

**From:** annual plan  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 April 2020 12:59 PM  
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**Subject:** FW: Emailing: HDC annual plan submission 2021  
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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Brad Cassidy <bradc@sportmanawatu.org.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 April 2020 1:02 PM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Brent Harvey <BrentH@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Emailing: HDC annual plan submission 2021

Kia ora koutou,

Please find attached to this email, Sport Manawatu's submission to the 20/21 annual budget.

Ngā mihi nui

Brad Cassidy  
Active Communities Manager  
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W: SPORTMANAWATU.ORG.NZ



## Horowhenua District Council Annual Plan 20/21 Submission

### General

Sport Manawatu is a charitable trust and non-profit organisation that was established in 1987 and has grown from small beginnings to become a substantial provider of services and events benefiting the sporting and active recreation interests of the Manawatu, Horowhenua and Tararua communities. Sport Manawatu have a long and proud history of supporting and delivering on local council outcomes. Our headquarters is located at Sports House in Palmerston North, while in addition we have satellite offices based in Feilding and Dannevirke.

### The Value of Sport and Active Recreation

Sport Manawatu has a vision of a community where everyone is physically active for life. A recent national report highlighted that participation in sport and physical activity reduces the incidence of heart disease, Type 2 Diabetes, Obesity, some forms of cancer, depression, and dementia. In addition, play, active recreation, and sport contributes to vibrant and stimulating communities and we believe that our work would complement the Councils approach to delivering on community outcomes.

### What we do

We are inspired to make a positive difference in people's lives and aim to achieve the following strategic outcomes by 2024:

- More children: Better opportunities for kids to enjoy quality play, active recreation, and sport experiences.
- More adults: Participating in more sport and active recreation in our community.
- More game makers: Thousands of people across our region willingly volunteering time to ensure sport happens.

We will be focusing on five strategic priorities to achieve these outcomes. They include:

**Active for Life** – our community will live more physically active lives through play, active recreation, and sport.

### Key outcomes include:

- Highly skilled and capable providers delivering quality play, active recreation, and sporting experiences.
- Diverse range of active recreation opportunities are provided that caters to participant needs.
- Young People's lives will be enriched through quality play, active recreation, and sporting.

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- Active recreation and sport partners are supported to provide quality sporting experiences.

**Sector Development** – a strong and capable sector that delivers quality play, active recreation, and sport experiences for our community.

**Strong Foundations** – focusing on continuous improvement to support and sustain our mission.

**Partnerships and Collaboration** – a strong and diverse range of partnerships and collaborations, which adds value across our sector.

**Recognising excellