui Road Walking and Cycling Trail

Printed Name	Address	Contact	Signature	Comment
Bruce Taylor Bman Reddi				love to see horses/riders supported The camp supports this 100% help? can we
Sophie Ross				Absolutely support !!
Diane Taylor				Great idea.
B. Alabaster				100% support
J Lamont				
Bianca				We need this people!
Nadine				Super needed!!!
David & Lily				Great Idea!
Helene Peter Thomson				Awesome.
Carol de Ridder				Wonderful.
Gery Seper				Make it happen
Zoë van der Wees				Yes!
Ari Langdon				
Sarah Lour				Great idea!
Zane Hair				Progress is Good!!!
Chelsea T				WE really need this.
Raewyn & Glenn Wa	via email	Support this project		
Carol Haddon	via email	Support this project		
Bruce & Kerri-ann M	via email	Support this project		

Proposed Rapanui Road Walking and Cycling Trail

Printed Name	Address	Contact	Signature	Comment
Yvonne Bradbury			via text	Sounds like a great idea. I support this.
Bruce & Jane Carson			via email	Definitely support a walkway/cycleway.
Jan & James Newell			via email	Definitely got our support.
Helen & Pete McIntyre			via email	Support the cycle path.
↓			via email	Support the cycle path.
Sheryn & Bryan Bedwell			via email	Support this project.
Kylie & Andrew Stewart			via email	We are in favour of this exciting cycle/walking track.
Niki Vernon			via email	This is a great idea.
van der Wees family			via email	We fully support this initiative.
Simon Richman & Liz Pav			via email	We add our support for the trail.
Gailene & Chris Dibben			via email	Totally support the proposed Rapanui Road walking & cycleway.
Christine & Kimmo Rookonummi			via email	We fully support this submission.
Rob & Gabrielle Boyd			via email	We fully support the cycleway.
David & Tracey Cotton			via email	We add our support for the trail.
Darrell Monk			via email	Totally support this initiative.
Glen & Nicki Spink			via email	Please add our support.
Judi Dean			via email	I would like to add my support for the cycleway.
Sandra Rodgers			via email	Support the trail.
John Baxter			via email	Support the trail.
Amber Ward & Caleb Gray			via email	We would love to add our support.

Proposed Rapanui Road Walking and Cycling Trail

Printed Name	Address	Contact	Signature	Comment
J Hollins			J Hollins	jandihollins@orcon.net.nz
Che Whitaker			Che	Che-grant@xtra.co.nz
Steve Mann's			SM	Steve@myblog.org.com
Shelley Debbie			Shelley	dobshell@xtra.co.nz
Judi Dean			Judi	deanjudi@xtra.co.nz
Card Carrick			Card	carrickcard@hotmail.com
Angela Astle			Angela	angela.astle@xtra.co.nz
Denise Bell			Denise	richarddenise@xtra.co.nz
Rhonda Bell			Rhonda	" " "
Nezelle Horrocks			Nezelle	gasmail29@gmail.com
Revelle Wise			Revelle	revellehorrocks@gmail.com
Amy Ellwood			Amy	
Glenys Ellwood			Glenys	
Margaret Keir			M. Keir	
Rachel Pullin			Rachel	
Laure Davis			Laure	
Jan Davison			Jan	
Kevin Booth			Kevin	
Chris Booth			Chris	

Proposed Rapanui Road Walking and Cycling Trail

Printed Name	Address	Contact	Signature	Comment
A. Handlen				very much in favour
R. Cooper				" " " "
A. Jones				Much safer for all
J. McAlley				Fully support this proposal
F. FORWARD				YES PLEASE !!
S. CARR				YES ALL THE WAY
M. Carr				Yes please. To take kids to school.
P+H Smith				YES, very much in favour.
LEN WILSON				yes.
Keith Stone				yes
David Taylor				- At present very unsafe
LOREANE IANAK				+ Great for cyclists in the city → essential + great attraction to bring people to W
Sumie Maddox				yes great for safety & young children
Kerry Podjursky				Yes
SEAN FRIESLAAR				YES!
Marika Frieslaar			Yes!	
Lucy Frieslaar			yes ☺	
Wigs Arathoon			great idea to make cycling out here safer.	

Community Project Report

RAPANUI ROAD TRAIL

A PROPOSED MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL ALONG RAPANUI ROAD, WHANGANUI

Authors:

Kai Iwi Beach Community Group



Artist's impression by: Sophie Ross

1 August 2023

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APPENDICES

- 1: Trail drawings
- 2: Quote from Downer
- 3: Signatures of support
- 4: Letter of support from Whanganui and Partners

This document has been created to promote the construction of a shell rock trail along the wide grass verge of Rapanui Road, Whanganui – a project currently known as ‘Rapanui Road Trail’. It discusses the many benefits such a trail will have for both the local community and the wider Whanganui community. It provides details as to the project’s scale, including the expected cost of the project and how it can be completed over stages. It can be used to form our group’s application to the Whanganui District Council’s Long-Term Plan, and for any subsequent fundraising or support raising efforts made towards this project.

PROJECT CONTACT DETAILS

Project Name: Rapanui Road Trail

Project Location: Rapanui Road, Whanganui

Project Organisers: Kai Iwi Beach Community Group

[Redacted contact information]

Key Stakeholders:

Kai Iwi Marae
Taipakee Marae
Te Aroha Marae
Westmere Primary School
Kai Iwi Beach Holiday Park
Pukeko’s Nest Café
Roto Mokoia/Westmere Lake Trust
Bason Botanic Gardens Trust
Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa
Wanganui Tramping Club
Sport Whanganui
Whanganui and Partners

Contact person:

Jude Cornelius
Macy Duxfield

Phil Walker, Principal
Bruce and Di Taylor

Phil Thomsen
Kevin Ross

Paul Chaplow

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Our community has a diverse population. Rapanui Road has approximately 200 residents. Mowhanau village has approximately 170 permanent residents and a number of holiday homes. New dwellings continue to be built in both areas, meaning that the population is ever increasing. At the eastern end of Rapanui Road, where it meets State Highway 3, there is the busy Pukeko's Nest café and a Caltex service station. The state highway makes Rapanui Road easily accessible, and means there is high traffic flow at this end. Westmere Primary School is located approximately one kilometre from this intersection on the corner of Rapanui Road and Francis Road. At the western end of Rapanui Road is Kai Iwi Beach and Mowhanau village. The village has a thriving holiday park that swells the population numbers in summer and a community hall where events are often held.

Tangata Whenua

The proposed project is within the rohe (tribal boundaries) of the Ngaa Rauru (The Iwi). The hapuu with interests in this area are Tamareheroto, as well as Ngaati Iti, and Ngaati Puukeko. The project group is aware, having had discussions with Te Kaahui o Rauru (the post settlement governance entity), that the entire area is of significance to the hapuu and the iwi. Whilst we have started discussions with some hapuu and Te Kaahui o Rauru representatives about this project, more consultation needs to occur. Our hope would be that this could become a partnership project with hapuu.

Kai Iwi Beach Community Group

This group formed in March 2023 and is made up of residents of Mowhanau village and Rapanui Road who are passionate about seeing this community thrive. One of the aims of the group is to coordinate, manage and support projects and activities for the benefit of the community, which is why this project is a perfect fit for the group. Our project team is one of the subcommittees of this group, and we are passionate about this project in particular and are dedicated to seeing it completed. We envisage that the creation of a trail along Rapanui Road will be of great benefit to not only our local community, but also the wider Whanganui community.



Photo by: Sumita Dale

PROJECT VISION

This project began with a 'safety first' focus.

It is clear that the narrowness of Rapanui Road combined with the 100 km/hr speed zoning of the road makes it dangerous for both motor vehicle drivers and those using the road for recreational purposes. Heavy transport vehicles are frequently travelling along the road getting to and from building sites or visiting farms. Caravans and campervans use the road to get to Kai Iwi Beach Holiday Park or the freedom camping site in the village. The school bus, rubbish trucks and large farm machinery are also regularly seen on the road. Now add to that people walking, running, bicycling and horse riding along the road at the same time and it is a recipe for disaster. Thankfully, according to Police, there have been no recorded serious crashes (N. Staples, personal communication, May 30, 2022), but most residents have experienced or witnessed near misses that have occurred along Rapanui Road, and why wait for someone to get hurt to act?

Prevention is key, especially when there is another option. A wide grass verge runs adjacent to the road most of the way along. The implementation of a trail along one side of the road using this grass verge would enable recreational users to be out of harm's way.

However, this trail will be about much more than just safety.

We see that it will bring not just the local community, but the whole Whanganui community together through its shared use. It will create a connection with the land. It will teach us about the important history of the area with significant sites acknowledged and stories laid out for future generations to read as they travel along it. It will enrich the environment as there is scope for native planting to occur alongside the trail, and it will get us out of cars and back to nature.

The many benefits of our proposed trail will now be discussed further.



Improving safety for all is just one of the many benefits Rapanui Road Trail will provide.

Photo by: Chris Booth

THE BENEFITS

Appreciation of Significant Sites

There are many sites of historical significance along Rapanui Road that can be tagged with information boards so trail users will have an educational experience whilst enjoying fresh air and physical activity.

Taipakee Marae

Hapuu representatives have made the project group aware of the historical connection of Taipakee Marae, currently located in Kai Iwi, just off State Highway 3 behind Kai Iwi School. Taipakee was historically located in Mowhanau, where the playground currently stands. Hapuu used this site as a fishing kainga to gather and preserve many species with traditional methods, to be shared amongst the hapuu as important food supply. There is an opportunity to raise awareness of this historical site and the connection of the hapuu to this area.

Rapanui Road also takes people to three stunning natural sites of significance in Whanganui – Roto Mokoia, Bason Botanic Gardens and Kai Iwi Beach.

Roto Mokoia



This lake is of great importance to hapuu. Archaeological evidence shows that the area was historically highly populated, and would have been an important freshwater and food resource in its time. There is an opportunity to raise awareness of this important site, and for hapuu to research and gather more information.

Roto Mokoia is only around 500 metres away from Westmere Primary School, however currently for the school to take its students on a trip to the lake they have to hire buses as this 500-metre stretch of road is too dangerous to walk along and there is no off-road alternative (P. Walker, personal communication, May 3, 2023). This is ludicrous. Our proposed trail will solve this problem and the students will be able to safely walk from school to the lake. We propose that this section of the trail is completed as a priority.

Bason Botanic Gardens



“The Bason Botanic Gardens is rated a ‘Garden of Regional Significance’ by the New Zealand Gardens Trust” (Discover Whanganui, 2023a). Our trail will bring more people to these celebrated gardens (Nash, 2022). It will also enable locals to access the gardens in a more environmentally-friendly manner as they walk, run or bicycle to them rather than drive. The garden’s Trust is considering creating a cycle trail of their own around the gardens and are in support of our trail.

Kai Iwi Beach



This beach is a taonga that is frequented by locals, Whanganui residents, and both national and international tourists. “You can swim, fish, laze in the sun or go for long walks” (Discover Whanganui, 2023b) at Kai Iwi Beach. With the creation of our trail a trip to the beach could become a whole day of family fun and adventure as a renewed connection between the beach and the abovementioned significant sites is formed.

Photos on this page by: Sumita Dale

Health

It is well documented that physical activity can improve physical and mental health, and the creation of a new trail is a great way to encourage people to increase their level of physical activity. In Waka Kotahi's *Cycling Action Plan* they write that "cycling has proven to be important for the development of a child's self esteem" (Waka Kotahi, 2023) and that "shifting just 5% of vehicle kilometres to cycling would save 116 lives per year" (Waka Kotahi, 2023). In the first instance we see that this trail would be used for recreational purposes predominantly, however once established there is potential to extend the trail along Francis Road and Tayforth Road, connecting it to Whanganui city, and make it a viable option for commuters – encouraging them out of motor vehicles and into alternative forms of transport.

This will not only improve the health of our people, but as a spin-off will improve the health of our environment as "high rates of car use are contributing heavily to our carbon footprint" (Waka Kotahi, 2023). The health of our environment could be further increased through the planting of native trees along the trail, aligning this project with the Government's One Billion Trees programme (Ministry for Primary Industries, 2023).

Safety

According to Waka Kotahi's *Cycle touring and bike-packing survey* cyclists found on-road experiences less enjoyable than off-road experiences, with safety being the main reason for this difference (Waka Kotahi, 2018). Common themes for cyclists feeling unsafe were roads that had no shoulder or were narrow in combination with high-speed traffic, a high volume of traffic, and lots of trucks and buses (Waka Kotahi, 2018). Whilst Rapanui Road is not a main road, it has a 100km/hr speed limit and there is relatively high traffic flow, of which includes trucks and heavy farm machinery. Providing an off-road option along Rapanui Road for cyclists, by way of our trail, would make cycling much safer. It can be surmised that other users of the road, such as walkers, runners or horse riders would share in the sentiments expressed in this survey and our trail would therefore benefit them also.

In addition, peak traffic flow heads east in the morning (to Whanganui) and west in the evening (to Mowhanau village). With the sun rising and setting in these locations, motorists are often blinded or visually impaired by low sun, which can make it impossible to spot a walker/cyclist on the road, again showing that an off-road option would make Rapanui Road safer for all.

Financial

"Cyclists and walkers are spending more on regional accommodation, food, beverage and hospitality providers, and associated tourism and leisure activities like transport or cultural events. Cycle trails are bringing a direct economic contribution to the regions." (Nash, 2022)

Stuart Nash says it all in his summary of findings from two reports that the Government produced which looked into the benefits cycle tourism provides for New Zealand (Nash, 2022). This trail will have financial benefits for already established Whanganui businesses as people from around the country and the world come to use it. It also opens the door to potential new businesses, such as bicycle hireage at either end (or both ends) of the trail.

In this cost-of-living crisis Whanganui families need to find low-cost activities that they can do to spend time together. This trail would meet their needs financially as it involves only the cost of petrol to drive to it and from there the rest of the outing is free. After school, kids could burn up their energy running along the trail, whilst on the weekend parents could turn it into a full day event as the whole family, including the dog, enjoy travelling from one beautiful site to the next along the road.

PROJECT SITE

The proposed trail will run adjacent to Rapanui Road, on Council road reserve. The trail will be formed of a 100mm thick compacted shell rock base and will be approximately two metres wide. It will, as much as possible, hug the boundary/fence line to create as much separation to the road corridor as able (see Appendix 1).

Impact on site

The trail extent can be divided into three sections:

Section 1 – State Highway 3 to Westmere Primary School

This section measures approximately 1360 metres and is reasonably simple to construct with no significant obstacles along the road reserve. There is an opportunity to take the trail into the wetlands of Roto Mokoia as a boardwalk, which will add interest to the trail. Consultation with Council's Parks Department has been undertaken and they support the concept.

Section 2 – Westmere Primary School to Bason Botanic Gardens

This section measures approximately 4105 metres. There are three road crossings in this section and it is the more complex part to construct with narrow berm sections and some trees to negotiate.

Section 3 – Bason Botanic Gardens to Mowhanau Drive.

This section measures approximately 2785 metres and is a relatively simple section of the route to construct. Initially, the trail users could go back onto the road to use the bridge to cross Mowhanau Stream, later a dedicated walking and cycling bridge can be added for an additional cost.

These sections translate into three stages for costing the project (see Project Scale on the next page).

The trail can be accessed from the city at the eastern end from the wide sealed shoulder along State Highway 3 or at Westmere Primary School from Francis Road. Parking is also available at Roto Mokoia, Bason Botanic Gardens and Kai Iwi Beach which will enable users to choose the distance they wish to travel on each visit to the trail.

Consents

No Resource Consents or Building Consents are anticipated to be required for the trail. A bridge over Mowhanau Stream would require both a Resource Consent and a Building Consent.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We understand that at some point it may be necessary to install a pipeline along Rapanui Road to transport sewerage from Mowhanau village to the city's water treatment plant. This could provide the perfect opportunity to commence construction of the trail and it may help to mitigate costs.

PROJECT SCALE

Size

The total length of the proposed Rapanui Road Trail (from State Highway 3 to the intersection with Mowhanau Drive) is in the order of 8.3 kilometres. As mentioned above, the project can be delivered in three stages to spread the cost over three or more years and to match resources available to undertake the work.

Stage 1: State Highway 3 to Westmere Primary School (approximately 1.4 kilometres)

Stage 2: Westmere Primary School to Bason Botanic Gardens (approximately 4.1 kilometres)

Stage 3: Bason Botanic Gardens to Mowhanau Drive (approximately 2.8 kilometres)

The optional boardwalk into Roto Mokoia wetland area would enhance the journey along the trail and the local experience for those visiting just the lake (approximately 270 metres). The dedicated walking and cycling bridge over Mowhanau Stream would enhance safety and the enjoyment of the trail, however this can be added later (approximately 20 metres).

Cost

Downer have provided a cost estimate (excluding GST) as follows (see Appendix 2):

Stage 1 = \$189,195

Stage 2 = \$612,060

Stage 3 = \$464,746

TKOR comments regarding cost:

Please note that hapuu/iwi support of this proposal would be contingent on some of these activities being included as part of the project costs. These include:

- Accidental Discovery protocol (this will include the attendance of hapuu representative to oversee any earthworks)
- The inclusion of information boards along the cycleway, costs would include research and hui amongst hapuu and the community, as well as material and installation costs.
- A toi maaori (artistic) component, (mowhanau at the end of the trail is a suggested location) which provides a visual representation of the mana whenua of the area.

Whilst a comprehensive cost analysis needs to be conducted, we suggest that \$100,000 is added to the project over the three stages as a baseline figure.

Therefore, the total project cost is estimated at \$1.37 million, excluding GST.

Cost of additional projects that can be added later:

- Boardwalk at Roto Mokoia = \$150,000
- Bridge/Culvert over Mowhanau Stream = \$200,000

Therefore, the complete project cost is estimated at \$1.72 million, excluding GST.

Time

If funding was available, we would look to undertake Stage 1 in the 2024/25 financial year. The other stages could be built as more funding becomes available.

WHAT WE NEED

We are asking for four things from the Council:

1. We would like this project to be adopted into the Long-Term Plan to show that the Council endorse it.
2. We would like acknowledgement from the Council that they are prepared to allow what is currently road reserve to be used for this trail.
3. We would like the trail vested to Council so that when this project is completed the Council will commit to future maintenance of the trail.
4. We would like Council to commit to funding a proportion of this project.

WHAT WE WILL DO

If the Council is able to help us with the above then we commit to:

1. Assist with fundraising for the project accordingly.
2. Assist with consultation with the local community and key stakeholders.
3. Continued promotion of the trail through our various networks.

We believe that Waka Kotahi's Transport Choices Funding Advisor said this is a project they would consider funding through the Streets for People programme, provided it was shovel ready and Council supported in time for when the next funding opportunity is advertised by Waka Kotahi.

Q&As

Are people likely to use this trail if it is built?

In the wise words of W. P. Kinsella we would say 'if you build it, they will come'!

One only has to look at how successful the Upokongaro trail has been since having been built to see that Rapanui Road Trail will be a success. This success is mirrored in many other trails around the country that have brought people to them once they have been built, such as the Coastal Walkway in New Plymouth and the Great Lake Trails in Taupo.

Aren't there more important things to spend money on at the moment?

It can be said that economic times are tough at the moment. Building this trail will need to be considered alongside other projects and prioritised accordingly. This is why firstly we would like to have this trail included in the Long-Term Plan so that it is there as a long-term goal for our district. However, we also suggest that this trail will have positive financial benefits (as mentioned above) and any outlay could be off-set by gains to the community as a whole, for example an increase in tourism bringing more money into Whanganui. In addition, the health and safety benefits of this trail provide further justification that this investment will be money well spent for generations to come.

Aren't road cyclists still likely to use the road anyway?

In the short-term probably yes, but a shell rock trail could easily be tar sealed at a later stage to then mean that all non-motor vehicle users of the road could be out of harm's way. Small steps first to get us started...

Will horse riders be able to use the trail?

Yes. We see this as a multipurpose trail that is inclusive of all non-motor vehicle road users. Leaving a strip of grass verge next to the trail will provide space for horses, and with clear signage and appropriate conditions we believe all can be catered for. We want all sectors of our community to be able to enjoy this trail.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Here are a few quotes from community members about this project so far:

“A bike trail/path from SH3 to Mowhanau/Kai Iwi Beach would be a great asset for the school.

I can only think of 1 child who bikes to school out of 220! There are children who live on Rapanui Road and connecting roads, so a trail will give these children the opportunity to bike to school.

As a school we want to be more involved in Westmere Lake. A trail to the lake will give our children and teachers a safe passage and opportunities to be more involved with this local treasure.

A trail will give teachers the opportunity to explore and use the local community more for teaching and learning: dairy farms, farming, local businesses, Bason Botanic Gardens, etc.”

[REDACTED]

“Excellent idea. Think ‘push play’. Will give safety for exercise.”

[REDACTED]

“As residents of Rapanui Road close to the village we have been cycling to and from work in town over the last 5 years. It is clear to us that many drivers are not aware of the 1.5-metre passing rule as signposted along the road. A lot of drivers do not seem to understand the vulnerability of cyclists when passing at high speed (100 kph) and how we all fit into the narrow space provided; thinking of oncoming traffic, especially on blind corners. We all have a right to be road users but ideally, the proposed cycle/walkway would keep us all safe and able to enjoy the journey.”

[REDACTED]

“I support the project for the cycle trail on Rapanui Rd.

For many years I cycled from my home in Peakes Rd to Kai Iwi Beach and back . This has helped to keep me fit and active. However around 12 months ago, after an extremely close call with a truck and trailer unit carting sand, I haven’t done this circuit as much. Perhaps as I’ve got older, I don’t feel as bullet proof as I used to.

My wife and I both use the tracks around the river and the new track to Upokongaro, but at this stage my wife wouldn’t bike to Kai Iwi due to safety concerns. I totally support the idea of a track out to Kai Iwi Beach and would love to go back to being a regular rider to the beach. And if there’s a coffee and scone at the local cafe all the better.”

[REDACTED]

From Kai Iwi Beach Holiday Park:

“The park receives many visitors who bring push bikes and ask where they could use them in our area. We never recommend the existing roads as we consider them dangerous from our own experience and the feedback of past campers. Riding is a common past time of camp ground visitors particularly in the retired and German groups (Germans are our biggest foreign visitor group). Push bikes are an easy addition to a camper van and provide a way to explore an area. We are sure a new cycleway would quickly spread amongst domestic tourists and attract more people to our camp ground. It would also provide a great experience for campers with many photogenic opportunities from such a ride helping promote the area.

We are soon to re-open our public cafe in the camp. When it operated over the previous two summers quite a number of people did bike here from town. Sometimes they loop around the road and beach through to Castlecliff. This cycleway group would increase cafe business as well as the cafe increase use of the cycleway making it possible for a wider range of cyclists. The ever increase in popularity of electric push bikes means a wider group can get out further while still getting exercise and still being able to manage the ride. These are particularly popular with older riders.

The Camp fully supports the creation of this cycleway seeing it as great for the local people, a large increase in safety in our area and good for the camp and cafe as well as other local businesses (such as the various vendors at the beach). Cycling is very popular with our domestic and foreign camping friends.”



A door-knock along Rapanui Road and around Mowhanau village produced over 100 signatures of support for this project (see Appendix 3). We are now working on gaining Whanganui-wide support (see Appendix 4).

CONCLUSION

This project will be of benefit to the Whanganui community.

The trail will make Rapanui Road safer for all users. It will improve the health of the population and the environment, and it will bring financial gains to the district through increased tourism. It will connect three treasured Whanganui sites and draw more people to them. The local community of Rapanui Road and Mowhanau village is continuing to grow and already established businesses in the area are thriving making investment in this community a sound choice. Money, time and effort spent now to construct this trail will bring long-lasting enjoyment for our future generations to come.

Please include this project in the Long-Term Plan.

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The Whanganui District Council Youth Council recommends that the District Council create a Youth Advisory Board that will be included in issues relevant to youth, Rangatahi and initiatives financed and supported by the proposed 10,000 for youth initiatives.

We suggest that this will consist of 8-10 diverse Rangatahi (including those already involved in the Youth Council that still wish to be involved) who will liaise alongside the Whanganui District Council, Councillor Charlotte Melser and any relevant organisations in Whanganui who seek consultation from the proposed Youth Advisory Board to the Whanganui District Council.

We acknowledge that the Youth Council hasn't been functioning to the best of its ability, however, we also ask you to consider the circumstances and cards we have been dealt. Staff have left and resigned, including our Project Support Officer. We have been without a Project Support Officer for over a year. A PSO is an important part of Youth Council production and engagement.

The Youth Council is crucial to Rangatahi engagement in civics and activism in Whanganui. While our team were, and are, deeply against disestablishment - we believe the idea of a Youth Advisory Group with Rangatahi involvement **in all processes** - is a solution that will save council money and allow youth engagement in a similar capacity.

The purposes of the Youth Councillors are stated below:

- WDC has been a cornerstone for youth engagement in local decision-making
- Empower young people to be the best they can be and provide resources and opportunities so they can succeed
- To ensure Whanganui is a vibrant and inclusive environment where young people love to be
- To engage young people in civics and leadership
- Support rangatahi and their initiatives. This can be through volunteer work, advocacy and/or financial avenues.

We have produced and participated in events and projects such as:

- Funded initiatives such as Awhi te Rangatahi and \$600 ships
- Offered leadership opportunities to members via events such as FFTF
- Attended and volunteered at events like Puanga Rising

- Consulted with Youth Services Trust and their recent re-branding
- Consulted on numerous surveys
- Funded the Youth Services Trust/Whatever street party this May

These are just some.

The youth council and its members have struggled to find motivation and inspiration amidst change and resignations. We appreciate everyone who has supported us, but we are frustrated due to the lack of transparency from Councillors and others. In the future, we would like to see the Youth Council re-instated in some capacity, but after discussions and workshops, we have agreed that a Youth Advisory Board is our best solution at this point.

We hope you consider this recommendation. Disestablishing the Youth Council and not acknowledging or considering something similar to a Youth Advisory Group will allow young people's voices to go unrepresented in council and government contexts in the Whanganui District.

Kia ora Chief Executive David, Mayor Andrew Tripe and Councillors Anderson, Baker-Hogan, Brown, Chandulal-Mackay, Craig, Duncan, Fallen, Joblin, Law, Melser, Oskam and Vinsen.

My name is Holly Davies. I'm a Co-Chair at the Whanganui District Council Youth Council.

I started Youth Council at sixteen. I'm standing here before you at eighteen.

After moving away for almost ten years, I had just moved back to Whanganui and was struggling with moving schools halfway through the year. I was politically inclined and becoming painfully loud. When I was sixteen, in 2021, my mother sent me a link to apply for the Youth Council. I think that was her way of getting me to debate politics and human rights with anyone other than her, my sister or my dad.

This kid with excited eyes and kicking feet from my French class interviewed me for the Youth Councillor position. Now she's one of my very best friends. Charlotte Hardy was a Co-Chair before me, and with me.

From projects at the library, consultation with Youth Services Trust, helping with Puanga Rising, funding sports teams, community projects creating space for young artists and interviewing local politicians, I couldn't be more proud of our team.

Of course, there is more we want to do and more we will do; however, we are struggling at the moment with our support team's excessive workload and lack of transparency. While we understand a multitude of projects and groups are being looked into due to a tight and stressed budget at the council, we are concerned that the disestablishment of the Youth Council will be followed by a lack of representation for Rangatahi and minorities in the Whanganui district.

I want to know why it is so hard to discuss this disestablishment. Why it is so hard for people to know it's happening? Why did so many people not know about it till it was front page of the Chronicle, but they knew about other potential cuts? Why it was barely even in the fine print of the LTP? Some councillors and members have backed away from conversations on this decision. **If you voted on it, why can't you speak on it?**

The latest formal photo of the Youth Council sitting above the coffee machine is from 2017. That speaks volumes. The fact that our team is so small at the moment - that speaks volumes. The fact that half of you probably didn't remember my name, my fellow members names, until I said it before you today speaks volumes. I could go on.

Yes, the Youth Council hasn't been performing to the best of its ability. I assure you, I'd be the first to admit that, to stress about it. But think about it like this.

We were left without a project support officer. Even though this council promotes well-being as one of their strategies in this long-term plan, members of the well-being team resigned. And because there are insufficient funds to hire a project support officer. I ask, where are the funds going? I ask, why wasn't the youth council consulted? We have so many ideas.

Mayor Tripe said in an article, stating, *"I think they've done a great job but we just want a wider reach and a more informal structure."*

While I respect your perspective and opinion, which Rangatahi did you consult with? What did they tell you about wanting an informal structure around issues relevant to them, their peers and other Rangatahi?

Rangatahi have minds, ideas and thoughts made for problem-solving and we are resilient. But we shouldn't have to be so resilient you think you can take away our voice in this capacity.

The Youth Council saved my life, it has given me skills nothing else could have. And I stand before you, desperate to tell you just how much these people in this team mean to me.

Most of you don't know our names. But MC is one of the funniest people I've met, she is energetic and insane and I've never seen anyone's eyes light up more than I've seen hers light up at the sight of pickles. Kereama has grown into this bold, enthusiastic bundle of sunshine and I admire his passion. Joyce is comedic, and sweet and has so much curiosity and interest. Kai does too. He's shy but so blunt in a way that I am jealous of. He has wonderful ideas and asks questions everyone else forgets. Aarnah is intensely smart with the most adorable smile and again, is so funny and intuitive. Harry is new to Youth Council but he is vibrant, inclusive and conscious. James is still quiet, but sweet, and we're still working on cracking that shell. Lola is my big little sister, she keeps me in line and keeps me laugh-crying. Reina is a pain in my butt, however, I'd die for her just the same. Poppy is kind, patient and thoughtful. She knows what she wants, and what she's doing with her life. And I admire that.

I want more people to join this team, and I want more people to jump on from different backgrounds and help make the Whanganui District inclusive and safe for all young people.

Criminal Minds is my favourite show, and once Penelope Garcia said, *"Don't they understand that we're a family? That's why this works because we're a family. Do they even care?"*

But if you do care, and there is still no possibility of keeping the Youth Council, I request the Whanganui District Council consider a Youth Advisory Group. We, the Youth Council, suggest that this will consist of 8-10 diverse Rangatahi (including those already involved in the Youth Council that still wish to be involved) who will liaise alongside the Whanganui District Council, Councillor Charlotte Melser and any relevant organisations in Whanganui who seek consultation from the proposed Youth Advisory Board to the Whanganui District Council.

Councillors, staff, district, team, either way, we'll continue advocating without you. But it's up to you guys whether or not you want to be on the right side of history, and the future.

I am happy to answer questions now, and in future. I will be fighting for, and with, my team. For a youth voice.

If we lose our Youth Council, if a Youth Advisory Board is not considered, here's a quote from Charlie Brown: "*Goodbyes make my throat hurt.*"

I'm sure that when I read this, my throat will be hurting a lot. It hurts as I write this. And I know that if it's disbanded it still won't be over, that we can still advocate in other ways. But with love, my throat still hurts.



Homes for People Trust – Whanganui District Council LTP Submission

Homes for People is a social enterprise, established in July 2016, that exists to alleviate poverty by providing affordable housing to low income persons and families. Homes for People is a response to the barriers many people find to entering the housing market, both the home ownership and rental housing markets. We have a skilled and passionate team with a wide range of valuable skills and have successfully constructed 29 homes in the Manawatu and Horowhenua regions, eight practically complete awaiting titles, with another 30 plus homes in various stages of the development pipeline.

Homes for People have successfully delivered a variety of assisted homeowner outcomes. Two of our programmes are accredited through the governments Progressive Home Ownership programme. Homes for People are also a government accredited Transitional Housing provider, serving up to 67 households within the Palmerston North Community.

Provincial New Zealand has growing housing needs. Since September 2022, Homes for People have developed a relationship with First Rung Trust. First Rung is a collective of caring, practical and skilled Whanganui residents with a vision to implement innovative home ownership programmes in the Whanganui district, fostering housing-related education, and contributing to the supply of quality homes in the area. As First Rung's objectives strongly align with Homes for People's, we have worked together to identify possible sites and via a strategic investment have acquired our first property for development.

The recent acquisition of 7 Gilmore Street, Gonville is our first development site achieved under a newly established entity; Community Impact investment. This property sits between two similar sized parcels of land owned by Whanganui District Council. This location ideally suits housing for first homeowners, people looking to downsize and potential for additional community housing outcomes. We would like to explore how we might work together with your council to achieve an overall housing plan for this location and consider options for other sites to help address the housing needs in the community.

We would like to speak in support of our submission. Homes for People endorses First Rung's submission and would ask to be allocated within the same hearing session.

Ngā mihi

Vaughan Dennison

In conjunction with Darren Birch (Co- Founder & CEO)

Homes for People Trust. |. E: darren@homeforpeople.co.nz |. M: 021 448 408

SUBMISSION to WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034

HOTEL and CAR PARK

This document accompanies my written submission to the WDC Long Term Plan and relates to the Options put forward by Council for a proposed Hotel & Carpark . I wish to speak to this submission at the hearing process .

In Option 1 Council is proposing to spend 1 million dollars on this project in the 24/25 year .This is presumably to prepare a business case – research potential leases- maybe even secure options on a potential site .

I am concerned that this is premature unless all of the questions regarding this have been assessed . I do not support Options 1 or 2 for reasons outlined below . I would support an Option which looked at all alternatives to provide additional hotel accommodation in Whanganui being further investigated .It is difficult to respond to this Council proposal as no detail is provided about potential site ,design or potential impact on the urban environment . It also seems to go completely against what Council has said in the past about what constitutes “ Core Council business “

Efforts to build a new hotel in Whanganui have been going on for many years . I have been involved with 2 of these – in the mid 1980's when mayor Doug Turney charged the Whanganui Development Company with the task of investigating the idea . We were able to identify suitable land and 2 major hotel operators who were prepared to come to Whanganui but sign a 3 year lease only .Another attempt was made in the early 90's to develop the Levin & Co building (known at the time as Backhouse and later purchased and developed by UCOL) Adjoining buildings would also have been involved . I am aware of another attempt several years ago .

This raises the question about viability – if it is such a good idea to have a large hotel in Whanganui why have astute and experienced developers not done so ? It is possibly because they do not see the necessary viability . Habits of travellers in NZ and elsewhere have changed over the years . Air B&B has become very popular with a large number of people who enjoy the independence and contact with locals . The great Bus Tours, which used to be the backbone of internal tourism in NZ seem to have lost considerable favour .Many travellers avoid large modern hotels instead favouring smaller boutique hotels with character and history .Would that not be a better solution for Whanganui - several smaller hotels of character perhaps utilising some heritage buildings in their footprint

A further concern is the inclusion of a carpark with the hotel – well it would be a concern if this is proposed to be a large carpark . This will add considerably to the cost and possibly not be economically viable . Many hotels in bigger cities in NZ do not have carparks at all -or only small ones . They offer a valet service in which the hotel parks the guest car close by in a public facility and charges a fee for doing so .

If it has been confirmed that Whanganui is short of 60 hotel beds- have existing hotels been considered as potential facilities which could be easily enlarged .? For example both the Rutland Arms Inn and The Kingsgate Hotel have vacant land on which further rooms could be built .A public/private partnership between Council and private owners could be a practical ,much less expensive (to Council) and contain far less risk than council building a large new hotel complex.

The construction of a hotel in isolation from other facilities is one prospect . Has thought been given to linking it to existing facilities /or creating new ones all of which could build the complex into a more exciting venue with other related activities .There is potential here particularly in a public /private partnership .

Should a 60 bed hotel with equivalent carpark be built in central Whanganui it would make a huge impact on the urban environment . Perhaps Council has identified a site outside of the CBD or at least on land where little or no impact would be had on the heritage values of our existing town centre . It would be reassuring or not to know Councils thinking on a potential site .

In 1991 a small group of people purchased the Rutland Hotel building . It had lain idle for 6 years and was in poor repair. The Council of the day was encouraging a developer to purchase the site and all of the buildings in the Ridgway Street block -All for demolition . There a single storey Farmers Store would be built with a large carpark – a large White building with red signs . We managed to secure the Rutland building before that could happen and regenerate a business there and viable commercial uses . The alternative would have been the biggest blow to the central cities heritage values since the Trafalgar Square blunder . There would have been no “ Best street of the Year Award “ for Ridgway Street and the now nationally regarded heritage values irreparably damaged . If those values are to be upheld and indeed further extended great care needs to be taken with any developments in the town centre and I would have thought that that care needs to be lead by Council .In recent times Council have commissioned 2 reports about the value of the heritage buildings in the town centre and what income have these buildings and the environment generally brought into the city -which would not have come otherwise . Both of these reports identified significant income – I think between \$20 and \$30 million per year . This income has been hard won and great care needs to be taken not to damage that .

If research establishes that there is a shortage of 60 or some other number of hotel bedrooms -and that shortage should be provided in the centre of town then Council will need to carefully consider how those rooms are best provided for and by whom . As pointed out previously there are many options that could be considered .Both myself and The Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust are extremely concerned about what effects various choices could have on the urban environment and heritage values . Rather than being negative about it members of the trust would like to offer their assistance to Council in assessing various aspects of different options which Council may consider in the future .

There is considerable experience in the Trust both in architectural /heritage /urban design and other fields pertinent to this study . That offer of assistance would be at no cost to the Council and ratepayer .

SUBMISSION to WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN 2024-34

ROYAL WHANGANUI OPERA HOUSE

This document accompanies my written submission to the WDC Long Term Plan and relates to the Options put forward by Council for the Royal Whanganui Opera House. I wish to speak to this submission at the hearing process.

I applaud the Council's intention to carry out up grading work to this significant local and national icon. I do not think that I need to say anything further about the value of this building in terms of its history, architecture and historic values (heritage) because I am sure that Council fully understands this. It is included in the Councils List of Heritage buildings as a Class A building and in Heritage New Zealand's List as a Category 1 Building. There are no higher values possible.

While I applaud Council's wish to carry out upgrading work to this building I am deeply concerned about the work which Council is proposing to carry out. I attended the council run information meeting on Friday 19 April which only caused to deepen my concern.

I have significant knowledge and experience in working with this building and I would like to share this experience with Council. In 2015, building historian, Wendy Pettigrew and I were commissioned by Council to write a CONSERVATION REPORT on the building with responses to the proposed strengthening work preliminary design which had been carried out by BPL Engineers. I recommend this document to Council – I also recommend that this document should be updated once Council has decided on what it does intend to do so that the effects of any work can be measured against heritage values. In fact this work should already have been done so that Council could be fully informed as to effects on the heritage values of a building so much loved by the community.

Later in 2015 and 2016 I acted as architect for the project which strengthened the building to 34% NBS, upgraded various fire safety issues and carried out some improvements and maintenance work. The budget for this work was low and not all of the work which perhaps should have been done was able to be. Nevertheless council carried out what was necessary to allow the building to comply with the NZ Building Code and continue in its operations

What the Conservation Report and subsequent building work was able to understand was that this wonderful building, an outstanding example of Victorian Theatre architecture, was just that a Victorian Theatre. Designed for theatre productions 125 years ago (although altered substantially in 1919) the building no longer caters for large and complex productions. The Opera House is still highly regarded nationally and well loved and used locally – even with its limitations. Council in 2015 accepted that. Productions would come that suited the Stage and background stage facilities and local productions would be designed to also fit within the limitations. Perhaps the largest and most regular production held in the Opera House is the Whanganui Opera Week opera celebration which designs its production to fit within the limitations set by the stage and facilities. This concert fills the 800 seats and is the highlight of WOW's public presentations.

The WDC has commissioned a Health & Safety Audit of the Stage and Stage facilities which has informed Council that there are serious shortcomings which need to be addressed. I agree fully that these matters need to be addressed. From my reading of the "Options" put forward to Council it seems to me that none of them actually address the requirements of the Audit in themselves. Option 1 does not go far enough but Option 2 onwards leads the project into an upgrading of the entire area into a response for compliance with modern day Theatre Stage expectations. This it is

said will allow much bigger productions to come and raise the Opera House into another league of theatre .The question Council should ask itself is – what are these productions ,how many of them would come and how many Whanganui citizens would attend (the cost of theatre tickets to these productions will be high and certainly at a national level of seat cost)

I ask Council to consider another option – and that is one which answers the shortcomings raised by the Safety Audit plus provides structural strengthening to the Fly Floor and Upper Galleries . This would allow the entire existing stage area to be used without the intrusion of scaffolding . In other words an Option of work between 1 and 2 as currently proposed .This would be at a substantially lower cost than that proposed for Option 3 as currently being considered .

There are 4 other matters which I would like Council to consider if they have not already done so

1 – The Opera House is a Category 1 Building , of national and local interest and any alterations to it will require Resource Consent which can be expected to be publically notified . The proposed design for an enlarged Stage and facilities shows a significantly larger building both in width and height – from the original structure and as it is now . This new structure will visually overpower the remainder of the Opera House building . I cannot see how this will do anything other than damage current heritage values both architecturally and historically. Council can expect to receive significant objections from Heritage NZ and the Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust as well as many others concerned about the maintainance of the architecture and heritage values of this historic building .

2 -The estimates of cost which have been provided for all options may not be achievable for a variety of reasons . The experience with The Sarjeant Project ,where I believe the original cost of \$33 million dollars has increased to over \$ 70 million ,would suggest that a significant contingency sum needs to be allowed for .As in the case of the Sarjeant the Opera House is a very old building with many unknowns particularly under the ground and within the structure .

3 – The budgets for these options include significant support funding from outside sources – this type of funding is becoming much more difficult to obtain due to economic conditions and the fact that the number of private altruistic funds is reducing .

4- Should any of Options 2 to 4 be chosen council needs to think about what will have been achieved . Yes the Stage and its facilities will have been enlarged and upgraded to the point that large and complex productions could come to the Opera House but how economic will the investment be in terms of cost recovery /how many productions will actually come and how many Whanganui citizens would actually attend There will still be a large number inadequacies in the remainder of the building left unaddressed .The major one of these is that the entire public /patron part of the building will be left @ 34% NBS . This is the minimum standard of strength required by the Building Code and would probably ensure safety of life . It is generally agreed by structural engineers that in order to ensure that a building can be economically repaired after a major earthquake a strength level of at least 67% should be achieved .

There are two main factors in achieving a great theatre experience for the patrons – The quality and content of the production itself and the comfort and experience of the attendance – the experience of arrival /the interval /and the departure after the performance .

The Opera House with its 1899 design and 1919 alterations is inadequate in many ways for modern day theatre . But I think that Whanganui citizens accept these inadequacies as part of their recognition of this grand old theatre from our past .The inadequacies are many and I will list a few

The theatre entry (internal and external) is too small for a big attendance

The exterior space outside the theatre is much too small --patrons spill out onto the road before and after performances – there is danger from passing traffic .

The mezzanine bar area was never designed for that purpose and is way too small

The toilets are all on the lower level which means patrons compete for space going up to the bar and going down to the toilets

There are safety from falling issues in the Circle and Upper Circle

Disabled persons entry does not comply with the requirements of the Building Code and provides a demeaning experience for disabled people

The theatre does not have an adequate heating/cooling and ventilation system

There are other areas where the building does not reach modern day standards-for example insulation

In my opinion Council has two main choices . The first is to ensure that the building is safe and compliant in all matters including the Stage and facilities – and then accept the glorious Royal Whanganui Opera House for what it is – much loved by the community and country alike – with all of its limitations .That is an Option between 1 and 2

OR

Seek to upgrade the entire theatre over a period of time so that the “theatre experience from a wide variety of different productions can be the best that it can be and up with national standards “ This would require a great deal more work and funding than is currently being proposed (which only addresses about half of what would be required)

Donne, Fiona

Telephon [redacted] [redacted]

Fiona & Peter Donne

"Gods Acre"

[redacted] [redacted] P [redacted],

[redacted],

Wanganui,

New Zealand.

EXTRA SHEET

16.4.92 24

To sum up :-

We do not seem to have the money for many basic items which most of us use on a regular basis eg. the footpaths, the bus shelters, the Aramoho rail bridge a very well used facility which deserves to be renewed but only a patch up job will be done as no funding for more.

Big Ticket items grab the headlines and seem to also get the funding.

Whatever pot this comes from the ratepayers still have to contribute in some way at some stage.

I would also like to ask how many of our citizens will bother to read the long term plans let alone do a submission, it took me two and a half hours to read through the long term plan document and then fill in the submission, maybe I am just a slow reader!!

Having said that I think the Council have done their part in trying to involve us in what is planned for the years ahead

Thank you all.



3rd May 2024

[REDACTED]
Whanganui District Council

Dear [REDACTED]

We were recently made aware of the business case regarding the Whanganui Airport Parallel Taxiway Project. We have carefully reviewed the information provided and would like to express our position regarding Air Chathams Limited's support for the investment in this project.

While we acknowledge the importance of maintaining safety standards at Whanganui Airport, we do not agree that the safety benefits of the parallel taxiway are as critical as stated in the business case. We believe the current configuration of grass and sealed taxiways adequately supports our operations without compromising safety. And have had no internal safety reports or occurrences that would have been mitigated or prevented had there been a parallel taxiway in place. We agree that runway occupancy could be improved by a parallel taxiway but do not agree that it would justify an investment of \$6,700,000. Our flights do not experience major delays departing or arriving into Whanganui as a result of traffic needing to taxi on the active sealed runway before take-off or after landing. Furthermore, we find the local users very accommodating of our scheduled and charter flights and communicate well their intentions including using the currently available grass taxiways to facilitate our aircraft movements.

It's also our understanding that Air Chathams' aircraft fleet is not able to utilize the parallel taxiway due to our fleet size and weight. Therefore, the proposed parallel taxiway would not directly result in increased safety benefits for our fleet or for the fleet of Air Whanganui (as we understand it). Given this limitation, we believe that the projected safety improvements do not justify the investment required for the parallel taxiway project.

Additionally, we observe that the nearby airport in Palmerston North, despite substantially greater commercial flight frequency and hosting a large flight academy, operates effectively with only two main sealed runway access points and no full-length parallel taxiway. This suggests that there are alternative means to ensure safe and efficient airport operations without the necessity of a large local investment in a parallel taxiway.

Air Chathams contributed to the recent aeronautical study and supported the findings of the report especially in relation to the investment in the local UNICOM service which is now established and operating. UNICOM provides immediate and accurate information to pilots including Air Chathams operated flights on local



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traffic, local weather and other information on request. We believe that this safety control provides the critical traffic information our flight crews need to make safe operational decisions to significantly reduce the risks related to runway incursion.

We recognise that at certain times of the year the surface conditions preclude use of grass taxiways for light aircraft users. And the grass taxiways currently do not have lighting to facilitate use at night. Air Chathams position is that the total number of days when the existing grass taxiways cannot be used due to surface condition combined with lower local air traffic volumes at night does not justify a \$6,700,000 local investment. And that the safety and commercial returns would not support that expenditure at this time or likely in the future either.

We supported the initial proposal because it was related to the runway and apron reseal which was required to maintain a usable and compliant airport. The parallel taxiway was part of that singular project using construction resource already engaged in the reseal project. So it made sense to support the entire project although we did consider the parallel taxiway portion an added luxury even back then.

Air Chathams would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission further with councillors.

We would like to emphasize that if the council is interested in investing in airport-related initiatives that could drive substantial commercial and social development within the district, an investment equivalent to or less than the funding required from Whanganui Council for the proposed parallel taxiway would be adequate to collaborate with Air Chathams in establishing a new route linking Whanganui with Christchurch International Airport. There is considerable demand from the local Whanganui community for a direct service to Christchurch, as evidenced by the feedback we regularly receive.

Additionally, if Air Chathams were able to establish two feasible routes from Whanganui, connecting to both Auckland (an existing route) and Christchurch, it would present compelling commercial opportunities for us to explore relocating other aspects of our operations to Whanganui. This could encompass aircraft maintenance, flight crew training, airline management, and customer reservations. Presently, we incur significant expenses through commercial leases at Auckland Airport properties, and we would welcome a more cost-effective and collaborative approach, which I am confident the Whanganui District Council could offer.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Air Chathams Limited



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POINT OF ENTRY BUSINESS CASE

Project initiation date: 1 July 2024

Project title: **Whanganui Airport Parallel Taxiway Project**

Hapū/iwi active partnership consideration: Inform (providing understanding)

The proposed layout of the parallel taxiway largely follows the approximate lines of the current grass taxiways and will be contained within the existing airport boundaries land and a small area of Whanganui Port Limited Partnership land immediately adjacent to the north-eastern corner of the airport. The level of aircraft activity on the parallel taxiway remains the same as for the current grass taxiways.

Business case prepared by: [REDACTED]

Business owner: General Manager Community Property & Places

PROBLEM / OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

The existing configuration of grass and sealed taxiways at Whanganui Airport is no longer suitable for the increased level of aircraft activity at the airport. This creates inefficient operations, due to aircraft needing to backtrack¹ on the active runway, and increases the likelihood of a catastrophic aircraft incident occurring.

Due to a substantial growth in aircraft movements the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) directed that an aeronautical study be conducted. This directive specifically included the requirement to “...assess if significant change to the aerodrome physical characteristics are required to support ongoing safe operations at [Whanganui Airport].” An externally facilitated aeronautical study included the recommendation to construct a parallel taxiway to remove the requirement for aircraft to taxi on the active runway and dramatically reduce the risk of runway incursions and potentially catastrophic aircraft incidents. The CAA has subsequently endorsed this recommendation.

The arrival of the New Zealand International Commercial Pilot Academy (NZICPA) has seen a significant increase in the wear-and-tear on grass taxiways which can lead to aircraft damage and taxiway closures, negatively impacting the NZICPA’s operations. There has also been an associated increase in the number of light aircraft using the apron² increasing the risks to passengers boarding commercial aircraft.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) recommends constructing a parallel taxiway as aircraft movement numbers increase to a point where a single stub taxiway is no longer suitable.

The parallel taxiway project was previously approved, with funding provided in FY22/23. Due to substantial increases in the price of bitumen the funding for this project, and an additional project to resurface the main runway, were insufficient to complete either project. Accordingly, the funding for both projects was combined to allow for the conduct of the runway resurfacing, which was deemed to be the higher priority. The justification for the parallel taxiway project remains, primarily as an aircraft/personnel safety issue.

¹ ‘Backtrack’ is an airport ground procedure which involves the use of a runway as a taxiway for an aircraft to taxi in the opposite direction from which it will take off or has landed. At Whanganui Airport aircraft are required to backtrack for all night operations and whenever the grass taxiways are closed due to wet weather.

² The apron is the area outside of the terminal building where aircraft are parked, loaded and refuelled, and passengers embarked/disembarked.

Benefits statement

There are three key benefits that would result from the provision of a parallel taxiway:

- Continued safe operation of Whanganui Airport due to a reduced requirement for aircraft to backtrack and occupy the active runway, and reduced apron use by light aircraft,
- Increased efficiency of aircraft operations due to improved runway access, and
- Increased availability of aircraft-accessible land suitable for commercial development of aviation-related businesses.

Social Benefits:

- Whanganui Airport is an essential component of the regional and national transport infrastructure. Retention of existing air passenger services is vital. A runway incursion leading to a catastrophic/fatal accident involving a passenger, aeromedical or training aircraft is likely to be extremely detrimental to the on-going viability of those businesses.
- The preservation of a safe, CAA-certificated airport is key to the provision of regional emergency response and Civil Defence support.
- The construction of a parallel taxiway will largely mitigate the risk of runway incursions relating to the backtracking of aircraft.

Economic Benefits:

- The parallel taxiway project will allow for development of land on the airport which is currently unused as it cannot be accessed by aircraft.
- Leases of land and/or hangars are key revenue streams for the airport.
- Increased revenue will reduce the level of ratepayer funding needed to support airport operations.
- Improved aircraft access will enable new aviation-related businesses to move to Whanganui Airport with associated wider economic benefits to the region.

Environmental Benefits:

- A parallel taxiway will reduce Runway Occupancy Times³ which improves the efficiency of aircraft operations resulting in less emissions.

Cultural Benefits:

- Nil.

STRATEGIC CASE

Whanganui Airport is a regional airport fully certified under Part 139 of the Civil Aviation Regulations which permits scheduled air passenger services. The airport plays an important role in the Whanganui economy and is an essential component of the regional and national aviation transport infrastructure. The airport is a designated 'Lifeline Utility' under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act (2002) and is a key element for the maintenance and growth of business and industry in the greater Whanganui region. To retain these key links it is vital that the airport has the necessary infrastructure for aircraft to operate in a safe and efficient manner. With the increased rate of flying activity at the airport the addition of a parallel taxiway is essential.

The parallel taxiway project aligns with the council's purpose of promoting the social, economic and environmental well-being of the community.

³ Runway Occupancy Time (ROT) is a measure of time that aircraft are on the runway. Reduced ROT permits more efficient operations which reduces the time aircraft spend holding on the ground or in the air with resultant fuel savings.

Financial case

Due to project interactions the design of the parallel taxiway is being completed as part of the runway resurfacing project scope. Earlier design work by the contractor selected to conduct the resurfacing of the main runway allows for detailed costings to be provided. The construction of the parallel taxiway has been broken down into three modules:

- **Module A:** Comprises the essential components of the taxiway, being an end-to-end connection with aircraft engine run-up bays at each end. **Estimated cost: \$4.04M**
- **Module B:** Includes taxiway stubs to connect the NZICPA apron, aircraft refuelling facility (west) and eastern hangars to the parallel taxiway. **Estimated cost: \$1.25M**
- **Module C:** Adds taxiways stubs to connect the aircraft refuelling facility (east), replace grass taxiways B and D to the parallel taxiway, and provide taxiway access to the vacant land on the north-eastern corner of the airport. **Estimated cost: \$1.42M**
- **Total estimated cost \$6.71M**

Funding of capital expenditure is provided by the Whangai Airport Joint Venture on a 50:50 basis under an agreement with the Ministry of Transport and Whanganui District Council.

Year of LTP for delivery:	Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	Y 5	Y 6	Y 7	Y 8	Y 9	Y 10
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>							
	\$5.3M	\$1.5M		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34

External funding contributions: Options are available

Capex \$	Opex \$	Funded by
\$6,700,000		\$3,350,000 MoT co-funding under JV agreement \$3,350,000 WDC debt funded

*Note: providing explanation via free text is also acceptable in the above boxes.

RISK EVALUATION

Item	Potential Risk Event	Likelihood	Consequence
1	Increased runway occupancy time created by aircraft backtracking on active runway due to taxiway surface conditions or at all times by night. Requires other aircraft in the circuit to modify their procedures to avoid incident. If pilots are unaware of the aircraft backtracking, or conflicting airborne aircraft, it may result in an aircraft vs aircraft accident.	Unlikely	Catastrophic
2	Closure of grass aircraft taxiways (poor weather or during hours of darkness) reduces access options to sealed runway resulting in aircraft needing to backtrack.	Almost certain	Moderate
3	The lack of a parallel taxiway will limit the number of aircraft able to use the airport at a time, thereby reducing commercial viability of the airport and limiting commercial flight training opportunities.	Likely	Moderate

OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option 1: Full parallel taxiway works (Modules A, B and C). The full-length parallel taxiway alongside RWY 11/29, with associated entry stubs and a short taxiway extension into ‘The Gully’ would provide all of the desired safety improvements, along with the additional economic benefits of providing aircraft access to undeveloped airport land. This is the preferred option.

Option 2: Partial parallel taxiway works (Modules A and B). The full-length parallel taxiway alongside RWY 11/29 and a reduced number of entry stubs would remove the need for aircraft to backtrack along the runway at night, or when the grass taxiways are unusable, with an associated reduction in the risk of runway incursions. This option would not provide the associated commercial benefits of access to undeveloped airport land.

Option 3: Minimum parallel taxiway works (Module A only). The full-length parallel taxiway alongside RWY 11/29 would provide some of the desired safety benefits, but not all. Reduced apron usage would not be achieved as NZICPA aircraft would still need to access the taxiway via the apron.

Do Nothing / Status quo The ‘do nothing’ option would require Whanganui Airport to continue to operate with existing infrastructure (taxiway) facilities. The current taxiway configuration restricts runway access in the winter and at night and, as aircraft movement numbers increase, would see an associated increase in the risk of runway incursions and potentially catastrophic aircraft accidents. This option is not recommended as it does not provide the desired safety or commercial benefits.

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Stakeholder	Influences	Key interests & issues
Ministry of Transport	High power/highly interested (Manage closely)	Whanganui Airport Joint Venture partner with 50% share of funding.
Key airport users (Air Chathams, Air Whanganui, NZICPA, Ravensdown Aerowork, Mid West Helicopters, and Wanganui Aero Club)	Low power/highly interested (Keep informed)	As key airport users these stakeholders are acutely aware of the safety issues associated with increased runway occupancy times and runway incursions.
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)	Low power/highly interested (Keep informed)	As aviation industry and airport regulator.
Airways NZ	Low power/highly interested (Keep informed)	As provider of airfield ground lighting and publisher of the Aeronautical Information Publication New Zealand.
Itinerant airport users	Low power/interested (Monitor)	Occasional users of the airport to be informed of project developments.

Letters of support for the parallel taxiway have been received from Air Chathams, Air Whanganui, NZICPA, Ravensdown Aerowork and Wanganui Aero Club. Agreement in Principle for the parallel taxiway has also been received from the Civil Aviation Authority.

KEY CONSTRAINTS, DEPENDENCIES AND ASSUMPTIONS

Construction Module A of the parallel taxiway must be completed prior to, or in conjunction with, Modules B and C. Modules B and C cannot be completed in isolation. Due to weather related constraints the ‘window’ for laying the final asphalt surface is typically September to February.

NEXT STAGE

The detailed design of the parallel taxiway is being completed as part of the Runway 11/29 Resurfacing Project currently underway. This is due to the intersecting elements of both projects needing to be considered for the design of the runway surface. A Detailed Business Case has previously been prepared and will be updated to reflect recent changes.

Team Leader/Project Manager Self-Review		Strategic Panel FINAL score	
Strategic Fit	5	Strategic Fit	5
Benefits	3	Benefits	3
Economic Impact	1	Economic Impact	4
Level of Service Improvements	5	Level of Service Improvements	5
Risk of doing nothing	5	Risk of doing nothing	5

PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE TO COMPLETE

Communications team level of involvement: Choose an item. *(PMO to liaise with the Communications team)*

ELT REVIEW

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

ELT Minutes Reference: Click or tap here to enter text.

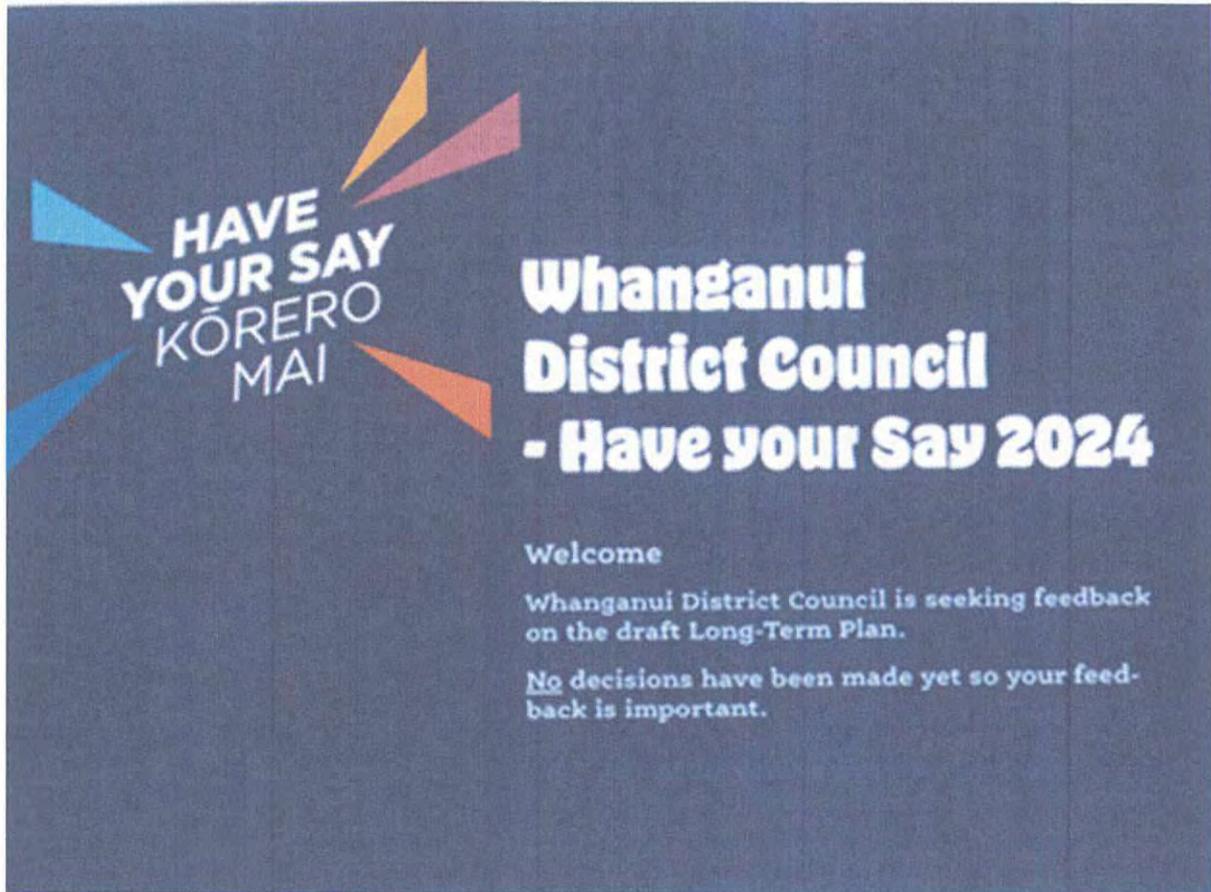
Agreed next steps:

Click or tap here to enter text.

If this project is **approved for a detailed business case**, then –

Name and job title of Project Sponsor

Click or tap here to enter text.



Fitzherbert Avenue Residents
Submission to
The Wanganui District Council's
Long-Term Plan 2024 - 2034

Fitzherbert Avenue Residents

Submission to

The Wanganui District Council's

Long-Term Plan 2024 - 2034

Request for a Change to the

Quality and Service

Provided for

Berm Mowing

and

Spraying Frequency –

On Fitzherbert Avenue

Reasons for Submission

1. Letter from –

Wanganui District Council –

Copy of - Letter to Residents – 21 December 2023

2. Fitzherbert Avenue Berm Residents

- Names
- Addresses
- Phone Numbers
- Email Addresses

3. Photographs of Berms Along Footpaths

- 1 St Helens Place
- Between – Fitzherbert Street and Kelsi Street

Copy

Wanganui
DISTRICT COUNCIL

21 December 2023

RE: Mowing along Fitzherbert Avenue

Dear Residents,

I am writing to you to outline the Whanganui District Council's position on mowing of berms, as there have recently been a number of requests, emails and calls to the council regarding the mowing of berms along Fitzherbert Avenue from Totara Street to Mosston Road. I want to take this opportunity to explain our current mowing contract and specifications.

The location:

The areas that are being mown are currently included in a mowing contract. These areas are scheduled to be mown to the specification detailed below.

The council will at this stage continue to mow the external berms (berms closest to the kerb and channel) along Fitzherbert Avenue, including the internal berms (berms closest to the property boundary) that were originally included in the contract.

As development continues, we will not be looking to include the internal or external berms for the properties that have recently or are now being developed, as it is not common practice to mow external or internal berms along street frontages.

The council is currently under significant financial constraint for vegetation management and mowing activities, therefore the road maintenance team is prioritising essential mowing and vegetation control. A change to the costing areas of mowing would represent a change to the level of service provided by council.

The mowing specifications:

The berms are mown to a Grade 3 (50 - 75 mm) and the clippings are not caught. The contractor is required to mow based on length and not frequency. We note that some people choose to mow the berms themselves, and will usually do them with a lower cut, however, a Grade 3 mow is standard across our parks and reserve areas around the city.

At this time of year the seed heads do bounce up quickly after a mow, but this is not always reflective of the length of the grass overall. In the spring and autumn, growth spurts will mean that times cut grass is left after the mow.

Edges are also cut periodically on an annual/bi-annual basis.
Weed spraying on berms is done by exception only.

Long Term Plan:

The council is currently going through the process of reviewing the levels of Service provided for berm maintenance as part of the Long-Term Plan process.

If you would like a different level of service to that currently provided. I would encourage you to make a submission to the Long-Term Plan process in early 2024 when public consultation commences.

Kind Regards

Damien Wood

Transportation Manager

Wanganui District Council

* **Wanganui District Council Present Level of Service –
in Italics**

1. *The Council standard for mowing these **berms** is a **Grade 3 Mow**.*

*Grade 3 mow is that the grass can reach a tolerance of 50-75 mm before mowing is required back down to 50mm - so what this means is that the **frequency of mowing isn't regular** (e.g. every fortnight), but is based on **growth rates**.*

Residents Response

Residents seek that Wanganui District Council would consider a **higher grade mow**.

- For our street frontage appeal and aesthetics.
- To stop weeds seeding and moving onto our garden areas.
- To allow dog poo to be picked up more frequently.

2. *Council will **not mow berms unless they are notified** and are over 30cm.*

Residents Response

Residents did **not know** –

They were required to measure grass **height** and **notify** WDC when berms require mowing.

[This will undoubtedly cause the elderly more stress.]

3. *Residents will generally mow their own berm to a **higher standard** for their own street frontage appeal and aesthetics.*

Residents Response

- These extensive berms require a **ride-on mower**
- The berms consist of - rough terrain, with Kikuyu Grass and multiple broadleaf weeds –
[Which appeared in the “seed” planted after the new footpath was finished]

- For the many elderly residents - this is impractical and will incur an extra financial burden on them.
- When purchasing our properties we were informed by Land Agents “that the Wanganui District Council mow the Fitzherbert Avenue Berm”.
- These berms are wider than most berms throughout the Wanganui District.
- Fitzherbert Avenue is now a high traffic area, and the berms are not an attractive look for Wanganui.
- Leaving the berms looking unkempt is **detrimental** to future **property sales**.

Wanganui District Council’s Vision for Wanganui

For the 2024 version, we are focusing on wellbeing under four headings: social, economic, environmental and cultural.

Why is wellbeing important?

By wellbeing we mean the social, economic, environmental and cultural health of our community; the things we can build-on or change to make a positive difference to everyone’s experience of living in Wanganui.

*Wellbeing has been one of the **core purposes** of local government since it was included in the Local Government (Community Wellbeing) Amendment Act in 2019. This meant **councils** would be responsible for improving the wellbeing of our communities.*

Residents Response

We see the Wanganui District Council places a high priority on **Community Wellbeing**.

However, with a **Grade 3 Mow** - the **Berms** and **Parks** in the area often present an untidy appearance which **DOES NOT** have a **positive** impact on residents' **wellbeing**.

We would ask that the Wanganui District Council take this into consideration when reviewing this request for **more frequent mowing** and **spraying** of the Fitzherbert Street berms and parks in the area.

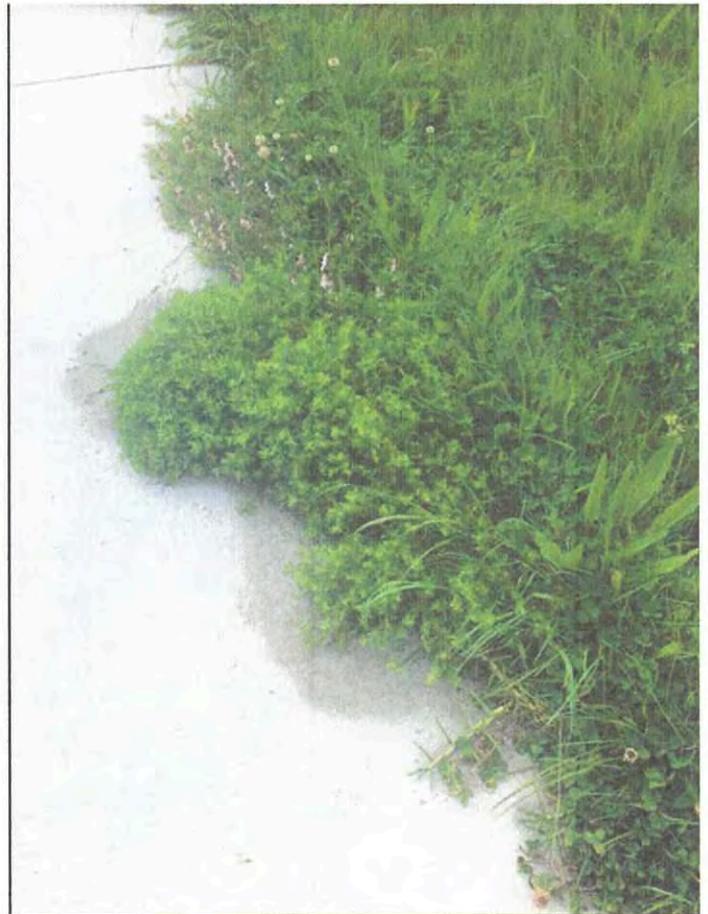
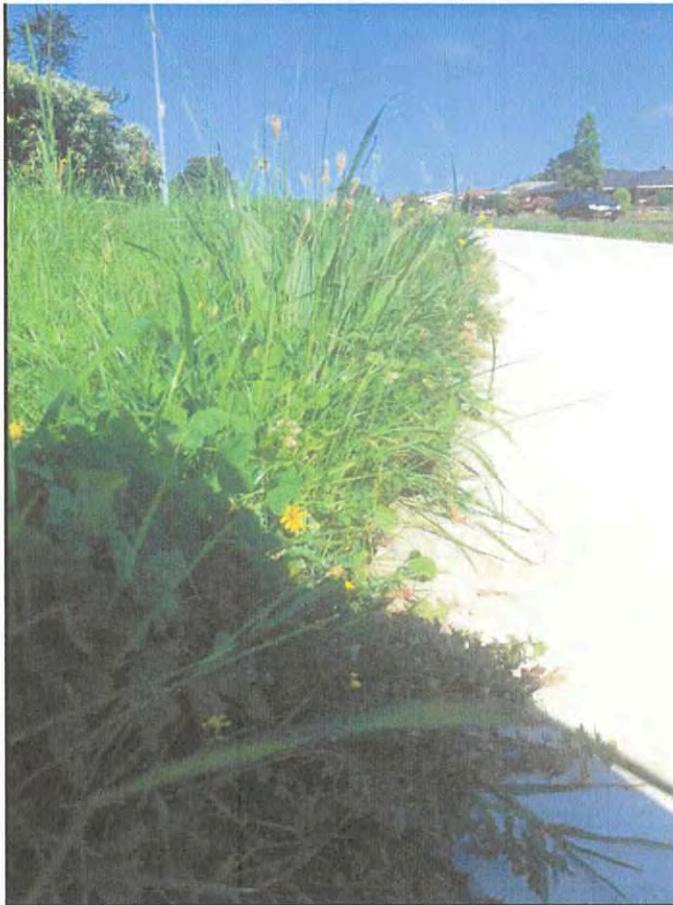
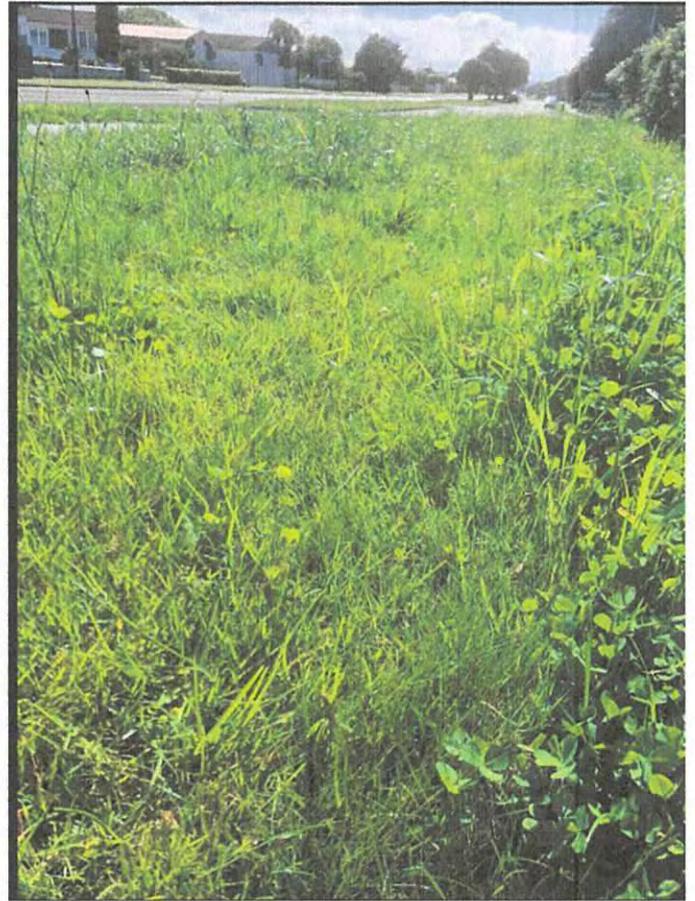
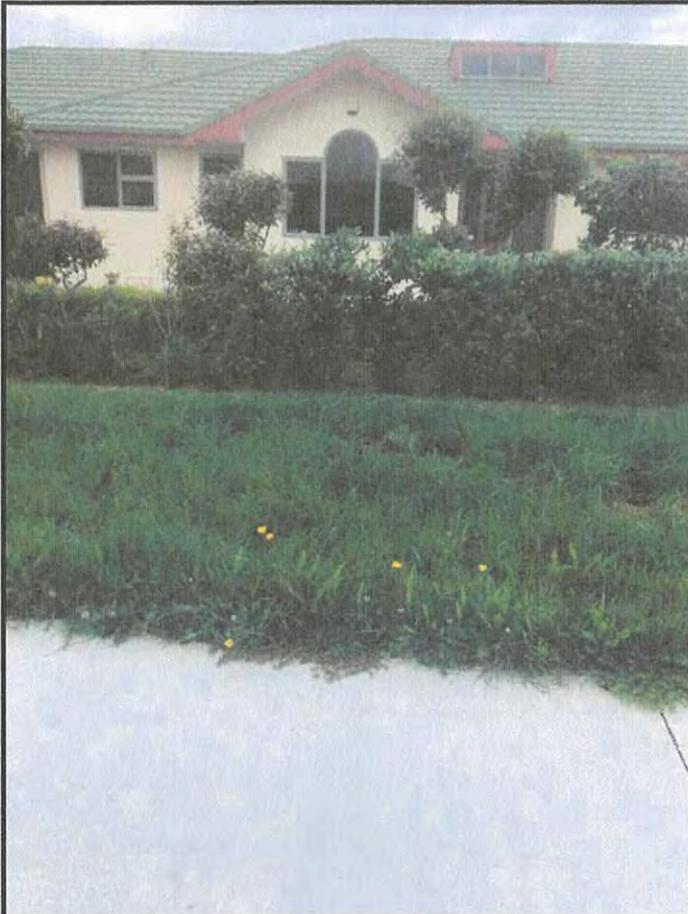
Fitzherbert Avenue Berm Residents

Name and addresses supplied

Weeds on New Footpath – Between St Helens Place & Kelsi Street



Weeds along Berm Footpath – Outside 1 St Helens Place Frontage on Fitzherbert Avenue





Steps Taken To Mow – Neaten Berm outside 1 St Helens Place.

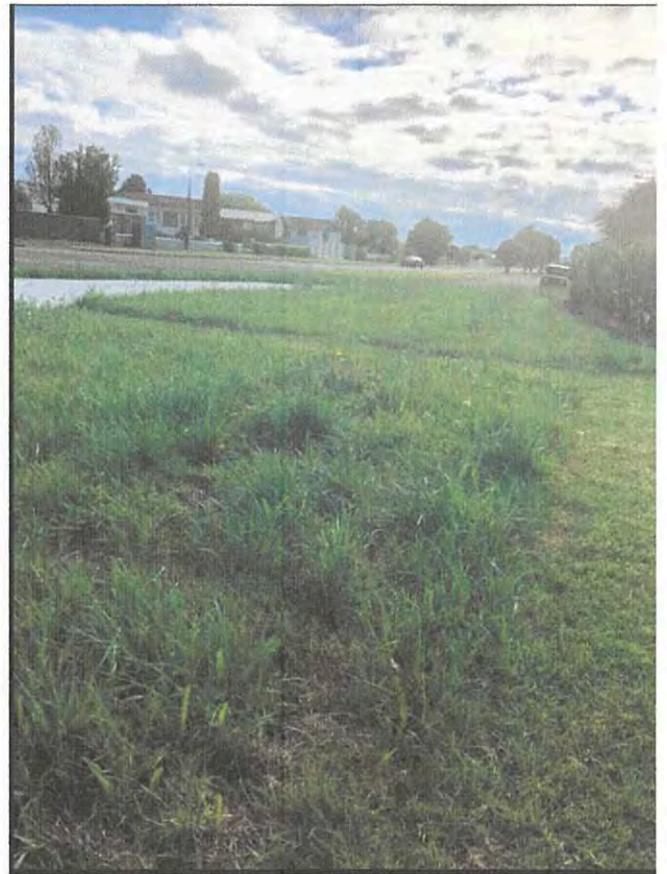
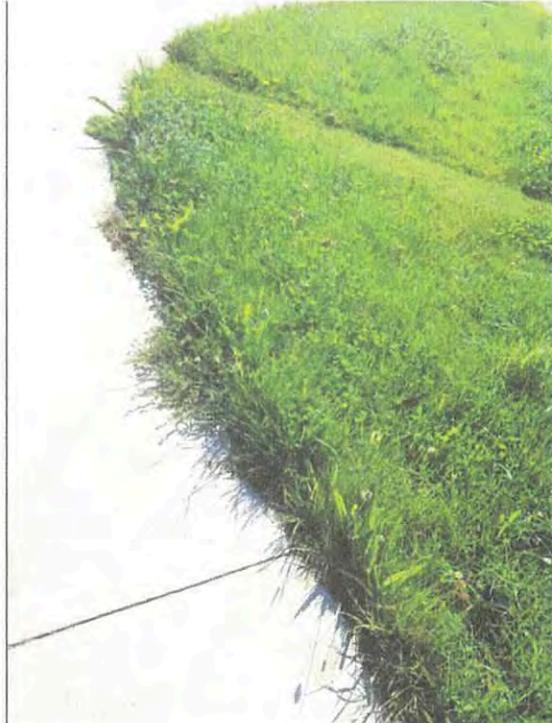
Path mowed to Footpath.

Mowed around Lamppost & Electric Box –

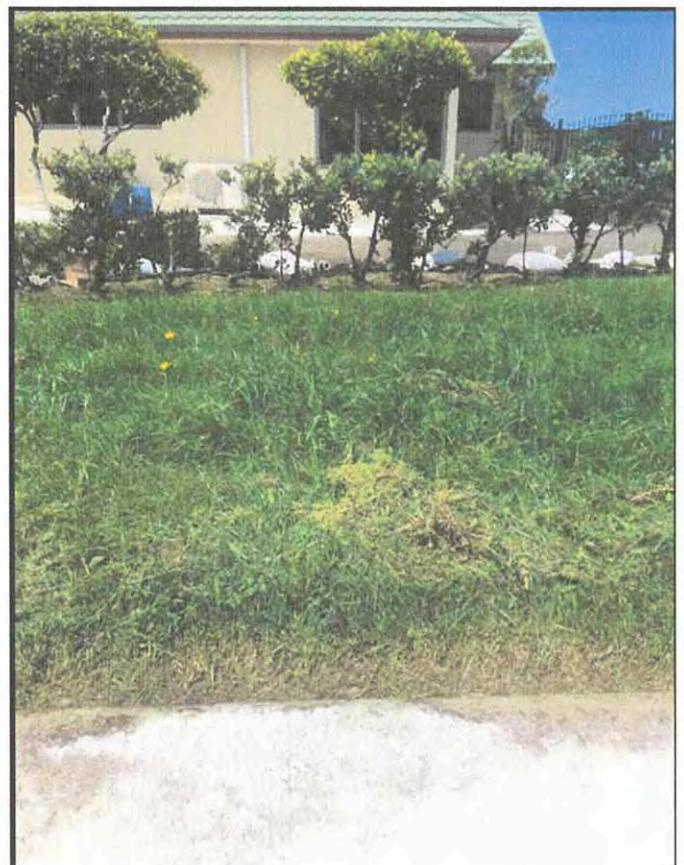
Mowed Boundary by Hedge –

Result

Small **electric-cord Mower** – Ceased working.



2. Weeds dug up - from side of footpath.



Whanganui District Council Long Term Plan 2024

Submission from Waitahinga Group (Bushy Park Trust, Ngaa Rauru, Whanganui Tramping Club, Forest and Bird, Birds NZ)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Long Term Plan consultation document.

We wish to speak to this submission.

Introduction

The Group notes that council has identified (p. 4) that it will work “*to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of our community both in the present and for the future. Aspirational forward thinking is important and through our well being survey you told us we need to focus on local infrastructure, community togetherness, environmental stewardship and business development...*”.

We also note that Environmental wellbeing was ranked as the most important of the wellbeing areas (p. 15).

With this high ranking of environmental wellbeing, we are concerned to see that there is little provision in the plan to sustain and grow this wellbeing and that community initiative proposals, that would directly grow environmental wellbeing, did not receive favourable consideration by Council.

We also note that environmental stewardship is not an obvious strength of the LTP discussion document.

We submit that Council should reconsider its assessment of community initiative proposals.

Summary of the Waitahinga Management Plan initiative proposal.

During the community initiative proposal process we sought support from the community for the group to develop a draft management plan for the Council’s reserve land at Waitahinga. We sought seed funding to bring together a working group over two years to collate information, consider options, develop visions, goals and objectives and then prepare a draft management plan for the Council’s consideration. We saw the critical output of the process being the development of a clear vision for the future of the reserve and the maintenance of its natural heritage values while maintaining the economic value of the reserve to Council.

We anticipated that a management plan would then provide solid background for ongoing management and use decisions for the reserve and inform the next LTP process.

Support requested from Council was essentially:

1. “Blessing” for the project.

2. Seed funding of \$5000 over two years.
3. Engagement of Council staff to support the project with information or access to information.

We note that the Council Officer who undertook an initial business case assessment of the proposal recommended that the proposal not be supported, suggesting instead the development of a pest management plan. While we support the development of a pest management plan, we submit that such a plan must be anchored to clear visions, outcomes and objectives for the site. Thus, we consider that the management plan is critical to future decision-making and must come first.

The Waitahinga reserve.

The Waitahinga reserve is the largest natural area owned and managed by the Whanganui District Council. It is largely a combination of original old growth native forest, very old regenerating forest and a pine plantation. It contains the dams and structures associated with the areas previous use as a water catchment reserve. The area holds a rich variety of bird life including a robust population of popokatea (whitehead) and koekoea (long-tailed cuckoo), it's brood parasite. There are also credible records of titipounamu (rifleman) from the forest. The area contains the Waitahinga trails network created by the Whanganui Tramping club about 2010. Recent observations by users of the area have raised concerns about the impact of pest animals on the natural values of the area. Goats and deer have decimated the forest understory, tracking tunnels have identified high populations of mice, rats, hedgehogs and possums. Stoats, feral cats and ferrets have also been observed. The contributors to this proposal believe that the impact of pests will result in the collapse of the forest canopy, destruction of bird populations and the loss of natural values including those that sustain climate resilience, soil and water protection and are critical to the mauri of the area and the kaitiakitanga of Ngaa Rauru.

We submit that, as a key expression of Whanganui environmental wellbeing and future proofing for climate change, the community represented by WDC should support the development of a management plan that clarifies the future environmental stewardship of Waitahinga, its single largest area of natural heritage.

Submitted for the Waitahinga Group

Bill Fleury

Chair Bushy Park Trust



**Submission by Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa^{1 2 3}
for
Whanganui District Council draft Long-Term Plan 2024-2034**

This submission to the Whanganui District Council highlights the critical importance of digital equity and inclusion within our community.

In your Long-Term plan 2024 to 2034, the following proposals are likely to be detrimental to digital inclusion in our community:

- Discontinuing the digital strategy 2019 implementation
- Reducing hours of operation and closing libraries
- Cutting community funding

We commend and support the following actions in your Long Term plan 2024 to 2034 that will encourage digital inclusion in our community:

- Development and resourcing of a digital strategy
- Increasing digital skills/learnings for everyone in the Whanganui community
- Retaining full operational funding for libraries
- Increasing the community funding pool
- Funding and support for community centres such as new buildings or collaborations

As we transition to a digital-first society, where essential services and interactions increasingly move online, it is imperative that everyone has equitable access to digital technologies.

This encompasses reliable internet access, appropriate devices, and the necessary skills to use these resources effectively.

The current state of digital exclusion in New Zealand disproportionately affects groups

¹ <https://digitalinclusionalliance.nz/>

² <https://steppingup.nz/programmes/>

³ DIAA Stepping UP Programme Delivery Report Y/E 30 June 2023 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S9Z-xE97vnwB_T72H4wk9gkagZb21BjS/view?usp=sharing

such as Māori, Pasifika, seniors, people with disabilities, and those with low incomes or unstable housing.

Our proposal advocates for comprehensive strategies to bridge these digital divides, ensuring that all Whanganui district community members can participate fully in society, democracy, and the economy.

Through targeted support for public libraries and community organizations, along with strategic council initiatives, we aim to foster a digitally inclusive community that upholds the well-being of all its members, aligning with the twofold purpose of local government to enable democratic decision-making and promote the comprehensive well-being of Whanganui districts communities now and in the future.

Here is Jo Buckingham's excellently written template. It has been widely distributed throughout Aotearoa as a benchmark description for our digital inclusion and equity sector.

We are pleased to present this adapted as follows:

DECA Digital Equity and Inclusion Template – by Jo Buckingham⁴

Introduction and statistics

We are living increasingly in a digital **first** world where people must be able to go online to participate in day-to-day life. Our communities are **finding** more and more than they are required to go online to complete tasks that previously were done in person or by phone.

Many councils now require people to engage and perform tasks or access services through digital channels and be able to do online banking and payments. This covers a variety of activities: from registering your dog annually, applying for a building consent, to paying your rates or submitting to a local bylaw or long term and annual plan consultation.

Digital technologies are intended to make the cost of providing council services lower and so lower the increasing rates our community needs to pay. This is the same for other services like government forms, telecommunications, health and banking. But this can have consequences for those who cannot go online to the level expected or needed, resulting in poorer wellbeing outcomes for our people left behind. Many of our libraries and community organisations are left to support people by delivering digital inclusion initiatives created by digital transformation and the removal of face-to-face services on decreasing budgets and resources.

Looking around it may seem like everyone has internet access at home and on the go,

⁴ <https://www.digitalequity.nz/blog/council-digital-equity-template>

has a laptop, and the skills and support to navigate the online world safely and **confidently**. Unfortunately, that is not the case, and this is the current snapshot of digital exclusion in New Zealand

One in five New Zealanders	Digitally excluded in some way (Source: 2019 Department of Internal Affairs)
130,000 households	Without internet access (Source: 2018 Census)
380,000 households	Cannot afford internet and device access 58,000 of these are families on incomes less than \$42,200 (Source: Digital Equity Coalition Aotearoa, 2023)
20 percent of New Zealand adults	Lack the essential skills needed to use the internet safely (Source: BNZ Digital Skills Report)
77.7 percent of the Whanganui District	Reported access to the internet. This is lower than the New Zealand average of 86.1% (Source: 2018 Census summaries- <i>Housing: Telecommunications</i>)
Māori, Pasifika, Seniors, people with disabilities, and those with low incomes or low housing stability	Identified in the groups most at risk of digital exclusion in New Zealand (Source: Department of Internal Affairs, <i>The Digital Blueprint, 2019</i> ⁵)

To gain the **benefits** of digital, we need to as a community ensure that everyone has access to the internet and devices (such as laptops and tablets), digital skills, and **confidence** and support to get online. This end result is called digital equity. Some other terms used are digital enablement, digital inclusion, digital access, and digital divides.

The underlying issue is that if communities do not have access to the foundations, we can't hope to achieve the digital excellence needed to grow our local economy and create thriving communities. Councils play a key role in working with their communities at the lowest level (on the ground or at the grassroots) to achieve this.

A more detailed overview of digital equity in New Zealand

Digital equity exists when everyone can access and effectively use digital technologies so as to participate in our society, democracy and economy. Digital equity is our ultimate goal.

Digital inclusion refers to the initiatives and actions we undertake as we work towards digital equity. Digital inclusion is the means to achieve the goal.

The digital inclusion community in Aotearoa NZ generally uses the language of the four

⁵ <https://www.digital.govt.nz/digital-government/programmes-and-projects/digital-inclusion/governments-vision-the-digital-inclusion-blueprint/>

interdependent elements⁶ needed for a person to be digitally included. This is referred to as MAST:

Motivation: Understanding how the internet and digital technology can help us connect, learn, or access opportunities, and consequently have a meaningful reason to engage with the digital world.

Access: Having access to digital devices, services, software, and content that meet our needs at a cost we can afford; and being able to connect to the internet where you work, live and play. Access is a broad element, which can be broken into 3 key parts: connectivity, affordability and accessibility.

Skills: Having the know-how to use the internet and digital technology in ways that are appropriate and **beneficial** for each of us.

Trust: Trusting on the internet and online services; and having the digital literacy to manage personal information and understand and avoid scams, harmful communication and misleading information. This element also touches on online safety, digital understanding, **confidence** and resilience.

It is important to remember that digital inclusion is not just about having a device or internet at home, but all the skills and knowledge to be able to use them **confidently** and safely to be able to participate at the level needed for personal and wider overall wellbeing.

Certain community groups are at risk of not being digitally included, which includes **Māori, Pasifika, Seniors, people with disabilities, and people in situations such as low incomes or low housing stability⁷** that need more help and support to participate and **access better wellbeing outcomes that benefit the wider community.**

Why digital equity matters for local government

Digital equity in your community is foundational for meeting the purposes of local government

The purpose of local government⁸ is twofold:

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Having equitable access to digital services and basic level of digital skills means more people can participate in democratic local decision-making and action. Councils can engage with a wide range of their community to promote transparency and

⁶ <https://www.digital.govt.nz/dmsdocument/113-digital-inclusion-blueprint-te-mahere-mo-te-whakaurunga-matihiko/html#what-is-needed-to-be-digitally-included>

⁷ <https://www.digital.govt.nz/dmsdocument/113-digital-inclusion-blueprint-te-mahere-mo-te-whakaurunga-matihiko/html#appendix--groups-at-risk-of-not-being-digitally-included>

⁸ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0084/latest/DLM171803.html>

accountability to achieve this first purpose. We know for a community to thrive, that the four well-beings - social, economic, environmental and cultural - are important and fulfill the second purpose of council. A New Zealand study in 2020 found that those with internet access tend to have higher wellbeing and richer social capital outcomes (e.g. voting) than those without access.

Digital equity supports localism

LGNZ concept of localism in action is communities that are supported by councils who bring together, enable and empower citizens to develop local solutions, and strengthen wellbeing⁹. In a 2019 Department of Internal Affairs digital inclusion stock take, it found 52% of initiatives were delivered by community groups and not for **profits**. Only 2% were by local government.

Supporting digital equity as a council gives life to localism. This is by recognising digital skills enable people to participate in local democracy and will increase their engagement and build a sense of belonging and pride in their communities. Council can promote localism by working with communities that provide local solutions to local barriers to getting online and demonstrating that locally led and enabled solutions provide the best outcomes to communities.

Digital equity enables economic development and growth

It is estimated in 2021 that digital technologies contributed \$7 billion towards New Zealand GDP with a sector annual growth rate of 10.4% since 2016, compared to the wider economy annual rate of 5.1% over the same period.¹⁰

Digital technologies offer the opportunity to grow local economies and offer higher paid roles. Digital also enables businesses and organisations to innovate and increase productivity but this is only successful if people are able to build and support the digital technology that is needed, and the community all have the required motivation, access, skills and trust needed to use them. The **benefits** of these tools rely on a community of digitally skilled people. This all starts with supporting people with basic digital skills and giving them the foundations to build on.

A report into the economic case in New Zealand for increasing digital inclusion by the NZ Institute of Economic Research Inc in 2022 gave a conservative estimate of the return of government investment into digital equity as \$3 of value for every dollar spent.

The role of libraries

Public libraries in New Zealand are access point for literacy of all types, including **financial literacy, digital literacy, information literacy, and health and wellbeing literacy**.¹¹ They are vital community assets that enable communities to share resources, connect and upskill local people.¹² Reducing library opening hours, staff resourcing and budgets

⁹ <https://localism.nz/why-localism/>

¹⁰ <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/digital-technologies-industry-transformation-plan.pdf>

¹¹ https://publiclibraries.org.nz/Portals/42/MASTER%20-%20PLNZ%20Strategic%20Framework_Final.pdf?ver=2020-10-20-153216-897

¹² <https://lianza.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Annual-Report-2016-2017-FINAL.pdf>

or not investing in library spaces will increase digital barriers in communities and put at risk trusted place-based spaces that promote wellbeing overall.

LGNZ research in 2023 **confirmed** that libraries are important vehicles for delivering local services for local and central government and encourages councils to enable and resource public libraries to evolve their services and better enhance community wellbeing.¹³

New Zealand's public libraries provide a range of digital services including access to the internet, training (frequently in collaboration with external partners), support and encouragement to users. Without the support provided in libraries, some people would not be able to engage with or access necessary day to day services. Two examples of partnerships are:

- Skinny Jump¹⁴ low-cost internet access is provided through community providers. Over 27,000 were provided by June 2023 across 308 partners, of which 204 were libraries.
- The NZLPP programme¹⁵ that provided central government funding to libraries in response to COVID-19 showed the value of digital programmes in libraries and having dedicated staff with 25% of initiatives being focused on digital inclusion.

The council needs to look at innovative ways to continue to support these spaces, rather than take away from them and advocate keeping their important role. Partnerships, including advocating to the central government for more funding, are ways that you can support libraries to support our community rather than only viewing it as a short-term rate savings through reduction of services and budget.

More detailed analysis of libraries from Massey University

Massey University in their 2020 report ***Public Libraries as spaces for digital inclusion*** in their survey of library staff illustrated the level of support libraries are providing users.

93% indicated that they assisted library users more than once a week to connect a device to the internet using Wi-Fi, of which 43% were assisting users multiple times a day. Other tasks that library staff were assisting library users with on a regular basis were finding a website (85% more than once a week) and turning on a device and entering account information (81%, more than once a week).

The report recommended areas where public libraries and library staff can further develop capacity and capability to meet the future digital needs of their users and communities. This research provides a pathway for how council's should focus their support:

¹³ https://d1pepg1a2249p5.cloudfront.net/media/documents/Value-of-public-libraries-executive-summary_f2HD9Xx.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.skinny.co.nz/jump/about/>

¹⁵ <https://natlib.govt.nz/about-us/collaborative-projects/new-zealand-libraries-partnership-programme/new-zealand-libraries-partnership-programme-reports/evaluation-of-the-new-zealand-libraries-partnership-programme>

- Prioritise the development of a digital strategy for those public libraries where a strategy does not currently exist and link it to the council digital strategy.
- Promote further development of partnerships with external partners (e.g. APNK Network, Spark Jump (now Skinny Jump), Stepping Up Programme) that support digital inclusion.
- Invest in professional learning and development to address **identified** barriers that hinder the digital needs of library users including lack of staff knowledge, time and capacity, funding, and physical resources (e.g. space, equipment).

What can councils do

Councils are key to enabling their communities to support those with barriers to being digital and online. The council are already doing many of these things and need to ensure they keep supporting and funding those activities. Councils can:

- Fund libraries so they can continue to be trusted spaces that provide free Wi-Fi and devices, digital support and a safe environment to seek help face to face when there are no alternatives
- Continue to provide and look at increasing targeted funding to the community organisations delivering digital inclusion initiatives relevant to the community
- Keep council community leases affordable and rate remissions policies that help lower the operational cost of community organisations so they can concentrate on supporting their community
- Commit to and resource digital equity in all council strategies. Make sure to consider the impact on community and disadvantaged groups, and their **specific** barriers to doing things online when considering digital-**first** or digital only services and other digital transformation. This includes looking at the digital skill sets, **and training needed by your internal staff to gain the full benefits of digital transformation**

Without digital inclusion, people in our community will struggle to access services, **education and employment. They will not be able to connect with whānau and friends.** And they will not develop the digital skills needed to grow the local tech sector (and other sectors) in our regional economy. Digital inclusion is an issue for people of all ages and stages and needs to be addressed appropriately in council planning and strategies.

In your Long Term plan 2024 to 2034, the following proposals are likely to be detrimental to digital inclusion in our community:

- Discontinuing the digital strategy 2019 implementation
- Reducing hours of operation and closing libraries
- Cutting community funding

We commend and support the following actions in your Long Term plan 2024 to 2034 that will encourage digital inclusion in our community:

- Development and resourcing of a digital strategy

- Increasing digital skills/learnings for everyone in the Whanganui community
- Retaining full operational funding for libraries
- Increasing the community funding pool
- Funding and support for community centres such as new buildings or collaborations

Business Whanganui Whanganui District Council Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Submission Supporting Document

Introduction

Business Whanganui hosted a discussion on the Long-Term Plan for interested business and community sector representatives on 17 April. Guest speakers were Councillors Glenda Brown and Josh Chandulal-Mackay and Transport Advocate Anthonie Tonnon. Councillors Rob Vinsen and Peter Oskam attended together with interested parties.

The points of significance raised by attendees at this discussion were used to inform the focus of ongoing one-to-one discussion and a short survey shared with the business community.

Our submission aligns to the outcome of these discussions and our survey results. The survey return was 25% of our membership, which we regard as being a valid level of response.

We have throughout the process also encouraged individual submissions to be made on matters important to individual business.

From our Survey

Our survey focused on the key areas of:

- Hotel and Carpark Development and Investment
- Sale of Assets
- Service Cuts
- Long Term Investment
- Plus, Public Transport for the Horizons LTP and included here for reference

Hotel and Carpark Development

Comment to Members from our LTP Discussions:

This project aims to meet the needs of our growing events, visitor, and business sectors. The addition of a multi-level carpark will provide long term parking for a growing number of visitors and CBD residents, as well as all-day parking for shoppers and CBD business owners and workers who use private transport to get to their place of work.

The preferred option of WDC is for them to take on the hotel and carpark development to expedite their build. If this (their Option 1) proceeds, development would start on the hotel in 2025/2026 and the carpark in 2027-2028. The combined cost for the hotel and carpark builds is noted as \$55m – rates contribution is expected to be \$30 per year per Whanganui property.

Our Question to Business:

Should we support the development of a hotel and multi-level carpark? To what degree? Thinking in terms of time, if a developer cannot be identified to undertake these projects in the immediate/near future, should Whanganui take the initiative and develop these using ratepayer funds – provided the business case shows demand for both and it is financially viable to do so?

Response Options:

8.5% I support the ratepayer funded development of a hotel and carpark by WDC if there is proven demand and it is financially viable. The sooner these projects are underway the better.

0 % I support WDC developing a hotel and carpark ONLY if a developer cannot be identified in the near future. I understand this will be rate payer funded.

91.5% I want WDC to identify a developer to fund and undertake these projects, regardless of how long it takes. I do not want these projects to be ratepayer funded.

0% I don't support the development of these projects.

0% Other

Sale of Assets

From our LTP Discussions:

\$16m is the amount proposed but of concern is that what assets will be sold has not been defined. We understand that around \$45m in assets have been identified for consideration. We might take a degree of comfort in knowing that Public Consultation would be required for some asset sales, for example reserves, but not for all – say, commercial land currently leased to businesses.

Our Question:

Should we support the sale/rationalisation of Council-owned assets that do not contribute to community wellbeing, meet a future development requirement, or provide an acceptable cost to benefit ratio?

Response Options:

79% Yes

19% No

0% We should encourage consideration of other options

2% Other: I support the sale of certain assets and want to know what these are prior to the sale, and I want to know who is making these decisions.

Service Cuts - based on the proposed rates rise for next year

Would you prefer to:

Note: we used a single choice question not a sliding scale

42.5% Reduce and close more services to get the rates lower

57.5% Keep more services open but see a higher rates rise

Long-term Investment

Would you prefer to:

Note: we used a single choice question not a sliding scale

0% Make the lowest possible investment in our core infrastructure and long-term projects

100% Increase investment in our core infrastructure and long-term projects to future-proof Whanganui

Public Transport – Horizons – included for reference only

From our LTP Discussion:

Effective public transport connections are integral to our ability to attract and retain workers to our region, and for our businesses in Whanganui to remain viable and sustainable into the future. Transport connections contribute positively to various aspects of business operations and are known to improve productivity, reduce costs, lower environmental impact, and improve customer access. And let's not underestimate their contribution to growing our visitor market.

In our LTP meeting we discussed improving regional services - strengthening the connection between Whanganui and Wellington through the introduction of new services - 3-hour commute/trip via bus to Waikanae then train to Wellington and vice-versa. Also increased services to Palmerston North and Marton.

Within the city, improvements to our city bus network and focus on building ridership/ increasing users. In a comparable city like Nelson, with a population of 53,000, their annual ridership now sits at 800,000.

Our Question:

What level of support should we give to the development of our city-wide and regional public transport networks?

Response Options:

8.5% We should fast track public transport improvements for implementation at the Horizons highest price option

53% We should be staging public transport improvements at a lower cost

32% Keep the current service levels with no additional cost

0% Other

Contact:

Helen Garner

Chief Executive

Business Whanganui – Chamber of Commerce

ceo@businesswhanganui.nz

021 771 643

Joint submission by Liz and John Goodrich to the Whanganui DC LTP 2024-34

Further to our online submission on council-led questions and options, we are requesting the council to reconsider funding for the following community initiatives.

Disestablishment of Youth Council

We are disappointed about the closure of the Youth Council, we'd thought that this was a good programme to upskill young people on governance and democracy, as they will be the ones who are faced with the outcome of the decisions that we make now and they need to have a seat at the table.

Bushy Park/Tarapurui education programme

We would like the Council to reinstate the funding for the educational programme. This sanctuary is nationally important, and a showcase of the past diversity of New Zealand's forests. The education programme has given school students the opportunity to experience this, add value to their studies, and hopefully carry an interest in nature through to later life.

Management planning for Waitahinga Block

We would like to see the decision not to fund to this relatively small amount to be reversed. The block has been seriously degraded, and will continue to be without pest control, which would be a great loss to an area. The money would enable a management plan to be written, and this will enable volunteer pest control and forest restoration groups to work towards the correct outcomes. We know community led groups are vital for environmental restoration and with the reduction of central funding for DOC we absolutely need for the community to step up and fill the space.

Special Olympics

This is another project that we feel has been unjustifiably left out of the long-term plan. The LTP states that the project was "redeveloping the site of the former St John's Bowling Club to provide sporting facilities and a base for the Special Olympians".

The site is already leased to Special Olympics, but they have no security of tenure, only a renewable lease. The organisation has commenced and intends to continue funding the bulk of the work needed by themselves, but the main requirement was to secure a permanent lease on the land, which would enable them to apply for grant funding.

In addition, there was a request for the council to fund an all-weather surface on part of the land, at a potential cost of \$65,000 in year 2025/26. As the land is a council-asset, the cost would increase the value of the asset.

Our concern is that by rejecting this project, the land which is significantly under-developed will be an ideal opportunity for an asset sale, and a loss to the community as a whole and in particular for the already disenfranchised disability community



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Our Reference: LAN 7200

7 January 1999

✓
Mr Grant Rogerson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
WANGANUI

Dear Mr Rogerson

**RE: PROPOSED LETTER TO WANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL
CONCERNING GONVILLE RECREATION RESERVE**

I refer to your fax of this morning.

1. Legal Description

In paragraph 2, you refer to land commonly known as the Gonville Domain. This includes land subject to the Reserves Act 1977, Council freehold land, and municipal reserve administered by Council. The legal descriptions are given below. Attaching a plan you your letter showing the land could be helpful in clarifying the status' of various lands.

The legal descriptions are:

(a) Land Subject to Reserves Act

Section 396 Right Bank Wanganui River held in Certificates of Title 270/31, 9C/838, 132/80, 146/119, 138/38, 137/104, and GN 1961/1385.

(b) Council Freehold

Lot 4, DP 4177, held in Certificate of Title 465/215.

(c) Reserve for Municipal Building

Part Lot 2 DP 1638 held in CT 252/109, Lot 1 DP 6311 held in Certificate of Title 302/299, Lot 1 DP 11412 held in Certificate of Title 467/35, Part Lot 2 DP 11412 held in Certificate of Title 467/35.

2. Paragraph 2. A review into 'current status' may be taken to mean the way the land is held - e.g. which parts are in which Certificates of Title, administered under which authorities etc.

Wanganui Conservancy

Private Bag 3016, Ingestre Chambers, 74 Ingestre Street, Wanganui, New Zealand
[REDACTED]

You should clarify whether a review of land status, or of recreational usage is sought.

3. Paragraph 5. "Current reserve status". The Council freehold and municipal buildings reserve are not reserved for recreation. Maybe 'purpose' should replace 'status'.
4. Paragraph 6. Replace 'owned' with 'administered'. E.g. the domain is not owned by Council - it's vested in Council under the Reserves Act.
5. Paragraph 8. It could help Council if you clarify what kind of review you want e.g. is it a review of the recreational use of the domain?

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction covering the signature of the Community Relations Officer.A black rectangular redaction covering the name of the Community Relations Officer.

Community Relations Officer
for Conservator

Gonville residents force council to rethink land sale

18/2/99.

By Kim Purdy

Residents opposing the sale of Gonville Domain land claimed a small victory yesterday when Wanganui District councillors recommended the sale be re-examined.

Gonville residents' fight to save the public reserve began late last year when council approved selling 2.5ha to the Education Ministry for the future site of a Maori primary school.

A petition of more than 2000 signatures opposing the move was received yesterday by the Wanganui District Council's community services committee.

The committee meeting had to be

relocated from a committee room to the main council chambers to fit the residents attending.

Petition organiser Grant Rogerson told the committee the domain was an extremely well-used recreational facility and that a proper public consultation process had not been carried out with the community before the sale was approved.

Moore Ave resident Brendon Haig agreed the domain's future had not been made clear. He said they were not opposed to the school but were against any building going on the domain.

"There's been a lot of emotion about this. We need to give all those involved a proper chance to hear their cases," Mr Haig said.

Deputy Mayor Pam Erni said the strength of feeling showed people needed to know exactly how the sale would affect them.

Cr Gerald McDouall said he was unsure whether council looked close enough at the issue and suggested it revisit the decision.

However, Cr Stephen Palmer believed council should let the Education Ministry apply for resource consent. The subsequent independent hearing would let the protesters' and ministry's case be heard.

Mayor Chas Poynter said petitioners had made valid points and thoroughly researched their cases.

"If ratepayers are not aware of a situation then we as a council are failing to uphold democracy in our community."

Campaign to save domain keeps up momentum

2/2/99
Kim Purdy

Signatures of support to save Gonville Domain are still rolling in at top speed, with numbers growing to more than 100.

Opposition to the Wanganui District Council's approval of the sale of 2.5ha of Gonville Domain as the future site of Maori language school Te Kura Kaupapa O Tupoho marked a petition late last year to save the land.

Objections to the land sale have come from a wide cross-section of people living in Gonville and other suburbs, as well as sports people.

The Ministry of Education will now seek resource consent so construction can begin.

Petition organiser Grant Rogerson said most who opposed the move saved the domain as a recreational facility on a regular basis.

A letter outlining their objections would be presented at the next Wanganui District Council meeting. He said they were not opposed to the Maori school but to losing such well-used park.

"This is not a racism issue. We're not against a new school, but we're against the fact it will sacrifice a park regularly used by all walks of people."

Wanganui Touch Rugby Association president Les Lunny said the school's construction would mean the association lose about three of its seven fields on the domain.

"If the school's built, then we simply won't be able to operate," Mr Lunny said.

He said the number of people playing touch was steadily growing and 60 children's teams competed on Wednesday nights alone.

"There just won't be enough room for them to play."

He said the association strongly supported the petition and would

oppose the resource consent process.

Tawhero Golf Club driving range owner Wayne Lourie said the club had plans to develop the course in the near future and would speak to the council about that option.

Wanganui Hockey Association administration officer John Cosford said the hockey grounds would not be affected by the move and that the council had allowed the association land for future development.

"We have land set aside, so at this stage we're not opposed," Mr Cosford said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education is pushing ahead with plans to build but is keeping an open mind on the situation.

"We feel Gonville is still the best site for the school, but we're keeping the possibility of alternative sites open," the Education Ministry's district property officer, Leon Carter, said.

The ministry is busy finalising a site proposal which will be presented at a public meeting in the near future, before it begins the resource consent process.

"We're hopeful that we can show those with concerns that the development will enhance the domain," Mr Carter said.

He said the new school building would be modern and attractive with little on-site development needed.

He did not believe that the Maori school, now operating out of two classrooms in the Hinau St kohanga reo, could have expanded on site.

The school's principal, Stuart Kawau, could not be contacted for comment.

Wanganui District Council parks and property manager Rowan McGregor said public recreation on the domain would not be sacrificed if the school moved in.

He said the council approved the sale because it viewed the move as a



PHOTO: DEREK FLYNN G2569

Grant Rogerson and supporters stand on land they want to keep public.

"win-win situation", and the school's construction was "far from being the loss of the domain".

He said the building would not take up all domain land and the school's rugby field and playground would be open to the public.

"One third of the passive recreation area would not be touched. Half of the two-thirds that will be built on would be available for after-hours use by the public."

The council is awaiting the Education Ministry's plan defining the new site and areas of the reserve

declared surplus before the ministry applies to council for the resource management process.

Consent is required from the Department of Conservation so reserve status can be revoked, and also to lease the land to the ministry while the purchase is being worked through.

An independent commissioner will be appointed for the resource consent hearing, but a date for that hearing has not yet been set.

Mr McGregor said Gonville Domain was one of Wanganui's

parks and reserves that the council began reviewing in 1977.

"We found the domain was under-utilised, and to reduce the costs of maintenance it was decided the land was best divested back to the Crown."

He said the golf and hockey clubs would not be affected by the construction. When council approved the sale, the touch rugby club was using other venues.

"Touch rugby developments at the domain have only started happening over the past couple of months."

Dear elected members of the Whanganui District Council.

Thank you very much for providing the opportunity to submit to the Long Term Plan for the Whanganui District.

This is a submission from the Stratford District Youth Council, one of the longest standing Youth Councils in New Zealand.

We note your proposal to disestablish the Whanganui District Youth Council and to replace some of its functions with a councillor holding a youth portfolio. The overall cost saving achieved appears to be just over \$40,000 per annum - or less than 0.04% of Whanganui District Council's annual rates intake.

While we appreciate that we don't reside within your district, we believe we are in a unique position to highlight the value a Youth Council can bring to a district and its residents; particularly its younger residents - but not exclusively. Just like elected members, Youth Councillors have families, go to school, play sports and so on - and as elected members will know from their own experience, the best engagement happens outside of council chambers. Just like elected members connect formally and informally with their peer groups, Youth Councillors are a primary conduit between council, families, schools, sports clubs and so on. They are your eyes and ears in areas and on subject matters you may not have a natural affinity to.

The establishment of a youth portfolio is commendable, but this should be in addition, not instead of having a Youth Council. As a young person, having an adult speak for you can feel disempowering and frustrating. It can leave you feeling as though your voice, experiences, and perspectives are being misrepresented or overlooked - often this is totally unintentional, but just like the game "chinese whispers", if you are not part of the conversation, the message that is received at the other end may not quite be what it was at the beginning. While adults may have good intentions in advocating on behalf of youth, their understanding may not fully capture the challenges and aspirations that young people face or have. This disconnect can create a sense of alienation and diminish a youth's sense of agency in shaping decisions that directly impact their life.

Feeling sidelined in discussions about your own future can create resentment and disengagement, ultimately hindering the ability to develop the skills and confidence needed to become active participants in society. It's essential for adults to recognise the importance of amplifying youth voices rather than speaking on their behalf, fostering an environment where young people are empowered to advocate for themselves and contribute meaningfully to the conversations that affect them. At a time when trust in institutions, such as councils, is at an all-time low, direct connections between community and decision makers, such as achieved through a well functioning Youth Council are an effective and efficient countermeasure. Trust can't be bought, it needs to be earned and a Youth Council assists in earning the trust of your future ratepayers.

The decision to close the Whanganui District Youth Council undoubtedly represents a missed opportunity for the community. Beyond just a loss in youth engagement, it signifies a failure to recognise the invaluable contributions that young people can make to local

governance and community development. By shutting down the Youth Council, not only are youth voices silenced, but the potential for innovative ideas and fresh perspectives to drive positive change is also impacted.

The closure of the Whanganui District Youth Council represents more than just a loss of engagement; it signifies a loss of empowerment for young people within the community. By dismantling a platform where youth could voice their concerns, advocate for their interests, and actively participate in decision-making processes, the community sends a message that the opinions and contributions of young individuals are not valued or respected. This loss of empowerment can have profound effects on the confidence, self-esteem, and sense of agency among youth, diminishing their ability to actively shape their own futures and the future of their community. Without avenues for meaningful participation, young people may feel disempowered and disconnected from the institutions and processes that govern their lives, perpetuating a cycle of disengagement and disaffection that ultimately undermines the well-being and vitality of the community as a whole.

While the decision to close the Whanganui District Youth Council may appear to save costs in the short term, the long-term consequences could result in far greater financial damage. By neglecting to invest in youth engagement and participation, the community risks stunting its own growth and development. Without avenues for young people to contribute their ideas and perspectives, the community may overlook innovative solutions to emerging challenges, leading to inefficient use of resources and missed opportunities for economic and social progress. Additionally, youth who feel like they don't have a say in their own community may become disengaged from their communities, potentially leading to increased social issues and higher costs associated with addressing them in the future. Investing in youth now is not only an investment in their future but also in the long-term prosperity and sustainability of Whanganui as a whole.

The closure of the Whanganui District Youth Council also has profound implications for hauora (holistic well-being) within the community. By silencing the voices of young people and denying them avenues for participation in local governance, the community risks undermining the mental, emotional, and social well-being of its youth population. Feeling marginalised and excluded from decision-making processes can contribute to feelings of isolation, disconnection, and disempowerment among young people, ultimately impacting their overall hauora. Furthermore, without platforms for youth engagement, the community misses out on opportunities to address issues such as mental health, substance abuse, and social inequities that disproportionately affect young people. Thus, the closure of the Youth Council not only diminishes the voices of youth but also undermines efforts to promote hauora and ensure the well-being of all members of the Whanganui community.

The Whanganui Districts Youth Council was more than just a group; it was a symbol of empowerment and inclusion for young people. It provided a platform for them to express their concerns, advocate for their interests, and collaborate with local leaders to effect positive change. Its closure not only diminishes the voices of young people but also undermines the principles of democracy and community engagement.

Youth involvement in local governance is not a luxury; it's a necessity. It's about cultivating the leaders of tomorrow and building a community where everyone feels valued and heard.

Moving forward, it's crucial for community leaders to recognise the importance of youth involvement in decision-making processes and take proactive steps to re-establish platforms for youth engagement and participation. By fostering an environment where young people feel valued, respected, and empowered, Whanganui can harness the full potential of its youth population and create a more vibrant and inclusive community for generations to come.

We would like to finish our submission with a whakataukī:

‘Tukuna te rangatahi kia tū, kia whanake’ - Allow youth the opportunity to grow

This proverb is of Ngāti Maniapoto origin. Maniapoto was still in his youth when he succeeded the mantle of tribal leadership. Here youth are afforded the opportunity to lead in their respective strengths at an early stage in their life – a formula for rangatahi engagement. This is consistent with youth councillors representing the rangatahi and tamariki of their rohe.

Disestablishing the Whanganui youth council is removing an opportunity for your city's young people to grow, and we encourage you to reconsider this decision in order to ensure Whanganui itself grows stronger, more resilient, and more future focused.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit on your long term plan.

Kind Regards,

Tatjana Hanne
Youth Voice Liaison
Stratford District Youth Council

T. R. HARRIS

Wanganui 10/4/74

TEN YEAR PLAN.

Dear Panel, I believe that "Cornmarket Reserve" should be developed as a high-end gated housing complex, similar to Caversham Park, Springvale. Wanganui ratepayers would have forgone \$50 million since it became a "Reserve".

(1955/56) I can remember working in a butcher shop in Pitt / Dublin St, with 2 houses and Dublin St. adjacent, an 1 (Gas dept. owned) in Pitt St. Further down Pitt St were a ladies bowling / croquet greens) built after the condemning / destruction of houses in the late 1940s.

Early Wakefield survey clearly show residential sections on Tongariro Quay (later Somme Pde). I suspect people in Lower Pitt St would have lobbied Council for the Reserve to inflate the value of their properties. - Bob Harris.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES NEW ZEALAND

SUBMISSION TO WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034

ABOUT PUBLIC LIBRARIES NEW ZEALAND

Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ) is the key sector advocate for public libraries, and particularly the current and emerging leaders in New Zealand public libraries. PLNZ has 307 members covering all New Zealand local authorities and public library services.

PLNZ is a not-for-profit association registered under the Incorporated Societies Act with its vision that all New Zealanders have equitable access to public libraries to enhance the wellbeing of their communities. PLNZ supports the development of consistently excellent public library services throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

Public libraries represent the largest library sector in New Zealand in terms of registered and active members (1.4M), collections (10M physical items, 12.6M digital items), service locations (340, including mobile libraries), visitation (25M physical visits, 33.4M virtual visits); usage (34.5M physical loans, 16.7M digital loans/downloads) and staffing (2,360 FTE).

In particular, PLNZ supports local public libraries and their leaders through the collection and secure storage of data on library usage, funding and performance for benchmarking and the development of evidence-based business cases as well as the provision of networking and professional development opportunities. In 2023/24, PLNZ is expanding the range of data collected to include specific output data on community impact as well as the development of local surveying on the community impact of public libraries.

WHY PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Public libraries are integral to their local communities in providing community spaces and public programmes for all ages, access to technology and support in its use as well as a safe, respectful and supportive space for all members of the community.

Public Libraries are one of the most heavily used and highly valued community services provided by New Zealand local authorities.

In the report of the research project *Libraries as a Vehicle for Service Delivery* (January 2023) commissioned by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and undertaken by consultants Frank Advice, the researchers identified that libraries make a significant and evolving contribution to community wellbeing.

In addition, this research identified that libraries have a key role in 'addressing the gaps in digital inequity and civic participation' with libraries acting as a 'digital safety net', a 'forum for both formal and informal support' as well as operating as 'trusted providers of government services'.

Importantly, the report identified that libraries are increasingly 'operating as information intermediaries' and that 'delivering through libraries can lower operating costs for central/local government.'

With particular reference to Council Annual and Long Term Planning, the researchers identified that 'library funding was usually short-term or time-limited' and that 'long-term, secure funding enables more effective and sustainable service delivery through libraries'.

The report reviewed recent economic analyses of New Zealand and Australian public libraries, using either a cost-benefit analysis approach or a social return on investment model. This review confirmed that 'public libraries provide vital services to their local communities, have direct and indirect economic value and investment in libraries has positive results'.

Complementing the research undertaken in this report, the consultants provided a series of case studies of New Zealand public libraries across the country, showcasing the role of libraries in modelling bicultural engagement and commitment; collecting and preserving the social and cultural heritage of the local community; libraries as a hub for lifelong learning as well as the extensive outreach and mobile services provided by public libraries.

In addition, in October 2022, Taituarā released the *Living Libraries* report on the value of libraries in Aotearoa, which was compiled from the responses to a series of surveys of General Managers, Finance Managers and Library Managers from New Zealand Councils. This report also includes a series of case studies of innovative and exemplary service provision by New Zealand public libraries.

The Chief Executive of Taituarā commented that '... libraries are seen as vital community assets. These assets belong to everyone in the community and are often valued as places for community groups to meet. Being accessible free of charge, libraries provide an inclusive, safe space for families to read and access information. They are at the centre of their communities and are useful for other agencies co-locating within the library space to reach people in a partnership approach.'

'Libraries provide digital resources and information free of charge. It is increasingly evident that they have become an important point of access to essential online public services through freely available internet in libraries'.

Key findings of the *Living Libraries* research report on the value of libraries are that they 'support learning for life; champion the growth of a nation of readers by encouraging reading for pleasure and improving literacy; support children and families, helping them to develop and thrive in their community; enhance community resilience in times of crisis by providing a trusted safe place in the community; enhance digital equity and inclusion by being trusted providers of information; support and enhance economic and community development by providing access to job information and access to business support; provide community hubs, connecting people and services, and are trusted partners in the community'.

RESPONSE TO LONG TERM PLAN OPTIONS AND PROPOSALS

Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ) wishes to respond to the Whanganui District Council Draft Ten Year Plan 2024-2034, with specific reference to the provision of library services.

PLNZ notes with interest that the Whanganui District population is expected to grow by 0.8% per annum to approximately 53,000 people by the year 2034. In addition, 22% of the population are aged 65 years or older (10,780 people) and this number is expected to grow by 1.8% per year until 2034 (LTP p.6).

Library facilities and services are essential to this increasingly elderly population, growing at more than twice the rate of the overall population, particularly with the reduced financial capacity, restricted mobility and increasing health needs that often accompany more senior years.

The LTP Consultation Document (p.10) notes that in 2022/23, the Whanganui District Libraries welcomed 300,000 visitors and issued nearly 570,000 items, including 115,000 digital items, to its 21,000 members. This membership represents 43% of the population, making the library one of the most heavily patronised community facilities in the District with the equivalent of nearly every second person in the Whanganui population being a library member.

The Consultation Document also reinforces the commitment of the Whanganui District Council to fulfilling the purpose of local government to promote the social, cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing of the community, both now and in the future (LTP p.15).

The library service is one of the few Council services that contribute to all four wellbeing community outcomes. PLNZ is currently increasing the range of output data collected from all New Zealand public libraries and in 2024/25 intends to survey library patrons on the contribution that the library makes to their community wellbeing to provide an evidence based confirmation of the library contribution to these wellbeing outcomes.

PLNZ acknowledges the impact of high inflation, rising interest rates and other costs on Council budgets and service delivery, and commend the Council on its mix of strategies to manage these costs while aiming to deliver an affordable rates revenue increase from 1 July 2024.

PLNZ does however have serious concern with the Council preferred Option 1 (LTP p.21) to close the Davis Library, the largest and busiest facility in the Whanganui District Libraries network for one day a week, particularly in the context of the high level of library membership across the District, the significant contribution that the library makes to the four community wellbeings and the proportion of elderly people in the population growing at more than twice the rate of the overall population.

The LTP Consultation Document also includes OPTION 2: to close the Davis Library on a weekend day, saving only \$19,000 and OPTION 3: to retain the current opening hours for the Davis Library, and add \$43,000 or \$2.30 per property to the proposed rates revenue increase.

PLNZ strongly urges the Whanganui District Council to consider OPTION 3: to retain the current opening hours for Davis Library and add \$43,000 or \$2.30 per property per annum to the proposed rates revenue increase. This increase is roughly equivalent to a small scoop of hot chips or half an espresso coffee per annum, a modest concession per household compared to reduced access to the largest public library in the District for approximately 48 days each year (allowing for public holidays).

The LTP Consultation Document also includes three options related to the Gonville Library (LTP p.26). These include Option 1: Keep the Gonville Library open with its current opening hours. This option is already included in the 10.6% rates increase. Option 2 is to close the Gonville Library for one day a week, saving \$21,000 per annum or \$1.00 per property per annum, and Option 3: Close the Gonville Library, saving \$230,000 per annum or \$12.50 per property per annum.

PLNZ endorses the Council preferred option to retain the current opening hours for the Gonville Library due to the significant impact on local residents of a closure of their nearest service location and unfairly disadvantaging this section of the community.

In addition, PLNZ notes that the projected rates requirement for the library service (Supporting Information to the Consultation Document, p.3) has decreased by \$76,000 from the 2023/24 rates requirement of \$3,352,000 to \$3,276,000, presumably as a result of the proposal to close the Davis Library one day per week, as well as other cost reductions.

It is also noted that in terms of the Capital Expenditure (p.9) that the library book budget for 2024/25 & 2025/26 has been reduced by 32%, severely restricting the capacity of the Whanganui District Libraries to meet customer demand for new titles, many of which will be unavailable when budgets are restored to slightly above previous levels from 2026/27 onwards.

PLNZ urges the Whanganui District Council to reconsider this short sighted reduction, which is roughly equivalent to a rates revenue increase of \$7.50 per property per annum but will have significant impact on the unavailability of collection resources over the coming two years in particular.

Bernie Hawke

Executive Director
Public Libraries New Zealand



Submission 1: Be Bolder & Ask for More

*Simple Round-ups
& local Philanthropy*

1st: Option A – the preferred option, all the way 😊

Don't Only Just do the basics

In this environment giving options is all the more important than normal

Yes, be prudent, be careful, but don't be miserly,
many of us look for leadership, we don't want Scruge
- many are asking what should we do, what else can we do...



There's two things for sure in government, local or central:

- 1) You're always wrong
- 2) You're definitely wrong, if you believe there's only one way.....

Don't demand, don't force like nay-sayers,... ask for permission to do more 😊

It's good to Do the Basics Well.....

*But, it's irresponsible to **Only Just** do the basics*

We are in times when inflation & economic recession has been hi-jacked

The Cost of Living Crisis, originated in Europe & UK as political reasons to blame events not politicians or leadership, it's become the banner excuse to do nothing, to avoid a cost or investment, or for austerity.

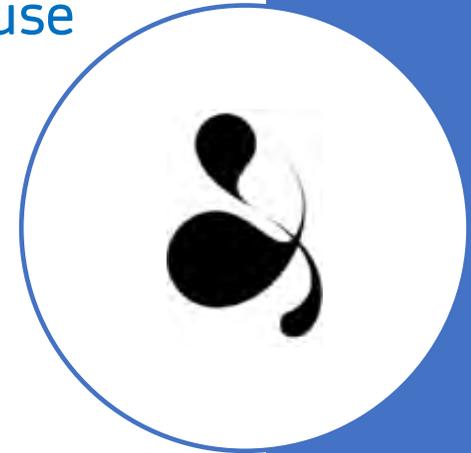
Meanwhile None of it is targeted in any way to help those who need support most, always starting with cuts in benefits or services.

Submission 1:

There is an easy way for organisations to set an example.

Start the ball rolling, kick off being different, to make a difference > no-one is asking the well-off to help,

I suggest we *Ask them to contribute* >>>



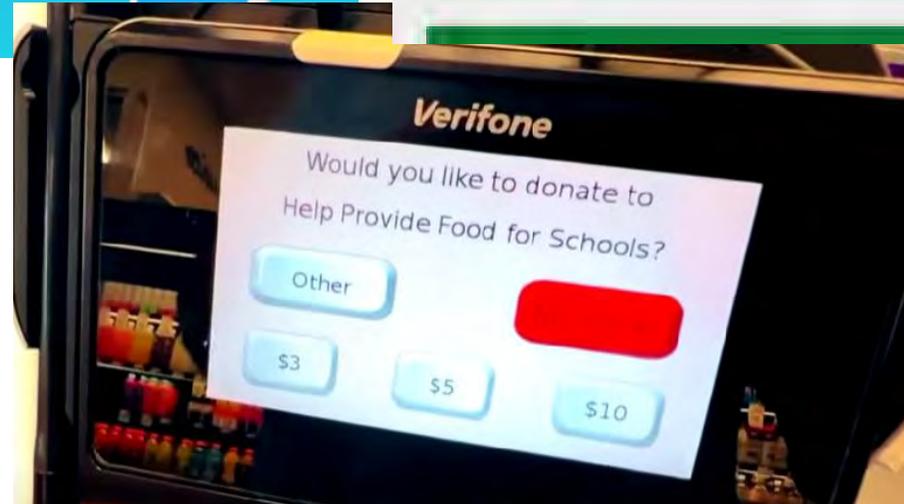
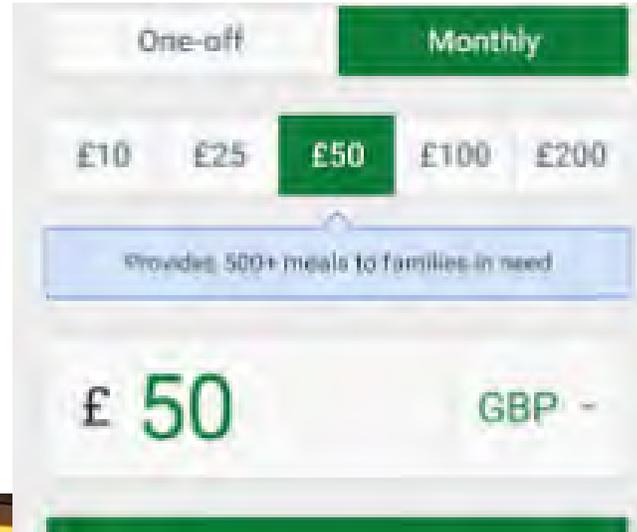
It's good to Do the Basics Well.....

It can be irresponsible to *Only Just* do the basics

How do we afford to do more, Ask for a bit more to provide the extras

ROUNDUP at Checkout

Let customers donate change from transactions.



It's good to Do the Basics Well.....

It can be irresponsible to *Only Just* do the basics

Start Your Order

Your Order

Round up your total today to help RMHC families in your community and around the world.

Round up \$0.76

Or

Not Today

Checkout • \$ 22.49

Round up your transaction or add a donation in support of **Team Red, White & Blue**. We will match your donation up to \$ 5.00.

ROUND UP \$ 0.51 **DONATE \$ 5.00**

powered by **Pledge**

Choose amount

Stand with Cake4Kids in supporting at-risk youth across the county! They deserve to know they matter.

Choose amount

\$ 25 \$ 50 \$ 100

\$ 250 \$ 500 \$ 1,000

Custom Amount

Dedicate my donation in honor of (a memory) of someone

Write us a comment

Display your donation & comment on the donor wall

Next →

Check out

Give to a cause with your purchase

Seven Clean Seas change

£1.00 £2.00 £5.00

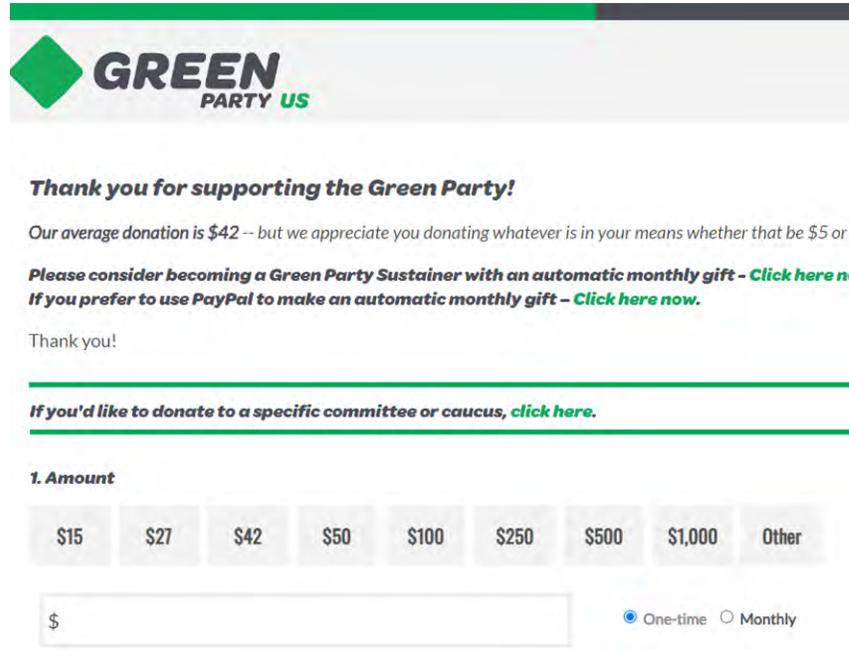
[Learn more](#) Powered by **Virtue**



My Submission 1

It's good to Do the Basics Well.....

It can be irresponsible to *Only Just* do the basics



GREEN PARTY US

Thank you for supporting the Green Party!

Our average donation is \$42 -- but we appreciate you donating whatever is in your means whether that be \$5 or \$1000.

Please consider becoming a Green Party Sustainer with an automatic monthly gift - [Click here now](#)
If you prefer to use PayPal to make an automatic monthly gift - [Click here now](#).

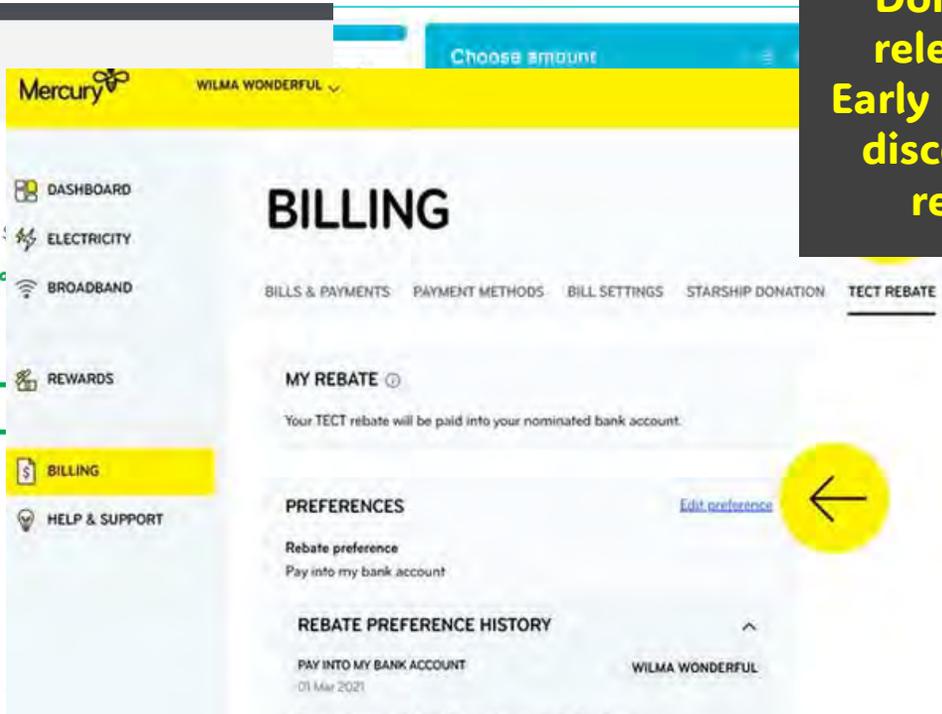
Thank you!

If you'd like to donate to a specific committee or caucus, [click here](#).

1. Amount

\$15 \$27 \$42 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other

\$ One-time Monthly



Mercury WILMA WONDERFUL

BILLING

DASHBOARD ELECTRICITY BROADBAND REWARDS BILLING HELP & SUPPORT

BILLING

BILLS & PAYMENTS PAYMENT METHODS BILL SETTINGS STARSHIP DONATION **TECT REBATE**

MY REBATE

Your TECT rebate will be paid into your nominated bank account.

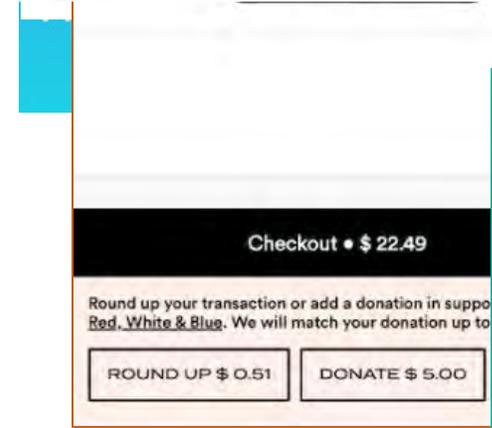
PREFERENCES [Edit preference](#)

Rebate preference
Pay into my bank account

REBATE PREFERENCE HISTORY

PAY INTO MY BANK ACCOUNT WILMA WONDERFUL
01 Mar 2021

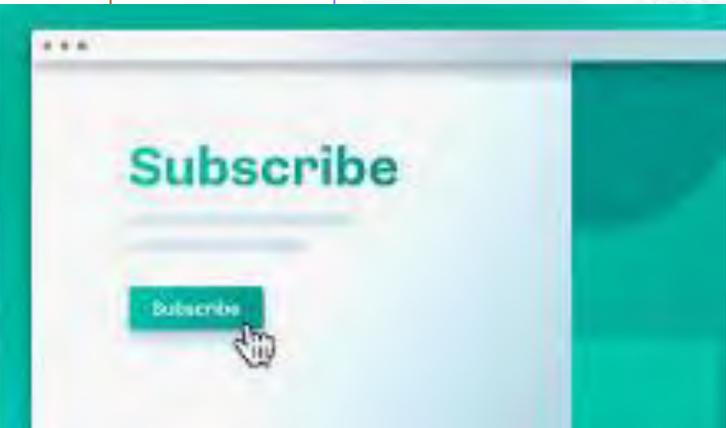
Donate or release an Early payment discount or rebate



Checkout • \$22.49

Round up your transaction or add a donation in support of Red, White & Blue. We will match your donation up to \$5.00.

ROUND UP \$ 0.51 DONATE \$ 5.00



Subscribe

Subscribe



change

£5.00

My Submission 1

It's not hard, just *ask well*, too.....

ask for permission to do more, then ask for more

Magic Words that Increase Donations for Nonprofits



donorbox

\$43,802	876	\$50,000
RAISED	DONATIONS	GOAL

1. **You & Your** (*less of the we, or us, or the*)
2. **Because** (*we like reasons*)
3. **Today** (*urgency of action not thought*)
4. **Thank-you** (*acknowledge their role*)
5. **Small** (*start small, few, spare*)
6. **Quick** (*instant, act with us*)
7. **Join** (*social & community*)
8. **100%** (*goes to the cause*)
9. **Expert** (*productive & effective*)

Courtesy of 





Submission 2:
Park & Rides – PT & Active
*Whanganui &
Palmerston North*

The Responsibility to *Not Only Just* do the basics



What are you looking for?



Do it Online

Kā Ratoka
Services

Kā Whakaaetanga me kā Raihana
Consents & Licences

Hapori me te Rēhia
Community & Recreation

Te Tāiao
Environment

Kaunihera
Council

Services > Roads & Transport > Getting Around > Park and Ride

Park and Ride

We have five Park and Ride sites - three in Rangiora and two in Kaiapoi. These are to support the direct bus services providing peak hour commuters with faster trips into Christchurch City and parking for residents who wish to carpool.

Parking is free at the park and ride sites.

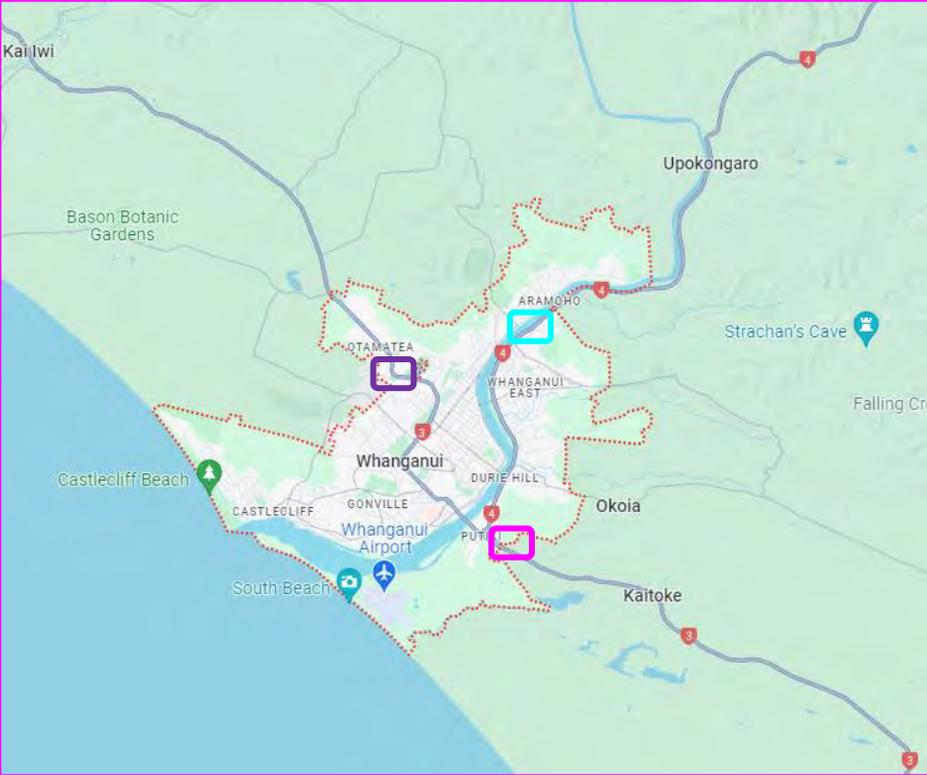


- > Park and ride is a cost-effective way of providing access to public transport for regional travellers
- > By providing parking out of the town centre it reduces pressure on central parking
- > More people on public transport, means fewer cars on the roads and less congestion
- > Park and Ride was also found to be more cost-effective than alternatives such as improvements to the local bus network or providing regional public transport, because it optimises existing bus capacity and infrastructure.



Start small – make the noise, pull demand

There's under-utilised space, it just needs calls to action, signage, promotion & some part-time staff – then collaborate with cycling & visitors



Start small – make the noise, pull demand

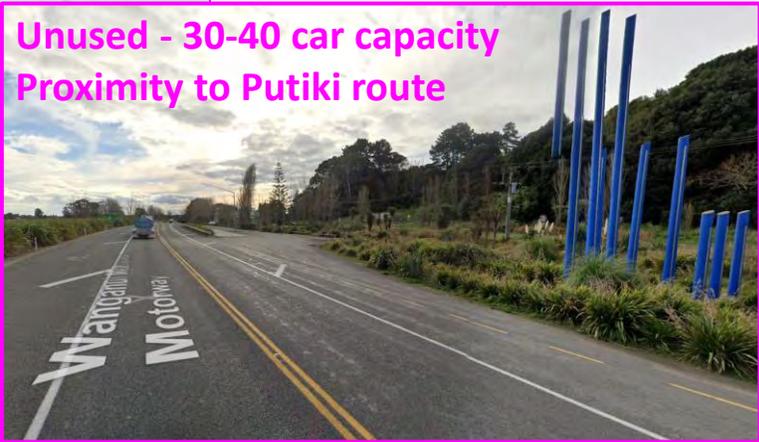
There's under-utilised space, it just needs calls to action, signage, promotion & some part-time staff – then collaborate with cycling & visitors



Under-utilised capacity & close to bus route & new route proposals



Under-utilised capacity
On bus route & local minor road overflow



Unused - 30-40 car capacity
Proximity to Putiki route

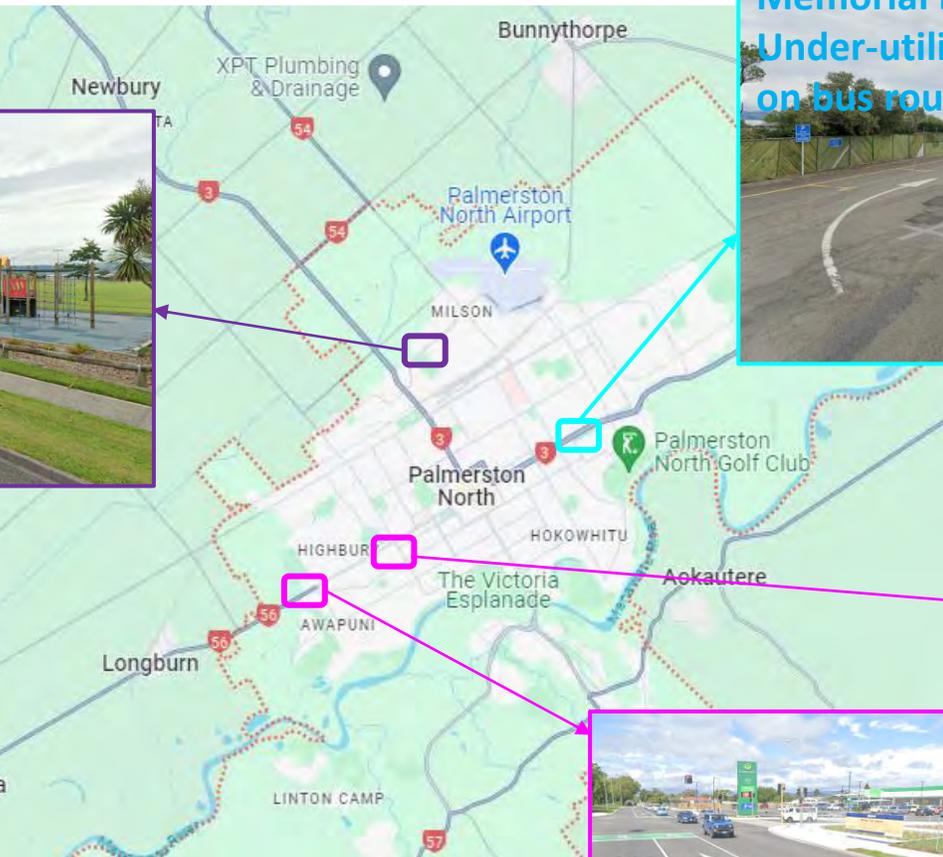


Start small – make the noise, pull demand

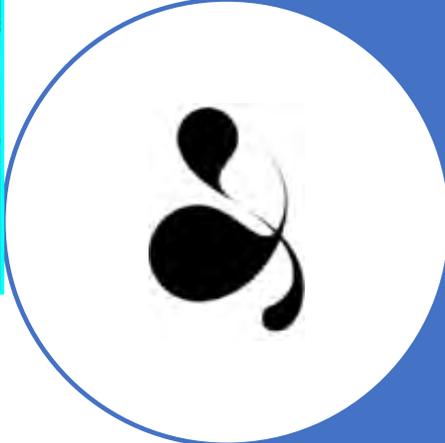
There's under-utilised space, it just needs calls to action, signage, promotion & some part-time staff – then collaborate with cycling & visitors



Colquhoun Park - Under-utilised capacity that could be expanded & on bus route (plus local minor road overflow)



Memorial Park roadside - Under-utilised capacity on bus route



Partner with business Parking capacity



Whanganui District Council

Graham Holloway [REDACTED] 5 24/04/24

[REDACTED] n t
[REDACTED] i t re Consultation of Long Term Plan

I am bitterly disappointed in the disrespectful way WDC has addressed some issues and one being at the RUBBISH MEETING at the Club Metro on 23/04/24 where WDC seems to show absolutely no regard for the seniors here. Instance being that at that meeting there was an alarming amount of unhappy seniors. We have done the right thing and we already sort out for recycling and take to Maria place, and now WDC has treated us in total disregard to force us to pay even more for something we dont want. It was pointed out to your staff that nobody was taking down notes, and we got an answer that said our concerns were the same as everywhere else. THAT REINFORCES WHAT I HAVE WRITTEN. We accept that recycling is needed and Govt has set a mandate for it to happen, however not enough has gone into it to be acceptable, and furthermore I asked is WDC after recycling starts going to do spot checks on rubbish bags to ensure that those who cant be bothered, and that is why we have this problem, to issue an instant fine to be seen as being fair. The predictable answer was NO.

I am also bitterley disappointed in the fact that WDC seem to have an idea that WDC can bulldoze what some want, and a perfect example of that is the statement made by Michael Law in his idea of a lower rate being achievable, his comment on page two bout WE SHOULD NOT REHASH THIS, WE HAVE MADE THE DECISION. That comment is extremely concerning that if councillors and upper Management are NOT PREPARED TO LISTEN, then they become OXYGEN THIEFS and need to be shown the door, or we vote them out and that time will come at the same time as Peter OSKAM was hoping for us to have forgotten bout the concerns of cost over runs on the Sargent Gallery.

WDC forget we may be old in your eyes, however our memory for this stuff is etched in our mind waiting for our opportunity to seek revenge. VOTE THEM OUT

Am for

1/ Whanganui East Pool 2/ Bird Aviary 3/ starting to sort Dublin St bridge
4/ winter gardens with fees 5/ a big emphasis on increasing non rates income. I am aware that fines are set by GOVT, that needs sorting. Its a problem than can longer be kicked around.

Am against

1/ the exorbitant IWI consultation payouts, and daily costs for attending. Its ironic that GOOD WORKING MAORI WHOM COULD DO WITH SOME OF THIS PAYMENT DONT GET ANY.
2/ Co governance and the associated payments desperately need reining in.
3/ The Pilot academy can no longer be propped up with Rates money, and furthermore any profit shall be deemed as paying back what ratepayers have paid to it.
4/ NO HOTEL COMPLEX possibly help by making WDC land available, AND THATS IT
5/ No money for Mautau gardens and trust.
6/ NO funding for IWI We are all NEW ZEALANDERS. Everyone as an equal. IWI payments are absolutely not necessary. I personally find it offensive. I however accept that there have been serious history injustices handed down to Maori, however I didnt do it and Maori today didnt have it done to them, so all this IWI stuff is making unessesary agro. Interesting bout that comment is how many Maori I have worked with and had conversation with AGREE.
7/ Kerbside recycling needs recycling and gone.
8/ No Power up of castlecliff Domain

Items needing sorting

1/ Get rid of buses as they are a burdon on the ratepayer paying for buses with only the driver in it

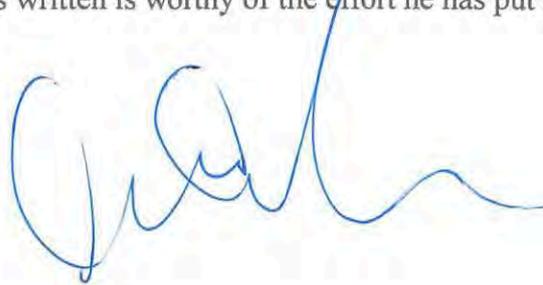
2/ Port management needs an TOTAL overhaul and accountability

3/ The comment on page 52 A KEY PART OF THE FINANCIAL STRATEGY is setting LIMITS ON RATES INCREASES. That comment is a bad joke due to WDC failures

WDC needs to really listen to people that have genuine concerns, and listen to people that have good ideas that have merit, and just not disregard them because WDC didnt think of them. WDC has a lot of room to make genuine improvements on.

What Michael Law has written is worthy of the effort he has put into it.

Regards Graham

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Graham', written in a cursive style.

Cr Michael Law

★

Favourites · otsoSpnedrgll:m il11i51tga 39rcg10htaugt8p93 a7022taA0 8303 ·

#lowoption – Keep the Aviary and Whanganui East Pool and STILL have only 5.4% rate rises, read below.

Just like we are ALL having to do in this cost of living crisis, the council need to save money by making changes to services provided. The council has already made decisions that has brought the rate rise down from near 20% to 10.4%, however, we need to go further. Do not think that if you rent, this doesn't apply to you... You will have your rent increased. We are all residents together. This is your time to have your say.

It's that crucial time again, and we REALLY need to hear from you. Why bother? History has shown us that when lots of you speak up about what you really want and need, it makes a big difference to us, the council members. If you stay silent, then you're letting others make decisions for you. We don't want that, do we?

So, what's this submission thing all about? It's your chance to tell us what's important to you when it comes to the services and projects the council spends money on. Your voice helps us shape our long-term plan, ensuring we focus on what matters most to our community. I'm here to guide you through making a submission, highlighting options that could help us reduce costs without losing everything we value.

Take a moment and share your thoughts here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wdchaveyoursay2024> or carry on reading below where I provide my thoughts.

Now, let's talk about why this matters. It's all about the money and outcomes – specifically, our council rates and services. Rates are set to increase by 10.4% this year. Sounds like a lot, right? Especially when household incomes only went up by 5.5%. To avoid making things tougher for everyone, a small number of councilors are aiming to bring that rate increase down to 5.4% while keeping open popular services like the Aviary and Whanganui east pool. But here's the kicker – achieving this means we need to cut back on more services, however, we have done the hard work finding the least valuable services relative to the cost. The #lowoption is still up for grabs and if enough of you join us on this message, we can ensure that we focus only on the highest value items.

Why cut services? Well, our council bills are mainly made up of two things: services and projects. Projects get their funding from debt, we pay a portion every year including interest, so it doesn't raise rates by the same amount. But it takes a lot less in service spending to do the same. To drop

12.8

THIS CONCERNS ME: IF COUNCILLORS ARE NOT PREPARED TO LISTEN TO IDEAS, THEN THEY BECOME OXYGEN THIEFS + NEXT BE SLOWN THE DOOR

from a 10.4% rate increase to 5.4%, we'd have to cut even more from our services - I have spent months trying to get this information into the public domain and have been told "We should not rehash this, we have made the decision". The submission process is the last hurdle, everything in the proposed plan is just that. PROPOSED changes. **A**

However, there's a silver lining! By choosing wisely, we can keep some popular services and still hit our 5.4% goal. I won't lie - getting to 5.4% will be tough. But the more good reasons we have for making smaller cuts, the easier it will be to decide what stays and what goes.

Remember, this is just my take on things - but I encourage you to think about what services you really value and let us know. Your input is invaluable. Let's make our community's voice heard loud and clear! So let me tell you the #lowoption, the one that hasn't quite made it into the proposed plan. I support the low option for one major reason, the combined hurt of rate rises above wage inflation outweighs the benefit of the service. I am not asking you to copy me, just giving you the #lowoption, this is only my point of view for service cuts and not in any way the view of the council.

Each item has a header, my preferred option and a comment that if you wish to, you can copy and paste into your submission:

- Davis Library: Option 1 - Close Davis Library on a Monday.

Comments: As the least used day, Monday allows us to save money on bank holidays and better rotation of staff

- Whanganui East Pool - Option 4 - Something Else.

Comments: The Whanganui East swimming pool is a beloved heritage pool with thousands of residents using on a regular basis. Rates of drownings in rivers increased dramatically when this was shut. Shutting without an alternative solution is bad practice. Our recommendation is to remove any plans for future development until a report is brought to council on the viability of outside swimming in Whanganui and to reduce maintenance costs to minimum. This will mean \$440k will reduce to \$110k for the summer period with no loss of jobs.

- Repertory Theatre: Option 1 - Close the theatre.

Comments: We do not require the council to run numerous theatres in Whanganui. If this was to be renovated or held, it would need to be purchased by a private investor.

- Virginia Lake Aviary: Option 4 - Something Else.

Comments: The Council has been told numerous times the public is happy to fund this, even after an overwhelming positive response in 2023, the council has yet again NOT listened to the public. It is recommended that all proposed work cease, leaving only a \$40k saving (as per the councils figures last year) and then I would like to see the council privatize this

facility to ensure its success and without council interference in the future. Either with the mission of closing over a ten year period or for upgrades over time, depending on the demand from the public.

- Mainstreet Hanging Flower Baskets: Option 1 - Remove.

Comments: \$93k for a pop of colour a year doesn't seem fair. Has the council considered perennials?

- Glassworks: Option 1: Keep but seek a buyer.

Comments: \$192k a year is a top-up that the council can not continue to fund in this environment, however cutting this without warning could have an impact to the art industry.

- Drop off Points for Rural Rubbish: Option 2: Close.

Comments: \$175k a year at a time where urban residents are seeing a 2.4%+ rate rise for forced recycling and rising costs for urban for their rubbish. It is not a council responsibility to remove rubbish for free, at a cost for everyone. Either a purely targeted rate is applied or a self-funded community project is enabled. Using fear of fly tipping is not an excuse to pay for services, it leads to more bad behaviour and more inefficient costs.

- Gonville Library: Option 3 Close.

Comments: Libraries need to evolve to become a community hubs, we have seven libraries, mobile libraries and online libraries. The cost to run a library is significantly more than a community hub. My recommendation is to close Gonville library.

- Winter Gardens: Option 1 Do not close.

Comments: Visited by 10s of thousands of locals and tourists in our premier park. It is not something I am willing to consider this year.

- Community Grant Funding: Option 4 Something Else.

Comments: \$1.1 million is proposed to be spent, which is just under 2% of councils total spend. Some of these items are much loved and others are a mixture of social groups, churches, plugging the gap in central government funding and literally just charity. It is not the council's job to be donating to charity and my recommendation is to reduce by 600k for a total of \$500k. I understand the harm this will cause to a small number of people, who will need to seek funds from the private market, however, the harm 1% rate rises causes on 36% of our population has a combined impact far exceeding the harm that these organisations will have to endure.

Do you have any further comments on Service Cuts?

I propose the following cuts:

- Masters Games: A profitable and successful event that does not need \$100k of resident money to be successful. This should be stopped unless there is a significant risk that the event will be called off due to the \$100k. Our own people who are already employed for Tourism and Economic Development should be focused on this highly profitable event.

- Mobile Library: \$150k a year spent on mobile libraries with the generation of online information and with short cycles to large libraries means this service is mostly used for events and schools. We do not need to subsidize the ministry of education and events could be handled separately.

- Public Arts: \$176k a year on art becomes counter intuitive, art is an expression of the times and times are tight and our art scene should understand that.

- Home Library Service: \$70k for home library service is not required with the online library. Davis library could bring in a delivery system which would cost less than the home library service. The number of users could also mean buying electronic devices and using the online library would be more affordable.

- Aramoho Library: A community hub in Aramoho is advised to stay open but to align itself to the costs associated with a community centre that happens to have a library. Castle cliff is \$15k and Whanganui East is \$35k. \$100k saving from Aramoho can be proposed.

- Coastal Action Plan: Plans without action are an inefficient and costly measures. \$27k can be saved by not borrowing large sums for projects without objective end results.

- Whanganui River Boat Centre: \$67k can be saved through a transition to combine services, drive more self-sustainability and focus on profit share arrangements.

- Climate Change Fund: \$110k is budgeted for this year with no strategy or outcome that benefits the people of our district. As per the answer to Cr Laws question in 2023, the surplus is likely to be spent on reports from consultants, instead of outcomes we need. Remove completely until needed.

I would urge the council to look more closely at the following items which have not been considered and could take a 40% haircut.

- CBD maintenance: \$1,421,000. Proposed to lock this in a one million, fixing costs allows innovation to ensure the maximization of outcomes.

- Port: \$1,798,000. It is understood that costs have escalated on this project due to inflation, however, the return on investment now sits well outside the council's risk parameters. What work has been done to reduce spending?

Thank you for reading until the end. It has been a long year of debate and although near 1m of my cuts are either locked in or soon to be. The above is another 2 million dollars. The end of the day, it is up to you, the residents of Whanganui District. Please submit.

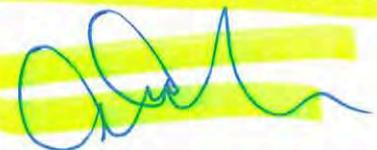
EXTREMELY WELL DONE

QUESTIONS RE THE PORT AND CUTS TO SERVICES

Where is the income from Harbour Endowment leases being spent, given that all monies raised from those leases must be used on the port? What is council doing to retain valuable industries who pay a commercial lease back into the Harbour Endowment Fund and employ a considerable number of Wanganui residents. Does council respond to problems and requests/submissions in a timely manner? Word around the place has it that council doesn't and in fact can be more obstructive than constructive. It's this sort of thing that does no one any favours and paints the council in a bad light. Perhaps council could be more proactive in finding ways to dispel such rumours and if there is truth in them that obstructive behaviour needs to be stopped.

What is QWest's yearly lease payment for Wharves 2 and 3 and why should the ratepayers pay for rebuilding these facilities if, as it seems QWest will be the only beneficiary of this work? What if any, is the benefit to Wanganui and the rate payers, given that QWest isn't a big employer and so far, hasn't attracted more major industries to Wanganui. There appears to be a distinct lack of accountability, especially disturbing when council is asking the ratepayers for an average rate rise of 10.6% when times are very tough. In the past, requests for a copy of the plans for the port rebuild/refurb, the initial projected cost including that to the ratepayers, a breakdown of the costs to date and where that money has been spent, the projected finish date and final

I WAS GIVEN THIS DOCUMENT, HOW TRUE
IT IS. ITS HITTING THE NAIL ON THE HEAD



costs to the ratepayers of Wanganui, both through Wanganui district council and Horizons, have been either ignored or treated with contempt. Who are the stakeholders i.e. Wanganui District Council, Horizons Regional Council, QWest and Iwi and how much investment are QWest and Iwi putting into the project. At the end of the day how big a vessel will actually be able to use the so called port, given that biggest vessel that can currently enter the port is a rather small coaster called Anatoki. Perhaps, Wanganui council's share of the wharves should be sold to QWest, thereby absolving the ratepayers of these ongoing and mounting costs.

As an aside there seems to be a similar lack of accountability when it comes to the Sargent Gallery project, the Velodrome and the International Flight school. Where is the cost/benefit analysis of these projects for the people of Wanganui?

Along with the cuts to services is the council contemplating staff cuts especially in areas where functions overlap or are unnecessarily doubled. The country is broke, central government is cutting the fat in all the ministries and council should be following suit in it's various departments.

Having a good credit rating is all very well and good but, any debt still has to be serviced and ultimately, it's the ratepayer who bears the cost. Among other things the council should be considering is a hold on so called "vanity projects" like an \$830000 raised crossing from Pakaitore across Taupo Quay until A: the need and value to the all the people of Wanganui is truly established and B: Wanganui can actually afford it.

REFERENCE TO PAGE 57 CONSULTATION DOC

	FARMING	EXOTIC FORESTRY	COMMERCIAL
RATES INCREASE	\$3.95 \$8.43 \$11.24	\$19.51 \$58.19	\$3.83 \$6.33 \$13.20
GST	.59 \$1.26 \$1.68	\$2.92 \$8.72	.57 .94 \$1.98
BUSINESS OFFSET AGAINST TAX APPROX 30%	\$1.12 \$2.39 \$3.18	\$5.53 \$16.49	\$1.09 \$1.80 \$3.74
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS OFF RATES INCREASE	\$1.71 \$3.65 \$4.86	\$8.45 \$25.21	\$1.66 \$2.74 \$5.72
NEW TRUE COST OF RATES INCREASE.	\$2.24 \$4.78 \$6.38	\$11.06 \$32.98	\$2.17 \$3.59 \$7.48

\$ 3360000
\$ 1250000
\$ 610000

\$ 700000
\$ 2090000

\$ 1660000
\$ 3350000
\$ 4570000

WDC RATES	\$ 3387.54
HORIZ ONES	\$ 386.27
	<hr/>
	\$ 3773.81
	<hr/>
Govt	\$ - 750.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 3023.81

PENSION (2 SUPER)

\$25811.24 11.73%

\$992.74 (FINITE)

NEW INCOME \$27049 + (4.8%)	\$ 3773.81
\$1038.93 / FIN/INCOME	\$ 483.04
	<hr/>
	\$ 4256.85
	<hr/>
\$46.19 DIFFERENCE	\$ - 750.00
	<hr/>
12.965%	\$ 3506.85

FINITE DIFF IN RATES = \$18.58

1.23% INCREASE
AMOUNT OF PENSION
RAISES \$483.04

(PENSION DIFF) (RAISES DIFF)

\$46.19 - \$18.58 = \$27.61 / FIN/INCOME FOR EVERY
ELLE

Submission and comments from Rosemary Hovey



Overall comments

It was good to get options for areas of optional council spending. However, to make better informed submissions, often there was insufficient data and information.

Costly areas of Council, other than necessary infrastructure work, maintenance and upgrades, include:

Whanganui and Partners. What would we miss with fewer staff, and less work taken on?

Port. This is costly and relies too much on having only one key player – Q West – other than the Council.

Sarjeant. While this has cost more than planned, it should bring people to Whanganui. I trust the Council will be marketing the new gallery and Whanganui.

Property. I do not think the Council should expand this portfolio unless it is for a facility that others do not provide, eg Opera House, swimming pools. The historic pensioner housing purchases should be maintained/upgraded but the portfolio not added to. (If a suitable buyer was found this should be considered).

Competing with the market. The Council should provide facilities that are not provided by others or commercially, such as gyms (Splash Centre).

Kerbside recycling and waste drop offs

Fully support kerbside recycling.

Retain rural drop offs to reduce illegal rubbish dumping in rural areas.

Davis Library

Keep the current hours. An essential facility for many in the city. Extending the library building has been discussed for over 30 years and never done! If the usage is going up that much, why would the Council give an option to close it one day a week? Doesn't make sense to me. Why are the user numbers not given? Or the minimum user numbers for the least used day?

Whanganui East pool

This is a tricky one but for many young people it is a place to go in summer if they are not able to afford a holiday out of town.

Repertory Theatre

I assume that closing the theatre and demolition would still require the bank to be stabilised. That cost/option is not included.

If so, maybe if the stabilisation work can be done, without too much damage to the building, the council could then see what future there might be for that building, either for Repertory or another group. There is not an oversupply of small theatre type buildings with permanent seating around Whanganui.

Aviary and Winter Gardens

Virginia Lake is a premier park and while the aviary and Winter Gardens adds to its charm, they are not essential when money is tight.

Hanging baskets

Victoria Avenue is one the prettiest main streets in NZ. The trees certainly add to that, but so too, do the baskets. In the past each business was asked to contribute to the baskets outside their premises, harder for chain stores and empty buildings. It seems a shame to diminish the attractiveness of the Avenue, especially as, I assume, the watering system still is functional.

Glassworks

Seek a buyer or at least try this option first.

Gonville Library

Keep the current hours or monitor when it is least used and reconsider if there can be a reduction of hours that has least impact.

Community Grants

It gets harder and harder for community groups to find funding so maybe there needs to be a closer assessment of targeting grants to groups that add to community or collective good.

Would this money be better targeted at the Whanganui East pool? No one else would/will provide such a facility.

Kowhai Park

Agree that an upgrade is not a priority at this stage. It should either be left as an iconic park or a full upgrade planned for the future.

Queens Park

Further development can be a project for the future.

Hotel, housing and high rise parking building

I do not think that local government should be in the property market.

Council bought the Collegiate Hotel for the pilot school – so council owned? This had 60 beds which is the number required. Could the pilots be relocated and this upgraded to meet some of the accommodation shortfall?

Like pensioner housing (historical buying) council owns them now so should maximise what it can out of the properties, but not add to its property portfolio.

Central government should be involved in social housing, not local government.

Local government should facilitate and assist groups looking to develop (eg social housing) and make it smoother and easier to progress Whanganui.

Infrastructure

Long-term planning for maintenance and renewal for roads, drains and water has to be built into Council's plans.

Opera House

This will be here with us for years to come so any work should be a total upgrade. It is a well-used venue. Do it once and do it well.

Marae funding

Like the Gonville Library and Hakeke Library, marae are community facilities especially in areas where the council does not provide facilities, such as along the awa. Some assistance should be considered, possibly case by case.

Surf lifesaving

This is a difficult question. Are there less costly options, such as a smaller building?
How many people swim in the patrolled areas compared to other times and places?

Pakaitore crossing to the awa

This is not a priority - when there are large functions on Pakaitore the road is closed. Council could provide the road closures at no or minimum cost to the users and make the applications easy to get.

Rapanui Road

Leave any further extra work until there is a feasibility study completed.

Putiki emergency response group/Putiki climate adaptations

Can the staff work and plan with the Putiki community within their existing work commitments?

Castlecliff domain

Lighting a park can attract less than desirable behaviour at night.
Art is good, but, in the past, it has been vandalised in this area.

Aramoho riverbank enhancement

The awa and the walkway are aspects that make Whanganui a great place to live so this should proceed, if necessarily more slowly.

Hakeke Library hours, Wembley Park development, rural halls including Fordell hall.

No costs are given, usage numbers or options – so difficult to comment.

Splash centre gym upgrade

Gyms are provided by others, so why is the Council competing?

Youth Council

Disestablish this and have youth forums when there is a topic to discuss, eg Splash Centre changes, Library ideas, park plans etc.

Submission: Long term plan 2024-2034

RE: the Royal Whanganui Opera House

By Bruce Jellyman

Musician and event organiser, Musical Director of BRASS WHANGANUI and Chairman of Whanganui Vintage Weekend Trust.

The question for me is what function do we need the opera house to have over the 20 year rating period it will take to pay for the works??

For the events that I am involved in, all community based projects with community related outcomes, the theatre will need to have a fully functioning fly floor, basic lighting in theatre, good sound reinforcement in theatre and space at the sides of the stage area along with dressing rooms.

The current stage with the scaffold support has restricted the stage area to an extent that I can't use it for some of my productions though the current lighting is adequate and the sound reinforcement is good.

The existing stage without the scaffold is better for my purposes but still limiting with regards to space. The toilets and dressing are oddly positioned to the stage and are sometime problematic.

Option 3 of the plan seems to provide for these problems solution and that is what I would recommend. There are a number of theatres to which the stage has been re build to do exactly the we need to do. Hasting Municipal Theatre (Toitoti) and the Rotorua theatre (Howard Morison Centre) are worth a look at.

Generally Whanganui is quite poorly off for theatre space that works. So the maintenance of the Opera House as the main facility is very important especially if the theatre is designed to be a flexible space available for multi-disciplined events. But then that is the case for the Memorial Hall which could be much more used if designed as flexible theatre/event spaces rather than the restricting Concert Chamber and hall for ball room dance.

We are missing out on many concert events bringing money to Whanganui because we just don't have adequate performance spaces.

Another conversation would be around what do we wish the Opera House to function as with regards to the commercial interests of the professional traveling shows versus the local events using the theatre. If Option 3 is followed through what does the income from events and charges get to with relation to the professional show versus the local content. It is an imperative that the Opera House is financially usable by local events.

Regards

Bruce Jellyman



ROYAL WHANGANUI OPERA HOUSE

Our beautiful 124 year old theatre is the only surviving wooden Victorian Opera House of its type in the Southern Hemisphere and so a truly unique building that must be retained. It is literally irreplaceable.

The character and charm of this heritage building is greatly admired by patrons and tourists alike. They just love it as it is!

Back in 1989, the Council at that time was keen to demolish the Opera House, however a group of like minded citizens arranged a public meeting and the Friends of the Opera House was formed. With massive hours put in by volunteers this theatre continues to stand proud in this city today.

We should not be comparing, or competing, with theatres in larger areas. We are only an hour away from Palmerston North and Whanganui people will travel there to see a show but history has proven that it does not happen in reverse. Palmerston North people do not travel here to our Opera House.

It is wishful thinking that any improvements backstage will bring larger shows (eg NZ Ballet) to the Opera House. I know a promoter personally who tours these larger shows and they are by-passing Whanganui because they do not get the support by way of ticket sales. They need a full house, not a half house, to make the expense of coming here worth their while. No amount of work on the Opera House will change that situation.

I understand from some users that there has already been a significant increase in charges to use the Opera House. I would "assume" that any cost of improvements would be passed on to the hirers by way of increased rental charges and then the promoters would increase their ticket prices to cover the additional expense. With Whanganui having an ageing population, and many on fixed incomes already concerned about the cost of their rates, they have to be very selective of what show/s they support. This is already becoming obvious, with some shows being "downstairs only" because the bookings do not support opening the circle.

Council has considerable debt, and with many in the Whanganui community already struggling financially, all options need to be reviewed as to whether these expenses are needed now, or can be put on hold for future consideration when the financial climate improves.

Option 1

Purchase of the scaffolding is a wise idea. Unbelievable that the Council has been paying a rental of \$3Kper month for the past 18 months, plus monthly inspection fees. By purchasing it there is something to sell later. This option could be a short term solution allowing the theatre to continue to operate until the financial climate improves.

Option 2

I believe that this would work, but seems very expensive for what is involved. It is hoped that any new structure would be constructed outside the existing walls before demolishing the existing internal areas, therefore reducing the time that the theatre will need to close. It is important that the backstage area is made safe and a new flying system is constructed at a legally appropriate weight bearing capacity.

Option 3 – a good option but perhaps a consideration for the future when we are in a more financially stable climate. We all know how budgets can get blown out!!

Option 4 - is not even a consideration!

We don't need the "grand ideas" that are put into much larger venues in larger cities. The heritage listed Royal Whanganui Opera House, with internationally renowned acoustics, has a seating capacity of around 800 for a community of around 50,000 citizens, and this suits us just fine!

Hearing:

The Friends of the Opera House Committee has requested that they be represented at a hearing by 3 representatives, being the President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

As with all proposals contained in the LTP:

Focus should be on the "need to have" NOT on the "nice to have"

Additional notes:

- * More rubbish bins needed in public parks. Why have they been removed?
- * Provide rolls of poo bags on payment of dog registration as is done in Dunedin. Perhaps this would encourage doggie walkers to pick up their doggie dos!!

Margaret Johnson
President
Friends of the Opera House
0274-509-456

Social Return on Investment (SROI) of Recreational Physical Activity in Aotearoa New Zealand

SUMMARY REPORT
OCTOBER 2022

Foreword

Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa is a kaitiaki (guardian) of the Aotearoa New Zealand play, active recreation, and sport system, and is committed to building a system that reflects its commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. As a crown agency, we promote and support quality experiences to improve levels of physical activity and through this ensure the greatest impact on wellbeing for all New Zealanders. Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa is interested in better understanding and demonstrating the contribution of recreational physical activity to the wellbeing of people living in Aotearoa New Zealand. This has been a unique opportunity to conduct world-leading analysis into the value of recreational physical activity for society, with a view to inform future government investment and strategy.

There is a growing body of literature supporting the contribution of recreational physical activity (refer to Appendix 2 for definition) to wellbeing outcomes, such as improved health, better social connections, higher levels of social inclusion and trust, and better community engagement. This makes investment in recreational physical activity (including play, active recreation and sport) a potentially cost-effective intervention for addressing multiple, complex social issues. However, in the face of multiple competing investment priorities,

there is a need to better justify investment in play, active recreation, and sport. A critical part of building this case is understanding the value of the outcomes of recreational physical activity, and the cost of achieving these outcomes. This includes understanding the value to Māori participating as Māori, explored within a Te Ao Māori worldview. Ihi Aotearoa is on a bi-cultural journey and will remain committed to increase our learning of Māori culture, reflect this learning into our system and honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We commissioned a consortium of international researchers, jointly led by Sheffield Hallam University (United Kingdom) and the Agribusiness and Economics Research Unit (AERU) at Lincoln University (New Zealand) acting in partnership with Ihi Research and 4 Global, to conduct a Social Return on Investment (SROI) of recreational physical activity in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Introduction

The aim of the study is to better understand, demonstrate, and communicate the contribution of recreational physical activity to the wellbeing of people living in Aotearoa New Zealand. The objectives of the study are to:

1. Improve understanding of the value of recreational physical activity to tangata whenua and all New Zealanders.
2. Set a benchmark for reliable and responsible social impact methods in Aotearoa New Zealand's play, active recreation, and sport sector.
3. Support cross-government conversations on investment in recreational physical activity for wellbeing outcomes.

This study uses a Social Return on Investment (SROI) framework to measure the social impact of recreational physical activity in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2019 (Appendix 3). The approach we used is evaluative and this means it was conducted retrospectively and is based on participation which has already taken place.

The study also examines the value of outcomes articulated by Māori stakeholders, without monetarising these in the SROI.



Key findings

Recreational physical activity generates considerable value to society beyond the traditional economic measures identified in previous studies.

The literature review found evidence of mixed volume and quality on the extent to which sport and recreational physical activity contributes to wellbeing outcomes in Aotearoa New Zealand. Of the papers found, the largest volume of literature was around social and community development, followed by physical health. For the other identified outcome areas of subjective wellbeing, individual development and personal development, there were smaller volumes of literature. Despite the varying volumes of existing literature, there was some compelling and useful evidence providing some examples of the links between recreational physical activity and wellbeing outcomes in each of the areas for specific sub-groups, including for Māori communities. In terms of quality of evidence available, physical health was the strongest area. Generally, across all areas the review revealed a lack of research on the monetary valuation of outcomes related to recreational physical activity in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The literature review conducted for this study provides a baseline for ongoing work in this area.

Social Return on Investment

Total inputs are estimated to be \$7.95bn. A feature of the recreational physical activity sector is its large reliance on voluntary labour. This accounts for 38.8 percent of total investment, followed by household expenditure, which accounts for 37.2 percent.

The total value of all social outcomes is estimated at \$16.8bn. The largest contribution by a considerable margin comes from health benefits, even after allowing for the cost of active accident and injury claims related to sport and recreation.

The health benefits total \$9.0bn, or \$8.4bn net of the injury claims. This accounts for close to one-half of the net social value generated by recreational physical activity in Aotearoa New Zealand. The second largest domain is subjective wellbeing (\$3.3bn, or 19.7 per cent), closely followed by work, care and volunteering (\$3.09bn). In comparison, the contributions of recreational physical to the other domains are lower, although this may reflect the lack of evidence currently available for valuing these benefits.

The estimated Net Present Value (that is, the difference between the value of the outcomes and inputs) is \$8.86bn, which implies a Social Return on Investment of 2.12.

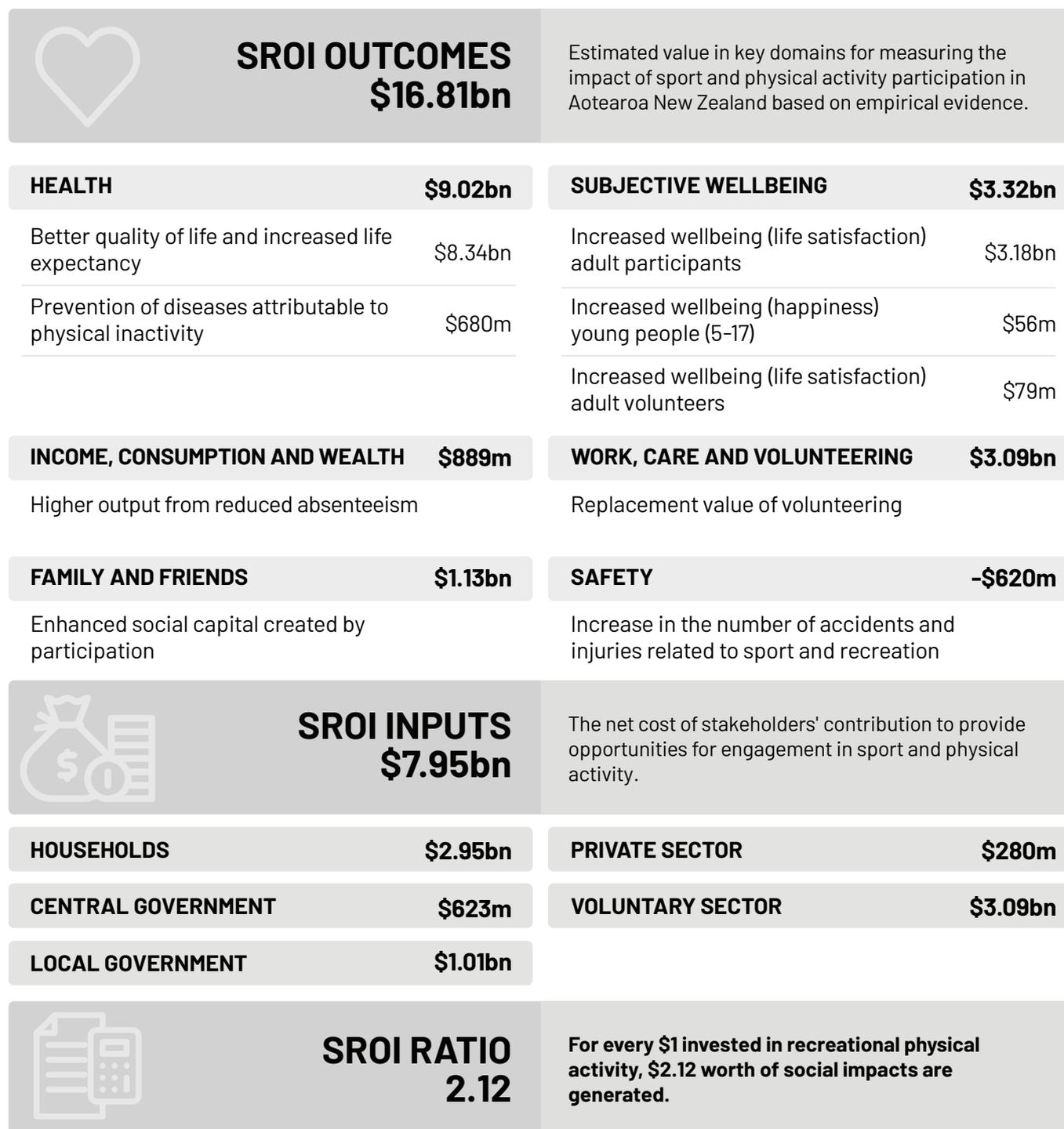
For every \$1 invested in recreational physical activity, \$2.12 worth of social impacts are generated.

The findings of the monetary valuation are summarised in the infographic on the next page.

The research included a sensitivity analysis of this conclusion. The research team is confident about the inputs data, and so we tested the sensitivity of the benefit assumptions in the SROI model in two ways. First, we tested the implications of alternative assumptions for four key components in the benefits, and then we combined the Low assumptions and we combined the High assumptions to present an overall picture of the range of possible values depending on different assumptions. This analysis resulted in a range of SROI values from 1.18 to 3.10.

Social Return on Investment (SROI)

For recreational physical activity in Aotearoa New Zealand 2019



PARTNERS

Sheffield Hallam University | Sport Industry Research Centre



Agribusiness & Economics Research Unit
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY



As with previous international SROI studies of this nature, the estimates provided for the monetised outcomes are conservative. The research only included social outcomes that could be robustly evidenced, to maintain a higher level of rigour in the study. We have excluded some items for which insufficient evidence exists or there is a lack of data, for example social outcomes relating to children and young people. As such, the findings of this research are likely to underestimate the true social value of recreational physical activity in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Māori outcomes (not monetised)

Māori aspirations are derived from an accumulation of heritage including knowledge systems, values and beliefs, and their manifestations in objects, practices and concepts – all of which have an innate life force or mana. It was agreed these outcomes must therefore be treated accordingly, not measured for their contributions to economic expenditure or production.

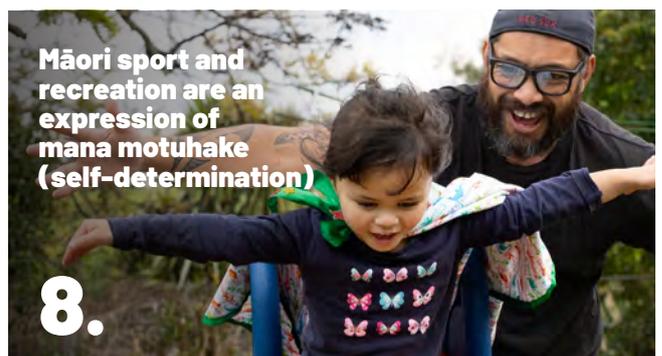
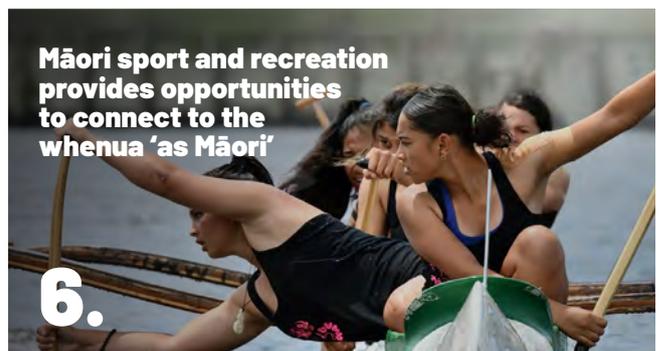
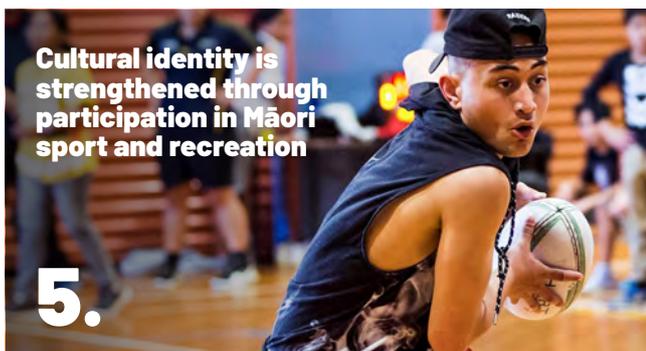
Māori stakeholders described outcomes that are consistent with Māori views of wellbeing, noting dimensions other than physical – that is, spiritual, mental, emotional, cultural health, all within a context of environmental health. These non-monetised outcomes reported by Māori are particularly evident in

Māori sport and recreation events that are run ‘by Māori for Māori’ where Māori can participate ‘as Māori’. Analysis of qualitative data demonstrates that recreational physical activity makes a significant contribution to Māori wellbeing through strengthening intergenerational relationships and reinforcing cultural values, beliefs, social norms and knowledge. ‘As-Māori’ organisations and events utilise sport and recreation as a vehicle to reclaim and reinvigorate Māori collective communities of care.



Outcomes for Māori in recreational physical activity in Aotearoa

Sport and recreation make a significant contribution to Māori wellbeing through strengthening intergenerational relationships and reinforcing cultural values, beliefs, social norms and knowledge.



Conclusions

The SROI analysis revealed that recreational physical activity generates considerable value to society beyond the traditional economic measures identified in previous studies of the value of sport and recreation in Aotearoa New Zealand. It identified a wide range of benefits to society, spanning across several domains of wellbeing, including health; subjective wellbeing; income consumption and wealth; work, care and volunteering; family and friends; and safety. The study revealed that the concept and understanding of value from the perspective of tangata whenua and all New Zealanders varies considerably, and that for some outcomes, it is simply not appropriate, desirable, or possible to monetise the contribution of recreational physical activity.



Appendix 1

This report has been commissioned by Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa and prepared by the following authors: Professor Larissa Davies, Professor Paul Dalziel and Dr. Catherine Savage, on behalf of an international consortium of researchers from Sheffield Hallam University; AERU, Lincoln University; Ihi Research and 4GLOBAL.



Sport Industry Research Centre (SIRC)

The Sport Industry Research Centre (SIRC) is part of Sheffield Hallam University (United Kingdom). SIRC comprises a team of researchers who commonly apply the principles of economics, management science and social science to solve real world problems. The SIRC team have pioneered the use of economics in sport and physical activity in three main areas: calculating the value of sport to the economy, measuring the economic impact of events, and valuing the wider social impacts achieved by sport.



Ihi Research

Ihi Research is a New Zealand Māori owned research company. Since 2013, Ihi Research has undertaken a wide range of projects involving community research for private companies, trusts, government agencies, and NGOs. Ihi Research are committed to producing research that represents the interests of the Māori communities they work for. They have previously completed research and evaluation for Whānau Ora and Sport New Zealand, evaluating the impact of investment for tamariki and their whānau in Te Waipounamu.



The Agribusiness and Economics Research Unit (AERU)

The Agribusiness and Economics Research Unit (AERU) at Lincoln University (New Zealand) was created by a decision of the New Zealand Cabinet in 1962. Since then, the AERU has provided economic and social analysis for a wide range of public and private sector organisations. Its mission is to exercise leadership in research for sustainable wellbeing. It has previously completed research for Sport New Zealand on the economic contribution of the sport and recreation sector to the New Zealand economy.



4GLOBAL

4GLOBAL is sports technology company listed on the London Stock Exchange. 4GLOBAL provides strategic services and technical expertise to organisations across the sport and physical activity ecosystem. Specialist areas include major event planning, legacy strategies / sport for development, delivering and evidencing the social value associated with sport, and building advocacy around the role of sport in society. 4GLOBAL's proprietary DataHub is the largest sports and physical activity database in the world and ensures advice provided is data driven. Powered by over 70 integrations with data capture systems around the world we work with a live database of over two billion visits to sport facilities and clubs.

Appendix 2

There is no standard definition of recreational physical activity used by Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa or other stakeholder groups. For the purposes of this study, the research team agreed a broad definition with Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa, as follows:

Competitive sport, undertaken in an organised structure, for example, in a competition or tournament, or informally outside an organised structure; and non-competitive active recreation for enjoyment and wellbeing, that occurs in the

built, landscape and natural environments. This may include activities such as kapa haka, fitness/exercise, dance, tramping, outdoor recreation and active play, but excludes household activities such as gardening, and other domestic activities. Active transport for work commuting was also excluded.

All activities falling within this definition are included within the scope of the study.

Appendix 3

Research approach

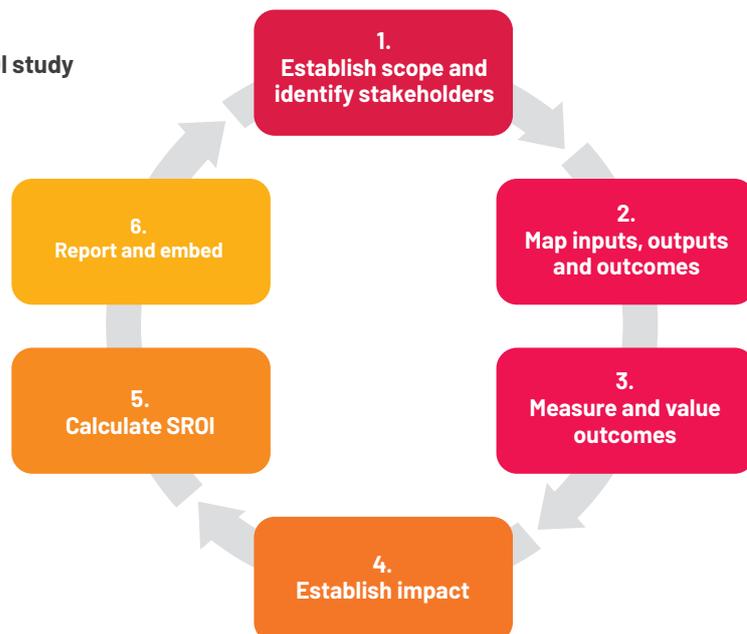
This study uses a SROI framework to measure the social impact of recreational physical activity in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2019. It measures the value of outcomes generated through sports participation and volunteering and the net costs, or inputs, of providing opportunities for engagement. The SROI analysis expresses the monetary value of outcomes in relation to the inputs. The SROI is evaluative – this means it was conducted retrospectively and is based on participation which has already taken place.

The Aotearoa New Zealand SROI model estimates the monetary value of nine outcomes across six domains of wellbeing including: two health outcomes; three outcomes related to subjective wellbeing; and one outcome each from income, consumption and wealth, work, care and volunteering, family and friends, and safety.

The study also examines the value of outcomes articulated by Māori stakeholders, without monetarising these in the SROI. Māori aspirations are derived from an accumulation of heritage including knowledge systems, values and beliefs, and their manifestations in objects, practices and concepts – all of which have an innate life force or mana. It was agreed these outcomes must therefore be treated accordingly, not measured for their contributions to economic expenditure or production.

Data for the analysis was collected through a mix of methods, including a desk-based literature review, stakeholder interviews and secondary data collection. The figure below outlines the six stages of the SROI analysis in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Figure 1: The stages of an SROI study





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29 Brandon Street
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Phone: +64 4 472 8058
sportnz.org.nz

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Kumeroa, Hihiria

To whom it may concern,

There has been a significant investment from Whanganui individuals, central government, private trusts and philanthropists from throughout Aotearoa plus ratepayers- as well as a diversion from promised funding to other Whanganui Iwi initiatives- to pay for the Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment.

It's crucial that the gallery is fully resourced at this time to fully utilise the one-off opportunity of the re-opening to ensure the best return on everyone's investment, and to set the gallery up for future success and potential fundraising for on going programmes to be delivered at a high level. These programmes will also need to include a commitment to the arts of mana-whenua and be mana-whenua driven (staffing from Whanganui Iwi).

As part of the \$1.5 million of savings across WDC proposed in the Long Term Plan to achieve a 10% rates rise, the Sarjeant Gallery's budget for the reopening year and following years has been cut by \$200,000 per annum from what had been planned. This will not align with our Whanganui Iwi aspirations of having an inclusive gallery operational team if there is a funding cut of this magnitude (we desire to be part of the Gallery operational team going forward).

I consider that Whanganui District Council needs to keep the Sarjeant budget at a level that allows full leverage on the reopening opportunity and to seriously reconsider making any proposed cuts that will negatively impact the successful operation of the Gallery going forward.

Whanganui District Council would be uniquely positioned to honour our partnership in this space by committing to developing Whanganui Iwi Arts in this unique and stunning building (with a world first waka-bridge and river emulating, black facade with tioata).

We would also like Council to consider that after all the efforts made to design Te Pātaka o Tā Te Atawhai Archie John Tairaoa in a way that honours his legacy, our world renowned Teawatupua will be a unique space nationally and internationally. We should keep the standards high as a cultural representation of the mana of Whanganui. This will require an operational mode that is inclusive of mana-whenua and that will need decent budget allocation. Whanganui's UNESCO City of Design status will also be linked to the Gallery so we need to be deserving of this accolade.

Thanks for your time.

*Signed
Cecelia Kumeroa*



65 Drews Avenue

Whanganui 4500

whanganuimusicians@gmail.com

2 May 2024

LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Whanganui District Council

101 Guyton Street

Whanganui 4500

policysubmissions@whanganui.govt.nz

Musicians Club Submission on the Long Term Plan

1. The Whanganui Musicians Club owns the building on the land at 65 Drews Avenue. Much of the building is unchanged from its use by the Savage Club and some dates to its construction in 1893. No significant conservation work has ever been done on the building. In about 2005 Council sold the building to the Savage Club with the aim of avoiding the \$200,000 of future capital costs estimated to hang over the building at that time.
2. The Musicians Club has a membership of about 120 and nominal financial resources. Its revenues are sufficient to sustain the delivery of live music including the sound, lighting and other equipment associated with a live performance venue, but it does not have the resources to address any capital needs of the building or to meet the increasing maintenance costs that come with the building.
3. In April 2021 the Club made a submission on the 2021 LTP (Sub 583), requesting that the Council recognise the building as a community building and to address the restoration needs of the building. Council appeared to be warm to considering the submission and referred it to the Property and Community Services Committee.
4. The Club had no further response to the submission and in October 2022 initiated a meeting with Council officers. There was strong push-back from Council officers who indicated that they would not support any Council assistance with a renovation project apart from what might be achievable through the small Heritage grant scheme.
5. In May 2021 the Club obtained \$30,000 of funding from Lotteries Environment & Heritage for a Conservation Report. In order to maintain momentum of the renovation project, the Club

applied to WDC's Heritage Grant scheme in May 2023 for \$33,580 for the preparation of detailed plans and the work to obtain Building and Resource Consents. The Club was successful as to \$13,432. We then applied to Lotteries Environment & Heritage for the balance of the plan costs. We await their decision.

6. The renovation costs are unknown but the Conservation Report called for strengthening work, particularly inground work due to the site on an old sand hill, so the costs are possibly in the range of \$200,000 to \$300,000. Philanthropic entities are supportive of the work and understand the community benefit associated with the project.
7. The Club is at a critical decision point. Contractors are highly unlikely to be prepared to enter into a contract on a heritage/strengthening renovation with a Club of 120 members, in circumstances where a fixed price won't be possible and where the work will possibly include archaeological support for any underground work. In the absence of Council support, there is little point pursuing building consents if the actual building work cannot be completed in the near future.
8. In terms of Council support, the Club believes that core funding can be obtained from philanthropic organisations, with the result that Council support would be limited to some upfront costs ahead of a building contract and some form of underwrite or assurance to the contractor that it will be paid.
9. If Council intends that this important building be restored so as to safeguard and facilitate the public's continued use of the building, Council will need to provide for this in its Long-Term Plans.
10. To be clear, we are not asking for Council to support the Musicians Club. We are asking Council to recognise the building as a community building and to provide in its Long-Term Plan for the capital work to sustain one of Whanganui's most unique heritage assets.

We wish to speak to our submission.

Murray Lazell

for

Anne Keating - Secretary

Hotel and Carpark – Option 2 Comments

The first point I want to raise is that the Council should not be in the business for providing accommodation to visitors to the City as there is no legislation requiring it to do so. That being said, the Council can assist in introducing private consortiums to enter the hotel development market in Whanganui by waiving or reducing development fees. This would get the hotel built and provide all the potential advantages desired without increasing the risk to ratepayers and exposing them to potential cost overruns and increased building costs during construction etc.

Whanganui has a need for a high standard hotel(s) that we can leverage our investment in existing facilities off. A high end hotel(s) would attract more people to Whanganui wishing to browse the shops in Victoria Avenue and riverside market stalls, try the food in the cafes and restaurants, see a show at the Opera House, go to the races, cruise the river etc.

Cheaper options should also be actively examined such as using existing buildings and converting them into high standard hotel accommodation. We have a large number of poorly utilised buildings in the CBD which should be considered to create 4 star accommodation over several sites in the city. These additional rooms would allow Whanganui to host conferences and bigger events which our current number of vacant hotel room capacity currently prevents us from doing so.

The Royal Whanganui Opera House – Option 1 Comments

Option 1 only – it is what we can afford at this time. Whanganui Opera House is used by various groups and has a small number of great shows that come to town. The \$150K investment is small and OH&S issues should be attended to, but some of the other suggestions do not take into account our city's size, lower than the rest of NZ's growth rate, the demographics in Whanganui and the associated deprivation index. Even if went the full monty on this project, it is highly doubtful that bigger, more famous acts will come to Whanganui as there is a limit on the capacity of the Opera House and a ceiling which citizens will be able to afford the tickets associated with more famous acts.

WSLS (Whanganui Surf Life Saving Service) – Option 2 Comments

Despite the admiral goals of this organisation, I am disappointed by the funding request. WDC is expected to stump up \$1 million and the organisation will seek other funding to make up the rest of the \$5-7 million. I agree the building is old (66 years), but there are many Whanganui houses that are older than this building. Some carpentry, new windows, a full paint job and I guess a new roof are in order. The building is of wood construction and it is therefore relatively cheap to replace any rotted timbers. There is mention of provision of community facilities in the proposed building but I think that this proposal might be the “gold standard” like the \$35 million option for the Opera House and should not be considered at this time when the community is under pressure from inflation and rising fees and charges. I believe it would be a better idea for WSLS to provide estimates to bring the existing buildings up to the standard when first constructed as that figure would be a more appropriate when requesting funds.

I agree with the Mayor's High Level 6 point plan to keep rates increases minimal while still providing services to Whanganui residents and ratepayers.

In the “Keeping rates Affordable” section, the consultation document has identified 6 sub points - I would like to focus on some specific aspects some of these points.

Point 6-Increasing non-rates revenue.

This area should have increases over and above the inflation rate as these are somewhat “semi-optional” and will only apply to rate payers undertaking or using the services - for example, new building work or attending the Splash Centre.

Regarding general building fees and development contributions, this approach will lead to a slight increase in the costs of new builds and building consents but will allow extra revenue to be channeled to Council.

This extra non-rates revenue will lessen the burden on a number of segments of the community such as older citizens in Whanganui who will otherwise bear direct increased rates/rent increases to raise necessary revenue for WDC. People in the older age group and/or lower income sector are less likely to sign up for new builds and new consents and therefore will not be as exposed to these additional costs.

The modest increases in income streams such as consent fees will be spread over a small cohort of rate payers and this increased cost will only make up a small portion of the new projects being undertaken. As an example, a \$250 increase in consent fees over a \$40,000 renovation is a very small percentage of the costs.

Non-rates revenue makes up about 24% of total rate payer generated revenue (17/70) million. As a council I believe every effort needs to be undertaken to be actively thinking about how to raise this component of revenue in the future. Every dollar raised via these non-rate fees directly reduces the amount needed from standard ratepayers.

People are already struggling to pay what they currently owe and another 10.6% increase will surely worsen these figures followed by two years of 8% scheduled increases. It is also sad to note one increase in non-rates revenue which I do not advocate is rate penalties. These were up from \$304K to \$356K, a 17% increase.

I have read that some people are cancelling insurance policies due to financial pressure at home and this could lead to them losing their house and have to be ultimately accommodated by Council.

To demonstrate the effect of cumulative rate increases at the proposed levels, the current annual rates bill of \$3,000 per annum will increase to \$3,318 in 2024/25 then \$3,583 in 25/26 and \$3,870 in 2027/28 which works out at an extra \$870.12 from 2023- 2024. Where will Whanganui ratepayers/renters find this increase in funds when we have already identified that Whanganui's demographic has lower than average incomes in NZ and a higher proportion of over 65s who will struggle trying to pay an extra \$870 pa or an extra \$17 per week.



Point 4 Finding efficiency Savings

I would like to raise a few points that potentially may save the Council money.

Insurance is a steeply rising cost and NZ home owners are already being subjected to huge percentage increases in insurance - the Council is not immune with WDC insurances now up 25% from 2022.

Is this something we can explore by standing together with other Councils to get a better collective deal due to larger combined market share? Can we also look at paying higher excesses to reduce premiums, self-insuring where possible or taking a higher risk with lower value assets? Items that are fully depreciated need to be considered as to whether they need to be insured at all - if they were lost, can Council accept that they would not be replaced?

Electrical costs have gone up nearly 1 million dollars in the last year (\$979K) from \$2,648k to \$3,627K. Why is this – does the pool have something to do with this and what can be done about it?

Can we go to market for a better deal or look at LED/Solar power /motion activated/reduced lighting to decrease costs.

Electrical costs equate to 17% of WDC's Personnel costs - lets see if significant savings can be found in this area to reduce the impact on ratepayers and residents while still keeping necessary lighting on in Whanganui.





2 May 2024

ROA 01 01
JK:MM

David Langford
Chief Executive
Whanganui District Council
policy@whanganui.govt.nz
By email only:

Tēnā koe David,

LONG TERM PLAN 2024-44 – HORIZONS' SUBMISSION

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Whanganui District Council's (WDC) Proposed Long Term Plan 2024-34. Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) values the strong relationships between our two organisations and the other local authorities in the region.

With regard to your proposal, our submission relates to three waters, public transport planning, climate change and environmental education.

Three Waters

Horizons acknowledges that WDC has recognised the continuing changes to Three Waters in their LTP consultation document. We are writing to all the territorial authorities in the region as part of the long-term plan consultation process, to acknowledge the challenges regarding management of three waters during a period related to national policy reset. We recognise this creates challenges and uncertainties in preparing long term plans. However, as a regulator, we wish to highlight the importance of long-term investment in infrastructure that is compliant with regulations and improves the health of the environment. We will look to stay closely in touch as the reform package rolls out.

Public Transport

The transport function of Horizons includes strategic transport planning, public transport planning and delivery, road safety promotion and education, and administration of the total mobility scheme. There are two strategic documents guiding strategic transport and public transport delivery in the region. These are the Regional Land Transport Plan and Regional Public Transport Plan. The Regional Land Transport Plan is the primary document guiding integrated land transport planning and investment within the Horizons region. The current RLTP was adopted in 2021 and includes a range of transport investment activities, to deliver the strategic direction of the Plan. Horizons' is currently undertaking a mid-term review of the RLTP.

Horizons, WDC and stakeholders are working together on the future vision for public transport within the Whanganui District. Our draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan is proposing to deliver full funding and ongoing funding for the Tide bus service which has been noted in the WDC LTP Consultation Document. There is further need for WDC to recognise the importance of support for this commitment with further investment by WDC into public transport infrastructure, bus stops, maintenance etc.

Climate Change



Impacts of climate change pose a great risk to the wellbeing for the environment and communities of the Manawatū-Whanganui region. Whether its increase risk of drought, inland or coastal flooding, heatwaves or other impacts of climate change, no district is immune. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in their sixth assessment report stated that there is a narrow and closing window to secure a liveable future. An urgent, coordinated response is required if we are to make a step change transition to a low emission regional economy and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Like WDC, Horizons are considering and implementing actions recommended by the Climate Action Joint Committee through the Manawatū-Whanganui Climate Change Action Plan. The upcoming Long Term Plan represents a critical period for climate change. Through that action plan, the Climate Action Joint Committee has provided a pathway for each council towards a coordinated and effective regional response to climate change.

We encourage provision through your Long Term Plan for initiatives that increase resilience to natural hazards and a changing climate, including those outlined within your draft infrastructure strategy, your climate change assumptions, and recommended actions from the Joint Action Plan. Horizons recognises the activities undertaken by WDC thus far including coastal protection and enhancement through the Coastal Action Plan and the Climate Adaptation Fund. Horizons would like to reinforce the importance of the Climate Adaptation Fund especially in its importance continue investing into projects which provide adaption to climate related threats.

Horizons notes the WDC proposed provisions for the funding of key infrastructure including the stormwater system. Horizons supports option 2 for a significant increase in funding to improve core infrastructure at a quicker timeframe. As seen with the impacts in our region from Cyclone Gabriel, the effects of climate change are a real and present threat to our communities and therefore appropriate importance must be placed on investing into our vulnerable infrastructure.

Horizons would also like to see higher importance placed on response to the changing climate and environment presented in the Long Term Plan. In accordance with these commitments, Horizons would like to remind WDC of the importance of its natural areas such as the Tarapuruhi Bushy Park and the importance of good financial recognition for these areas.

Horizons supports the inclusion of Putiki emergency response and Putiki climate adaptation initiatives in the draft LTP.

Environmental Education

Thank you for your ongoing support and funding commitment to Horizons' EnviroSchools Programme. The programme aims to equip young people with the competencies they need to be leaders in sustainability resulting in long term behaviour change. As such there is a strong focus on themes such as living landscapes, water for life, energy use, ecological building and zero waste. We appreciate the opportunity to engage with your staff and to grow the relationships between WDC, Horizons and participating schools and centres, as well as the community to deliver this mahi.

Horizons would like to be heard in addition to this submission.

Yours sincerely,



Michael McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Successive councils have simply passed the buck to future councils, and it really is time to knuckle down and put definite plans in place for a new bridge. (With what is being spent on the museum upgrade we could have had 2 bridges.)

Regards,



submission from David Moore

Hotel and Car Park

Which is your preferred option?

Option 1 - Council takes the lead with the development of a hotel and carpark, subject to outcome of detailed business case (Council's preferred option - this would add \$30 per property per year from 2025/26 through to 2038/39, after which the returns from the hotel and carpark will start to offset rates)

I wish to support the council's forward thinking and planning in this their preferred option.

To me, the ideal position of what's left of the original Metropolitan hotel makes it one of the front runners for consideration for a newly built hotel but faithful to the original design upsized both west up St Hill St and north into our carpark and as we are wanting to stay very faithful to the existing original building, the balustrading around the roof level would be an excellent point to keep while adding more floor/s set back from this balustrading keeping to the original Corinthian style

As I have found that the original framing and weatherboards are in very poor condition yet the filigree, facias, corner boards and other decorative features are made of better quality timber so even if I continue with the apartment conversion, we will remove all of these, take them away for restoration and to copy the missing pieces and while this is going on, completely remove the existing exterior before rebuilding the structure with pre-frame construction but if this site was chosen as the new hotel then the whole or major part of the

building can be demolished, and an underground car park built before reconstruction.

At the same time, the ground level could be raised to remove the flood prone notification currently existing.

With the existing historic use as the Metropolitan Hotel, the resurrection and better utilization of this site for the heart of this new hotel would greatly enhance the street appeal of this gateway corner of the City Centre.

This would be a good opportunity to dig all 3 properties out to build a large underground car park whilst raising the ground level and the floor levels of reinstalled building frontages on new foundations.

If a conference centre is to be included, these can easily be fitted into the other 2 properties with some very versatile spaces already existing.

The project preferably including some retail onto the Taupo Quay but definitely keeping and restoring the heritage street facades and recycling as much of the existing bricks, timbers and materials as practicable.

Joint submission from Shane Hobson, Michael Ohara and David Moore

Hotel and Car Park

Which is your preferred option?

Option 1 - Council takes the lead with the development of a hotel and carpark, subject to outcome of detailed business case (Council's preferred option - this would add \$30 per property per year from 2025/26 through to 2038/39, after which the returns from the hotel and carpark will start to offset rates)

We feel this option will produce the best results for Whanganui if the Council initiates this project.

We believe the most logical and beneficial place to put this Hotel, carparking and also the Tour Bus hub behind would be 60 to 68 Taupo Quay and the parking area behind in the centre of this block.

With the existing historic use as the Metropolitan Hotel, the resurrection and better utilization of this site for the heart of this new hotel would additionally enhance the street appeal of this gateway corner of the City Centre.

As the street frontages of the existing hotel, for any rebuild, will have to be deconstructed and removed for restoration and refixed to the new building as there is very little structurally left in good enough condition to be reused.

This would be a good opportunity to dig all 3 properties out to build a large underground car park whilst raising the ground level and the floor levels of reinstalled building frontages on new foundations.

Also while staying faithful to its Corinthian styling, the new Metropolitan could be upsized to 3 or 4 storeys, even extended into the existing car park to.

If a conference centre is to be included, these can easily be fitted into the other 2 properties with some very versatile spaces already existing.

The project preferably including some retail onto the Taupo Quay but definitely keeping and restoring the heritage street facades and recycling as much of the existing bricks, timbers and materials as practicable.

Submission on Whanganui Long-Term

Willy Morrell 2 May 2024

Pinching pennies to spend pounds.

Proposed Closures

I would like to voice my opposition to the Council's proposed cuts to some of Whanganui's most iconic attractions, and in the case of the Whanganui East Pool an asset that builds the swimming skills of our children.

Whanganui's Rotokawa Aviary and our **street flower baskets** have helped to make Whanganui a tourist destination and I strongly disagree with Council's proposal to cease associated funding. Likewise the **Repertory Theatre** is an icon within the community and its retention fits with the tourism industry our city is busy trying to develop

In the case of the **Whanganui East Pool** – the pool should remain open. It serves as an important tool for building the swimming skills of our children in a country that already has an atrocious drowning rate. Too many school and community pools have closed and once they have gone they've gone for good.

Proposed Hotel Project:

While I believe Whanganui does need a hotel and commend the Council for their ambition I do not think that the Whanganui Council should take the lead on this project but rather play a facilitative role in helping an experienced commercial player enter this hotel space - if the economics stack up. In my opinion the proposed \$55million spend would come at too higher cost in terms of cutting the very institutional attractions that bring visitors to our city.

The Council certainly needs to play a facilitative role with respect to establishing a hotel in Whanganui but should steer well clear of directly dabbling in an industry in which it has no substantive expertise. The Collegiate Motor Inn and Glassworks are cases in point which demonstrate how well-intentioned commercial initiatives can quickly go pear-shaped and become a liability for the city's rate payers.

END

Whanganui District Council Long Term Plan submission April 2024

Submitter details:

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Submission:

Introduction

1. Recreation Aotearoa is a registered charity and the organisation responsible for providing leadership, advocacy, and professional development opportunities for those involved in the broader recreation sector. We work at an agency, industry and professional level to build capability, develop partnerships, and equip individuals and organisations with the skills they need to deliver high quality recreation experiences that engage participants.
2. Recreation Aotearoa's membership includes recreation policy makers, territorial local authorities, voluntary organisations, regional sports trusts, consultants, outdoor recreation organisations, and others involved in the delivery of recreation throughout New Zealand.
3. Our mission is enhancing wellbeing through recreation.
4. We welcome the opportunity to provide input into the Whanganui District Council Long Term Plan.

The value proposition of investment in Active Recreation

5. Recreation Aotearoa believes recreation is vital to New Zealand society. Recreation is not just about enjoyment. It is about being healthy, engaged, stimulated, and interacting with others. This occurs via outdoor recreation, community recreation, and within parks, aquatics, and facility-based recreation centres.
6. Recreation generates significant value for society across several of the wellbeing domains and outcomes expressed within NZ Treasury's Living Standards Framework: Health; Subjective Wellbeing; Income Consumption and Wealth; Work, Care, and Volunteering; Family and Friends; Safety.
7. The most significant benefit of recreational physical activity, surpassing others by a significant margin, is derived from health benefits, even when factoring in the costs associated with related accident and injury claims. Overall health benefits to New Zealand amount to \$9.0 billion, or \$8.4 billion after deducting the injury claims. This constitutes nearly half of the net social value generated by physical recreational activities in Aotearoa New Zealand.

8. Our population instinctively understands this. In a large survey 90 per cent of New Zealanders agreed that “by being active they are in turn maintaining a good level of health and fitness, and this helps to relieve stress.”
9. Physical inactivity is associated with loss of productivity, health costs, as well as associated costs with pain and suffering. Healthier, happier individuals are more likely to do well in other areas of their lives, whether it is in social or professional situations. This has a positive flow-on effect for communities.
10. The availability of public green spaces, including those designated for recreation, has been linked to increased mental well-being.
11. In a study conducted in New Zealand; individuals who met the global physical activity recommendations were found to have a 51% higher likelihood of experiencing healthy mental well-being.
12. Engaging in active recreations is known to reduce the prevalence of mental health conditions like depression and anxiety, as well as non-communicable diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and type 2 diabetes, ultimately enhancing life expectancy.
13. Studies indicate that involving peers and parents in developmentally suitable play provides children with the chance to cultivate social-emotional skills. These skills encompass problem-solving, collaboration, negotiation, language acquisition, and self-regulation. This contributes to the development of executive functions and facilitating effective social interaction with others. Engaging in outdoor recreation during childhood has also shown a positive association with the development of pro-environmental attitudes and behaviours in adulthood.
14. Moreover, research has demonstrated that recreation enhances social cohesion, fosters community connectedness, and strengthens community identity. A recent literature review presented compelling evidence of positive outcomes for older adults, including increased social support, the formation of friendships, and a heightened sense of integration within the community. Similarly, for young people, participating in such activities contributes to the development of friendships, a clearer sense of self among peers, a feeling of belonging, and an enhanced sense of community. 74% of New Zealanders agree

that “sport and physical activity help build vibrant and stimulating communities.”

15. Research indicates that offering fair and secure opportunities for sport and active recreation, that are inclusive of the entire community, can create connections among individuals and groups, bridging societal divides based on factors like race, class, gender, ability, or religion. 84% of New Zealanders believe “sport and physical activity bring people together and create a sense of belonging.”
16. Play serves a therapeutic and rehabilitative function in aiding tamariki to recover in the aftermath of crises, such as the impact of Covid-19 or recent events like Cyclone Gabrielle. This involves assisting children in regulating the body's stress response, providing an avenue to comprehend the events affecting them and their community, and facilitating the development or reconstruction of social connections through shared experiences. In a time where Tamariki will be subject to the increased frequency and intensity of severe weather events, play will be critical.
17. Research indicates that establishing connections with supportive individuals or groups within organised recreation settings fosters the development of various 'protective factors,' potentially mitigating antisocial behaviour. Enhancing community recreation facilities, such as local parks, has the potential to elevate participation rates and community mana, simultaneously diminishing perceived instances of antisocial behaviour within the community.
18. A thriving recreation industry can also help our nation prosper socially and economically. At last count, Play, Active Recreation and Sport contributes \$4.9 billion or 2.3% to our annual GDP, and the sector employs more than 53,000 New Zealanders.
19. Newly released findings from a Social Return on Investment study reveal that each dollar allocated to play, active recreation, and sport yields a social return of \$2.12 in New Zealand. In essence, every dollar invested in these activities results in more than a twofold social return. It's important to note that this is a conservative estimate, and the actual return, particularly for those currently excluded from opportunities for physical activity, is likely to be even higher. This submission will expand on this point with reference to the disability community and tangata whenua, separately.

20. The nation's recreation values and opportunities are fundamental to the tourism industry, and support regional development by encouraging skilled professionals and migrants to consider options in and beyond the main centres. Approximately 50% of international visitors to New Zealand participate in one form of outdoor recreation, or another.
21. Creating well-designed green spaces for physical activity in urban areas can enhance their resilience to severe weather events, such as Cyclone Gabrielle. Additionally, these green spaces contribute to cooling urban environments and promoting the health and well-being of residents. This submission will expand on this point, separately.
22. Greater understanding of these benefits and their downstream impacts, along with awareness of how Local Government can influence recreation delivery, are key to ensuring that New Zealand's recreation opportunities remain among the world's best.

Recreation through a Te Ao Māori lens – Te Whai Oranga

23. The English term "recreation" lacks a direct translation in te reo Māori. Te Kāhui Kura Māori, the Māori navigational group of Recreation Aotearoa, offered an insightful alternative, defining recreation in their strategy as "Te Whai Oranga" – the pursuit of wellbeing. Te Whai Oranga has subsequently been adopted as the title and fundamental underpinning of our organisational strategy.
24. This definition prompts a shift in approach, encouraging individuals to consider recreation not just as a pursuit of physical activity but as a holistic endeavour focused on providing wellbeing. This perspective diverges from the conventional approach of prioritising the physical aspects of recreation, emphasising that the tangible outcomes are byproducts of the overarching pursuit of Te Whai Oranga.
25. In a society struggling with disconnection and environmental challenges, the wisdom of Te Whai Oranga, a Māori approach to recreation, offers a powerful and much-needed antidote. It's not simply a collection of activities, but a holistic philosophy that weaves together well-being, environmental connection, and community spirit, creating a tapestry of resilience in the face of modern challenges.
26. Te Whai Oranga reconnects people to the Natural World. Māori recreation prioritises time spent outdoors, fostering a deep respect for

the environment. This is more than just enjoying nature; it's about understanding our place within it, becoming stewards rather than possessors. Māori knowledge systems and practices offer solutions to environmental challenges that are often missing in mainstream approaches.

27. Te Whai Oranga strengthens relationships and communities. Māori recreation is rarely a solitary endeavour. It's about shared experiences, storytelling, and strengthening bonds within whanaungatanga (extended family) and the wider community. This focus on collectivism and support networks can combat social isolation and build the resilience needed to tackle challenging issues like poverty and incarceration.
28. Te Whai Oranga promotes holistic well-being and recognises the interconnectedness of physical, mental, and spiritual health. Activities like dance, music, and storytelling are not just fun; they can be forms of emotional release, stress reduction, and spiritual connection. This aligns with the Māori Health Strategy's emphasis on "Te Oranga Whanui," the holistic well-being of the community.
29. Te Whai Oranga raises environmental awareness. Engaging with the environment through traditional practices like hunting, fishing, and gathering fosters a deep understanding of its resources and limitations. This awareness can translate into sustainable resource management and responsible environmental stewardship.
30. In our hyper-connected world, Te Whai Oranga offers a counterpoint to the constant noise and distractions. Activities like weaving or carving require focus and mindfulness, promoting inner calm and reducing stress. This resonates with the growing understanding of the detrimental effects of information-overload and the importance of mindful practices.
31. Ultimately, Te Whai Oranga is about recognising that our well-being is intrinsically linked to the well-being of our communities and the environment. It's about prioritising connection, respect, and holistic health. In a world struggling with disconnection and environmental neglect, Te Whai Oranga offers a powerful path towards healing ourselves and our planet.

32. Encompassing the kaupapa above, Recreation Aotearoa lays down a wero (challenge) to Council's to consider and invest in providing opportunities that reflect Te Ao Māori views of recreation and to encourage and support more Māori to recreate in culturally-centred ways.

Disability - Accessibility & Inclusion in Recreation

33. Recreation Aotearoa believes that the significance of enhanced access to active recreation for people with disabilities is currently underappreciated by local government. The Sport New Zealand Spotlight on Disability Report (2018) tells us that in any given week, people with disabilities participate less, and in fewer sports and recreation activities than people without disabilities across Aotearoa.

34. We also know that people with disabilities who participate in fewer sports and activities score less favourably on health and wellbeing indicators, and according to the NZ Wellbeing Statistics (2021), people with disabilities are currently faring worse (comparative to people without disabilities) across a range of wellbeing outcomes.

35. Recreation Aotearoa submits, however, that there is a strong appetite by people with disabilities to participate more, comparative to people without disability, particularly with disabled adults aged 25 and over.

36. Sport NZ's Active New Zealand data also demonstrates that the majority of the top 20 activities disabled adults want to try in the next 12 months are recreational in nature (rather than traditional sport), with a similar trend demonstrated for children and young people.

37. It's clear that individuals with disabilities often experiences even greater benefits from recreational activities than their non-disabled counterparts.

38. However, people with disabilities also have more barriers to increasing their participation than people without disability. For rangatahi for instance, a lack of nearby accessible facilities and spaces is a much stronger barrier than people without disabilities of the same age.

39. Recreation Aotearoa note that 52% of respondents with a disability/access need in the 2020 Access Survey reported there is a range of public activities and events that they would like to participate in but are currently unable to because of inaccessibility.
40. Recreation Aotearoa note that funding is a common barrier reported by Councils to enhancing the accessibility of recreation places, spaces, and opportunities. Strategically prioritising and allocating funds to enhance accessibility within existing budget investments for public recreation spaces is vital to ensure that the development and improvement of these areas actively and effectively addresses the diverse needs of people with disabilities.

The importance of Local Government to the Play, Active Recreation and Sport (PARS) Sector

41. Councils in New Zealand play a critical role in providing opportunities for New Zealanders to be physically active. Reciprocally, the realisation of various local government objectives and outcomes relies on investment in facilities, infrastructure, resources, and opportunities that promote engagement in play and active recreation.
42. It has been recently established that total funding to the play, active recreation, and sport (PARS) sector was \$4.0b, in 2022. Over 25% of this total (\$1.06b) is from local government. Local government funding of the PARS sector far exceeds that of central government and class 4 gaming grants, combined.
43. Recreation Aotearoa recognises that local government is contending with a multitude of financial challenges, including those related to water infrastructure, climate change mitigation, inflation, and the imperative to restrict rates increases. Additionally, there has been a notable decrease in the Lotto Significant Projects Fund, which traditionally supports sport and recreation infrastructure. Currently, there is no specific central government funding allocated for community sport and recreation infrastructure, and the prevailing financial conditions indicate that this issue may not be addressed in the near future.
44. However, Recreation Aotearoa submits that central and local government are jointly responsible for the well-being of New Zealanders. The establishment of a national direction and a shared framework for wellbeing lies with central government. However,

developing local wellbeing plans and allocating resources, largely sits with local government, which can foster innovation, collaboration, and localisation.

45. We have observed that regional funding forums, currently in place in many areas, play a valuable role in ensuring alignment at a regional level. Additionally, partnerships between organisations can help reduce costs, achieve economies of scale, and explore innovative approaches to provide opportunities for physical activity.
46. Local government plays a crucial role in addressing the escalating challenges posed by climate change, urbanisation, economic uncertainty, and threats to social cohesion. Prioritising physical activity can serve as a means to tackle these overarching issues. For example, effective placemaking that promotes recreation can enhance the appeal of cycling or walking, creating more attractive, safer, and inclusive spaces for social interactions. This, in turn, encourages spending time in and around local businesses and retailers. Active local communities contribute to the overall health, of individuals and families, leading to reduced strain on the healthcare system and improved well-being outcomes.
47. Recreation Aotearoa submits that transforming local government into a champion of well-being, with backing from central government, has the potential to yield tangible and positive results for both local communities and the entire country. We propose placing a distinct emphasis on recreation as an integral component of this wellbeing focus. Furthermore, we believe that recreation could serve as a proving ground for a novel partnership approach involving central and local government, as well as Māori.
48. The above-mentioned challenges and opportunities demand the efficient utilisation of funding at national, regional, and local levels. Ensuring that the available funding is employed in ways that yield the best return on investment is of paramount importance. Improved understanding and collaboration among organisations, coupled with a heightened awareness of the priorities of each organisation, can facilitate alignment and mutual support across various funding sources. Ultimately, it is local government supported by Regional Sports Trusts (RSTs) that will lead this Kaupapa.

The vital importance of urban green spaces - The PCE weighs in

49. As an independent Officer of Parliament, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) has broad powers to investigate environmental concerns and is independent of the government of the day. The Commissioner's work is directed towards the single output of independent reports and advice on environmental issues, and a mission to maintain or improve the quality of Aotearoa New Zealand's environment.
50. In March 2023, the PCE published a report titled "*Are we building harder, hotter cities? The vital importance of urban green spaces*". It has been very favourably received by professionals in a variety of sectors including town-planning, ecology, Civil Defence Management, Infrastructure, and Recreation. It makes many salient points, that Recreation Aotearoa affirms and submits to TCC for consideration.
51. In recent decades, factors such as population growth, urban sprawl, traffic congestion and loss of productive land have brought about profound transformations in New Zealand cities. In response, various changes in the realm of infrastructure, densification, re-zoning, transportation, and water services have been carried out. However, amid these changes, the significance of green space is at risk of being overlooked, or even neglected.
52. Instead of the traditional model of stand-alone homes in new peri-urban suburbs, a significant portion of the current housing construction takes the form of attached or semi-attached dwellings, such as apartments townhouses or terraced houses, within city limits. 60-80% of new residential titles in New Zealand cities since 2016 are within the pre-existing urban footprint.
53. This urban intensification reduces both the quality and quantity of urban green space. Infill housing removes gardens, lawns, trees, and soil. Increased population density impacts on the usability of existing Parks and green Spaces. In some cases, parks and green spaces are repurposed for other uses, all together. Grass berms, shrubbery, and trees adjacent to streets are reduced or removed.
54. The report goes into some detail and proves abundant examples and evidence of the important role green spaces provide. Including, temperature regulation, stormwater management, air filtration, carbon sequestration and habitat provision.

55. The PCE outlines three risks associated with this loss of green space. The first concerns what the loss of green space might mean for the health and wellbeing of cities population and is largely covered previously in this submission. Similarly, the amenity or 'placemaking' benefits that urban green space provides is covered elsewhere in this submission and the risk of its loss is obvious.
56. Perhaps the most pertinent point the PCE made, in light of Cyclone Gabrielle and the likelihood of further severe weather events, relates to stormwater management.
57. Recent flooding events highlight the risks of creating large, hardened surfaces that cannot cope the increased precipitation resulting from climate change. While one response might be to further fortify infrastructure, climate change brings additional challenges like temperature stress. As New Zealand anticipates potential heat wave crises, an urban landscape dominated by concrete and asphalt could exacerbate discomfort and, in some cases, pose risks to lives.
58. For these reasons and many more, Recreation Aotearoa submits that the Long-Term Plan pay much more regard to the provision and expansion of green space within Whanganui. We urge that a considered, regionally appropriate, and well-funded programme of tree planting be implemented in public spaces. This should specifically focus on areas adjacent to streets and footpaths, which are the most popular places in which physical activity takes place. We face a future in which, without adequate tree cover, it may simply be too hot to be physically active outdoors in summer.

Recreation in Whanganui

59. We acknowledge and thank Whanganui District Council as the major provider of the areas sport and recreation facilities. By investing in recreation, Whanganui District Council is helping to instil a lasting culture where active living matters. The work of Whanganui District Council makes a real difference.
60. The Whanganui District Council has a critical part to play in ensuring people continue to enjoy quality recreation opportunities. These need to be available to everyone, regardless of age, fitness level, ability, or socio-economic background.

61. Council planning needs to adopt a long-term approach that considers factors such as urbanisation, population growth, and an ageing population, to ensure recreation can continue to thrive amid change.
62. Research has found that in areas of activity decline, government and community-led interventions helped reverse the trend. When the infrastructure is in place, such as parks, playgrounds or aquatic facilities, people are more likely to be active.
63. Population growth and increased demographic diversity has and will continue to place pressure on recreational infrastructure in Whanganui.

Specific Comments:

64. Recreation Aotearoa supports the proposed investment in Active Recreation infrastructure and services, outlined in the Draft LTP.
65. Recreation Aotearoa supports the Councils commitment to investment in active transport infrastructure. Recreation Aotearoa has long supported Active Transport initiatives across the motu. Investment in Active Transport infrastructure achieves the dual symbiotic benefit of easing congestion and making it easier for residents to integrate healthy recreational activities into their day-to-day lives.
66. Recreation Aotearoa submits its support for the investment in Play by Whanganui District Council. Recreation Aotearoa notes that co-design kaupapa for Play infrastructure often results in a desirable bias towards less structured and informal modes of play.
67. Recreation Aotearoa cautions against deferred maintenance and upgrades of playgrounds, specifically. It is essential that investments in public toilets, walkways and connecting green spaces are also implemented.
68. We further encourage Whanganui District Council to increase investment in the accessibility of playgrounds and parks. Considering the wider whānau impact of disability and inactivity, and the increasing rate of impairment comparative to the aging population, statistically there is a significant proportion of the community currently missing out on the irrefutable benefits of being physically active.

69. Recreation Aotearoa submit on the importance of genuinely consulting and collaborating with people with disabilities and their whānau, and encourage Whanganui District Council to undertake inclusive consultation processes within the design, development, and upgrades of the recreation and play spaces specified within the LTP.
70. We further submit our support for maintaining collaboration with people with disabilities throughout the duration of such projects and warn of the risk of only consulting with end-users at the beginning of a project, or after it is too late. Maintaining ongoing input from the disability community and advisory groups at regular intervals, is an essential principle to imbed within the project developments.
71. Alongside robust processes for maintaining collaboration with people with disabilities, Recreation Aotearoa also submits its support for ensuring there are processes stipulated in policy whereby people with disabilities can notify council of any barriers to accessing recreation places, spaces, and programmes. This includes aligned procedures of how such barrier will be addressed and remediated by council.
72. Recreation also submits its concern that cost escalation in undertaking these investments may be inadequately accounted for. Recent observations from around the motu, in both the PARS sector and others, have demonstrated that inflation in materials, labour and debt-servicing has placed considerable budgetary pressure on long term projects.
73. Recreation Aotearoa cautions Whanganui District Council of a predictable lag-effect of participant uptake in the utilisation of new recreational facilities. Many forms of recreation have suffered a loss of participant numbers and organisational capability after recent challenges. Recreation Aotearoa urges Whanganui District Council to be patient with regard to how quickly and fully new facilities are utilised by different recreational groups.
74. Additionally, we submit that rapid changes in demographics, participation trends and technology mean that a 'build it and they will come' approach doesn't always work. Simply building infrastructure is not enough. Recreational assets need to be activated and programmed to make them more appealing and to break down barriers for the hard-to-reach areas of the community.

Tēnā kautau

On behalf of Ngāti Ruaka and Ngāti Hine hapū of Rānana Marae, Whanganui River, the following submission has been prepared and is being submitted on the Whanganui District Council's Long Term Plan Consultation Document, presented to us by elected representatives at the Tamaupoko Link hui held at Rānana Marae on Wednesday 24 April 2024:

1. We support the proposition by Te Rūnanga o Tamaupoko representatives that any sale of Whanganui District Council assets be considerate of our hapū and Tamaupoko hapū interests, wherever those properties or assets are located. These include, but are not limited to, rural (Whanganui River valley) and urban (Whanganui city and surrounding areas) localities.
2. We do not support reducing hours of operation for the Davis Library, given that most of the Māori collection is held between this library and the Alexander Library/Te Rerenga Mai o Te Kāuru. Reducing hours and therefore access to Māori literature and related library support services disadvantages our Māori community, who are already under-represented as library patrons and users of Council services.
3. We do not support the closure of the Whanganui East Pool, given that the aquatic centre is located in a suburb with a high Māori population, and provides affordable recreational and increased health and wellness opportunities for our people. We do, however, support completion of a feasibility study and upgrade of the facility, given its age and lack of investment in infrastructure over time.
4. We support the closure of the Repertory Theatre, given its limited relevance to the Māori community and cost to the Whanganui District Council and ratepayers, should an upgrade be considered.
5. We support the closure of the aviary at Rotokawau, unless it is used to care for, house and rehabilitate native birds.
6. We support retaining the hanging baskets, but only if it is paid for through a levy paid by businesses/landlords on Victoria Avenue (and other streets that benefit from having hanging baskets).
7. We support the sale of NZ Glassworks, so long as the purchaser provides the same level of service (or better), and actively supports and engages Māori glass artists and designers.
8. We support the retention of rural rubbish drop off points, particularly in our hapū rohe and Tamaupoko tupuna rohe. These sites have certainly assisted in managing waste disposal and deterred dumping, which is harmful to our Awa and environment.
9. We support the retention of the Gonville Library hours, and growth in its Māori literature collection.
10. We support the retention of the Winter Gardens, but only if it houses native plants and trees that are of significance to our local community and district.
11. We support an increase in community funding, but consideration must be given to the funding needs of Māori and rural communities.

12. We support increased funding to core infrastructure, but we need to understand what infrastructure work is proposed in our hapū rohe and the Tamaupoko tupuna rohe beyond roading, particularly given the impact of climate change and weather extremes on our rural location and community.
13. We are unsure as to whether our current facilities in Whanganui can attract large events that would warrant a hotel, and believe the Whanganui District Council, as part of its business case, should consider partnering with iwi entities if the business case stacks up, but engage with iwi early on in this process.
14. The Royal Whanganui Opera House is rarely used by the Māori community so we are unsure that any proposed upgrade would have any impact on our people. We would suggest a medium level upgrade to the facility that is within the Whanganui District Council's affordability.
15. We support the proposed marae development funding initiative. It is long overdue, and we have observed similar initiatives operating in other parts of the country. Marae are central to hapū and rural communities, and need to be supported in similar ways to other community and emergency centres. We would also support increasing the fund and level of investment before 2034.
16. We support the Whanganui Surf Lifesaving Service, so long as the Whanganui District Council's contribution does not exceed \$1 million. Te Kaihau-a-Kupe/Castlecliff is another community with a high population of Māori, and we would support this project.
17. We support the proposed work at Pākaitore, so long as hapū and iwi are leading the discussion, writing the narrative, and support the proposed project.
18. We do not support the proposed work regarding the Rapanui Road trail, unless it is supported by local hapū and iwi. Perhaps this work could be subsidised partially through a special rate for local ratepayers.
19. We support the Pūtiki emergency response training and Pūtiki climate adaptation work, due to our shared whakapapa, and the needs of our Māori community at Pūtiki.
20. We note that there are few references to iwi and hapū within the consultation document, and we encourage the Whanganui District Council to consider how iwi and hapū views might be included within each section of the Long Term Plan.

Submitted by the following hapū representatives to Te Rūnanga o Tamaupoko, Tamaupoko Link and Te Rūnanga o Te Awa Tupua:

- Teira Warera & Connor Pauro (Ngāti Ruaka)
- Cruz Pauro & Rāwiri Tinirau (Ngāti Hine)

AdditionalSubmission

1/5/2024

1. Re Wanganui Chronicle Article 30/4/2024.

Having read the article by Chris Luxon , I can only agree
With his comments about “ dumb stuff” spending &” must does”
v “nice to does “ .

The items I refer to in particular are; The raised pedestrian crossing
@ Pakaitore gardens ,narrowing of the road . approx. \$830000.

The relocation of the statue in the gardens .

These plans are merely to satisfy a minority with “no”

Benefit to the majority of the Wanganui public.

I have not spoken with any persons who agree with the wasteful spending .

Who thinks these things up ?

It does appear that making Wanganui the most beautiful city is mor important
Than people’s over the top rates .

What are the costs of the reconstruction of the wharf area & how will that
Benefit us ?Ferries ? don’t tthink so .

The reclaiming of the mole area with toilets etc, appears a lot of wasted money here .

Speed humps,, we now avoid Guyton st like the plague yes it may slow traffic

But it sure diverts it .

There is heaps more to write about but who is responsible for all this wastage.

Dave

Bus timetable

WHANGANUI URBAN



11 SEP 2023

Public

- 201
- 202
- 203
- 204
- 205
- 206
- 207
- 208
- 209
- 210
- 225

School

- 220
- 221
- 222
- 223
- 224

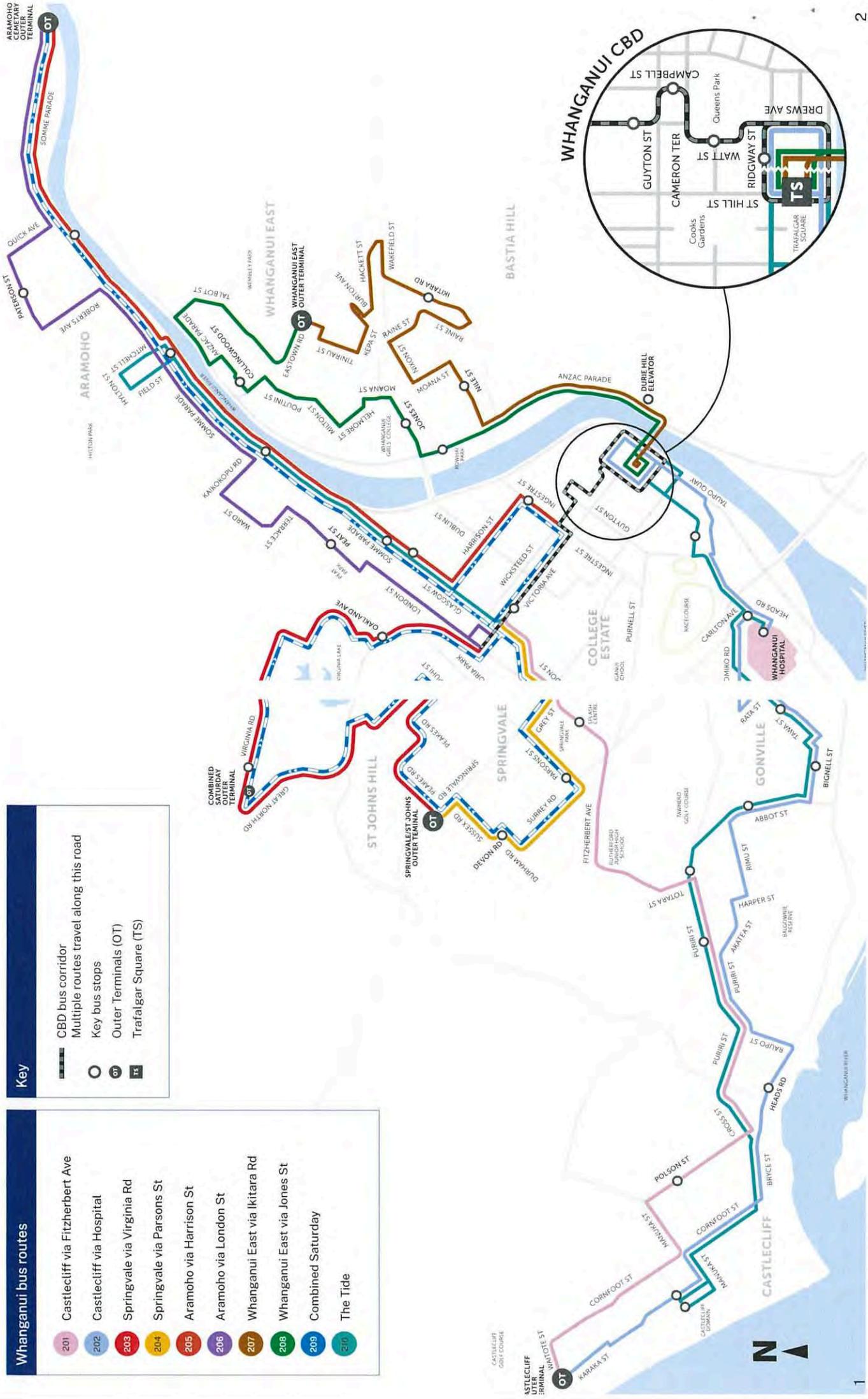
Whanganui

Whanganui bus routes

- 201 Castlecliff via Fitzherbert Ave
- 202 Castlecliff via Hospital
- 203 Springvale via Virginia Rd
- 204 Springvale via Parsons St
- 205 Aramoho via Harrison St
- 206 Aramoho via London St
- 207 Whanganui East via Ikitara Rd
- 208 Whanganui East via Jones St
- 209 Combined Saturday
- 210 The Tide

Key

- CBD bus corridor
- Multiple routes travel along this road
- Key bus stops
- Outer Terminals (OT)
- Trafalgar Square (TS)



210

The Tide

Castlecliff to Inner Aramoho

Monday to Friday	Castlecliff Beach	112 Puriri St	40 Abbot St - Gonville Shops	28 Tawa St	Hospital - Heads Rd	156 Ridgeway St	2 St Hill St - Trafalgar Square	161 Wicksteed St	373 Victoria Ave	54 Glasgow St	152 Somme Parade - Aramoho Shops	opp 236 Somme Parade
AM	7:04	7:11	7:16	7:18	7:22	7:25	7:27	7:29	7:33	7:36	7:40	7:47
	7:24	7:31	7:36	7:38	7:42	7:45	7:47	7:49	7:53	7:56	8:00	8:07
	7:44	7:51	7:56	7:58	8:02	8:05	8:07	8:09	8:13	8:16	8:20	8:27
and then at these times past each hour	:04	:11	:16	:18	:22	:25	:27	:29	:33	:36	:40	:47
	:24	:31	:36	:38	:42	:45	:47	:49	:53	:56	:00	:07
	:44	:51	:56	:58	:02	:05	:07	:09	:13	:16	:20	:27
PM	6:24	6:31	6:36	6:38	6:42	6:45	6:47	6:49	6:53	6:56	7:00	7:07
	6:44	6:51	6:56	6:58	7:02	7:05	7:07	7:09	7:13	7:16	7:20	7:27
	7:04	7:11	7:16	7:18	7:22	7:25	7:27	7:29	7:33	7:36	7:40	7:47
Friday Nights Only PM	8:04	8:10	8:15	8:17	8:20	8:22	8:24	8:26	8:30	8:33	8:37	8:44
	9:04	9:10	9:15	9:17	9:20	9:22	9:24	9:26	9:30	9:33	9:37	9:44
	10:04	10:10	10:15	10:17	10:20	10:22	10:24	10:26	10:30	10:33	10:37	10:44
	11:04	11:10	11:15	11:17	11:20	11:22	11:24	11:26	11:30	11:33	11:37	11:44

Saturday	Castlecliff Beach	112 Puriri St	40 Abbot St - Gonville Shops	28 Tawa St	Hospital - Heads Rd	156 Ridgeway St	2 St Hill St - Trafalgar Square	161 Wicksteed St	373 Victoria Ave	54 Glasgow St	152 Somme Parade - Aramoho Shops	opp 236 Somme Parade
AM	9:18	9:25	9:30	9:32	9:36	9:38	9:40	9:42	9:46	9:49	9:53	9:59
	9:38	9:45	9:50	9:52	9:56	9:58	10:00	10:02	10:06	10:09	10:13	10:19
	9:58	10:05	10:00	10:12	10:16	10:18	10:20	10:22	10:26	10:29	10:33	10:39
and then at these times past each hour	:18	:25	:30	:32	:36	:38	:40	:42	:46	:49	:53	:59
	:38	:45	:50	:52	:56	:58	:00	:02	:06	:09	:13	:19
	:58	:05	:10	:12	:16	:18	:20	:22	:26	:29	:33	:39
PM	2:38	2:45	2:50	2:52	2:56	2:58	3:00	3:02	3:06	3:09	3:13	3:19
	2:58	3:05	3:10	3:12	3:16	3:18	3:20	3:22	3:26	3:29	3:33	3:39
	3:18	3:25	3:30	3:32	3:36	3:38	3:40	3:42	3:46	3:49	3:53	3:59

Castlecliff Beach Rangiora St, Karaka St, Manuka St, Cornfoot St, Bryce St, Cross St, Puriri St, **Abbot St**, Bignell St, Tawa St, Koromiko Rd, Carlton Ave, Heads Rd, **Hospital Heads Rd**, Heads Rd, Guyton St, Ridgway St, Wilson St, Taupo Quay, **St Hill St**, Ridgway St, Drews Ave, Watt St, Wicksteed St, Ingestre St, **Victoria Ave**, **Somme Pde**, Field St, Hylton St, Mitchell St, **Somme Pde**.

210

The Tide

Inner Aramoho to Castlecliff

Monday to Friday	opp 236 Somme Parade	150 Somme Parade - Aramoho Shops	57b Glasgow St	374 Victoria Ave	158 Wicksteed St	2 St Hill St - Trafalgar Square	159 Ridgeway St	Hospital - Heads Rd	37 Tawa St	33 Abbot St - Gonville Shops	117 Puriri St	Castlecliff Beach
AM	6:52	6:54	6:57	7:01	7:03	7:07	7:09	7:12	7:14	7:17	7:18	7:35
	7:12	7:14	7:17	7:21	7:23	7:27	7:29	7:32	7:34	7:37	7:38	7:55
	7:32	7:34	7:37	7:41	7:43	7:47	7:49	7:52	7:54	7:57	7:58	8:15
and then at these times past each hour	:52	:54	:57	:01	:03	:07	:09	:12	:14	:17	:18	:35
	:12	:14	:17	:21	:23	:27	:29	:32	:34	:37	:38	:55
	:32	:34	:37	:41	:43	:47	:49	:52	:54	:57	:58	:15
PM	6:12	6:14	6:17	6:21	6:23	6:27	6:29	6:32	6:34	6:37	6:38	6:55
	6:32	6:34	6:37	6:41	6:43	6:47	6:49	6:52	6:54	6:57	6:58	7:15
	6:52	6:54	6:57	7:01	7:03	7:07	7:09	7:12	7:14	7:17	7:18	7:35
Friday Nights Only	8:04	8:06	8:08	8:12	8:14	8:17	8:19	8:22	8:24	8:27	8:28	8:44
	9:04	9:06	9:08	9:12	9:14	9:17	9:19	9:22	9:24	9:27	9:28	9:44
	10:04	10:06	10:08	10:12	10:14	10:17	10:19	10:22	10:24	10:27	10:28	10:44
	11:04	11:06	11:08	11:12	11:14	11:17	11:19	11:22	11:24	11:27	11:28	11:44

Saturday	opp 236 Somme Parade	150 Somme Parade - Aramoho Shops	57b Glasgow St	374 Victoria Ave	158 Wicksteed St	2 St Hill St - Trafalgar Square	159 Ridgeway St	Hospital - Heads Rd	37 Tawa St	33 Abbot St - Gonville Shops	117 Puriri St	Castlecliff Beach
AM	9:01	9:03	9:06	9:10	9:12	9:15	9:17	9:20	9:22	9:25	9:26	9:42
	9:21	9:23	9:26	9:30	9:32	9:35	9:37	9:40	9:42	9:45	9:46	10:02
	9:41	9:43	9:46	9:50	9:52	9:55	9:57	10:00	10:02	10:05	10:06	10:22
and then at these times past each hour	:01	:03	:06	:10	:12	:15	:17	:20	:22	:25	:26	:42
	:21	:23	:26	:30	:32	:35	:37	:40	:42	:45	:46	:02
	:41	:43	:46	:50	:52	:55	:57	:00	:02	:05	:06	:22
PM	2:21	2:23	2:26	2:30	2:32	2:35	2:37	2:40	2:42	2:45	2:46	3:02
	2:41	2:43	2:46	2:50	2:52	2:55	2:57	3:00	3:02	3:05	3:06	3:22
	3:01	3:03	3:06	3:10	3:12	3:15	3:17	3:20	3:22	3:25	3:26	3:42

Somme Parade, Glasgow St, Victoria Ave, Ingestre St, Wicksteed St, Watt St, Drews Ave, Taupo Quay, St Hill St, Ridgeway St, Guyton St, Heads Rd, Hospital Heads Rd, Heads Rd, Carlton Ave, Koromiko Rd, Tawa St, Bignell St, Abbot St, Puriri St, Cross St, Bryce St, Cornfoot St, Manuka St, Seafont Rd, Castlecliff Beach Rangiora St.

201

Castlecliff

via Fitzherbert Ave

Castlecliff → Trafalgar Square

Monday to Friday	Outer Terminal (115 Karaka St)	36 Polson St	220 London St	2 Campbell St	Trafalgar Square
	7:55	8:01	8:11	8:17	8:20
AM	8:25	8:31	8:41	8:47	8:50
	10:25	10:31	10:41	10:47	10:50
	12:25	12:31	12:41	12:47	12:50
PM	2:25	2:31	2:41	2:47	2:50
	4:25	4:31	4:41	4:47	4:50
	6:30	6:36	6:46	6:52	6:55

Saturday	Outer Terminal (115 Karaka St)	36 Polson St	220 London St	2 Campbell St	Trafalgar Square
AM	8:25	8:31	8:41	8:47	8:50
	11:10	11:16	11:26	11:32	11:35
PM	3:00	3:06	3:16	3:22	3:25

Karaka St (Outer Terminal), Waitote St, Cornfoot St, Manuka St, Polson St, Cross St, Puriri St, Totara St, Fitzherbert Ave, London St, Glasgow St, Victoria Ave, Ingestre St, Wicksteed St, Guyton St, Campbell St, Cameron Tce, Watt St, Drews Ave, Taupo Quay, **Trafalgar Square.**

Trafalgar Square → Castlecliff

Monday to Friday	Trafalgar Square	161 Wicksteed St	189 London St	31 Polson St	Outer Terminal (116 Karaka St)
	7:00	7:03	7:08	7:19	7:25
AM	9:00	9:03	9:08	9:19	9:25
	11:00	11:03	11:08	11:19	11:25
	12:30	12:33	12:38	12:49	12:55
PM	1:00	1:03	1:08	1:19	1:25
	3:00	3:03	3:08	3:19	3:25
	5:10	5:13	5:18	5:29	5:35

Saturday	Trafalgar Square	161 Wicksteed St	189 London St	31 Polson St	Outer Terminal (116 Karaka St)
AM	11:45	11:48	11:53	12:04	12:10
PM	1:45	1:48	1:53	2:04	2:10
	4:00	4:03	4:08	4:19	4:25

Trafalgar Square, Ridgway St, Drews Ave, Watt St, Cameron Tce, Campbell St, Guyton St, Wicksteed St, Ingestre St, Victoria Ave, Glasgow St, London St, Fitzherbert Ave, Totara St, Puriri St, Cross St, Polson St, Manuka St, Cornfoot St, Waitote St, **Karaka St (Outer Terminal).**

For public holiday services see page 19.

Times in **BOLD** are scheduled, all other times are approximate.

202

Castlecliff via Hospital

Castlecliff → Trafalgar Square

Monday to Friday	Outer Terminal (116 Karaka St)	476 Heads Rd	10 Bignell St	Hospital	Trafalgar Square
AM	7:25	7:32	7:41	7:46	7:50
	9:25	9:32	9:41	9:46	9:50
	11:25	11:32	11:41	11:46	11:50
PM	12:55	1:02	1:11	1:16	1:20
	1:25	1:32	1:41	1:46	1:50
	3:25	3:32	3:41	3:46	3:50
	5:35	5:42	5:51	5:56	6:00

Saturday	Outer Terminal (116 Karaka St)	476 Heads Rd	10 Bignell St	Hospital	Trafalgar Square
PM	12:10	12:17	12:26	12:31	12:35
	2:10	2:17	2:26	2:31	2:35
	4:25	4:32	4:41	4:46	4:50

Karaka St (Outer Terminal), Manuka St, Cornfoot St, Bryce St, Heads Rd, Raupo St, Puriri St, Akatea St, Harper St, Rimu St, Puriri St, Abbot St, Bignell St, Kings Ave, Tawa St, Rata St, Koromiko Rd, Carlton Ave, Heads Rd, Whanganui Hospital, Heads Rd, Taupo Quay, **Trafalgar Square**.

Trafalgar Square → Castlecliff

Monday to Friday	Trafalgar Square	Hospital	15 Bignell St	485 Heads Rd	Outer Terminal (115 Karaka St)
AM	7:30	7:36	7:41	7:49	7:55
	8:00	8:06	8:11	8:19	8:25
	10:00	10:06	10:11	10:19	10:25
PM	12:00	12:06	12:11	12:19	12:25
	2:00	2:06	2:11	2:19	2:25
	4:00	4:06	4:11	4:19	4:25
	6:05	6:11	6:16	6:24	6:30

Saturday	Trafalgar Square	Hospital	15 Bignell St	485 Heads Rd	Outer Terminal (115 Karaka St)
AM	8:00	8:06	8:11	8:22	8:25
	10:45	10:51	10:56	11:07	11:10
PM	2:35	2:41	2:46	2:57	3:00

Trafalgar Square, Ridgway St, Drews Ave, Taupo Quay, Heads Rd, Whanganui Hospital, Heads Rd, Carlton Ave, Koromiko Rd, Rata St, Tawa St, Kings Ave, Bignell St, Abbot St, Puriri St, Rimu St, Harper St, Akatea St, Puriri St, Raupo St, Heads Rd, Bryce St, Cornfoot St, Manuka St, **Karaka St (Outer Terminal)**.

For public holiday services see page 19.

Times in **BOLD** are scheduled, all other times are approximate.

203

Springvale

via Virginia Rd

Springvale → Trafalgar Square

Monday to Friday	Outer Terminal (122 Peakes Rd)	76 Virginia Rd	22 Great North Rd	Trafalgar Square
AM	10:15	10:20	10:30	10:40
PM	3:10	3:15	3:25	3:35

Peakes Rd (Outer Terminal), Ngapuhi St, Parkes Ave, Great North Rd, Virginia Rd, Porritt St, Oakland Ave, Great North Rd, Victoria Ave, Ingestre St, Wicksteed St, Guyton St, Campbell Tce, Cameron St, Watt St, Drews Ave, Taupo Quay, **Trafalgar Square**.

Trafalgar Square → Springvale

Monday to Friday	Trafalgar Square	33 Great North Rd	79 Virginia Rd	Outer Terminal (133 Peakes Rd)
AM	8:40	8:48	8:53	9:00
	11:50	11:58	12:03	12:10
PM	2:10	2:18	2:23	2:30

Trafalgar Square, Ridgway St, Drews Ave, Watt St, Cameron St, Campbell Tce, Guyton St, Wicksteed St, Ingestre St, Victoria Ave, Great North Rd, Oakland Ave, Porritt St, Virginia Rd, Great North Rd, Parkes Ave, Ngapuhi St, **Peakes Rd (Outer Terminal)**.

For public holiday services see page 19.

Times in **BOLD** are scheduled, all other times are approximate.

204

Springvale

via Parsons St

Springvale → Trafalgar Square

Monday to Friday	Outer Terminal (133 Peakes Rd)	66 Devon Rd	172 Glasgow St	Trafalgar Square
AM	9:00	9:05	9:10	9:15
PM	12:10	12:15	12:20	12:25
	2:30	2:35	2:40	2:45

Peakes Rd (Outer Terminal), Springvale Rd, Sussex Rd, Devon Rd, Durham Rd, Surrey Rd, Parsons St, Grey St, London St, Glasgow St, Victoria Ave, Ingestre St, Wicksteed St, Guyton St, Campbell Tce, Cameron St, Watt St, Drews Ave, Taupo Quay, **Trafalgar Square**.

Trafalgar Square → Springvale

Monday to Friday	Trafalgar Square	167 Glasgow St	61 Devon Rd	Outer Terminal (122 Peakes Rd)
AM	10:00	10:05	10:10	10:15
PM	2:55	3:03	3:05	3:10

Trafalgar Square, Ridgway St, Drews Ave, Watt St, Cameron St, Campbell Tce, Guyton St, Wicksteed St, Ingestre St, Victoria Ave, Glasgow St, London St, Grey St, Parsons St, Surrey Rd, Durham Rd, Devon Rd, Sussex Rd, Springvale Rd, **Peakes Rd (Outer Terminal)**.

205

Aramoho

via Harrison St

Aramoho → Trafalgar Square

Monday to Friday	Outer Terminal (457 Somme Pde)	opp 281 Somme Pde	73 Glasgow St	29 Ingestre St	Trafalgar Square
AM	*7:55	7:59	8:05	8:08	-
	8:25	8:30	8:37	8:41	8:50
	10:25	10:30	10:37	10:41	10:50
PM	12:25	12:30	12:37	12:41	12:50
	2:25	2:30	2:37	2:41	2:50
	4:25	4:30	4:37	4:41	4:50
	6:30	6:35	6:42	6:46	6:55

Somme Pde (Outer Terminal), Glasgow St, Harrison St, Ingestre St, Wicksteed St, Guyton St, Campbell St, Cameron Tce, Watt St, Drews Ave, Taupo Quay, **Trafalgar Square**.

* Doesn't run during school holidays and it goes via the intermediate and then on to City College and the High School.

Trafalgar Square → Aramoho

Monday to Friday	Trafalgar Square	26 Ingestre St	76 Glasgow St	281 Somme Pde	Outer Terminal (464 Somme Pde)
AM	7:00	7:05	7:09	7:20	7:25
	9:00	9:05	9:09	9:20	9:25
	11:00	11:05	11:09	11:20	11:25
PM	1:00	1:05	1:09	1:20	1:25
	*3:00	3:05	3:09	3:20	3:25
	5:10	5:15	5:19	5:30	5:35

Trafalgar Square, Ridgway St, Drews Ave, Watt St, Cameron Tce, Campbell St, Guyton St, Wicksteed St, Ingestre St, *Harrison St, Glasgow St, **Somme Pde (Outer Terminal)**.

* This Service will detour at Ingestre St travelling to Victoria Ave and Glasgow St before resuming normal service at Somme Parade.

206

Aramoho

via London St

Aramoho → Trafalgar Square

Monday to Friday	Outer Terminal (464 Somme Pde)	29 Paterson St	32D Peat St	330 Victoria Ave	Trafalgar Square
AM	7:25	7:30	7:40	7:45	7:50
	9:25	9:30	9:40	9:45	9:50
	11:25	11:30	11:40	11:45	11:50
PM	1:25	1:30	1:40	1:45	1:50
	3:25	3:30	3:40	3:45	3:50
	5:35	5:40	5:50	5:55	6:00

Somme Pde (Outer Terminal), Quick Ave, Paterson St, Roberts Ave, Somme Pde, Kaikokopu Rd, Ward St, Terrace St, Peat St, Halswell St, London St, Victoria Ave, Ingestre St, Wicksteed St, Guyton St, Campbell St, Cameron Tce, Watt St, Drews Ave, Taupo Quay, **Trafalgar Square**.

Trafalgar Square → Aramoho

Monday to Friday	Trafalgar Square	321 Victoria Ave	15 Peat St	26 Paterson St	Outer Terminal (457 Somme Pde)
AM	*7:30	7:35	7:40	7:52	7:55
	8:00	8:05	8:10	8:22	8:25
	10:00	10:05	10:10	10:22	10:25
PM	12:00	12:05	12:10	12:22	12:25
	2:00	2:05	2:10	2:22	2:25
	4:00	4:05	4:10	4:22	4:25
	6:05	6:10	6:15	6:27	6:30

Trafalgar Square, Ridgway St, Drews Ave, Watt St, Cameron Tce, Campbell St, Guyton St, Wicksteed St, Ingestre St, Victoria Ave, Glasgow St, Wicksteed St, London St, Halswell St, Peat St, Terrace St, Ward St, Kaikokopu Rd, Somme Pde, Roberts Ave, Paterson St, Quick Ave, **Somme Pde (Outer Terminal)**.

* Doesn't run during school holidays and it goes via the intermediate and then on to City College and the High School.

For public holiday services see page 19.

Times in **BOLD** are scheduled, all other times are approximate.

207

Whanganui East

via Ikitara Rd

Whanganui East → Trafalgar Square

Monday to Friday	Outer Terminal (20 Eastown Rd)	136 Ikitara Rd	18 Nile St	Trafalgar Square	Saturday	Outer Terminal (20 Eastown Rd)	136 Ikitara Rd	18 Nile St	Trafalgar Square
	AM	11:15	11:24	11:30		11:35	AM	9:30	9:39
PM	1:35	1:44	1:50	1:55	PM	11:15	11:24	11:30	11:35
	3:15	3:24	3:30	3:35		2:05	2:14	2:20	2:25
	5:25	5:34	5:40	5:45					

Eastown Rd (Outer Terminal), Holyoake St, Hakeke St, Tinirau St, Kepa St, Burton Ave, Hackett St, Wakefield St, Ikitara Rd, Raine St, Nixon St, Moana St, Nile St, Anzac Pde, City Bridge, Taupo Quay, **Trafalgar Square**.

Trafalgar Square → Whanganui East

Monday to Friday	Trafalgar Square	23 Nile St	135 Ikitara Rd	Outer Terminal (20 Eastown Rd)	Saturday	Trafalgar Square	23 Nile St	135 Ikitara Rd	Outer Terminal (20 Eastown Rd)
	AM	7:00	7:06	7:12		7:15	AM	10:00	10:06
PM	7:45	7:51	7:57	8:00	PM	1:00	1:06	1:12	1:15
	9:20	9:26	9:32	9:35		4:35	4:41	4:47	4:50
	12:00	12:06	12:12	12:15					
	4:00	4:06	4:12	4:15					
	5:50	5:56	6:02	6:05					

Trafalgar Square, Ridgway St, Victoria Ave, Anzac Pde, Nile St, Moana St, Nixon St, Raine St, Ikitara Rd, Wakefield St, Hackett St, Burton Ave, Kepa St, Tinirau St, Hakeke St, Holyoake St, **Eastown Rd (Outer Terminal)**.

For public holiday services see page 19.

Times in **BOLD** are scheduled, all other times are approximate.

208

Whanganui East

via Jones St

Whanganui East → Trafalgar Square

Monday to Friday	Outer Terminal (opp 20 Eastown Rd)	19 Rangitikei St	105 Anzac Pde	Trafalgar Square	Saturday	Outer Terminal (opp 20 Eastown Rd)	19 Rangitikei St	105 Anzac Pde	Trafalgar Square
	AM	7:15	7:24	7:29		7:35	AM	10:15	10:24
	8:00	8:09	8:14	8:20		1:15	1:24	1:29	1:35
	9:35	9:44	9:49	9:55	PM	4:50	4:59	5:04	5:10
	12:15	12:24	12:29	12:35					
PM	4:15	4:24	4:29	4:35					
	6:05	6:14	6:19	6:25					

Eastown Rd (Outer Terminal), Rangitikei St, Talbot St, Anzac Pde, Kiwi St, Collingwood St, Rangitikei St, Poutini St, Milton St, Helmore St, Boydfield St, Moana St, Jones St, Anzac Pde, City Bridge, Taupo Quay, **Trafalgar Square.**

Trafalgar Square → Whanganui East

Monday to Friday	Trafalgar Square	opp 105 Anzac Pde	26 Rangitikei St	Outer Terminal (20 Eastown Rd)	Saturday	Trafalgar Square	opp 105 Anzac Pde	26 Rangitikei St	Outer Terminal (20 Eastown Rd)
	AM	11:00	11:06	11:11		11:15	AM	9:15	9:21
	1:20	1:26	1:31	1:35		11:00	11:06	11:11	11:15
PM	3:00	3:06	3:11	3:15	PM	1:50	1:56	2:01	2:05
	5:10	5:16	5:21	5:25					

Trafalgar Square, Ridgway St, Victoria Ave, Anzac Pde, Jones St, Moana St, Boydfield St, Helmore St, Milton St, Poutini St, Rangitikei St, Collingwood St, Kiwi St, Anzac Pde, Talbot St, Rangitikei St, **Eastown Rd (Outer Terminal).**

209

Combined Saturday

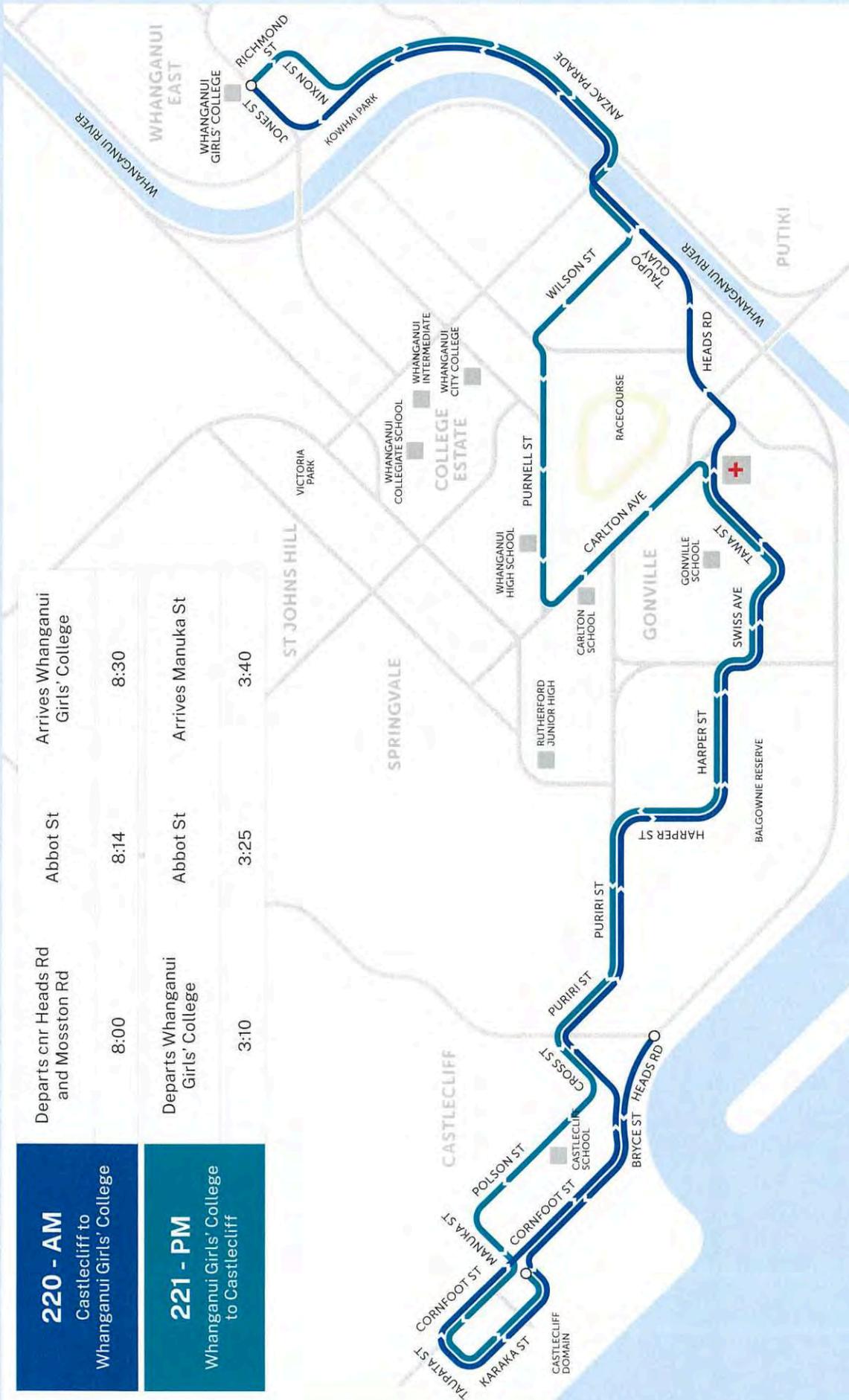
Saturday	Trafalgar Square	145 Parsons St	Outer Terminal (88 Virginia Rd)	Aramoho Cemetery (462 Somme Pde)	123 Glasgow St	Trafalgar Square
AM	9:00	9:08	9:20	9:30	9:49	9:55
	10:00	10:08	10:20	10:30	10:49	10:55
	11:45	11:53	12:05	12:15	12:34	12:40
PM	12:45	12:53	1:05	1:15	1:34	1:40
	2:45	2:53	3:05	3:15	3:34	3:40
	3:30	3:38	3:50	4:00	4:19	4:25

Trafalgar Square, Ridgway St, Drews Ave, Watt St, Cameron St, Campbell Tce, Guyton St, Wicksteed St, Ingestre St, Victoria Ave, Glasgow St, Grey St, Parsons St, Surrey Rd, Durham Rd, Devon Rd, Sussex Rd, Springvale Rd, Peakes Rd, Ngapuhi St, Parkes Ave, Great North Rd, **Virginia Rd (Outer Terminal)**, Porritt St, Oakland Ave, Great North Rd, Glasgow St, Somme Pde, Aramoho Cemetery, Somme Pde, Glasgow St, Harrison St, Ingestre St, Wicksteed St, Guyton St, Campbell Tce, Cameron St, Watt St, Drews Ave, Taupo Quay, **Trafalgar Square**.

220

221

Whanganui Girls' College



220 - AM Castlecliff to Whanganui Girls' College	Departs cnr Heads Rd and Mosston Rd 8:00	Arrives Whanganui Girls' College 8:30
	Arrives Whanganui Girls' College 3:10	Departs Whanganui Girls' College 3:40

Morning route to Whanganui Girls' College
 Corner Heads Rd and Mosston Rd, Bryce St, Cornfoot St, Manuka St, Karaka St, Castlecliff Camp Store, Taupata St, Cornfoot St, Bryce St, Cross St, Puriri St, Harper St, Abbot St, Swiss Ave, Kings Ave, Tawa St, Koromiko Rd, Carlton Ave, Heads Rd, Taupo Quay, City Bridge, Anzac Pde, Jones St, Whanganui Girls' College.

Afternoon route from Whanganui Girls' College
 Whanganui Girls' College, Richmond St, Nixon St, Anzac Pde, City Bridge, Taupo Quay, Guyton St, Purnell St, Carlton Ave, Koromiko Rd, Tawa St, Kings Ave, Swiss Ave, Abbot St, Harper St, Puriri St, Cross St, Polson St, Manuka St, Cornfoot St, Taupata St, Karaka St, Manuka St.

225

Whanganui - Palmerston North

Whanganui → Palmerston North

Monday to Friday	UCOL Te Pūkenga Whanganui	Trafalgar Square	Bulls Community Centre	Sanson (37 Dundas Rd)	UCOL Te Pūkenga Palmerston North	Main Street Terminal Palmerston North
	AM	6:45	6:50	7:20	7:30	7:45

Palmerston North → Whanganui

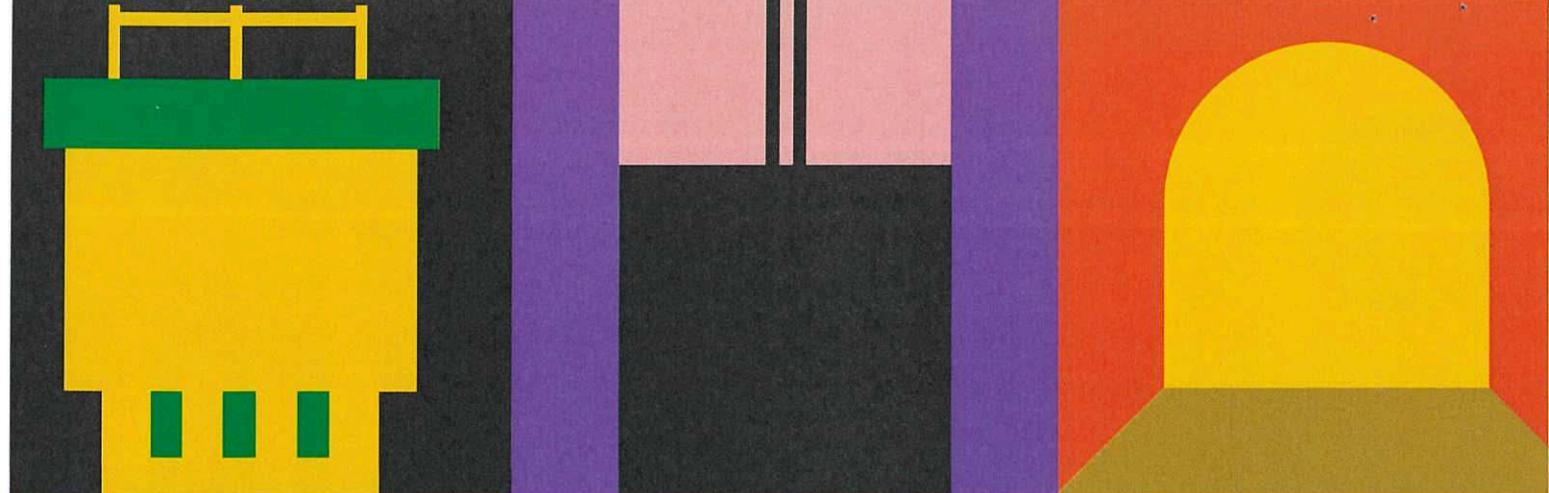
Monday to Friday	Main Street Terminal Palmerston North	UCOL Te Pūkenga Palmerston North	Sanson (30 Dundas Rd)	Bulls Community Centre	Trafalgar Square	UCOL Te Pūkenga Whanganui
	PM	5:15	5:20	5:40	5:50	6:25

Fare Information

	Adult		Child		Concession (65+, CSC, Tertiary)		UCOL Te Pūkenga		Under 5
	Bee Card	Cash	Bee Card	Cash	Bee Card	Cash	Bee Card	Cash	-
Whanganui to/from Palmerston North	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$7.00	\$9.00	Free	Free	Free
Bulls & Sanson to/from Palmerston North	\$4.50	\$5.50	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$5.00	Free

*Services do not operate on public holidays.

SuperGold Card free travel is not available on this service.



The Durie Hill Elevator.

The Durie Hill Elevator is a unique public transport service that has been serving Whanganui since 1919.

The 213 metre tunnel and 66 metre public transport elevator allow you to travel between the City and Durie Hill in 10 minutes - or faster if you take your bike.

The Elevator is staffed by an operator at all times when open, and the service is on demand — just ring the bell when you arrive.

The top of the elevator tower, and the adjacent War Memorial Tower also provide one of the best viewing spots in Whanganui.

D.H.E is a funded public transport service, owned by Whanganui District Council, supported by Connect and Waka Kotahi, and operated by Whanganui Connection.

PRICES (each way):

ADULT: \$2.00

CHILD UNDER 16: \$1.00

CONCESSION TICKETS*: \$15.00

CHILDREN WITH BIKES, SCOOTERS:
FREE when traveling down



OPENING HOURS

MONDAY to FRIDAY: 8am to 6pm

WEEKENDS, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:
10am to 5pm

CHRISTMAS DAY: Closed

*CONCESSION TICKETS provide 10 adult or 20 child one way trips, and trips are transferable.

D.H.E accepts cash, eftpos and credit cards.

To connect to or from a bus, cross the town bridge, and use the St Hill Street Bus stops.

PHONE: 06 345 8525

How to use the urban bus service

Plan your journey

Use the map at the front of this book to find your current location and the best bus route to take to your destination. You can find the times your bus route runs by referring to the relevant timetable in this book. Alternatively freephone Horizons Regional Council on 0508 800 800 and we can help you plan your journey.

Catching your bus

Be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus is expected to arrive. Stand on the footpath near the front of the bus stop. Some bus stops are used by more than one route, so as the bus approaches check the route number and destination displayed on the front of the bus. Raise your arm as a signal to the driver that you want the bus to stop.

On the bus

For your own safety and comfort, as well as those around you, please:

- Do not smoke/vape, play loud music or leave items in the aisle
- If the bus is busy, please offer your seat to someone who may need it more than you – for example someone who is older, pregnant or travelling with young children
- Relax and enjoy being driven.

Leaving the bus

Press the button, as you approach the stop where you want to get off. The bell rings letting the driver know you want to get off at the next stop.

Please ensure you allow enough time, when pushing the button, for the driver to stop smoothly and safely at your requested stop.

Remember to tag off, otherwise you may be charged the cash fare.

Before leaving the bus, please check you have all your belongings with you.

Transferring between buses

You can catch a second bus for free within one hour of your original trip (not available for return trips).

Simply tag on and off each bus using your Bee Card and the free transfer will automatically be calculated.

If you are paying by cash let the driver know on your first bus you wish to transfer and they will give you a paper ticket to show the driver on your second bus.

Public holiday?

No bus services operate on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day or ANZAC Day. On all other public holidays, services operate according to the Saturday timetable.

Frequently asked questions

What is an Outer Terminal (OT)?

The OT is a normal bus stop that is halfway along the bus route, and has a scheduled stop.

Help I've left something on the bus, who do I call?

Give the bus operator a call on 06 345 7100. Please note no responsibility will be accepted by the bus operator or Horizons Regional Council for lost property.

I'm a UCOL Te Pūkenga student or staff member, how do I catch the bus for free?

You may need to load your free travel concession on to your Bee Card.

Please check with your tertiary provider. Remember to carry your student/staff ID with you when travelling.

I need to catch two buses to get across town, do I have to pay two fares?

As long as you catch the second bus within the hour of your original trip, transfers are free. If you're paying by Bee Card tag on and off both buses. If you're paying by cash make sure you have your original ticket with you. Transfers are not valid for return trips.

Buses are wheelchair accessible, what does that mean?

Wheelchair accessible buses are low floored, no more steps to climb up, and there is enough room for wheelchairs to fit. Please note if your wheelchair takes up a space of more than 700mm wide and 1200mm long and/or has a combined weight (passenger and chair) of more than 240kgs it cannot be carried.

Can I take a bike on the bus?

Yes, buses can carry two bikes at a time, on a first come first served basis. The racks are designed to carry bikes with wheels larger than 16 inches.

EV Bikes cannot be carried on bike racks.

Bikes can be carried on Whanganui Commuter - but are stored in the luggage area. Horizons accept no responsibility for damaged bikes.

Bikes are not permitted inside the bus.

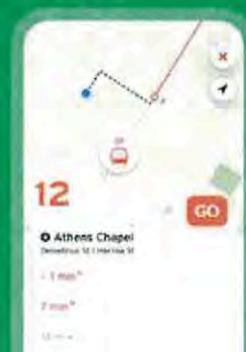
Visit our website for more information.

Got a question?

For individual route maps, bus stop locations, live bus tracking, questions and comments, check out www.horizons.govt.nz or call freephone 0508 800 800.

See exactly where your ride is.

 transit



Fares

	Cash fare	Bee Card
Adult	\$2.50	\$2.00
Child/Youth School-aged (If not in school uniform please provide ID) Under 5's travel free	\$1.50	\$1.20
Concessions* Student, Community Services Card, Senior 65+	\$1.80	\$1.50
SuperGold Card Holders Between 9am-3pm and 6.30pm to the end of day on weekdays, all day on weekends and public holidays		Free
UCOL Te Pūkenga Students and Staff		Free

*Cash fare on production of current ID. Bee Card fare on use of registered Bee Card with concession loaded. Student fare available only with NZ tertiary education providers.
Fares subject to change. Please visit www.horizons.govt.nz for up-to-date fare information.

Horizons Regional Council plans and operates services according to the timetable; road conditions, traffic calming measures, special events and weather may cause delays or may result in detours.



Bee Cards are your electronic bus card making travel cheaper and easier.

Get yours from the driver or online and register it today.

BeeCard.co.nz

What is a Bee Card?

Bee Cards are our electronic bus card. Bee Card makes travelling by bus easier – get your card online at beecard.co.nz, or on the bus.

Bee Cards need to be registered to enable online top up, and to protect your balance if you lose your card. You can also manage multiple cards online.

How much does it cost?

Bee Cards cost just \$5 to purchase. A minimum of \$5 top-up is required before purchasing, and can be done with cash on the bus or online with a card.

All replacement cards cost \$5 (includes postage/admin), and require a top up of \$5 or more.

Please see beecard.co.nz for full terms and conditions.

catch The Tide

The Tide (210) is a new frequent bus service running between Castlecliff and Aramoho, and connecting a range of destinations — including Gonville, the hospital, the city, and upper Victoria Ave shops.



 **Running every 20 min:**
(both directions)

Mon–Fri: 7am–7pm
Sat: 9am–3pm

 **Hourly Night Services:**
Fri: 7pm–11pm

 **In operation from 18 February 2023**
For more info, visit horizons.govt.nz



This service is a collaboration between Horizons Regional Council and Whanganui District Council.



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Brought to you by:



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REGIONAL COUNCIL

For more information visit
www.horizons.govt.nz
or freephone Horizons on **0508 800 800**

Osborne, Bruce
Aramoho River Bank Enhancement Project

Aramoho River Bank Enhancement Project

Bruce Osborne

On behalf of the Enhancement Committee

Background

The initiators of the Point of entry business case for the Aramoho River Bank Enhancement Project were firstly most appreciative that the WDC had given priority to the initiative and secondly by including the overall project in the draft Long Term Plan

Background - Project Scope

The range of investigation and consultation over two years by the initiators has been comprehensive, inclusive and challenging but rewarding and reassuring when the WDC acknowledged the significant benefits that will accrue with investment long term in a fully developed Aramoho Rail Bridge to Tutaeika stream and onwards to the TE AO HOU Marae.

Benefits

Enhancement of the river bank facade, safe access to the river, community toilets, improved flood resilience and optimisation of the area for Rowing, Waka and all water sport activities that will lead to greater financial returns into the local economy by attracting and retaining visitors over a longer period of time are all tangible outcomes and sources of benefit when **considering Whanganui's attractiveness to all its stakeholders and communities.**

Background

The Financial case as articulated in the point of Entry Business Case 29/09/23 described a staged investment over one to five years with estimated costs of 1.5 million whilst noting that a design concept and engineering analysis of 100k expenditure in 2024/25 was noted in the draft LTP. From this standpoint the Aramoho River Bank Enhancement Committee have identified and prioritised the scope of work that may assist WDC prioritise funding availability over a designated period of time.

Proposed Project Programme

1. Floating Boat Launching pontoons
2. Secure the riverbank to stabilise crumbling embankment
3. Further develop /concrete the Philippa Baker Walkway and shared pathway initiative
4. Develop the parking area for boat trailers and community recreation, at the Rowers Camp
5. Design and build public toilet facilities at the rowers camp
6. Design and build terraced spectator seating on the Somme Parade bank from the Rowing Associations finish tower to the Aramoho Whanganui Rowing clubs car park
7. Install 3 water hydrants on the river bank side of Somme Parade to aid flood relief clean up.
8. Bitumen/Concrete the Northern and Southern entrances to the river bank amenities.

Proposed Project Programme

1. Floating Boat Launching pontoons - concept design



Proposed Project Programme

2. Secure the riverbank to stabilise crumbling embankment



photo taken outside of Whanganui Collegiate Rowing Club Shed on 3/08/2023

Proposed Project Programme

3. Further develop /concrete the Philippa Baker Walkway and shared pathway initiative



Proposed Project Programme

4. Develop the parking area for boat trailers and community recreation, at the Rowers Camp



Proposed Project Programme

5. Design and build public toilet facilities at the rowers camp



photo taken at Canoe Club Whanganui East

Proposed Project Programme

6. Design and build terraced spectator seating on the Somme Parade bank from the Rowing Associations finish tower to the Aramoho Whanganui Rowing clubs car park



Example at Cooks Garden of terraced seating

Proposed Project Programme

7. Install 3 water hydrants on the river bank side of Somme Parade to aid flood relief clean up.



→ For proposed shared pathway upstream

Proposed Project Programme

8. Bitumen/Concrete the Northern and Southern entrances to the river bank amenities.



Northern entrance at Field St



Southern entrance at George St

Proposed Project Programme

Note: Proposed Shared Pathway Route (Philippa Baker Walkway)



Background

It is acknowledged that the initial indicative sum of \$1.5 million was more rough calculations than reality and in times of significant inflationary pressures a constant comment is to double or even treble **ones initial analysis and maybe it's somewhere near? In making this** comment the committee hopes to convey to the council that a staged investment in small realistic chunks is sensible and hopefully achievable.

Background

The River Bank Enhancement Committee has also mentioned previously that there is no shortage of volunteers to call upon with technical expertise, building, engineering, design ideas and muscle should aspects of the projects allow notwithstanding the fact that specifications and construction must comply with local body regulations and the employment of certified entities.

Background

Should the initiative acquire 100k seed funding 2024/25 to undertake concept design and engineering analysis the committee would undertake to implement the following process whilst also seeking guidance from the council at every stage.

Short-term Work Plan

1. Convene another meeting of all stakeholders seeking in particular their total commitment to each aspect of the initiative.
2. Ratify, amend or change the projects order of priority
3. Identify with whom the various projects responsibilities lie. I.e. Council, Doc, Horizons, Iwi/Hapu, Community organisations etc.
4. Obtain written support and commitment for each segment of the project within the bounds of reason.

Short-term Work Plan

5. Integrate each project into time lines for design, cost, consult, and comply, resource/fund towards build.
6. Work with Council in allocating a percentage of the seed funding to each segment of the project for design, costing, regulatory compliance, and community consultation where appropriate
7. Establish a blue print for the entire project to give tangible evidence of overall likely costs and where the likely source of funding could come from including proposals for the next LTP update.

Background

As identified above the number one priority for the project committee is to Design and Build one Floating boat launching pontoon at a location on or near the Whanganui Collegiate Boat ramp. The Collegiate Boat ramp has become undermined, threatened with collapse and is a safety concern. It is hoped that a portion of the 100k, if forthcoming from WDC, would be allocated towards a floating boat launching pontoon design with engineering specifications.

Background

As mentioned previously the committee has people resources willing to **give of their time sometimes for free or for ‘at cost rates’** and along with **the council’s expertise it is believed possible that completed design /build and cost specifications could be undertaken as stage one to show at least some tangible outcome for money spent and one of the projects getting underway.**

Background

Once stage one of the process is complete the possibility that grant money sourced by the various riverbank stakeholders, along with a council financial allocation, could well enable a prototype pontoon to be built which floats up and down on poles as tides and floods dictate. This would be a first for Whanganui of its type, highlighting to the Whanganui community a forward thinking WDC project initiated with significant community investment both in time and money in a partnership model.

Background

Into the future at least two further pontoons built to accommodate a growing river users cohort (rowers, waka, recreational users, boaties) is envisaged, noting that all projects as identified in the river bank enhancement will be seeded in priority.

Summary

The Aramoho River Bank Enhancement Committee is very cognoscente of the financial constraints facing the WDC. Notwithstanding this, investment in river bank beautification, linking connectivity to the mountain to the sea cycleway, improved river bank habitat and spawning areas as already identified, and safer entry to the Awa. Complimentary community services for all river users are all deemed to be in the wider community interests when appropriate funding is allocated with a long term vision in mind.

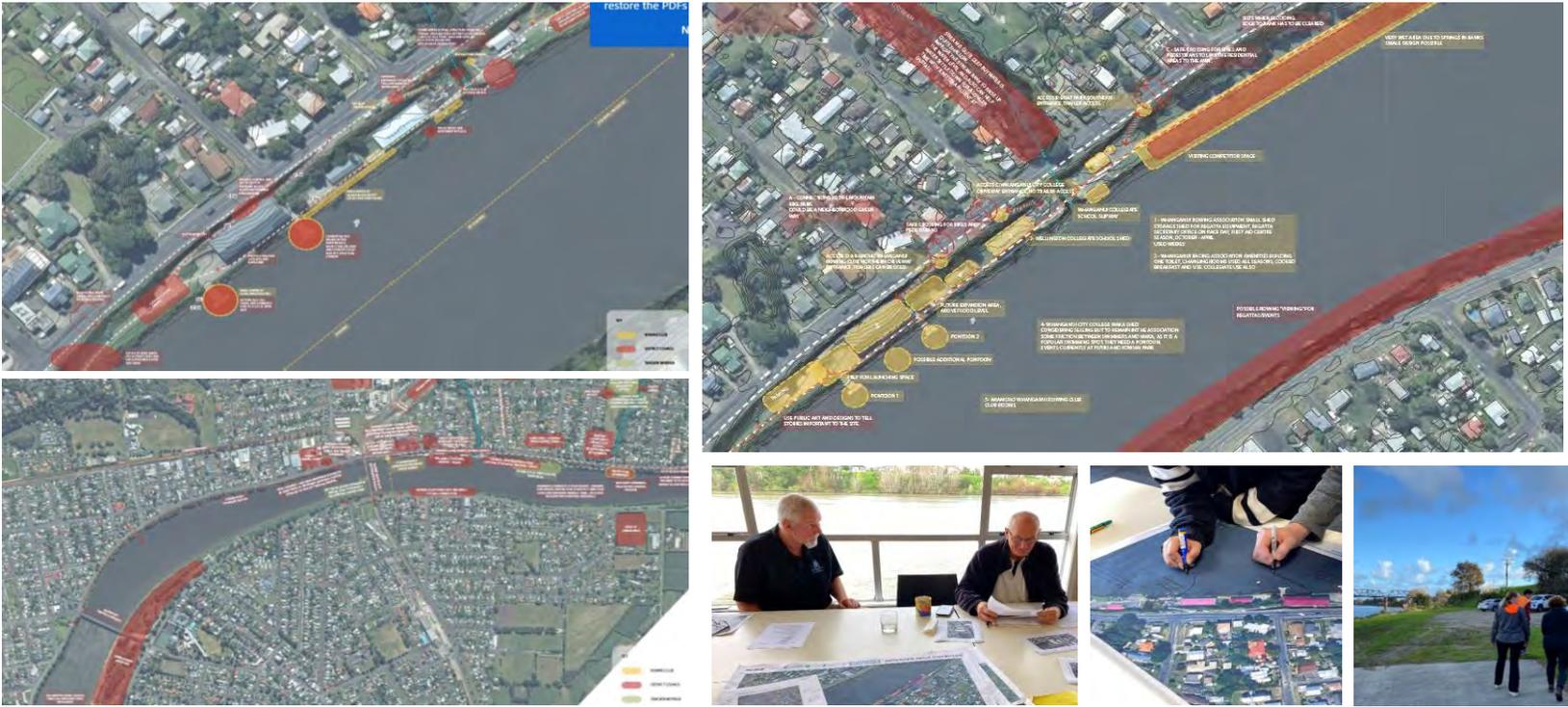
Summary

The River Bank Enhancement Committee is aware that Beca Consultants from Wellington have been engaged by WDC for an integrated plan of the Aramoho riverbank area from the Rail Bridge to and including Te Ao Hou Marae.

Our River Bank Project Enhancement Committee welcomes this initial investment and encourage WDC to integrate Beca Consultants funding with this proposal.

WDC taking ownership/leadership of the initiative and assisting pulling together the main regional entity stakeholders is viewed as an imperative for progress and ultimate success.

Beca consultants concept design planning - 01/May 2024



WHANGANUI RIVER WORKSHOP NOTES

Thank You

Bruce Osborne

On behalf of the Enhancement Committee

May 2024

Whanganui LTP Submission from Anne Pattillo

Congratulations on the clear strategy for responding to the challenging financial times. As a long term supporter of arts activity, institutions and artists of Whanganui I wanted to add my voice to your deliberations on the choices the Council face in the Long Term Plan.

Over the last 18 years, as a committed supporter and sponsor of arts scholarships and awards in Whanganui I have had the privilege to see the rich growth of the city, its artists and its commercial and community enterprises. As principal sponsor of the Whanganui Arts Review I'm excited to see this community celebration in the renewed Gallery.

The Council along with community, business and government funders have invested to recreate - rejuvenate the Sarjeant Gallery after the identification of the need for earthquake strengthening. The Council, supporters of the Gallery and communities of Whanganui took the earthquake assessment as an opportunity to invest in the future of the District. The approximately \$70 million investment was seen as an opportunity to make an enduring contribution to the cultural, social and economic future for Whanganui. The Council itself has loaned the development \$15 million.

While I understand the Council is facing tough decisions to reduce services and seek efficiency savings, it is the wrong time to see the services and running of the Sarjeant gallery in this light.

As the Sarjeant Gallery returns to full operation this is a period when it is important to grow and sustain the operational capacity of the Gallery to generate a return on the capital investment in the Gallery and to generate a community return from the Gallery for generations to come.

Repaying the Council is dependant on the Gallery growing reputation, visitor levels and income of the Gallery. The experience of other cultural institutions is that new building developments are the first attractor for new visitors, but sustained success of institutions requires active programmes, refreshed offerings and comprehensive management of repairs and maintenance, especially when visitor levels exceed expected levels, which is likely with the Sarjeant development.

This period of financial hardship is driving many leaders and organisations to look down and cut away services and facilities that have been important. The Council's commitment to the life of one of the city's iconic beacons, the Sarjeant Gallery, is a reminder that, when we are in tough times, it is beacons such as the Sarjeant Gallery and the investment in it, remind us of the confidence Whanganui's leaders have in the city's future.

My submission is that in the consideration of creating the right response to the challenges the Council and communities of Whanganui are facing, that sustained investment and financial support in the Sarjeant Gallery is the right decision, economically, culturally and socially.

Anne Pattillo

2 May 2024

SUBMISSION TO WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL LTP 2024-2034

ROYAL WHANGANUI OPERA HOUSE

A very good presentation by theatre Architect Phil Conroy of Shand Shelton was enjoyed by a relatively small public attendance recently.

It changed my thoughts about the various options presented and the associated costings.

The theatre is over 120 years old and has, I believe, been successfully presenting shows without incident over these years. It is an old small unique theatre, and we are very spoilt to have it as part of our community and our heritage. I do not see the need to try and compete with theatres in larger areas. We are only an hour away from Palmerston North, or a bit further to Wellington, for those who are able to travel and wish to attend larger productions, probably at greater ticket prices, although some of the shows here recently and upcoming have very high ticket prices. One show I would have liked to attend recently I could not justify the high ticket price.

I have not been backstage since the old fly floors have been removed so have not yet seen the affect the scaffolding has on the stage area, nor have I been party to the buildings recent strengthening. The only really big change over the years is the effect the onerous Health and Safety Act (which seems to get worse every year) has imposed on the dear old stage house structure, as well as everything else we are now doing.

Addressing the options presented in the Consultation Document by the Architects:

Option 1. Not really a good option for the future however it is still working pretty well with all the productions booked for the near future. Purchase of the scaffolding would be a good idea for any future use. This could be a temporary solution and allows the theatre to continue operating.

Option 2. I believe that this would work but the costing seems to me to be unbelievably high. It would certainly impact on the stage space but I do not believe that existing sight lines from the auditorium would really be affected.

Option 3. I have come around to thinking this is probably the best option especially comparing the costing with option 2. It would of course need a closure of the theatre for probably up to 2 years (17 months stated by Phil, but I am sure that is optimistic). It would be hoped that the length of closure would not affect the public image of the theatre and that they would return in droves. It would also be hoped that the price to lease the opera house is not raised so much that ticket prices become too much for our aging population. It is good to note that this project is scheduled to begin construction in 2025/26 – a fair bit of design work and working drawings required before that.

I can foresee the new structure being constructed outside the existing walls before demolishing the existing. This of course would be up to the designers and contractor.

Option 4. I think this is dreaming. Very nice BUT. The front foyer is small but unique and original (nearly). The upstairs lounge is also very small but I cannot see how it could be made bigger without some additions which would impact on the exterior appearance and perhaps impact its heritage status. Yes there is an access problem to the upstairs lounge for disabled people but for evacuation purposes such people should not be up there.

No I do not think this an affordable option.

REPERTORY THEATRE

Leave alone. Yes the bank needs to be retained (OPTION 2) but no demolition of structure. This is a heritage historic building and demolishing it is unthinkable. Certainly it does need a lot of maintenance.

HOTEL AND CARPARK

Surely this is not council core business. Yes we do need more accommodation in the city but why should ratepayers pay for building a hotel and carpark. Yes encourage a developer to produce a scheme (OPTION 2). I do not see the need for a multi storey car park.

HANGING BASKETS

OPTION 2 Please keep the baskets. I have had a lot of very complimentary comments about them from out of towners that I know.

Ian Pearson BE(Civil), MICE, CEngNZ

Retired Consulting Structural Engineer

FOH long time member and Volunteer



Submission to:

Manawatū Long Term Plan 2024 – 2034

Submitter: Clive Pedley, Chair, for

Te Awa Community Foundation (TACF)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the future of Manawatu, and the effort put into the consultation process. It is clear that Manawatū District Council (MDC) needs to make some very difficult decisions about service and infrastructure priorities.

Manawatū District Council Long Term Plan 2024 – 2034 proposes several areas for immediate expenditure on infrastructure and community development, placing an additional financial burden on the Council and the ratepayer. Te Awa Community Foundation suggests that much of the proposed expenditure is focusing on short term rather than long term outcomes for the community. The issues MDC face are medium to long term rather than an immediate need e.g. population growth and subsequent infrastructure, along with community development and wellbeing to support this growth.

Te Awa Community Foundation is a regional charity that provides established and proven opportunities for sustainable community funding from the community, for the community. We propose that MDC take a more strategic view for positive long term outcomes and positive impact for the growing community while also reducing the immediate financial impact on ratepayers during a difficult financial time for all.

Te Awa Community Foundation welcomes the opportunity to work with MDC to support the Manawatū to a sustainable future through investment of expenditure currently proposed into a designated community fund that supports and benefits the wellbeing of communities in Manawatū. The investment by Council in a community fund at this stage provides opportunities for generous people, families and businesses to join MDC by giving to the future needs of the community they know and love. Our focus is on gifts held in perpetuity to support our local community and the causes donors care most about for generations to come. This has been proven to be effective in other regions throughout New Zealand over the past 20 years through other community foundations, such as the Acorn Foundation, Nikau Foundation, Momentum Waikato and Aoraki Community Foundation. MDC is in the position to lead these opportunities in our community for the long term benefit of Manawatū, in partnership with TACF.

We note that the Revenue and Financing Policy 2021 is also up for review at this stage. The current policy focuses on current/immediate rather than investment now for the needs of the future. All areas of the current policy would benefit in the future from a community fund, and TACF would suggest that investment is included in the revised policy.

We welcome the opportunity to present this submission in person.

Contact details: Kate Aplin, co General Manager

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



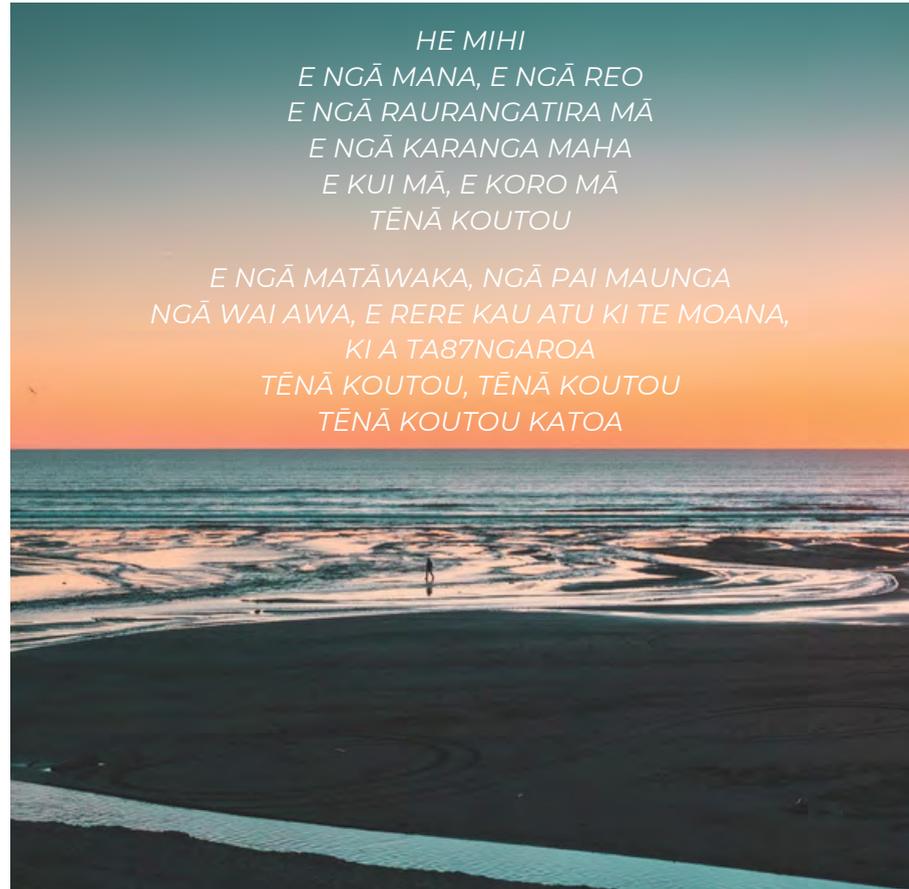
INTRODUCING YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Everyone can make a difference



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ENDORSEMENT



“Community Foundations enable people to give back to their own communities and support local projects.”

— Sir Stephen Tindall



Founder and Trustee
Tindall Foundation

OUR PURPOSE

OUR MISSION

Connecting generous people
with causes that matter in
their communities

OUR VISION

Growing sustainable
funds to enhance our
communities for future
generations

OUR GOALS

Sustainable support of
local communities,
donors, supporters and
volunteers

OUR TEAM



Clive Pedley
CHAIR



Andrew McLean
TRUSTEE



Owen Grieg
TRUSTEE



Jasmine Groves
TRUSTEE



Clint Dunstan
AMBASSADOR



Rebecca Coulson
AMBASSADOR



Wayne Macpherson
AMBASSADOR



Paul O'Brien
AMBASSADOR

The operational staff and local volunteer District Committee members are supported by the Board, and Ambassadors 05

OUR SCOPE



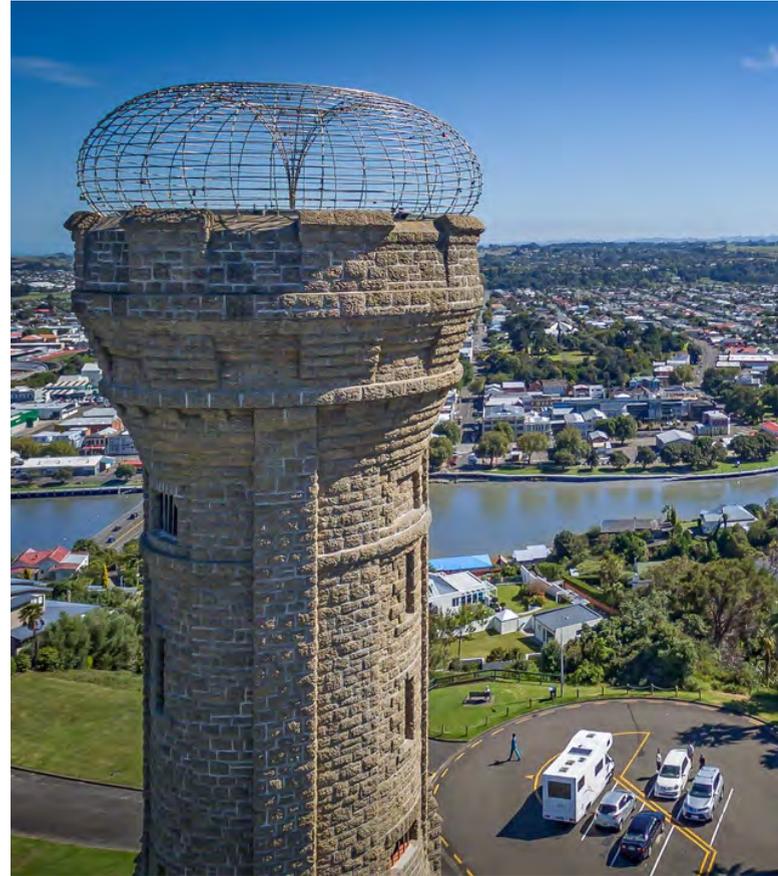
TE AWA - THE STORY

THE COLLECTIVE GOOD

Through New Zealand's Community Foundations over **\$50 million** has been granted to NZ communities in the past five years and today over **\$200 million** has been invested in endowment funds for the future.

Te Awa is the most recent community foundation in New Zealand and is looking to build on this successful model of **sustainable intergenerational support** for local communities.

Te Awa provides a range of ways to give to great local causes and as funds grow over time the community will benefit from **grant making** opportunities and support for **local projects**.



TE AWA - THE STORY

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Throughout New Zealand there are hundreds of anticipated bequests adding up to many millions of dollars that will be invested for future community transformation.

With our endowment fund model your gift is invested and the interest gained on the gift is given back to the community for charitable purposes.

An endowment is a perpetual gift. The impact on [future generations is boundless.](#)



How an Invested Endowment Fund Works

2003 - The Edna Brown Fund established, giving to healthcare causes locally

Original gift
\$67,200



First established with a fund balance of **\$67,200**

2023 - After 20 years

Collective total
\$169,091



\$93,252 Fund balance + **\$75,839** Grants distributed

2053* - After 50 years

Collective total
\$344,277



\$134,247 Fund balance + **\$210,030** Grants distributed

** Estimated growth rate of 6.5% for future years and an annual distribution of 4%
Thank you to Acorn Foundation for this real example of a live invested endowment fund.*

SUCCESSFUL MODEL



The concept of pooling and investing charitable donations for the good of a local area has been a growing global movement for over a hundred years now.



Granted to New Zealand communities in the past year



Invested in managed endowment funds



Number of grants made to local communities in the past year



Number of committed bequests for future endowment funds

NB: All figures current June 2023

HOW YOUR GIFT IS GROWN



Your gift is **invested and grown** and the ongoing income earned goes to the local causes you love.

GIVING MADE SIMPLE



Te Awa provides a variety of giving options designed to make it as easy as possible to give back to your community. We offer flexible solutions designed to meet your charitable goals and provide you with maximum tax benefits.

Named Endowment Funds

When making your will consider giving back to your community or leaving a bequest to your chosen charitable cause.

Donate during your lifetime

Give to a cause you are passionate about and watch the satisfying journey of seeing your gift make an impact in your lifetime.

Transfer of an existing charitable trust

Te Awa Community Foundation can take over the management of existing charitable trusts by creating a perpetual fund within the Foundation.

Community Groups

If you are a charity or community group you can create an endowment fund through Te Awa to ensure you are supported into the future.

Workplace Giving

Giving through your workplace is a great way for employers to enable employees to give back to their local community.

Ask us about our volunteering opportunities

We are always looking for [Te Awa Ambassadors](#) to support our charitable causes.

[Everyone can make a difference!](#)

For Professional Advisers

HOW WE CAN HELP

Are you a professional adviser such as a lawyer, accountant or financial adviser? You are in a unique position to introduce the concept of philanthropy to your clients.

Many people want to give to charitable causes as part of their wealth and estate planning but are not often aware of the options.

Te Awa Community Foundation provides a variety of options for those at any stage of life and can assist you with the resources needed to begin those conversations with your clients.

Contact a team member or email us at support@teawafoundation to receive an Adviser Support Pack.



CONNECT WITH US

Your next step is to connect with one of our local Te Awa Community Foundation team members below:



Cat Rikihana
Co-General Manager

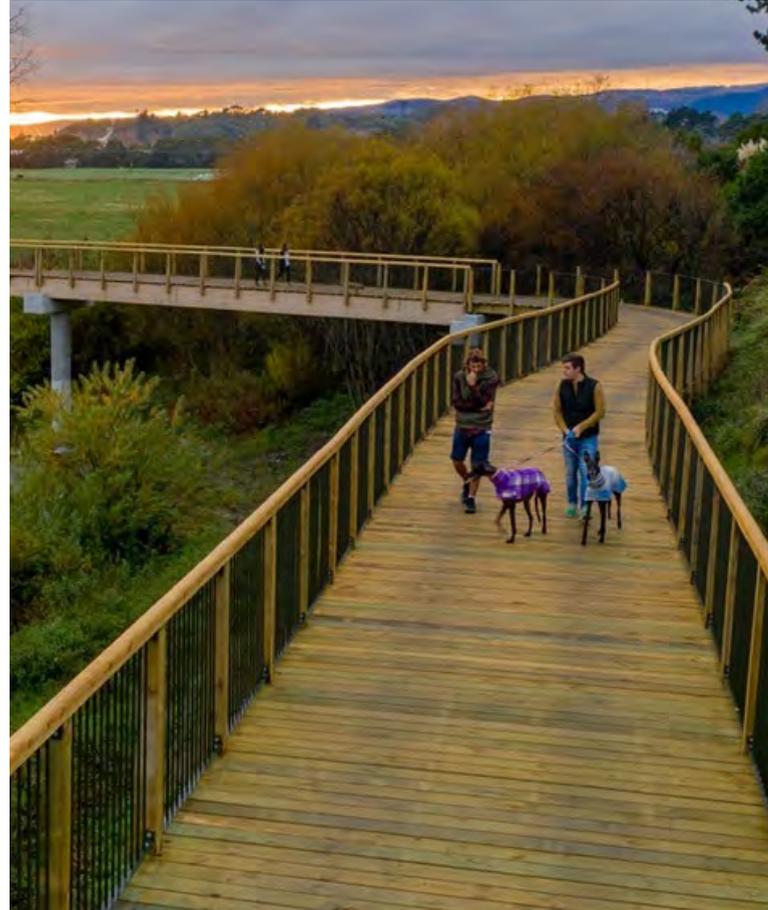


Kate Aplin
Co-General Manager



For general enquiries and to subscribe to our updates please email us at: support@teawafoundation.org.nz

Te Awa Community Foundation is a registered charitable organisation (CC56373) in New Zealand.





teawafoundation.org.nz



facebook.com/teawacommunityfoundation

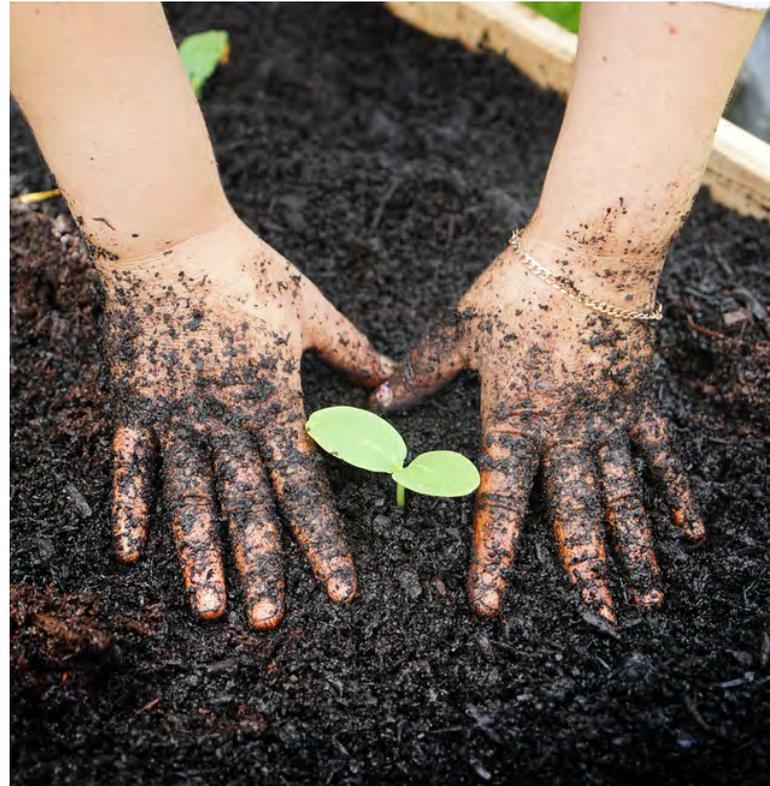


linkedin.com/company/te-awa-community-foundation



instagram.com/teawacommunityfoundation

Join us on social media to keep up with the news around our region and share our content with your networks.



Picture From: Kai Security Fund
See our website for more details about our list of funds.



CONNECTING GENEROUS PEOPLE WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER

Donate to Te Awa today in
support of your community!

Ngā mihi nui.





Regional Tourism New Zealand

P O Box 1697

Wellington

E: info@rtnz.org.nz

W: rtnz.org.nz

29 April 2024

Long Term Plan (LTP) Submission

Whanganui District Council

Regional Tourism New Zealand (RTNZ) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 for Whanganui District Council (WDC).

RTNZ is the peak body for the Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) across New Zealand of which Whanganui & Partners 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 31 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 different 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 Whanganui region.

3. Tourism expenditure in the Whanganui region for the year ending Oct 2023 was \$146m from domestic visitors and \$29m from international visitors. Note: MBIE data used to collect this figure ended in October 2023, hence there not being a more recent figure to work with.

Commercial guest nights in the region for the 12 months ended March 2024 were 221,000. Note: Not all Whanganui commercial accommodation contributes to this data and commercial guest nights do not include the significant peer-peer accommodation (e.g. Air BnB), available in Whanganui.

Destination promotion is a public good for the benefit and wellbeing of all.

4. 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 maximise its positive impact.
5. 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 local residents.

1. Visit

If you built a place where people want to visit, then you have built a place where people want to live.

4. Invest

And if you built a place where business and residents will invest, then you have built a place where people will want to visit.



2. Live

And if you built a place where people want to live, then you have built a place where people want to work.

3. Work

And if you built a place where people want to work, then you have built a place where business and residents want to invest.

Source; Destinations International

RTO activities contribute to community outcomes and wellbeing.

6. Tourism is a mechanism for achieving broader community outcomes and the work of RTOs intersects with many of the goals outlined in Whanganui District's Long-Term Plan (LTP);
 - Economic growth through increased visitor spending, supporting profitability of local business and job creation.
 - Increased visitation leads to improvements in infrastructure such as roads, airports, public transportation, and amenities like parks and recreational facilities. These developments not only benefit visitors but also enhance the quality of life for residents.
 - Environmental protection through supporting tourism operators to develop sustainable tourism practices and support conservation efforts. This includes climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives, aligned to council's goals and plans.
 - Social well-being by promoting cultural exchange, community pride, and social cohesion. This includes developing local ambassadors and supporting the community to be great hosts.
 - Cultural enrichment by showcasing local heritage, traditions, and arts as visitors look to engage more deeply with community stories and experiences.
 - Public safety and security measures to ensure visitor safety and to enhance the destination's reputation. This also includes working with councils on risk and emergency management initiatives so ensure visitors are considered when emergencies strike.
 - Enhanced community engagement and participation by involving locals in destination management planning so that visitors are more respectful of local expectations and behave responsibly.

RTOs play an important role within the destination and tourism system.

7. WDC has recently decided to bring its economic development and RTO functions back in house, dis-establishing the CCO Whanganui & Partners. There are two other instances where the RTO is a function of council: Dunedin and Central Otago.
8. RTOs play a crucial role in the tourism system, serving as leaders and key facilitators/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 and therefore the RTO requires appropriate resourcing and capacity/capability to be effective.
9. The RTO is the one organisation that has oversight of how the destination functions as a system and is able to bring together multiple stakeholders/actors across the destination's eco-system. 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.
10. 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. The RTO works very closely with tourism businesses, bringing private sector investment to further leverage council's investment, and in doing so, creating greater impact.
11. Many tourism businesses are still recovering from the effects of closed borders during COVID-19, and the RTO provides valuable support and capability building for local

businesses. As the RTO becomes part of Council operations, it is important that it can maintain a close working relationship with the private sector and that any political influence from Council is carefully managed so that this important relationship with the tourism industry is maintained.

Developing a sustainable tourism industry which contributes to the quality of life of residents.

12. 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 very good work carried out by Whanganui & Partners in the development of the DMP. There was strong collaboration across the district which reflects the aspirations of communities for what they want from tourism in the future.
13. The destinations eco-system is complex with many interrelated and interdependent parts that need to work in together to ensure tourism benefit communities. The Whanganui region's DMP is a demonstration of the importance of stewardship, and the RTO performs a leadership, coordination, and facilitation role so that tourism actors can come together and collaborate and continue to grow sustainably. Through the development of the DMP, a contract with the community has been created. It is important that the DMP remains supported, and the 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. With the RTO back within Council, the Council has an important role, as it too has oversight over many facets of the DMP which align to Council plans, strategies and investments, helping to advance its implementation.
15. 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 to ensure tourism continues to contribute to their communities in their district and region.

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. RTNZ also recognises the councils invest in many visitor attractions that add to the appeal of a place e.g. museums, galleries, gardens, event/conference facilities, airports, and events etc. The RTO supports these visitor assets and works closely with council teams to optimise the value and return that they create for ratepayers through out-of-town visitation. With the RTO function back within council this should create greater synergy between the RTO functions and WDC's tourism related assets.
17. 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. Tōnui specifically identifies the high 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 WDC retain its level of commitment to tourism, and investment in RTO activities, whilst a workable long-term solution is agreed and implemented.

Conclusion

RTNZ encourages WDC to maintain its support for the region's tourism sector and commit to resource RTO activities appropriately so that the tourism sector can grow sustainably and contribute to improving the quality of life for Whanganui residents.

It is important that the relationship between Council's RTO and the tourism industry is preserved and strengthened, and that the district's DMP is honoured and implemented through effective leadership and collaboration with stakeholders across the destinations eco-system.

RTNZ is grateful for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Ngā mihi,



David Perks
Chair



Kiri Goulter
Director Destination Management

Cost Saving for the Ratepayers and Council

Traffic Lights

Here is HOW TO SAVE MONEY

Over the last six months, I have had nothing better to do than sit at all the Traffic Lights and intersections around Whanganui, due to the fact I can no longer drive.

The things I have noticed are a lot of motorists breach the Traffic light controls. Also, many pedestrians will cross, or I should say run across the road between the stopped cars and skip having to wait for the system to go through the traffic light cycle change. Each time a vehicle is stationary at the light the vehicle is idling away producing more Carbon Emissions, not good for the environment.

The difference is that when I sat and observed the behavior of vehicles at the few Roundabouts we do have; there were fewer stationary vehicles and the traffic moved very quickly through the intersections.

Now when you consider each set of traffic lights has an enormous cost associated with them. There is a continued supply of power and regular maintenance, plus more money spent on painting traffic lanes at all the intersecting streets. The power is used 24 hours a day every day.

The simple answer is to remove these costly items and sell them to some other city and replace them with "ROUNDABOUTS"

The number of times a small roundabout has been used at a "Failed set of traffic lights" the traffic flow has been very smooth and uninterrupted.

THE PEDESTRIANS

So, you are asking how do the Pedestrians cross the road at the busier sites. Very easily, as you know each road entering the roundabout is now down to a single lane and there is ample room in the middle of the street for a small “Pedestrian safety zone”. The safety zone is situated some 6 to 10 meters from the intersection on each intersecting street. Similar to that used at Heads Road/Liferton Street.

The cost of running the 24/7 Roundabout? NOTHING! Once or maybe twice a year some “PD” worker could paint the curb with white paint. The other plus side of the Roundabouts is the center of it could have a small garden or art design.

Just my thoughts!

Lance Patterson

Ex Ministry of Transport Traffic Sargent.

██████████

██████████

████████████████████

Your views on the Council's
proposal to close the Whanganui
East Pool

No - in fact expand its
operation and have it
meet the needs of East.

Why is SPLASH the only
option. Can it even take
the load of every school doing
lessons there in school hours?

The pool needs
to remain open as
vital learning for our tamariki...
Not all tamariki can get into
Splash for lessons (Capacity limits as
well as distance etc) So East Swim Club should
+ Provide important community to our people.
+ Reopen the toddler pool to give young children
safe spaces and stay @ home whānau somewhere to
go in their own community.

No - we need equity for our
tamariki. Expand the pool. This
is a low socio-economic area
and these tamariki should all have
access to a public pool on the side
of town they live in

If the pool closes, what happens?
Is it gifted back to Kura?

Your views on the Council's
proposal to close the Whanganui
East Pool

Please don't
close ill be
scared my
tamaviki will
start swimming
in the Awa!!

feasibility studies are expensive
a new pool is even more.

As a Special Olympic Swimmer I'd rather
train there in an open air pool. As
Great Facilities

Concern More Paperwork and hassle/stress
for School Management.

Has anyone asked the
community to help the same
way it was built in the first place??

The pool is a great
asset for our community. Tautoko?

Where will our
kids learn
to swim
one pool for
the whole town?

This is about our
NE kids having the
same opportunities
that we had to
learn and grow
in a safe place for
families. It's about
health and wellbeing
of our communities,
it's about equity for
our W.E residents

Your views on the Council's
proposal to close the Whanganui
East Pool

Where will the kids go!

✓ They will not travel to Splash Centre.

✓ Will they turn to crime because they are bored.

* Some are not allow to swim in the Awa!

WHAT ABOUT THE COST OF GETTING SCHOOL CHILDREN TO SPLASH
AND PAYING FOR THE USE OF.

THERE WILL BE NO INCONVENIENCE TO USERS OF THE CLUBS CENTRE WHEN SCHOOL USE IT.

IF THERE IS A PROPOSAL TO BUILD A NEW POOL BESIDE THE SPLASH
CENTRE WHY CAN IT NOT BE BUILT IN WANGANUI ETC?

At present the school classes from WE walk
to swimming lessons at the pool (as do St Annes?)

Who finances getting all these classes to the Splash
Centre? The Schools? The Council? Or Government?

Your views on the Council's
proposal to close the Whanganui
East Pool

We need more than just the splash center.

Whatever the cost, we need a sustainable & functional
option for East. Absolutely no to a closure. However, we need
a long term option. No patch work, practical options for the future.

10 yrs ago we took
our granddaughter to
swimming lessons at it.
We dont need a
flash pool just
a safe place for
our kids to swim!

Your views on the Council's
proposal to close the Whanganui
East Pool

No!

10 yrs ago we took
our granddaughter to
swimming lessons at the
Splash Centre. We went on
a waiting list 3 months.
Is the Splash Centre any
better able to cope with
increased learn to swim
entrants?

The splash is
already over crowded!

Your views on the Council's
proposal to close the Whanganui
East Pool

Bloody disgusting. Its been there aim for many years,
so they put out bullshit figures to back it up. M. Doyle.

Crap idea keep it open

Your views on the Council's proposal to close the Whanganui East Pool

WHANGANUI EAST SCHOOL SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY

POV

The Pool should remain open & be regularly maintained. Continue to teach our children. Less risk. More community.

Keep Pool Open.

REWARD AND GET THIS POOL UP & RUNNING FOR EVERYONE & FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR KIDS.

School should not pay! Keep the pools open for our kids! This pool is necessary for our rangatahi so that they don't turn to crime!

It's not open a minute. It's a waste of money. It's a waste of time. It's a waste of space. It's a waste of money. It's a waste of time. It's a waste of space. It's a waste of money. It's a waste of time. It's a waste of space.

It's necessary to keep the pool open for the benefit of our rangatahi and tamariki. Let's get creative on how we can keep this space open for the community - it's an equity issue.

"HANDS OFF"

Should never have got to the state it has - open

Don't make my kids swim in the pool. That is so dangerous!!

I don't have a pool. It should remain open for the use of the schools, kaitiaki and community.

Where is the equity for our tamariki in this community? Do we all need to squeeze into one pool that I can't even get swimming lessons at?? Hence the agreement!!

Your views on the Council's
proposal to close the Whanganui
East Pool

Don't lose it we'll never get it back

Where will
our kids learn
to swim?

50,000 people in
Whanganui meant to
share 1 public pool?

If you close it to "fix"
it what about the 10 year gap
our kids will miss out on and
probably have to swim in the river.

Where's your evidence??
that the pool is broken??

If one man can manage the
pool by himself for a year
imagine what a whole community
could do for many years to come!!!!

Our kids will swim
in the river where it's
not safe and some
Whānau can't swim there.
Keep maintained.
Tash King

Where is the equity? The tamariki
in this community NEED their own
pool that is affordable. We don't
care about a fancy pool.

It's always going to cost
and you're always going to
put the rates up anyway!!

We don't need a "FLASH" pool
we just need a pool out EAST! that
our kids can learn to swim in!!

Maybe if you maintained it
as you should! have we wouldn't
have to close it.

My concern about children
swimming in the awa (river) is
the strong currents that are in it.
Concern children could drown.
Health + Safety.

Your views on the Council's
proposal to close the Whanganui
East Pool

Terrible idea - aren't there
enough drownings already???

My kids haven't been
able to go to swimming
lessons at the splash
apart from the wait but
the cost is high. Our kids
touching these kids at the
pools here is VITAL

Terrible!
Where would my kids go?
to the river and drown?
I'd rather pay more rates.
We want to be able to travel
to the other side of town!

I'd prefer to pay
higher rates to
keep the pool for
the whole WE community

How will the
Splash cater to
8 more schools
doing swimming
there????

I'd rather pay more
rates than lose one
of my students to
drowning!

His pretty obvious
that none of the
councillors live in the
Whanganui East.
Child your privilege.

Whanganui East School hosted a public meeting on 9th April regarding a historic agreement on school use of the Whanganui East Pool. As the LTP documents were released before this date there was considerable discussion on the proposal to close the pool.

100 people attended with 70 of them choosing to record their names including 6 councillors who contributed to the discussions.

This document is a summary of the feedback left by participants who emphatically declared their desires for the pool to remain open. There were many offers of assistance from community members across our city who would like to see practical solutions considered rather than an expensive feasibility study and normal industry costs when engaging with local government work. Council could engage with community groups to find solutions rather than their risk adverse expenditure on consultants.

Comments recorded from the meeting and attached to this submission:

Why is Splash the only option? Can it even take the load of every school doing lessons there during school hours?

The pool needs to remain open as vital learning for our Tamariki. Not all Tamariki can get into Splash for lessons (capacity limits as well as distance etc)

Reopen the toddler pool to give young children safe spaces and stay at home whanau somewhere to go in their own community.

We need equity for our Tamariki. Expand the pool. This is a low socio-economic area and these Tamariki should all have access to a public pool on the side of town they live in.

Feasibility studies are expensive. A new pool is even more.

As a special Olympic swimmer, I'd rather train in an open air pool.

Where will our kids learn to swim – one pool for the whole town?

Has anyone asked the community to help the same way as it was built in the first place?

This is about our Whanganui East kids having the same opportunities that we had to learn and grow in a safe place for families. It's about health and wellbeing of our communities, it's about equity for our Whanganui East residents.

Please don't close. I'll be scared my Tamariki will start swimming in the awa!

The pool is a great asset for our community.

Where will the kids go? They will not travel to Splash Centre. Will they turn to crime because they are bored?

Some are not allowed to swim in the awa!

What about the cost of getting children to the Splash Centre and paying for the use of.

There will be an inconvenience to users of the Splash Centre when schools use it.

If there is a proposal to build a new pool beside the Splash Centre, why can it not be built in Whanganui East?

At present the school classes from Whanganui East School walk to swimming lessons at the pool (as do St Annes? – *So have Keith St*) Who finances getting all these classes to the Splash Centre? The schools, council, government?

We need more than just the Splash Centre. Whatever the cost, we need a sustainable and functional option for East. Absolutely no to a closure. However, we need a long term plan. No patch work, practical options for the future.

We don't need a flash pool, just a safe place for our kids to swim.

The Splash Centre is already overcrowded!

10 years ago we took our granddaughter to swimming lessons at the Splash Centre. We went on a waiting list for 3 months. Is the Splash Centre and better able to cope with increased learn to swim entrants?

Revamp and get this pool up and running for everyone and for the benefit of our kids.

Don't make my kids swim in the awa. That is so dangerous!!

It should remain open for the use of the schools, kindy's and community.

Where is the equity for our Tamariki in this community?

Do we all need to squeeze into the one pool that I can't even get swimming lessons at?

Whanganui East Pool should remain open for our Tamariki and whanau.

It's necessary to keep the pool open for the benefit of our Rangatahi and Tamariki. Let's get creative on how we can keep this space open for the community. It's an equity issue.

The pool needs to stay open. As a rate payer and citizen of Whanganui I would be prepared to increase my rates for the Tamariki and a safe environment to learn to swim and have fun.

The pool should remain open and be regularly maintained. Continue to teach our children. Less art, more community necessity.

Revamp and get this pool up and running for everyone and for the benefit of our kids.

Should never have got to the state it is in – open it.

Keep the pools open for our kids! This pool is necessary for our Rangatahi so that they don't turn to crime.

Don't lose it, we'll never get it back.

Where will our kids learn to swim?

So, people in Whanganui want to share one public pool?

If you close it to "fix" it what about the 10 year gap our kids will miss out on and probably have to swim in the river?

Where's your evidence that the pool's broken?

If one man can manage the pool by himself for a year, imagine what a whole community could do for years to come!

Maybe if you maintained it as you should have, we wouldn't have to close it.

My concern about children swimming in the awa is the strong currents that occur. Concern that children could drown.

We don't need a flash pool. We just need a pool out East that our kids can learn to swim in.

Our kids will swim in the river where it's not safe and some whanau can't swim there. Keep it maintained.

Where is the equity? The Tamariki in this community need their own pool that is affordable. We don't care about a fancy pool.

It's always going to cost and you're always going to put the rates up anyway.

Terrible idea – aren't there enough drownings already?

I'd prefer to pay higher rates to keep the pool for the whole WE community.

How will the Splash Centre cater to 8 more schools doing their swimming there?

I'd rather pay more rates than lose one of my students to drowning!

My kids haven't been able to go to swimming lessons at the Splash. Apart from the wait list the cost is high. Our kura teaching these kids at the pools here is vital.

Terrible. Where would my kids go? To the river and drown? I'd rather pay more rates. We won't be able to travel to the other side of town.



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

**Tairangahia a tua whakarere;
Tatakihia nga reanga o amuri ake nei
Honouring the past; Inspiring the future**

01 May 2024

File ref: 33002-081

2024/34 Long Term Plan Submissions

Whanganui District Council
101 Guyton Street
Whanganui

Email: policy@whanganui.govt.nz

Dear Sir or Madam,

**SUBMISSION FROM HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND POUHERE TAONGA ON WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL
LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034**

1. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga is an autonomous Crown Entity with statutory responsibility under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 for the identification, protection, preservation and conservation of New Zealand's historical and cultural heritage. Heritage New Zealand is New Zealand's lead heritage agency.
2. Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Whanganui District Council Long Term Plan (LTP) for 2024-2034.
3. Heritage New Zealand submitted to the Council on the LTP for 2018-2028 which highlighted the importance of heritage incentives and supported a proposed allocation of funding to a heritage grants scheme. It is promising that the Council is retaining heritage funding through the Heritage Grant Fund.
4. Heritage New Zealand supports the retention of the Heritage Grant Fund which provides financial assistance to building owners to undertake heritage enhancement work in the Whanganui District. The Heritage Grant Fund contributes positively towards the development of heritage buildings while preserving historic value in the Whanganui District. Heritage New Zealand believes that the retention of the Heritage Grant Fund will substantially benefit the wider community in the Whanganui District.
5. Heritage New Zealand also provided a submission to the Council on the Whanganui Draft Heritage Strategy in late 2021. Heritage New Zealand considered the Draft Heritage Strategy as an excellent source in helping to protect and promote Whanganui's wonderful heritage places. Heritage New Zealand also commended the Draft Heritage Strategy as an excellent blueprint which provides a good

foundation for further protection and enhancement of Whanganui as one of the premier heritage districts of New Zealand.

The Royal Whanganui Opera House

6. The Royal Whanganui Opera House has gained national and international recognition for its architecture and acoustics since its inception in 1899. The Royal Whanganui Opera House is the last surviving purpose built Victorian Theatre and is the only theatre in New Zealand to have a Royal Charter. The Whanganui Opera House has very significant historic and cultural value, with the historic building warranting retention and preservation.
7. The Royal Whanganui Opera House is granted the status of Historic Place Category 1 in the New Zealand Heritage List / Rārangi Kōrero. The Whanganui District Council has nominated the building as a Class A heritage in its revised Heritage List. The Council is responsible for the maintenance and upgrade of the building to comply with the New Zealand Building Code. Heritage New Zealand encourages the Council to maintain and upgrade the existing stagehouse building structure which would provide a positive outcome for Whanganui's heritage character.
8. In the 2024-2034 Whanganui Long Term Plan, Heritage New Zealand is supportive of the Council implementing either **Option Two or Option Three** as both the options would be associated with positive heritage values. **Option Two** would retain the building exterior and the building interior as identified in the heritage features and assessments in the Draft Conservation Report by Bruce Dickson Architecture (2004).¹ **Option Two**, would retain the built form of the entire heritage building while maintaining more of the heritage fabric of the original structure. **Option Three** would involve partial demolition of the building while still retaining much of the heritage features of the built form while also improving the functionality and vitality of the Opera House, by enabling varied types of performances.
9. Heritage New Zealand recommends that a conservation architect is involved for both Option Two and Option Three in order to mitigate any impacts on the heritage values of the Opera House, so that the Opera House is retained and enjoyed by future generations. Both options would enhance Whanganui's heritage character and align with the vision of the Heritage Strategy for Whanganui *to be a district that values, protects and promotes its historic heritage.*¹

The Repertory Theatre

10. The Whanganui Repertory Theatre building has a rich history dating to 1882. In recent decades, the building has hosted four to six plays each year to a high professional standard and provided the Whanganui community a place of historic value to congregate and celebrate while watching highly regarded performances. The Whanganui District Council has included the Repertory Theatre as a Class B heritage resource in the Whanganui District Plan.
11. Heritage New Zealand is supportive of the **Second Option** which is **to invest in the permanent stabilisation of the retaining bank required so the building can be sold.** Heritage New Zealand

¹ [Whanganui District Heritage Strategy Consultation Document](#)

encourages the Council to consider investing in the permanent retention of the building, rather than an option to revert to demolition if a buyer is not found. Heritage New Zealand is supportive of adaptive re-use of the buildings by retaining the street presence including the façade of the building. The interior fabric is of significance which would be desirable to retain and would help the public to interpret the historic nature and contribution of the building to the town.

12. Heritage New Zealand is disappointed that the Council's preferred option for the Repertory Theatre is to close the theatre for demolition. The Council should be mindful of the high cost of demolishing heritage buildings, particularly with regards to embedded carbon and effects on climate change. Demolition of heritage buildings can result in loss of embedded carbon and energy used in the construction of the buildings, as well as the generation of additional carbon from the construction of new buildings and structures. Retention of buildings and giving them a new lease of life is often the most environmentally friendly option.

Sarjeant Gallery

13. Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui is widely regarded as among the finest provincial art galleries in New Zealand and is granted the status of Historic Place Category 1 in the New Zealand Heritage List / Rārangī Kōrero and is protected as Class A in the Whanganui District Plan.
14. Heritage New Zealand is supportive of the earthquake strengthening and restoration of the existing heritage building, and the addition of a new, modern wing joined to the rear face of the Sarjeant Gallery which is projected to re-open in late 2024. Heritage New Zealand is pleased to note the partnership between the Council and Whanganui Iwi in the redevelopment of Sarjeant Gallery.

Concluding remarks

15. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga looks forward to further opportunities to be involved in future decision-making stages. We are available to speak to our submission at a council hearing on the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.
16. We are available to answer any queries that Council may have regarding the submission and continues to be able to offer advice to Council and other owners of heritage buildings regarding heritage conservation, and advice concerning archaeological authority requirements under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

Yours sincerely

Dean Raymond



Area Manager / *Kaiwhakahaere ā-Takiwā*
Central Region / *Te Takiwā o Te Pūtahi a Māui*
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

Address for service

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
Central Region *Te Takiwā o Te Pūtahi a Māui*
PO Box 2629
Wellington 6140
Ph: 04 494 8320
Contact person: Dean Raymond, Area Manager
Email: draymond@heritage.org.nz

Postal address: P.O. Box 10-543, Wellington 6140.
Home address: 45 Grant Road, Thorndon,
Wellington 6011, New Zealand.

Email: hugh@rennieqc.nz

Phone: +64 21 653 001

29 April 2024

Long Term Plan Consultation
Whanganui District Council
WHANGANUI

LTP PLAN – PROVISION FOR SARJEANT GALLERY

Having been born and grown to adulthood in Whanganui, I know the remarkable treasures of the city. The Sarjeant Gallery is one. I have supported it by donations, both money, art works and reference books; and I have worked to obtain donations for the redevelopment plan and made my own donation.

The draft LTP is high quality and I am impressed by its clear and effective consultation and submissions process. The Plan shows a prudent approach to financial and policy analysis; with a strategic focus on elements of the Council's work which will, over time, generate good outcomes.

However I am concerned whether the funding of the Sarjeant, both on its relaunch and in the following period, will capture the financial benefits which the "new Sarjeant" could deliver. It appears there is no major focus on the launch/promotion opportunity of the reopening, and some reduction in funding after.

The scale, impact, and ongoing significance of the "new Sarjeant" will be a major positive gain for the city – including for such aspirational projects as the hotel plan. It can bring private support for the Gallery – in donations and grants, and in donations of major art works. One arts donor from Wellington I recently took through the temporary Sarjeant, immediately and unasked donated \$10,000 for an opening ceremony event. I have for three years worked on a potential donation to the new Gallery of a major NZ artwork which is worth well into six figures. This commitment, yet to be documented, and not be disclosed until after his death, was volunteered unasked in response to knowledge of the "new Sarjeant".

Rather than a "service cost", as the Sarjeant currently appears to be budgeted, I submit there should be a strategic plan capturing these business opportunities.

Yours sincerely



Sir Hugh Rennie KC



Universal Design examples

<https://ourhamilton.co.nz/growing-hamilton/council-confirms-funding-approach-to-hamiltons-growth/>

<https://www.lifemark.co.nz/case-studies/thames-coromandel-district-council-incentivises-universal-design-housing/>

<https://www.lifemark.co.nz/case-studies/universal-design-paeroa/>

From Hamilton City Council website 5 May 2021

Council confirms funding approach to Hamilton's growth

Hamilton City Council yesterday (4 May 2021) confirmed a draft Development Contributions (DC) Policy to incentivise quality development in the central city and balance Hamilton's growth costs between ratepayers and developers.



Hamilton City Council yesterday (4 May 2021) confirmed a draft Development Contributions (DC) Policy to incentivise quality development in the central city and balance Hamilton's growth costs between ratepayers and developers.

For the first time the revised policy includes an incentive for developers to achieve Lifemark accreditation for residential development in the central city. Lifemark is the commercial division of CCS Disability Action which engages at the earliest stage of any new development to ensure accessibility is included. Central city development which meet this criteria can apply for a remission of some or all of their DC charges.

To continue supporting a more vibrant CBD, the policy remits 50% of the DC charges in the CBD for three more years (down from 66% in the current policy) and introduces a total remission of DC charges for CBD buildings six or more storeys high. The revised policy also supports social housing, with qualifying providers exempted from DC charges.

All buildings gaining CBD remissions must engage with the urban design panel process.

Other changes in the new policy includes a cap on non-residential DCs, based on a square-metre rate, for total contributions towards water, wastewater and transport activities, and correspondingly for stormwater on a site area basis. The policy provides for a charge on residential developments for a portion of the cost of community infrastructure, and introduces a phased transition to any increase in residential DCs in some areas of the city.

Any increases are split evenly across a three-year period, allowing developers more time to plan for the additional costs and provide the opportunity to accelerate development to take advantage of a reduced charge.

The final revised Draft Development Contributions Policy 2021/22 will be reported to the 24 June 2021 Council meeting for approval.

THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL INCENTIVISES UNIVERSAL DESIGN IN HOUSING

[HOMESRETIREMENT/LIFESTYLE](#)



Housing lasts a long time and the long-term planning process requires a council to deliver a strategic understanding between the characteristics of the housing stock and community requirements.

In 2016 [Thames Coromandel District Council](#) (TCDC) reviewed its population profile and made a decision to incentivise new dwellings that contained Universal Design (UD) features, in doing so, they proactively addressed their issue of a significantly higher aged population.

The incentive allowed a slight increase in site coverage in exchange for an independent Universal Design certification of the new dwelling

The housing stock in the region consists of low rise detached dwellings and semi-detached dwellings on individual titles. There was a mix of private, rental, and holiday accommodation and [TCDC](#) wanted the development of new accommodation to meet the needs of the widest possible range of people.

The private market provides housing solutions to match supply and demand. However, the role of the Council is to assess the long-term community trends and address the strategic issues.

This long-term approach delivers a closer alignment between the type of housing provided and the UD housing preferences that will be needed both now and in the future.

Recent Homes that have been assessed by [Lifemark®](#) under this incentive include:



Max and Tricia's [Lifemark® 4-Star home](#)



A [DataPlan provisionally rated home](#) and many more...

Read more here on this housing incentive – [Lifemark TCDC Case Study](#)

From CCSDisability Action Web site

UNIVERSAL DESIGN AND PAEROA!

[HOMESRETIREMENT/LIFESTYLE](#)



Paeroa township, Artzentao photography

[Hauraki District Council](#) is a small council in the Waikato region with just over 20,000 people living in a district that stretches from the shelly beaches of Kaiua and Pukorokoro / Miranda along the Firth of Thames in Tikapa Moana (the Hauraki Gulf) to the white sandy beaches of the Pacific Ocean at Whiritoa.

The Hauraki District like many others in New Zealand has an ageing population. 21.9 % of people in the district are aged 65 years and over. (2013 census/ demographic profile)

[Universal Design](#) (UD) in homes supports our ageing population as they deliver, safe, accessible, adaptable features that support the independent living of an elderly occupant.

Lifemark® have recently been reviewing the early designs of many new minor dwellings in the Hauraki District. These minor dwellings are looking to achieve UD outcomes and final Lifemark® Certification.

We found out this is due to a special initiative the Hauraki District Council have in their district plan for housing. This initiative is to incentivise builders of minor dwellings in their district to achieve Lifemark® Certifications and in turn UD which is amazing to see!

We asked **Peter Thom, The Hauraki District Council Group Manager of Community Development** to explain this a little more.

So, what is this special incentive? “

Our minor dwelling policy has extra site coverage available for homes that achieve a Lifemark® Rating, this recognises that we need to be designing homes that cater for the needs of the elderly and disabled people in our communities.”

Says Peter Thom,

“Our Council incorporated it into the District Plan in June 2019 following public feedback on proposed plan changes.” **Says Peter.**

The Lifemark® team have just provisionally rated their first Hauraki District minor dwelling under this initiative.

Ray of Arc Consulting had the first minor dwelling in the district provisionally Lifemark® rated and enjoyed working with the Lifemark® team on his project.

“This was a rare opportunity for me to go through my work comprehensively in terms of Lifemark® documentation and details etc. I learned a lot from this, and it helped improve my skills and knowledge. Your effort and support are appreciated!” **Said Ray.**



Concept Design of Arc Consulting minor dwelling

We can't wait to issue a final [Lifemark® Certification](#) once the home is built!

So why did the [Hauraki District Council](#) initiate this incentive to achieve Lifemark® Certification in the first place?

“Our Council values the creation of healthy homes for its communities and the Lifemark® certification is viewed as being conducive to improving quality of life for users of minor dwellings, particularly disabled people or the elderly.” **Says Peter**

Hauraki is most famous for Paeroa where the beloved Kiwi drink L&P is from. But perhaps they should be 'World famous in NZ' for delivering Universal Design in housing! It's Awesome to see councils like [Hauraki District](#) incorporating UD into housing policy and incentivising it to be delivered. What better way to ensure safe and healthy homes are built in your community and your district, ka pai!

A Homeowner's Guide

Scott, Robert - CCS Disability Action
Attachment Two



Lifemark
CERT™

HOME

Lifemark™ – *Design for Life*



Imagine

A new home that accommodates not just you and your family, with your own personal needs today, but also your wider family, friends and neighbours at any time in your lives. By designing with flexibility for both lifestyle and life change, you as the owner benefit from better looking design, plus greater adaptation possibilities for your home in the long term.

We think of it as living design, with space in the right place.

Lifemark
CERT™

Lifemark™ promotes, and endorses well designed homes that are safe and easy to live in for everyone, regardless of age, stage or ability.

Design

A Lifemark™ rated home is designed to

- be beautiful to look at and functional to live in

It accommodates

- ease of entry
- ease of movement within
- accessibility for all
- easy adaptation if circumstances change
- the needs of the occupants through all stages of life by being pre-emptive at design stage rather than reactive.





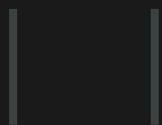

view more

Choices

Building your dream home comes with plenty of design choices

The following images show some examples of Lifemark™ rated homes that demonstrate accessibility does not compromise a striking design.

A Lifemark™ rated home is simply designed with space in the right place.



view the three
Lifemark Rating
Seals

3 - 5 Star Certification is available

Entrance Ways

Lifemark™ Design Standards

- Parking space that is wide enough for everyone getting in and out of cars
- Slip resistant path
- A covered, level entry platform
- Clear entry ways
- Exterior sensor lighting
- Easy access from gate to front door



Kitchens

Lifemark™ Design Standards

- The kitchen is not a main thoroughfare
- The dining area is close by
- There is room for everyone to move
- Appliances are easily accessible and positioned away from corners
- Taps to be lever handle, push or electronic
- Kitchen drawers are favoured over cupboards



Living Rooms

Lifemark™ Design Standards

- Light switches and door handles are placed at a consistent and convenient height
- Power sockets, TV, phone and computer outlets are located away from corners and at a consistent and convenient height
- Windows have lever handles
- Floors are slip resistant and can handle wheeled traffic



[view more](#)

Bedrooms

Lifemark™ Design Standards

- Clear space to easily access the bed
- Easy access to a bathroom
- Wide and clear door opening and handles within reach
- Light switches and door handles are placed at a consistent and convenient height
- A bedroom on the primary living level



[view more](#)

Bathrooms

Lifemark™ Design Standards

- Space for a level entry shower now or in the future
- The toilet is accessible for everyone now or in the future
- A bathroom on the primary living level
- Strengthened walls to accommodate future handrails and shower seat



[view more](#)



**Planning for
the future...
Designing for
everyone**

Lifemark™ avoids the
need for costly and
undesirable retrofitting



The Standards

The Lifemark™ rating process is underpinned by a formal set of design standards.

Accredited Lifemark™ Partners, such as builders or architects, must use these standards and work with Lifemark™ in order to achieve a star rating for a home.

Lifemark™ and the New Zealand Government believe that the Lifemark™ process will improve the housing stock availability by enhancing the adaptability and accessibility of approved dwellings, housing a wider range of people.



Roll over headings to see the standards in action...



The Principles

Behind the Lifemark™ Design Standards are 5 key principles that are internationally recognised as being the best for every home...

 Roll over icons to view more information

Usable

Adaptable

Accessible

Safe

Lifetime value



**Living design...
caters to all
of us who love
our home and
value the future.**

Lifemark™ not only
recognises and endorses
Universal Design principles,
it will be seen as your mark
of good design.



Rollover to view more



For more information about Lifemark™

Visit the Lifemark™ website to find an Accredited Partner near you.

www.lifemark.co.nz Or call 0800 227 888

Lifemark™ is delivered by Lifetime Design Limited - a not-for-profit organisation and Registered Charity No. CC31665

Additional information to accompany Roger Shand's submission to the Whanganui District Council's 2024 Long-term Plan review

2-5-24

Asset Sales to repay debt

Consultation Document p19 "...some assets including reserves are not used to their full potential including many that are passive, generating minimal or no revenue...."

Reserves and Open Spaces (R&OS) are always the easy target for central and local government administrators searching for revenue. And the proposed criteria for divestment of "full-use" and "revenue generation" are flawed/non-applicable.

Such places give space for recreational activities and/or naturalness and wellbeing. They are sanity-savers in an increasingly populated and fast-moving city, introducing an element of calm for passers-by whether they are aware of it or not.

Since this council's formation in the early 1990s, R&OS divestments were initiated in 1993, 2005 and 2013, the latter two under the Laws and Main administrations. In each case the communities had to call-to-arms demonstrating with media line-ups, petitions, submissions and presentations to council that their Reserves and Open Spaces, active or passive, were much valued. Those which were not so valued were sold. Those that remain passed the value test.

Mayor Hamish McDouall, later issued a proclamation that future divestment proposals by council must stop. The community has adequately demonstrated the remaining areas are valued and they (neighbourhoods and the public in general) should not be subjected to such stress once again.

But Mayor McDouall's proclamation is being overlooked with further R&OS divestment onslaught now in officers' sights one again.

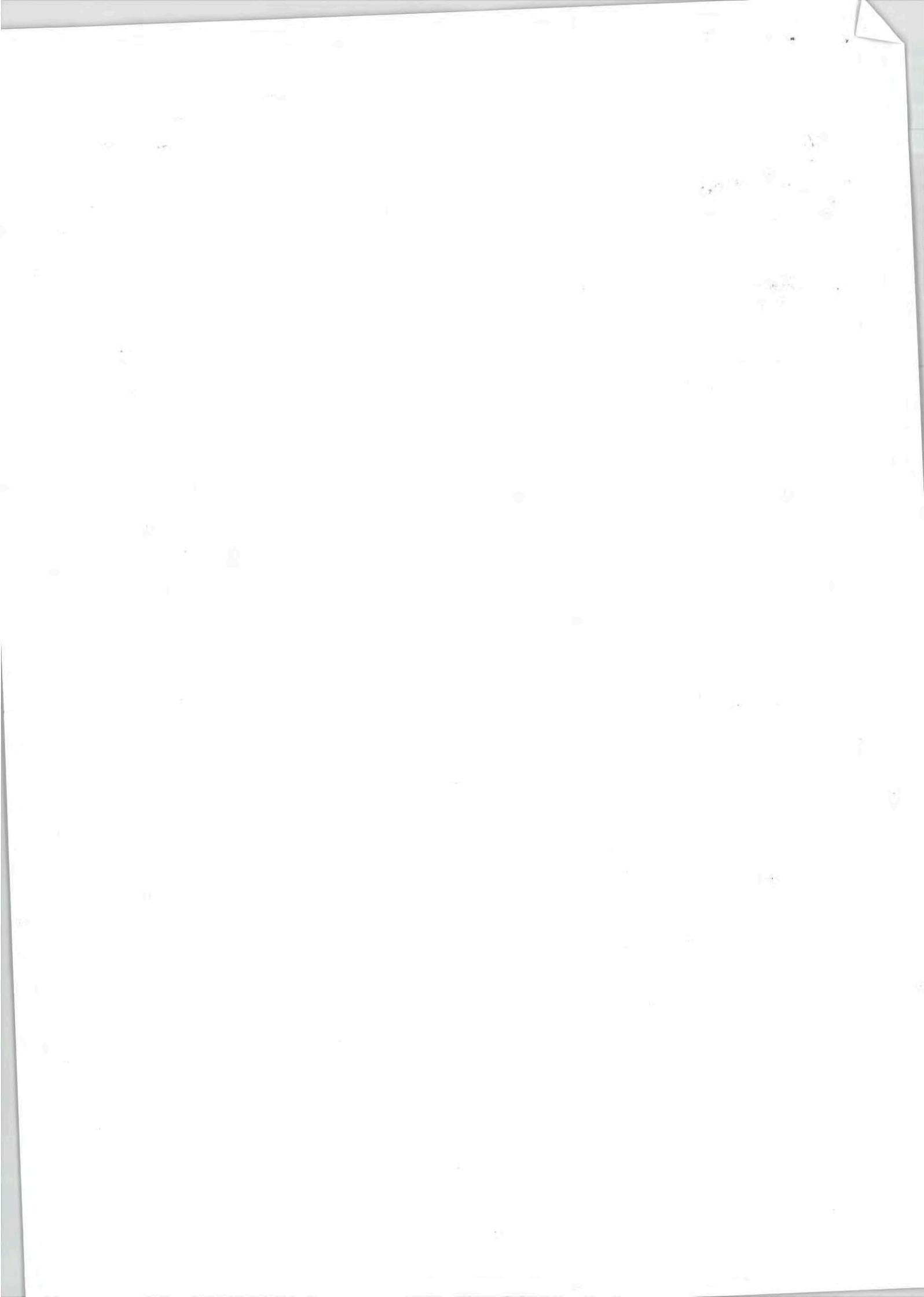
There is no doubt the central government's spending spree in recent years flowed through to local government and austerity measures are now required.

However, community assets in general, and R&OS in particular, are equivalent to the family silver which has been built up over generations involving decades of sacrifice. They are sold only under the most extenuating of circumstances such as immanent eviction or destituteness – neither of which are applicable to the present WDC situation.

Whanganui's population is rapidly increasing and our existing R&OSs are a finite and irreplaceable resource, a resource that is continually increasing in appreciative value.

My requests are as follows:

- 1) Leave Reserves and Open Spaces for the wellbeing of the present and future generations, and find savings elsewhere;



- 2) That the McDouall proclamation be formally adopted by council resolution and policy, and
- 3) If the council decides to proceed with Reserves and Open Spaces divestment regardless, then I request to be consulted early in the assessment process as low status could result from past council management or lack of.



Dr Roger Shand

1/10/16

1/10/16

1/10/16

1/10/16

2 May 2024

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Snowden, Paula - Te Whatu Ora

Whanganui District Council
101 Guyton Street
Whanganui 4500

Tēnā koe,

Whanganui District Council Long-Term Plan 2024–2034

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission on Whanganui District Council's Long-Term Plan 2024–2034.

This submission has been written by Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora National Public Health Service (Health NZ) in the MidCentral district. The National Public Health Service is a directorate within Health NZ. Health NZ believes the submission process provides an opportunity for the public health perspective to be considered by Council in planning and decision making. Incorporating public health aspects helps to support the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Health NZ has statutory obligations under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 and the Health Act 1956 to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities. Of particular focus for Health NZ is embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi as its foundation toward improving health outcomes for Māori.

The feedback provided in this submission aligns to Health NZ's commitment towards healthier and more resilient communities by reducing inequities and promoting good health, particularly for Māori, Pacific peoples and disabled people.

For any clarification regarding the submission, please contact Health Protection Officer Gillian Anderson, GillianM.Anderson@midcentraldhb.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi,



Paula Snowden

Ngāpuhi ki Whāingaroa

Regional Director, Te Ikaroa Central Region

National Public Health Service

[TeWhatuOra.govt.nz](https://www.TeWhatuOra.govt.nz)

Private Bag 11036, Manawatū Mail Centre
Palmerston North 4442
Waea pūkoro: +64 6 350 9110

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Key Health and Wellbeing considerations for the Whanganui District Council Long-Term Plan 2024–34

Health New Zealand has commented on specific sections that relate to healthy communities and equitable outcomes.

Part 2 – Reducing services to reduce rates

Closure of Whanganui East Pool

Health NZ supports Option 2 – invest in the upgrade and continue to operate the Whanganui East Pool.

Keeping the Whanganui East Pool open is a matter of equity. Whanganui East is at the highest level on the NZDep deprivation index.¹ The removal of this facility could unfairly disadvantage Whanganui East whānau to opportunities of access, participation in physical activity and to fostering water safety skills and knowledge in tamariki.

Learning to swim is essential for water safety^{2,3,4} and, during the 2024 summer, eight schools and one holiday programme used this community facility to teach swimming to tamariki.⁵ The closure of this pool would mean the loss of an important and valued resource for whānau and schools within this area. The upgraded pool should comply with NZS 5826:2010 to ensure public health is maintained.

Drop off points for rural rubbish

Health NZ supports Option 1 – keep the drop off points for rural rubbish with an aim to reduce fly tipping and illegal dumping.

The Health Act 1956 requires Councils to ensure their waste management protects public health.⁶ Goal 1 Objective 1 of the Whanganui District Council Waste Plan requires Council to recognise and give effect to the environmental impact and public health implications of all waste management options.⁷ Keeping the rural rubbish drop off points gives effect to the goals and objectives in the Waste Plan.

Part 3 – Housing

Health NZ notes that the budget of \$4.2 million for potential housing work remains unspent and this represents an opportunity for Council to develop a long-term holistic strategy. Housing is an important determinant of health and wellbeing and Health NZ supports Council's intention to progress work that will enable access to affordable housing.

Part 4 – Long-term investments to make our city more liveable

Issue 1 – Funding core infrastructure

Health NZ supports Council's preferred Option 1 – increase funding for core infrastructure.

Stormwater

Health NZ supports Option 1 – proceed with stormwater network improvement programme as agreed through the Long-Term Plan 2018–2028. Climate change is expected to result in increased intensity and frequency of flooding events. Managing stormwater is crucial to managing flood waters and protecting public health and safety.^{8,9}

Wastewater – Poor performance of the wastewater network during wet weather events

Health NZ supports Option 1 – to embark on a \$30 million plus long-term programme of wastewater network improvements.

Mowhanau wastewater system alternative disposal

Health NZ supports Option 1 – to install a pipeline to connect Mowhanau to the city wastewater network and decommission Mowhanau wastewater treatment plant. This will allow the city to focus on one high-quality wastewater treatment plant.

Long term solution for dried sludge

Health NZ supports Option 1 – to incinerate dried sludge, creating a heat source to fuel the drier and creating a high value waste stream. This meets the challenges set in New Zealand's Emissions Reduction Plan.¹⁰

Health NZ appreciates being a stakeholder in the city wastewater treatment plant and looks forward to working on Council's upcoming consent renewal process.

Issue 4 – Marae development

Health NZ supports Council's preferred Option 1 – to provide grant funding for marae upgrades.

This option leads to improved service levels as marae, iwi and hapū become stronger partners in responding to civil defence emergencies and supporting community wellbeing.¹¹ With essential upgrades, marae can better fulfil their part in emergency management and social support.

While Option 1 involves an annual investment of \$0.5 million, there is no immediate impact on rates for the next three years. From 2028 to 2034, the estimated impact on rates is \$27 per property per year. This is a modest investment considering the long-term benefits to community resilience and wellbeing.

Investing in marae development is essential for preserving cultural heritage, fostering community connection, and enhancing emergency response capabilities.^{11,12,13,14}

Issue 5 – Wanganui Surf Lifesaving Service

Health NZ supports Council's preferred Option 1 – to provide \$1 million as a contribution to the new surf lifesaving and operations tower.

Whanganui's coast is a significant community asset that encourages healthy community activities of swimming and surfing. Unfortunately, in the last 10 years, 424 people have drowned on beaches and coastlines.^{2,3} It is very important to have an effective surf lifesaving patrol to keep communities safe when enjoying local beaches.

Issue 6 – Pākaitore Reserve paving and crossing

Health NZ supports Council's preferred Option 1 – construction of a raised pavement crossing between Pākaitore and the awa, reducing vehicle speeds. Speed management is a very successful measure to prevent deaths and injuries.

National evidence shows that reducing speed to 30km/hr means a huge reduction in deaths and injuries.^{15,16} The risk of death or serious injury to a person walking or cycling decreases significantly with reductions in vehicle speed. A person walking or cycling hit by a vehicle that is travelling at 30km/h has a 90% chance of survival. However, if they are hit by a vehicle travelling at 50km/h, their chance of survival decreases to 20%.¹⁷

Changes to rates

Health NZ is not in favour of Council's method of calculating rates across the residential sector. This is because lower value properties will pay a higher proportion of their land value in rates and face a higher percentage increase than properties of higher value. Health NZ recommends an equitable way to distribute rates costs.

References:

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Council 02.05.2024

Whanganui East Pool

Re - option 1.

Totally reject Council's proposal to close this pool.

The Council needs to find a way to continue to operate the pool for a further year.

At the same time Council needs to proceed with the proposed feasibility study for an outdoor swimming in Whanganui.

The feasibility study needs to incorporate an option for the Whanganui East pool to be replaced with a new complex or for further upgrading of the existing pool, for continued community operation and access.

Re Option 2. Personally and for the Swimming Club this is our preferred option for this year.

A way needs to be found for the continued operation of the pool for the 2024-2025 season for;

- Community use,
- School use and
- Whanganui East Swimming Club use.

The Club would like to discuss with Council the time period (Days) that the pool can be made available for Swimming Club use.

Also for an arrangement for the Club to have access to the pool (in the evenings) for the purposes of club training and events

I wish to speak to this option.



Whanganui District Council Draft Long Term Plan

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Draft Long-Term Plan 2024 – 2034 for Whanganui District Council.

Sport NZ acknowledges Whanganui District Council as the major provider of play, active recreation and sport facilities and services in the district. We greatly appreciate the positive outcomes Council investment provides for a wide range of sports codes, demographics, cultures, ages, and abilities. Council investment into the play, active recreation, and sport sector makes an enormous contribution to the overall health and wellbeing of people in your district.

We also acknowledge the challenge Council faces with balancing the various competing demands such as growth, transport, climate change, and water infrastructure in the context of the current fiscal environment.

Sport New Zealand Overview

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 our four-year strategic plan and through the strong relationship we have with our regional partner, Sport Whanganui.

The Place of Council in Play, Active Recreation, and Sport

Local government is a significant contributor to the play, active recreation, and sport system. From the provision of vital community infrastructure that are part of the fabric of our communities to grants and opportunities that support local communities to participate in physical activity.

Evidence shows that by prioritising resources and investment into the play, active recreation, and sport system the wellbeing of communities can be enhanced and a broad range of local government priorities and outcomes can be achieved.

The provision of play, active recreation, and sport facilities, infrastructure, resources, and opportunities are important to a large proportion of the population.

Data from the 2022 Active New Zealand Survey shows that:

- 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 in play, active recreation, and sport.

Investment in play, active recreation, and sport is a cost-effective contributor towards local government wellbeing outcomes.

International and domestic evidence clearly demonstrates that play, active recreation, and sport 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 Social Return on Investment research⁽¹⁾ found that for every \$1 spent on play, active recreation, and sport there is a social return of \$2.12 to New Zealand; more than double the investment. 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.
- In 2019 participation in play, active recreation, and sport generated \$3.32 billion return in subjective wellbeing (life satisfaction and happiness) within New Zealand⁽¹⁾.
- The social return on investment research focused on recreational physical activity and measured the values of the outcomes generated through sport and recreational activity and the net costs, or inputs of providing opportunities for engagement. The estimated value of social returns based on empirical evidence was \$16.81 billion for New Zealand.

Sport New Zealand has developed a resource for local government that further illustrates the significant value that local government investment in the play, active recreation, and sport system delivers particularly with respect to social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing outcomes. The resource can be accessed here: <https://sportnz.org.nz/media/u41hdovx/the-value-of-play-active-recreation-and-sport-for-local-government.pdf>.

Sport New Zealand's Feedback on the Draft Long-Term Plan

We have chosen to direct our feedback to the Long-Term Plan activities that we believe will have the greatest impact on physical activity and indirectly community wellbeing. As such we make the following comments:

- Sport NZ supports Whanganui District Council's commitment to keeping rates affordable, decreasing debt, and exploring new strategies to generate savings and income. Like you, we appreciate that many parts of our communities are under great financial pressure.
- However we are also concerned about the negative impact that this approach might have on the wellbeing outcomes you are striving for and the play, active recreation, and sport system. A system that is already under pressure from diminishing funding sources, weather events, aging facilities, participation trends etc. We know that play, active recreation, and sport contributes significantly to wellbeing – economy, social, physical, and environmental. Thus we are advocating for an evidence-based approach to your decision-making. In terms of the proposals relating to Whanganui East Pool, we do not support either of the options proposed in the Long-Term Plan and suggest that a third option is considered, being:

That council use an experienced independent expert to develop an Aquatics Network Plan to better understand the current network of aquatic provision in the district, what is needed now and into the future, and the viable solutions. This research should be completed this winter when the pool is usually closed. The research will determine the most appropriate solution and next steps.

Sport NZ would be willing to contribute expertise and resources to an approach such as this which is aligned to the priorities on the Horizons Region Spaces & Places Plan for Sport & Recreation (He Rā Ki Tua).

- We appreciate that plans to close a much-loved community asset are not taken lightly. While pools are expensive to maintain and operate, community infrastructure is a cost-effective investment towards local government wellbeing outcomes

More generally we would like to encourage your Council to consider:

- Continuing to grow your relationship with our regional partner, Sport Whanganui. Under new leadership Sport Whanganui are focused on fostering a collaborative approach to enable our communities to be more active, specifically the facilitation of cross-boundary relationships, information sharing, and planning.

In these tough financial times, Sport NZ is advocating for Councils to consider these cost-effective approaches with respect to the provision of spaces and places for physical activity:

- regular maintenance and activation of existing facilities (including not reducing renewal allocations)

- the promotion of ‘hubbing’ and sharing of spaces (which may include consolidation and/or repurposing of underused or aged assets)
 - improvements that ensure quality experiences for a broader range of users (i.e. increasing flexibility of or access to space, consideration of the needs of all genders, cultures, ages, and abilities)
 - harnessing the natural environment and providing supporting amenity to enhance the user experience (i.e. water fountains, shade, accessible toilets, walking and cycling connections)
 - consideration of whole of life financial and environmental costs of provision
- Physical activity can also be enabled through the provision of active environments not just facilities for formal sport and recreation. There are opportunities to leverage play, active recreation, and sport outcomes through the application of active design principles (Sport England’s Active Design Guide 2023 [Active Design | Sport England](#)) to other Council priorities, plans, and policies including:
- district planning and other growth strategies
 - town centre rejuvenation projects
 - transport (seeking opportunities to optimise active travel)
 - stormwater (and climate event) management (i.e. sport fields as detention solutions and recreation spaces as overland flowpaths)
 - environmental sustainability responses (i.e. active transport, erosion management, energy sources for facility operation)
 - development contributions
 - procurement processes
 - community funding grants

In Summary

Sport NZ acknowledges that this is a really challenging time for Whanganui District Council and your community. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback and thank you for your Council’s ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of your community, noting that active communities are not only healthier they are:

- are more environmentally friendly
- have lower carbon emissions
- have better air quality
- are more socially inclusive
- and are more economically productive.

Sport NZ and our regional partner, Sport Whanganui have a range of experts who can provide more information and advice about many aspects of the play, active recreation, and sport system – including the planning and provision of active environments or insights about participation trends to support informed decision-making and would welcome your enquiry.

We do not require an opportunity to speak to our submission at the hearings but stand ready for any follow-up discussions that our submission may generate. We are here to help.

Colin Stone
Regional Partnerships Manager-Central
Sport New Zealand
30th April 2024

1. Sport New Zealand, October 2022

SUBMISSIONS



Long Term Plan
Whanganui District
Council



Submitted By

Pat Tasker



Whanganui

12th April 2024

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the Long Term Plan process. I am a resident of Wanganui.

I have made submissions and comments on a number of parts of the plan.

I will disclose that I generally come from a position of user pays, and this is reflected in my submissions. However, there are some items the community is responsible for and need to be funded, albeit in a restrained way. At this point the Council need to think RESTRAINT, RESTRAINT, RESTRAINT. Do not go for the gold-plated item but rather a functional solution that has a realistic budget attached.

The Council has a responsibility to balance the responsible spending of rate payers money against fulfilling some specific and genuine community needs.

As I see it, the core business of the Council at a basic level is:

- Water - Potable, Sewerage and Storm
- Roading and Footways
- Sanitisation
- Statutory Functions imposed on the Council by way of legislation.
- Some very limited community well being issues.

Some of the other activities Councils involve themselves in may provide a nice feeling, but when times are more difficult, they must be reduced or go completely. Rate payers just cannot afford year on year increases. Some families struggle to meet their daily costs. If you view the Council as a family and you can't afford something as a family you go without. Well at this time the community must go without some things for the greater good.

It is sad to say, but the general opinion of people in my social circle is that the Council are only too willing to spend money on projects and undertakings with no real value attached to them. This has to stop if you are to be seen as responsible custodians of the city.

I will address some of the areas of the plan in a specific way and others in a more general way.

There are some specific questions asked in the plan consultation document. For ease of understanding theses will be answered and referenced back to the plan page number

ASSET SALES

Q - We want to know how comfortable you are with the Council selling assets up to 16 million (pg19)

A - I have no problem whatsoever with the Council disposing of assets that are superfluous to need or are a financial burden on the community. I am also mindful that asset sales are a "one time fix". But this must happen with reduced operating expenditure where possible.

LIBRARY REDUCTION (pg 21),

Firstly I would ask the question of all the Councilors, "If you were not involved with the Council how many times have you been to the Library in the past 5 years to use reference material, or to borrow a book. I implore you to keep this at the back of your mind when assessing funding needs or cuts.

Whilst the plan document states there are 2100 members (pg 10), or 46% of the catchment community, it is silent on the number of active members. Times have changed, most people look up Google or some other reference search engine for the information they require. We are not operating a University Library where reference material is a necessity, but we do have a large collection of material that needs to be retained and cared for. We have that responsibility.

Not all items used in the library are subject to a fee. It would be my suggestion that the current "free" items incur a fee of \$2.00 each, this is half that of the premium items. Whilst not having accurate commercial information on the libraries income I would suggest that if the plan is accurate and the library issued 570000 items over the 22/23 year period revenue a \$2.00 fee on 20% of these items would generate \$90600.00

I am in favour of further reductions to the library to a point where it is only open 5 days a week. This would see quite a number of further savings. The outlying libraries, if operated by an external group could stay but if they are incurring Council cost, they too should be reduced and a small fee charged.

My suggestion is OPTION 1 – Modified to Closure 2 days per week and end of free services.

WANGANUI EAST POOL CLOSURE (pg 22)

I have fond memories of the Pool, but those were the days where it was operated by the Council and opened on the first Saturday in October and finished at the end of March. It is now open a fraction of that time and is well past its use by date. It opens 16th December and closes 16th March. A total of about 90 days. It's a lot of money to spend for 90 days, especially when a number of those days are not conducive to swimming.

I am in favour of closing the complex and selling it as it stands. If it is not sold it will become a liability for future Councils and a burden on the rate payer as the Council will still be required to keep some security fencing and ferals etc. out of the complex.

A feasibility study would, in my opinion, be a waste of money at this point, especially if the pool is to be closed.

If another group or organisation wish to reopen the pool on a user pay basis without Council assistance all power to them and the Council should not stand in their way. Sell them the property at a fair rate and leave it to them to run it. They might even open it longer or make it work in another format rather than just a pool. Other formats of use could include diver training or canoe training as examples.

My suggestion is OPTION 1 – Modified to Closing and selling the complex to an interested party to relieve the ongoing burden on the Council. No study at this time.

REPETORY THEATRE CLOSURE (pg23)

I would ask the question, have you ever been in the Theatre apart from on Council business. I know I was in there 45 years ago. Not one time since. I cannot see it being a useful asset to the community when its use by date has long past. Its halcyon years have long gone.

There is the issue of earthquake strengthening. This seems a little odd. While confessing not to be overly familiar with Building Legislation this building is a single story building and does not feature on the National Register of Earthquake Prone Buildings. It's a mystery as to why this argument is being used, but there may be an explanation not included in the plan document.

Demolition may be an option, but sale "as is" is also an option. It may be a little more difficult to sell properties around that area with the Justice Precinct moving to the upper end of Wicksteed Street soon. Lawyers Chambers may well follow that move but I am certain a buyer could be found for the right price.

There is also the suggestion of bank retainment as a current problem. I have the view that investing in this building is not viable. Repairing the bank and sell the building seems to be the best option. It will sell if priced correctly, however I do note there would be an expense incurred in dividing the current land titles etc.

My suggestion is OPTION 2 – Modified, Repair Bank and Sell Asset.

ROKAWAU AVIARY (pg24)

This is certainly a nice thing to have. I am very skeptical of Zoologists reports requiring a gold standard for the housing of birds. I believe this facility should be looked at in conjunction with the Winter Gardens and the area fenced off to create a compound where access is by payment to both facilities. As stated in the plan this is a Premier Park. There are many modern ways of electronically charging a fee. The plan is silent on how many visitors use the facility each year, but I would suggest 50000 visitors over a 12 month period would not be unreasonable. At \$2.00 per head this would generate supplementary income. There would be some upfront set-up costs but the long term benefit would be an income.

My suggestion is OPTION 2 – Keep Aviary and link it with Winter Gardens as a combined attraction with a small fee attached.

WINTER GARDENS (pg26)

Yes, the Winter Gardens are a nice to have and one I am in support of keeping them, especially if a fee paying structure could be introduced in conjunction with the Aviary (Refer Aviary submission)

My suggestion is OPTION 1 – Keep Aviary and link it with Winter Gardens as a combined attraction with a small fee attached.

MAINSTREET BASKETS (pg24)

Yes they are a nice to have but there is sufficient green arrangements in the Main CBD that will offset their removal. I do not see how their removal will be a problem. In more affluent times they could be replaced is so desired.

My suggestion is OPTION 1- Removal

NEW ZEALAND GLASS WORKS (pg25)

Closing the glassworks is the only real option. Clearly there is no profit to be made from the venture or the Council will be recording it. I certainly do not see it as a Council core function, far from it in fact.

I challenge the statement the Glassworks brings in 37000 people per year. Where does this figure come from? I am certain 711 people per week from outside Wanganui do not visit the glass works or come to the city for that sole purpose.

If the council are the sole owner of Glassworks, which would be indicted by the council having to "Top Up Revenue" it should be offered to those who have an interest in glass. Ratepayers should not be topping up hobbies or failing business ventures. Offer it to those with the passion and let them demonstrate they can make it work on a commercial basis.

Due notice could be given of intended sale and a closure date put in place.

My suggestion is OPTION 3 – Modified, Listed for sale ASAP with a finite closure date set no longer than 6 months. No further top-up funding allocated.

DROP OFF RURAL RUBBISH (pg25)

These drop-off points are a reasonably new feature and have been problematic from the get go. They are in fact an enabler for fly tipping rather than a preventer. City folks are happy to drive out to the rural areas and dump their rubbish at these places for free or just dump it in a place close by. I am a rural resident and I see the mess they create. Most rural folk will deal with their own rubbish themselves. Ask the question where was the rubbish going before these stations were set up? It is generally the city folk that are responsible for fly tipping not the rural. They will not be missed if closed and the rural people will again find another way of rubbish disposal. As an example, I have a paid for and collected bin once a week.

My suggestion is OPTION 2- Close the drop off points.

GONVILLE LIBRARY (pg26)

We have a City Library and a Mobile Service. I have commented on the library activities earlier in this submission. I see no benefit in attempting to duplicate the service. Centralisation of a service is far more cost effective.

My suggestion is OPTION 3- Close the Gonville Library.

LEVEL OF COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING (pg 27)

For me this is a no brainer, CUT BY 10% or MORE. 20% may be a better figure. It is just too easy for groups to apply for funding with the expectation of getting grants for their projects. I am of the belief a 10% reduction could be achieved with ease. If we look at it in an holistic way the Council “give away” over a million, one hundred thousand dollars a year for what tangible benefit. Continued increases on “giveaways” cannot be the norm.

My suggestion is OPTION 3 – Cut community grant funding by 10% or more.

PROJECTS NOT BEING FUNDED

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Redevelopment of Kowhai Park | Agreed – Good Suggestion |
| • Youth Hub | Agreed – Good Suggestion |
| • Pukenamu Queens Park | Agreed – Good Suggestion |
| • Town Centre Regeneration | Agreed – Good Suggestion |
| • Tide Bus | Agreed – Good Suggestion |
| • Housing | Other system to be developed. |

LONG TERM INVESTMENT

1. **Core Infrastructure.** The council are clearly thinking about this issue and one single recommendation of an option is not really a practical solution to the complex issue. But individual projects over top of the business-as-usual maintenance can be looked at for savings. We have to keep our core services up to an operational standard.

What concerns me is the current Alliance we have with the Downer Company and possibly others. These companies make huge profits by charging Councils a premium for their services. In the long term the Council should look at taking back some of these functions, certainly the low-level ones and make savings that way. Councils do not have dividends to pay to their shareholders each year and employees’ salaries are more transparent as it is public money.

My suggestion is OPTION 1 - Increase in funding, with a view to future inhouse work.

2. **Hotel and Carpark.** I cannot see why the council is even considering entering into the private market of an hotel and car park. If there was such a need a Public Investor should be encouraged to take up the project. NOT THE COUNCIL. If it was finically viable other well positioned specialist companies will see the business opportunity and take it up. The Council could become an enabler rather than a hurdle for the right group. Possibly even reduce any development fees as a carrot for long term development essentially private property.

My suggestion is OPTION 3 - Do Nothing

3. **Opera House.** Whilst the Opera House is a great venue it is not a core function of the Council to provide flying equipment and other gold standard amenities. The building is currently functional, and it would be irresponsible to spend over 8 million dollars on the Stage House. The building is not world class in size and never will be. Let's not try and be something we are not. If a troop which to put on a show, is it not their responsibility to provide the props and equipment. For the past 20 years people have been updating the Opera house. It seems to be a never ending money pit. Lets keep the building maintained but not extended. The Health & Safety card is also being argued again. If the building is Warranted that should be the end of it, it complies. Its not the Councils job to monitor everyones H&S needs when independent groups use the facility.

My suggestion is OPTION 1 - Do Nothing

4. **Marae Development.** Since when did Marae become a Council problem? For the following reasons I do not see why rate money should be set aside for Marae Development; A Marae is essentially Private Property unique to the Iwi or Haapu, Concessions are already afforded to Marae by way rates remission and the Government funding finishes in 2007 I do not see it as a Council responsibility to carry on funding.

My suggestion is OPTION 2 - Do not provide funding.

5. **Wanganui Surf Life Saving** – I agree that the Surf Life Saving Building is at the end of its life and there is a need for such a facility, especially against the backdrop of the community swimming pools (Wanganui East) possibly closing. The current proposal seems a bit of a stretch cost-wise. But I do see it as a worthwhile investment

My suggestion is OPTION 1 - Provide funding.

6. **Pakaitore Crossing.** Whilst I am in favor of a crossing I am astounded by the current proposal in both cost and opulence. Any crossing plans should be addressed at the same time as the Dublin Street Bridge replacement is looked at. The logic behind this is that Taupo Quay is a main feeder road for both the City Bridge and Aramoho and carries a large number of trucks each day. The dynamics of this road changed dramatically when the Dubin Street Bridge carrying limits were reduced and the area was used by a lot more trucks. Once the Dublin Street Bridge can carry heavy traffic again the crossing could be looked at then I am sure, but in a much reduces form. Possibly a speed restriction down to 30kmh on Taupo Quay for the stretch of Pakaitore.

My suggestion is OPTION 2 - No Changes To Existing Road

7. **Rapanui Road Trail** This is again a nice to have. Most people travel to the Beach or to the Basin Reserve by car. It is a lot to spend for just a few.

My suggestion is OPTION 2 - Do not provide funding.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES LISTED FOR FUNDING – My thoughts, For and Against.

1. Pakaitore Taupo Quay Crossing	Refer Previous Comment	AGAINST
2. Rapanui Road Trail	Refer Previous Comment	AGAINST
3. Power Up Park		AGAINST
4. Surf Lifesaving Building		FOR
5. Putiki Climate Adaption		FOR
6. Aramoho Riverbank		FOR
7. Wembly Park Development		FOR
8. Hakeke St Library		AGAINST
9. Rural Hall Trust		AGAINST

Thank you for taking the time to consider my suggestions and submission.

Pat Tasker

A Repertory Submission to Whanganui District Council

“As part of the Unesco Creative Cities global network Whanganui proudly holds the arts at the heart of it’s community”.

(Whitney Nicholls-Potts on the Sarjeant Gallery reopening)

Whanganui Repertory Theatre is unique and a ‘very-much-alive’ part of what ever that heart is that keeps our community alive in spirit and thriving.

Repertory as theatre is part of that evolving conversation exploring and at the same time ‘being’ what us human beings are all about. Only in the company of others do we create, live out and tell our own narratives of who we are being and these narratives recorded, since the beginnings, in all forms of storytelling, literature, music, song and dance, become theatre.

Since 1933 Repertory has presented hundreds of productions from all genres and each ‘play’ ultimately exploring, in some way, the ‘good’ in the human condition. And the ultimate ‘good’ seems to be in the direction of aroha, agape love, that love humans have for the humanity in other humans. We are all born with this love and it only grows and survives when triggered by someone else. Looking for the ‘good’ permeates our Repertory culture. Along with the enjoyment and fun of the entertainment it is a vital thing Repertory does.

So let us look at any one major production which involves many, many people from all walks of life in meaningful contact and conversation discussing all aspects of the play, expectancies, hopes and fears, personal situations, the weather, politics (especially as it relates to the play) mostly with good humour, optimism and some good laughs: the playwright their friends and colleagues (Repertory has a policy of encouraging local playwrights), the Rep committee discussing the play it’s themes and appropriateness and what organisation is needed for production, the director and actors who spend many hours rehearsing, learning lines and creating their character, lighting and sound, set design and building, back stage people and front of house. **All** actively involved and **all** equally belong. There is no hierarchy.

Two things motivate and energise us humans: first is to be acknowledged just for who you are, a valued human being: second to be acknowledged for the job you do, the specific contribution you make. Amateur theatre productions are good at this motivation and because of who we are, thirty three years of the people and the building growing together, Whanganui Repertory is particularly good. At the end of any Repertory production **all** involved are awash in a sea of affirmations and acknowledgements, the joy of belonging and being valued equally; life is buzzing. This happens with every production.

And on top of this there is the audience not just watching but all actively involved; live theatre in the surrounds of this particular auditorium. Then the audience in their turn taking their thoughts, observations and feelings back into the community sparking further conversation and human connection.

Since 1895 (and especially since 1933 (when Whanganui Repertory Theatre was born) the people and the building have grown together, and now one cannot be thought of without the other, each supports the other

Every visiting performer, every visiting theatre group have immediately recognised the special 'theatre' quality Repertory has and how suited to their particular performance it was. The auditorium surrounds, the building as it were does not intrude or distract in any way from the action on stage. Repertory is suited to: individual performers, singers, musicians, poets, monologue plays; to full productions, plays, pantomime and musicals; all aimed at entertaining the audience.

And Whanganui Repertory auditorium is particularly suited to 'serious' drama where, unless scripted, the characters (created by each actor) relate only to the narrative and action taking place within the dimensions of the play itself. This is where the audience becomes enrolled in the behaviour of the characters, their emotions, their intentions and their actions and enrolled in the themes being explored in play. This is where the 'art' intimately touches the narratives you are living your own life through.

For the shyest and, possibly, the most narcissist and all those in between Whanganui Repertory stage is a safe place for beginning actors. With a few basic acting skills the actors are able to put their threatened egos aside and within the 'safety' of being within the world of the particular play itself are able to authentically take on a different way of being. For the shy their confidence grows immensely.

At the moment Repertory's yearly programme is full having to turn away groups who would like to make Repertory their permanent home and entertainers just wanting a venue in which to perform.

The only theatre nearest to us with Whanganui Repertory's particular features is Centre Point in Palmerston North. The Opera House, because of its size, is not suited to 'serious' drama (for amateurs particularly). Multi-purpose halls are good for entertainment where the actors are playing directly to the audience.

Te Awa Whanganui and Te Maunga Ruapehu have now been acknowledged in the wider world as a 'person' to be respected and treated as a person. 'Buildings' (homes, significant buildings) that people love and become part of are also 'persons'. Whanganui Repertory Theatre has a persona to be treated with respect.

Bulldozing Repertory is a crass statement: analagous to bulldozing a church that still has a congregation.

Noreira: Ahakoa he iti he pounamu.

(Therefore: Although the gift (Whanganui Repertory is a gift and giving) is small it is a treasure.)

And along with the other 'art' groups in Whanganui if one of us is to die we all die a little.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Policy](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission on Long Term Plan
Date: Thursday, 2 May 2024 9:35:22 am

Tēnā kautau

On behalf of Ngāti Ruaka and Ngāti Hine hapū of Rānana Marae, Whanganui River, the following submission has been prepared and is being submitted on the Whanganui District Council's Long Term Plan Consultation Document, presented to us by elected representatives at the Tamaupoko Link hui held at Rānana Marae on Wednesday 24 April 2024:

1. We **support** the proposition by Te Rūnanga o Tamaupoko representatives that any sale of Whanganui District Council assets be considerate of our hapū and Tamaupoko hapū interests, wherever those properties or assets are located. These include, but are not limited to, rural (Whanganui River valley) and urban (Whanganui city and surrounding areas) localities.
2. We **do not support** reducing hours of operation for the Davis Library, given that most of the Māori collection is held between this library and the Alexander Library/Te Rerenga Mai o Te Kāuru. Reducing hours and therefore access to Māori literature and related library support services disadvantages our Māori community, who are already under-represented as library patrons and users of Council services.
3. We **do not support** the closure of the Whanganui East Pool, given that the aquatic centre is located in a suburb with a high Māori population, and provides affordable recreational and increased health and wellness opportunities for our people. We do, however, support completion of a feasibility study and upgrade of the facility, given its age and lack of investment in infrastructure over time.
4. We **support** the closure of the Repertory Theatre, given its limited relevance to the Māori community and cost to the Whanganui District Council and ratepayers, should an upgrade be considered.
5. We **support** the closure of the aviary at Rotokawau, unless it is used to care for, house and rehabilitate native birds.
6. We **support** retaining the hanging baskets, but only if it is paid for through a levy paid by businesses/landlords on Victoria Avenue (and other streets that benefit from having hanging baskets).
7. We **support** the sale of NZ Glassworks, so long as the purchaser provides the same level of service (or better), and actively supports and engages Māori glass artists and designers.
8. We **support** the retention of rural rubbish drop off points, particularly in our hapū rohe and Tamaupoko tupuna rohe. These sites have certainly assisted in managing waste disposal and deterred dumping, which is harmful to our Awa and environment.
9. We **support** the retention of the Gonville Library hours, and growth in its Māori literature collection.
10. We **support** the retention of the Winter Gardens, but only if it houses native plants and trees that are of significance to our local community and district.
11. We **support** an increase in community funding, but consideration must be given to the funding needs of Māori and rural communities.
12. We **support** increased funding to core infrastructure, but we need to understand what infrastructure work is proposed in our hapū rohe and the Tamaupoko tupuna rohe beyond roading, particularly given the impact of climate change and weather extremes on our rural location and community.

13. We are **unsure** as to whether our current facilities in Whanganui can attract large events that would warrant a hotel, and believe the Whanganui District Council, as part of its business case, should **consider** partnering with iwi entities if the business case stacks up, but engage with iwi early on in this process.
14. The Royal Whanganui Opera House is rarely used by the Māori community so we are **unsure** that any proposed upgrade would have any impact on our people. We would **suggest** a medium level upgrade to the facility that is within the Whanganui District Council's affordability.
15. We **support** the proposed marae development funding initiative. It is long overdue, and we have observed similar initiatives operating in other parts of the country. Marae are central to hapū and rural communities, and need to be supported in similar ways to other community and emergency centres. We would also **support** increasing the fund and level of investment before 2034.
16. We **support** the Whanganui Surf Lifesaving Service, so long as the Whanganui District Council's contribution does not exceed \$1 million. Te Kaihau-a-Kupe/Castlecliff is another community with a high population of Māori, and we would support this project.
17. We **support** the proposed work at Pākaitore, so long as hapū and iwi are leading the discussion, writing the narrative, and support the proposed project.
18. We **do not support** the proposed work regarding the Rapanui Road trail, unless it is supported by local hapū and iwi. Perhaps this work could be subsidised partially through a special rate for local ratepayers.
19. We **support** the Pūtiki emergency response training and Pūtiki climate adaptation work, due to our shared whakapapa, and the needs of our Māori community at Pūtiki.
20. We **note** that there are few references to iwi and hapū within the consultation document, and we **encourage** the Whanganui District Council to consider how iwi and hapū views might be included within each section of the Long Term Plan.

Submitted by the following hapū representatives to Te Rūnanga o Tamaupoko, Tamaupoko Link and Te Rūnanga o Te Awa Tupua:

- Teira Warera & Connor Pauro (Ngāti Ruaka)
- Cruz Pauro & Rāwiri Tinirau (Ngāti Hine)

Ngā mihi
Rāwiri

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.

Re: Service Cuts.

We have no idea what service cuts might be proposed.

The Council has, in my view well researched officers and the loss of any would no doubt result in a loss of services.

It would be an observation that there already appears to be a slimmed down staff.

One matter of real concern is the re-opening of the Baycent Gallery with its large extension that will require the appropriate staff numbers to service the extension and the celebrated and now famous city facility

Derwent

29-4-2024



Concerning the RWOT:

For thirty five or more years the "Friends of the Opera House" have provided passionate and dedicated service to performers and patrons alike. They are volunteers and carry out their responsibilities in a most professional way and engaging with them as I have over many years has seen a smooth operation at all times.

It seems that in recent times their engagement and responsibilities have been reduced and at times disregarded. The House is a community facility and community involvement should be well regarded and welcomed.

Janet Ross

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If the payments are illegal those involved in the authorizing and payment need to be charged with misappropriation of funds.

Those receiving those funds could also be charged.

ie Payments at one stage relating to the North Mole project in Wanganui were \$864,279

If the payments are not illegal they are totally irresponsible and must stop immediately.

It has now been revealed that HRC intends spending approx \$25m over the next 10 years.

My best guess for Wanganui it is approx \$3m for 2023/24

4 Sarjeant Gallery Project

This project to me is a giant White Elephant and burden on the Rate payers.

The payment of \$425,000 for a plan for the gardens was an excessive amount to pay, approved by the Mayor and Councillors, then you want to spent \$5m on doing the work which is just irresponsible. You have been reported saying the money will be spent over a number of years.

The practice of hiding associated costs within the operating budget must stop. I believe that figure to be in excess of \$10m to date.

Update 28/03/2024

I have been informed that the \$5m spend has been cancelled.

The opening function needs to be a simple process with the cutting of a ribbon that I will donate and thanking those involved.

There should be no paid guests or consultation fees.

The question regarding entry fees now needs to be discussed.

Breaking news 15.00 hrs 22/4/24

I was informed by a well known Lawyer that there had been a consultation meeting between Wanganui District Council and Iwi over the entrance way into the Gallery.

The Council agreed to change it.

My issue is who is running this city, the Council or Iwi? The consultation would have cost us, the rate payers approx \$235,000 and who knows what the building alterations are going to cost.

At this late stage in the alterations it is not the time to be making significant changes.

What we the Rate payers need is strong leadership and we are getting the exact opposite.

5 Bus Service

Prior to 2017 the Government GPS policy on subsidies was that one had to prove that the public Transport method would reduce congestion on the roads. In 2017 the Labour Government changed the policy of proof, to opening the flood gates.

The new National lead Government GPS policy has removed all subsidies for Public transport, footpaths and cycle ways.

The bus service in Wanganui has done the exact opposite to what one would expect, and added to the congestion on the roads and air pollution.

Both HRC and the Whanganui District Council are promoting a new high speed more frequent service (Option 1) in the HRC long term planning document.

That comes at a considerable cost ref Appendix 1 attached.

The transport levy **for my** property would change:

- from \$57.68 2024

- to \$222.28 2027

A property on **St John Hill** with a capital value of \$1.750,000:

-from \$190.40 2024

- to \$733.95 2027

These charges highlight the need to change the Passenger Services Levy from a \$100,000 capital value to a **UAGC** (per house hold or Uniform Annual General Charge.)

The HRC Transport recovery policy is 50/25/25

That is 50% Central Government (LTNZ subsidy)

25% HRC (Rates)

25% Passenger fares

The actual position is that fare recoveries are only 7%, the balance falling on the Rate payers.

The Long term plan suggests that bus services are run every 20 minutes, but that is not reality ref **BUS Service Usage Data sheets** attached appendix 2 suggests that current services are running at half that rate or less.

Considering all of the above the current bus service is grossly over provided therefore the following actions need to be implemented immediately.

- A Reduce all existing services by approx 50% ie all services need to be changed to half hourly.
- B A review in 3 months to see if passenger numbers have increased to approx 50% of provided capacity, if not a further reduction would be required

Finally the proposals being promoted by HRC and the Wanganui District Council are not realistic or affordable.

The \$1.2m spend on bus shelters will be a nice monument to the failed GHOST bus service!!!

The empty buses driving around our city is the most discussed issue being talked about, yet that message appears to be ignored .

Service name

- In Wellington it is by street or suburb name.
- In Wanganui it is Te Ngaru. I checked on Google earth and it is near Ngaruawahia. Maybe that is why we are not using the buses.

The HRC LTP document states that they are taking over the financial responsibility of running the Tide bus service for the next financial year, saving the Wanganui District Council \$180,000pa yet charging the rate payers \$290.00

6 Wanganui & Partners

Now with the dis-establishment of Wanganui & Partners it is time to have a serious look at the feasibility of continuing to run the NZICP business investment. It is not part of our core business and a burden on the Rate payers.

We are not told what the capital expenditure has been or what the rate of return is.

Therefore it should be sold ASAP

The chairperson has been reported saying there was a gross lack of consultation on the decision to disestablish the CCO.

7 Harbour Endowment Fund

Finally after more than ten years of requests I have a document that tells me what happened to the fund.

This raises an issue around the port CCO Companies.

I believe that it is time there is a closer oversight of these companies to control expenditure.

It has now come to my attention that there is significant financial issue at the Port with returns on investment now well outside the council's risk parameters.

It is also time to review the effectiveness of the port training organisation and what value to the community it has.

Finally we are starting to get some progress around the port after years of mis-management by the Council, but at what cost.

8 Mole Upgrade road access and parking project

It is now abundantly clear that the "Consultancy, Architectural plan"

Iwi Consulting and Sarah O'Hagen model does not work.

Discussions have been ongoing for ten years and the area is a disgrace with you almost needing a 4wd vehicle to access the parking area on the north mole.

It is now time to give the project along with the funding (**Better off funding** plus the \$876,250) to Jamie Waugh to implement and manage, working with Horizons Regional Council ref the Lower Whanganui Scheme (Te Puwaha)

The plan as presented in the Wanganui Chronicle looks good, so lets get on with the job now and not wait until June 2025.

The some of \$876,250 of Central Government funding was received in September 2023.

The question now is what happened to that funding because there is nothing that I have seen to show for it. The plan in the Wanganui Chronicle on the 16 Mar 2024 is not much different to one presented to a public meeting some years ago.

It was nice to read in the Chronicle that HRC are committed to spending more money on our port. But that will come at a cost and that is Iwi consultation fees that were excessive on the North Mole project.

As Iwi own the river and do not pay for its maintenance, the HRC Rate payers pay those bills, any payments to Iwi should only be a minimal token amount and a cup of tea.

9 Wanganui East Pool Closure \$2m

I attended the meeting in Wanganui East on the 9th of April.

What I observed was that 3 of the Councillors just wanted to say their thing and not listen to the audience. As a result the audience become very agitated.

One Councillor presented a very responsible statement.

Trying to tell the audience that there was no historical agreement was an insult because a past Headmaster stated that she had seen the agreement.

Also trying to suggest that the maintenance charge was \$250,000 was also a grossly inflated figure as I was shown a balance sheet for two separate years which were nothing like that figure.

What is needed is an independent assessment of the pool and then a staged approach to doing the necessary work over a number of years.

The \$2m we were told is just an estimate that was being used to justify the pools closure without a list of issues that may need to be addressed.

10 Pakaitore Raised Pedestrian crossing \$830,000

Ross Fallon told me this project had a significant spiritual and historical significance for Maori therefore that needed to be reflected in the design of the crossing.

My estimate for the consultation and design would be \$700,000

I believe this is another grossly over estimated project.

Surely all that is required is a good old fashion Zebra crossing costing estimated at \$300.00

11. Rapanui Road Trail \$2.4m

I believe this to be a luxury dream item with limited public need.
It should be relegated to the 40 year plan

12 Moutoa Gardens

If any member of the Trust Board is receiving any Co-Governance or consultation payments they need to cease immediately.

If rates, ground maintenance and toilet maintenance costs are not being paid by the owners proceedings need to be started to forfeit the land back to Council ownership.

13 Bird Aviary 5/4/24

In today's paper we get the spin doctor at it again. When we last discussed this issue and you wanted to blackmail the Rate payer with a \$750,000 upgrade, it was agreed that all that was needed was a \$15,000pa on a new part time staff member.

Now you are attempting to tell us that the staffing costs are \$150,000pa

I visited the site on the 5th April and found the birds to be more relaxed and happy. The structure was sound and there were at least 12 people inside and around the perimeter fence.

In the LTP document the closure saving is \$190,000

14 Funky Duck coffee café

I believe this is another example of our Council not focussing on its core business but trying to sabotage our local businesses.

This business fulfills a significant roll in the Virginia Lake area and the decision not to extend their lease is totally irresponsible and arrogant.

It is Council's role to manage our CORE businesses and support our local businesses.

15. Better off funding from Central Government (\$6m)

This money was to reimburse the city for the proposed loss of our Three Waters assets. Your CEO told me on the 5th Mar 2024 that \$80,000 was paid to a number of Maraes around the city, but he did not tell me which Maraes received the money or what audit processes are in place to ensure that the money was spent as intended.

In the LTP it is proposed to give them \$500,000 each year. The question is for what?????

15 Cost cutting measures

The following are a list of measures that need to be implemented ASAP

- A Stop the practice of spending all monies left in operating budget by 31 March
ie. This year the Guyton Street project.
Last year, capital improvements of playground areas.
- B Stop practice of padding out of the scope of projects after receiving tender prices to fit budget estimates.
- C Cancel all Te Reo translation services as 95% of the population do not understand it, causing the population to become confused and irritated. That is the main reason why Labour lost the last election.
- D Cancel any planned Mayoral holidays on Council. ie Wellington & Lower Hutt.
- E Stop immediately any planning around the planned new Hotel project. It is not core business.
- F Sell all surplus assets asap ie cool stores on Heads road.

G Sell Flight School assets asap

H If Iwi are not paying rates and maintenance charges for Moutoa Gardens, why not.

I As Iwi own the River, start charging them for all associated costs:
ie Somme Parade wash out, estimate \$3m
Estimated Iwi Consultation fees \$750,000

Summary

What I want to happen now is to stop the release of all the false information and SPIN. The Council is accountable to the Rate payers and required to release all financial information in a manner that the Rate payers can understand.

At the moment large sums of money are hidden within the operating budget.

I now want the pause button pushed on the consultation process until the Rate payers are fully informed on the following:

Sarjeant Gallery

It is now time that the Rate payers are told what the costs to date are and what the final costs will be including, the opening ceremony.

That figure MUST include ALL associated costs currently hidden in the operating budget.

If you want the figures I have some of them.

I also want to see the Iwi consultation figures.

NZ International Commercial Pilot Academy (NZICPA)

I want to see a document that lists all assets and their value.

I want to see what the current profit / loss figures are.

I have been informed that the current figure is a loss of approx \$860,000

Bird Aviary

What I want to see is the actual wage figure for the person looking after the birds.

A breakdown of other costs ie food for the birds etc.

Wanganui East baths

I want to see a list of the issues that need repairing or updating with estimated costs.

I want to see a breakdown of maintenance costs for each of the last two years.

I was shown a balance sheet for a two year period at the Wanganui East meeting by an individual which was nothing like a \$250,000 being suggested by your Council.

Iwi Consultation payments.

I now want a complete list of all payments for each of the last 2 years incl:

Dates, names of recipient, reason for payment and amount

Current estimate is \$3m for 2023/24

Co Governance payments

As above

Moutoa Gardens foot path \$860,000

I want to see a break down of that estimate. I believe the Iwi Consultation and design to be \$700,000

Hotel

What Council money has been spent to date on this proposal including land purchases, design and Iwi Consultation.

Only when the rate payers have seen the above information will they be able to make informed decisions based on facts (hopefully).

Ratings on issues

Strongly for

1. Wanganui East Pool retention
2. Bird Aviary
3. Funky Duck Café lease extension
4. Dublin Street Bridge replacement
5. Wakefield Street bridge replacement
6. Retention of Gonville Library
7. Retention of the Winter gardens

Strongly against

- 1 Iwi Consultation payments
- 2 Co Governance and their payments
- 3 NZ international Commercial Pilot Academy (NZICP)
- 4 New Hotel and car parking building
- 5 Moutoa Gardens foot path
- 6 Moutoa Gardens Trust Board
- 7 Iwi annual funding of \$500,000

Items that must be reviewed

1. Bus service
2. Port Management

Please find attached my supporting documents:

Bus Service Costs	appendix 1
Wanganui Bus Usage Date	appendix 2
my works program	appendix 3

J.D.Walsh



Wanganui Bus usage Data Appendix 2

date	time	bus No	location	direction	direction	No of passengers	remarks
27/03/2024	1.45	202	Hospital	out		0	
27/03/2024	1.58	210	Hospital	in		3	
27/03/2024	1.59	210	Hospital	out		3	
27/03/2024	2.00	210	Hospital	in		4	
27/03/2024	2.02	210	Hospital	out		5	
27/03/2024	2.04	202	Hospital	in		2	
27/03/2024	2.05	202	Hospital	out		2	
27/03/2024	2.15	210	Hospital	in		3	
27/03/2024	2.17	210	Hospital	out		2	
27/03/2024	2.18	210	Hospital	in		1	
27/03/2024	2.20	210	Hospital	out		0	
27/03/2024	2.35	210	Hospital	in		5	
27/03/2024	2.36	210	Hospital	out		6	
27/03/2024	2.37	210	Hospital	in		2	
27/03/2024	2.38	210	Hospital	out		2	
27/03/2024	2.55	210	Hospital	in		6	school children
27/03/2024	2.56	210	Hospital	out		6	school children
27/03/2024	2.59	210	Hospital	in		0	
27/03/2024	3.00	210	Hospital	out		1	
27/03/2024	16.42	210	Boatshed Somme Parade	town - Aramoho		1	
27/03/2024	16.52	210	Boatshed Somme Parade	Aramoho - town		0	
27/03/2024	17.10	210	Boatshed Somme Parade	town - Aramoho		0	
27/03/2024	17.15	210	Boatshed Somme Parade	Aramoho - town		1	
27/03/2024	17.24	210	Boatshed Somme Parade	town - Aramoho		2	
27/03/2024	17.25	205	Boatshed Somme Parade	town - Aramoho		3	school children
27/03/2024	17.34	210	Boatshed Somme Parade	Aramoho - town		0	
27/03/2024	17.40	206	Boatshed Somme Parade	Aramoho - town		0	
27/03/2024	17.42	210	Boatshed Somme Parade	town - Aramoho		0	
27/03/2024	17.52	210	Boatshed Somme Parade	Aramoho - town		0	
28/03/2024	16.42	210	Rutland Hotel	Victoria Ave- left Drews Ave		3	
28/03/2024	16.52	210	Rutland Hotel	Victoria Ave- left Drews Ave		1	
28/03/2024	17.07	210	Rutland Hotel	Victoria Ave- left Drews Ave		0	

Works Program (My view)

appendix 3

Item	Total cost	Est	cost	Share LTNZ HRC Central GOVT	Timing	Priority	Core Bus Y/N	comments
interest on \$50m loan		\$3m pa						calculated @ 6%pa
remove from operating budget		\$10m						to help pay off loan facility and control non essential expenditure
car park & public toilet at north Mole		?		Y	?			part of \$6m Better Off funding
Marae up grades	80,000 x M			Y				part of \$6m Better Off funding
Tide bus service	180,000 pa		N	N			N	
Iwi consultation fees		\$1m	N	N			N	
Wakefield Street bridge			?		ASAP	P2	Y	
Dublin Street bridge		\$40M	Y		4-5-yrs	P2	Y	
New Hotel			N	N			N	Only consent & building permits Not ownership
London St/Carlton Ave roundabout			Y			P2	Y	Add new lane to roundabout in south direction to relieve congestion. At present about one third of traffic goes into Purnell Street during the 8.30-9am period
NZ International Commercial Pilot Academy NZICPA assets owned by WDC Holdings							N	We are not told what the capital expenditure has been or what the rate of return is.
NZICPA	\$2.78m		N	N			N	Therefore all assets should be sold to help pay off debt asap
New Council building					10-20 yrs	P10	Y	10 aircraft from Napier
Sarjeant Gallery Project		\$70m				P9	Y	Non Urgent Another \$600,000
Sarjeant Gallery Project		\$10m						Still no final costs or opening date.
Vehicles out, Business in project		\$500,000				P10	?	associated costs charge to operating account
Air Port taxiway area		\$6.7m		?		P10	Y	Should be stopped where it is, before the loss of any car parks
Air Port Future Proofing		60,000				P5	Y	report only
Groynes Wall Mowhanau		\$12m			5- 10 yrs	P10	?	Non urgent
Harbour Redevelopment		?			2024/25	P8	Y	
South Mole		?			2025/26	P8	Y	
Tanae Groyne		?			2024/25	P8	Y	
Wanganui & Parteners		-\$118,000			Jun-24			Disestablishment

What we the Rate Payers need is a full works program with timings and proposed costings published in the Wanganui Chronicle.

At the moment there appears to be an attitude of just put it on the mortgage and we will win Lotto and pay it off.



DRAFT

30 April 2024

Whanganui Rural Community Board

Via email:

Whanganui Rural Community Board submission to the Whanganui District Council Long Term Plan 2024

The Whanganui Rural Community Board (the Board) is a statutory body responsible for representing and acting as an advocate for the interest of the rural community within Whanganui District.

The Board expresses the following concerns:

Road Funding Inequity:

- Many forestry blocks are not accessed by Council roads. Some are carbon forests; in other blocks, foresters use state highways. Simply increasing the roading rates does not address the inequity in forestry rates.
- The WRCB is concerned that the LTP budget allocation for roading is insufficient to maintain rural roads and cover rising costs.
- The WRCB believes there is insufficient buffer in proposed roading allocations to cover severe weather events.

Drop off Points for Rural Rubbish:

- The WRCB supports rate-funded drop off points for rural rubbish, per option one in the draft LTP. The board agrees that discontinuing this service would result in more fly tipping.
- The board would also like to suggest that Council research a rural recycling option.

Hotel:

- The WRCB prefers option 2; the board believes that Ratepayers should not be subjected to the financial risk of a project like this. We strongly support Council facilitating a third party to progress this project.

Asset Sales

- The WRCB supports Council effort to identify surplus land to offset debt; however, the board is concerned about losing valuable assets. Discretion is essential. Once an asset is sold, it is gone forever.

Rural Connectivity

- Our latest survey indicates digital connectivity is a significant issue in our rural communities, particularly with copper wire services ending. The WRCB understands that the Council digital strategy has been discontinued; but rural connectivity remains a focus area for us. The WRCB signals that it may approach Council for support for small projects that help in this regard.

William Birch Memorial Reserve

- Doing nothing is not an option. The WRCB would like to see the Whanganui District Council actively working with community groups on this project. The WDC must capitalise on community momentum and enthusiasm.

Rapanui Road Trail

- The WRCB supports this initiative. The board suggests Council integrate the Rapanui Road walkway with the work planned for the Mowhanau wastewater system. The board believes that there are significant cost savings by integrating these two projects.

Thank you for considering the WRCB submission.

Yours sincerely

David Wells
Chair
Whanganui Rural Community Board



Regional Tourism New Zealand

P O Box 1697

Wellington

E: info@rtnz.org.nz

W: rtnz.org.nz

29 April 2024

Long Term Plan (LTP) Submission

Whanganui District Council

Regional Tourism New Zealand (RTNZ) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 for Whanganui District Council (WDC).

RTNZ is the peak body for the Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) across New Zealand of which Whanganui & Partners 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 31 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 different 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 Whanganui region.

3. Tourism expenditure in the Whanganui region for the year ending Oct 2023 was \$146m from domestic visitors and \$29m from international visitors. Note: MBIE data used to collect this figure ended in October 2023, hence there not being a more recent figure to work with.

Commercial guest nights in the region for the 12 months ended March 2024 were 221,000. Note: Not all Whanganui commercial accommodation contributes to this data and commercial guest nights do not include the significant peer-peer accommodation (e.g. Air BnB), available in Whanganui.

Destination promotion is a public good for the benefit and wellbeing of all.

4. 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 maximise its positive impact.
5. 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 local residents.

1. Visit

If you built a place where people want to visit, then you have built a place where people want to live.

4. Invest

And if you built a place where business and residents will invest, then you have built a place where people will want to visit.



2. Live

And if you built a place where people want to live, then you have built a place where people want to work.

3. Work

And if you built a place where people want to work, then you have built a place where business and residents want to invest.

Source; Destinations International

RTO activities contribute to community outcomes and wellbeing.

6. Tourism is a mechanism for achieving broader community outcomes and the work of RTOs intersects with many of the goals outlined in Whanganui District's Long-Term Plan (LTP);
 - Economic growth through increased visitor spending, supporting profitability of local business and job creation.
 - Increased visitation leads to improvements in infrastructure such as roads, airports, public transportation, and amenities like parks and recreational facilities. These developments not only benefit visitors but also enhance the quality of life for residents.
 - Environmental protection through supporting tourism operators to develop sustainable tourism practices and support conservation efforts. This includes climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives, aligned to council's goals and plans.
 - Social well-being by promoting cultural exchange, community pride, and social cohesion. This includes developing local ambassadors and supporting the community to be great hosts.
 - Cultural enrichment by showcasing local heritage, traditions, and arts as visitors look to engage more deeply with community stories and experiences.
 - Public safety and security measures to ensure visitor safety and to enhance the destination's reputation. This also includes working with councils on risk and emergency management initiatives so ensure visitors are considered when emergencies strike.
 - Enhanced community engagement and participation by involving locals in destination management planning so that visitors are more respectful of local expectations and behave responsibly.

RTOs play an important role within the destination and tourism system.

7. WDC has recently decided to bring its economic development and RTO functions back in house, dis-establishing the CCO Whanganui & Partners. There are two other instances where the RTO is a function of council: Dunedin and Central Otago.
8. RTOs play a crucial role in the tourism system, serving as leaders and key facilitators/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 and therefore the RTO requires appropriate resourcing and capacity/capability to be effective.
9. The RTO is the one organisation that has oversight of how the destination functions as a system and is able to bring together multiple stakeholders/actors across the destination's eco-system. 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.
10. 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. The RTO works very closely with tourism businesses, bringing private sector investment to further leverage council's investment, and in doing so, creating greater impact.
11. Many tourism businesses are still recovering from the effects of closed borders during COVID-19, and the RTO provides valuable support and capability building for local

businesses. As the RTO becomes part of Council operations, it is important that it can maintain a close working relationship with the private sector and that any political influence from Council is carefully managed so that this important relationship with the tourism industry is maintained.

Developing a sustainable tourism industry which contributes to the quality of life of residents.

12. 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 very good work carried out by Whanganui & Partners in the development of the DMP. There was strong collaboration across the district which reflects the aspirations of communities for what they want from tourism in the future.
13. The destinations eco-system is complex with many interrelated and interdependent parts that need to work in together to ensure tourism benefit communities. The Whanganui region's DMP is a demonstration of the importance of stewardship, and the RTO performs a leadership, coordination, and facilitation role so that tourism actors can come together and collaborate and continue to grow sustainably. Through the development of the DMP, a contract with the community has been created. It is important that the DMP remains supported, and the 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. With the RTO back within Council, the Council has an important role, as it too has oversight over many facets of the DMP which align to Council plans, strategies and investments, helping to advance its implementation.
15. 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 to ensure tourism continues to contribute to their communities in their district and region.

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. RTNZ also recognises the councils invest in many visitor attractions that add to the appeal of a place e.g. museums, galleries, gardens, event/conference facilities, airports, and events etc. The RTO supports these visitor assets and works closely with council teams to optimise the value and return that they create for ratepayers through out-of-town visitation. With the RTO function back within council this should create greater synergy between the RTO functions and WDC's tourism related assets.
17. 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. Tōnui specifically identifies the high 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 WDC retain its level of commitment to tourism, and investment in RTO activities, whilst a workable long-term solution is agreed and implemented.

Conclusion

RTNZ encourages WDC to maintain its support for the region's tourism sector and commit to resource RTO activities appropriately so that the tourism sector can grow sustainably and contribute to improving the quality of life for Whanganui residents.

It is important that the relationship between Council's RTO and the tourism industry is preserved and strengthened, and that the district's DMP is honoured and implemented through effective leadership and collaboration with stakeholders across the destinations eco-system.

RTNZ is grateful for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Ngā mihi,



David Perks
Chair



Kiri Goulter
Director Destination Management

Date:

2nd May 2024

Project:

William Birch Reserve

Submitters:

'Friends of the William Birch Reserve'

Background:

The William Birch Reserve is the western gateway to Whanganui.

It is an amenity used and enjoyed by a large number of travellers, visitors and locals. It is an area of cultural and historical significance. It is taonga, gifted by the Birch family in 1930.

We, the Pākaraka community, Ngati Maika, and Whanganui District Council (WDC), have a responsibility and obligation to cherish and care for the Ototoka stream and the William Birch Reserve.

Concept Proposal:

The 'Friends of the William Birch Reserve' are extremely disappointed that WDC have decided not to support the application submitted by the Whanganui West Catchment Group (11 October 2023) to restore and improve the water quality of the Ototoka stream at the William Birch Reserve. The situation at the Reserve, in particular the state of the former swimming pool, is extremely dire. As disappointed as we are, we also appreciate WDC's current tight financial position.

In light of this, we propose that WDC vest the responsibility for maintaining the grounds, pool, and toilet at the Reserve to the 'Friends of the William Birch Reserve' (to be formed as an Incorporated entity).

In line with this approach, we have had discussions with the following people:

1. [REDACTED] informs us that there is a budgeted amount of \$9,000 per annum, allocated for grounds maintenance work at the Reserve. Sarah also informs us that this year the spend to date has been \$11,960 (all figures excluding GST).
2. [REDACTED]: Discussed the workings of the pool cleanout and ongoing maintenance. His key comments in regards to the environmental benefits of cleaning out the pool:
 - i. Sediment fills all the gaps under and between rocks and woody debris that koura need for habitat. As the waterfall is a significant barrier to native fish migration, koura are a keystone species in the Ototoka, acting as the garbage cleaners of the stream.
 - ii. Sediment carries phosphorous, which when settles in an anaerobic environment is released into the waterway leading to deterioration in water quality (this can drive algal growth).
 - iii. Sediment particles absorb warmth from the sun and increase water temperature, resulting in decreased dissolved oxygen.
 - iv. Sediment loads in waterways also result in further instream erosion and instability of streambanks, causing stream channels to become wider and shallower.
3. [REDACTED] is a specialist in the design and workings of bunds, silt traps, and removal of sediment build up. [REDACTED] has stated he can "also assist with developing a monitoring programme including advice on equipment and sampling protocols."

Financial Case:

We propose an annual grant of \$18,000 to the 'Friends of the William Birch Reserve'.

This would be made up of \$15,000 for grounds and toilet maintenance and \$3,000 for pool maintenance. The pool maintenance costs are two 6-monthly cleans by Holland Underground (\$1,440 p.a. and manual labour costs estimated 16hrs p.a.). All figures exclude GST.

We are mindful of the negotiating power the WDC will have over an individual group thus an increase on current costs.

The former submission by the Whanganui West Catchment Group calculated \$80,000 required to clean out the silt from the pool and establish a track to provide access for vehicles and equipment.

How have we reduced this cost so significantly? Simply, by engaging with our local community.

The community have provided key knowledge about the history of the pool structure and the surrounding reserve, along with offers of resources and time.

1. The vehicle access track has an established hard layer of metal. Removing the grass grown over the track will provide a solid surface for vehicles. A local farmer has donated his time and digger to do this work (verified by local contractor, Darren Luff).
2. The water bypass pipe for the pool has been identified and cleared (this was part of the original design to allow the stream to bypass the pool so the water in the pool could 'warm up' for swimming). This allows cheaper methods to clean out the pool as there will be no, or little, silt entering the waterway when it is being cleaned. A local business has offered, at no cost, to clean out the bypass pipe.
3. Local business people and farmers have offered to donate their time, a digger, and trucks to remove the silt.
4. The local community has offered to provide time and labour to manually clear silt away from the sides of the pool to ensure it is not damaged during the clean out phase.

Ongoing annual maintenance is key to ensuring the Reserve will not go back into decline. We have had the following offers:

1. Holland Underground have generously contacted us and offered their services to assist in maintenance work with their equipment. They have quoted an annual budget of approximately \$1,440 plus GST per annum to clean the silt from a silt trap and deliver it to a dump site.
2. North Whanganui Rotary Club to restore the walking track.

Viability

We have already demonstrated our ability to get things done, both practically and financially:

1. In 2011, WDC replaced the toilet facility. The quote to WDC to do this work was approximately \$100,000. Members of our group sourced the facility for \$15,000.
2. Promoting the Reserve through our Facebook page inspired Comvita to donate their 'Community Volunteer Day' to tidy up the walkways and remove fallen trees. This work was carried out in April and has greatly enhanced the area.

Summary

Ngati Maika, the Pākaraka community and wider Whanganui community strongly desire to improve the water quality of the Ototoke stream and to have the William Birch Reserve restored, and maintained, to its former beauty. This is evidenced by their generosity, already given and offered into the future; the tremendous support we have from the results of a recently started petition already signed by 113 people <https://www.change.org/p/mandate-whanganui-district-council-to-include-william-birch-pool-maintenance-in-the-long-term-plan/c/849679836>; and the support of the descendants of the Birch family who are the original donors and instigators of the pool and Reserve.

Please support the 'Friends of the William Birch Reserve' by vesting them the responsibility for care and upkeep of the Reserve and providing an annual grant of \$18,000 (GST excl) to complete this work.

Support

This submission is supported by:

1. Ngati Maika
2. Whanganui West Catchment Group
3. Whanganui Catchment Collective

(Supporting documentation attached)

'Friends of the William Birch Reserve' members: Ray Hina (Ngati Maika), Ike Katene (Ngati Ruaiti), Richard White, Hamish Reid, William Reid, Kate Lynch

Storm Hope

From: Ray Hina <rayhinalbt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 2 May 2024 2:59 pm
To: Storm Hope
Subject: Fwd: William Birch Reserve

"The William Birch Reserve has long been part of Ngati Maika's tikanga and with the close proximity to the Pakaraka Marae, it holds a long-standing cultural connection. The whole Reserve has played a big part in the lives of many generations, some of whom helped with the construction of the swimming pool.

It is a special taonga for Ngati Maika and to see the pool be allowed to deteriorate to such a state, is a real disappointment for our Iwi. Water sustains life. Improving and maintaining the water quality of the Ototoke stream is critical for our, and all people's, wellbeing.

We are strong on partnerships and through our involvement with the Friends of the William Birch Reserve, we share a common connection to this very special part of our environment. "

Ray Hina



Kaumatu Ngati Maika



2nd May 2024

Whanganui District Council
101 Guyton Street
Whanganui 4500

Dear Whanganui District Council,

The Whanganui Region Catchment Collective alongside the Whanganui West Catchment Group support the Friends of William Birch Reserve in this submission, as part of our continual commitment to improve water quality throughout the entire Whanganui Region. We are committed to working alongside the landowners within the Ototoke Catchment, by way of continued water monitoring, helping access experts to provide education to our local landowners and provide workshops, identifying risks to the health of the Ototoke Stream and looking at possible mitigations that could be put in place. We will also help our landowners identify possible funding sources for these mitigations.

The William Birch Reserve is of great historical and cultural value to the local community and it is a key part of the overall quality of the water for this catchment and its community.

Warm regards,

Tarsh de Rose
Lower Catchment Coordinator
Whanganui Region Catchment Collective.



The Sarjeant Gallery Trust | P.O. Box 998 Whanganui 4540

Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare O Rehua Whanganui

1 May 2024

Dear Councillors

The Sarjeant Gallery Trust strongly urges the Council to retain the funding on the Sarjeant Gallery operational budget in the current Long Term Plan. While we acknowledge the pressures the council is facing, decreasing the budget at this time will seriously disadvantage our ability to realise the benefits which underly the entire strengthening and development project.

All sources of funding, whether from government, our community or donors were sourced based on these benefits.

The time to reduce the current operational budget is not now, when we have so much ahead of us after years of emphasis on fundraising, the time to look at the necessary operational budget will be more valuable once we are well established in the new building.

Not only will the move from the small temporary premise to a considerably larger building be complex, it is inevitable that challenges in the settling in process will arise.

Adequate operational funding from Council will enable successful delivery of the programmes and visitor experience for the public taking part in gallery activities in the years ahead.

Additionally, as you will know from the Economic Impact Report (<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/4/reports/sarjeant-gallery-redevelopment-investment-assessment.pdf>), the Sarjeant redevelopment is set to become a key economic driver of the region.

As such, it needs to be properly resourced at an operational level. This will give the public and supporters confidence, and enable the Sarjeant Gallery Trust to deliver on its Memorandum of understanding with the Council and continue to successfully raise money for the Endowment Fund. This fund is essential to cover all those essential costs that are not included in the operational budget, being education programmes, internships, art acquisitions, restoration work of art, and travelling exhibitions.

Additionally, the reopening will need the resources to ensure this huge opportunity for Whanganui is showcased within Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally. There is an expectation that the Reopening will be one that will create great interest and be a unique opportunity for Whanganui to really put itself before not only the New Zealand visitor industry but indeed international visitors as well. This is a once in a life time opportunity to really showcase Whanganui and put it firmly on the visitor destination map.

It is an opportunity to impress visitors to the Reopening to the extent that they continue to be our advocates, returning regularly and encouraging others to visit.

For a decade ratepayers, taxpayers and generous benefactors from throughout Aotearoa have stood by the Redevelopment Project and they need to be honoured and given a memorable experience. It must be noted that not only \$17 million of ratepayers money has gone into this, NZ taxpayers have invested around \$40 million and private benefactors and charitable trusts in excess of \$10 million.

The budget for this needs to be at an appropriate level which ensures our guests feel welcome, and their support and generosity recognised. And the events need to be of a level that puts Whanganui in the right light ie of a city being able to perform and deliver at a high standard of excellence and celebrate its creative community at the same time.

The Sarjeant trustees will stand behind and support this event using all our networks and influence to do so. Given the Council can fund the event manager and provide a reasonable budget to deliver the essential experience, we can access funding from the private and business sector to really put the icing on the top and make this a remarkable event that gets national and international media coverage.

We urge Councillors not to waste the opportunity here. Too much is at stake. Despite the current fiscal constraints let us envision the medium to long term significant economic benefits that this occasion can bring to Whanganui. If we all can summon the courage to stage an unforgettable event, we will set the media abuzz and mobilise visitors to come surging in, not just once but returning again and again.

Yours sincerely

Nicola J Williams MNZM MBA

Chairman, Sarjeant Gallery Trust

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Communication Record

To	WDC	Date	22/4/24	Memorandum	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copy to		Time		Telephone Record	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recorded by		File No.		File Note	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Long term plan 2024-34	Proj. No.		Minutes of Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Page	of	Feedback	<input type="checkbox"/>

Re long-term Plan 2024-34 :

Att Damian Wood

Funding of core infrastructure.

① Take the "arterial route" designation off Gross St, Castle cliff.

This street has stop signs and give way signs at each end - it hasn't been an arterial route for decades.

Local residents including Hagers Castle cliff (I am a committee member) are keen to make this a service hub.

This will require street scaping - Every other suburb in Whangarei has a decent shopping / service hub - with *

- The increased activity at the port
- The increased activity coming off Morgan St
- The building of 75 new houses adjacent to Gross St / Falcon St starting this year,

there is an urgent need to upgrade this Area

② Develop a Region Whangarei wide cycle lane / pathway plan.

- Use curbing and/or a 2cm raised platform coloured green + smooth-sealed for cycle lanes on all arterial routes.
- Improve safety for cyclists at intersections!



Submission to the Whanganui District Council

I am a very ordinary citizen making a submission. And like the huge majority of Whangnui's citizens are just too busy/old/tired – or a mix of all of these to attend your meetings and spend hours unravelling complex financial documents.

Every three years Councils announce that oh dear, we are all in for this huge rate rise. Knowing that once we accept the horror of that, we will be relieved to see actually – oh look – we are able to halve that amount.

Meetings are held to “meet the ratepayers” “hear your concerns” and explain in a friendly fashion what is going on. Except this doesn't happen. We are told “Do you want the library to close one day a week?” and “Do you want the Bird Aviary to close?” Simplistic, emotive stuff aimed and getting the poor ratepayer to think that the cost of these two items will have even a small difference to rate rises.

Tell us in plain language some of the really big stuff – The Flight School. What has been the actual capital cost and repayment for the buildings you have bought and what has been the outcome? What is the running cost of the Parks and Reserves. Which are lovely to have, but we have the ground area being maintained for double the population we have. Why such a huge over-run on the Sargeant Art Gallery and tell us what the Port costs and outcome will be. We know so little in plain language of the overruns on roading, contractors, consultants.

It is high time that local government firmly turned their faces the other way towards Central Government and outright refuse to take on any more of the costs from Wellington. The idea of the Council actually thinking it can build and run an hotel is just outrageous. Return the Collegiate Motor Inn into private hands and encourage refurbishment of some local disused building into boutique accommodation.



Mary Wyley

■■■■ e ■■■■ ■■■■

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. This includes not only sales and purchases but also the various expenses incurred in the course of business. Proper record-keeping is essential for determining the true financial position of the company and for identifying areas where costs can be reduced.

2. The second part of the document deals with the issue of depreciation. It explains how the cost of long-lived assets should be allocated over their useful lives. This process is crucial for matching the expense of the asset with the revenue it generates, thereby providing a more accurate picture of the company's profitability.

3. The third part of the document addresses the topic of interest expense. It discusses the tax treatment of interest paid on debt, highlighting the limitations on deductibility. Understanding these rules is important for companies with significant debt, as it allows them to optimize their financing decisions and minimize their tax liability.

4. The final part of the document covers the subject of capital gains. It explains how capital gains are calculated and taxed, and it discusses strategies for managing capital gains to reduce the overall tax burden. This is particularly relevant for companies that have appreciated assets or are planning to liquidate or sell the business.

Conclusion

The above information is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as tax advice.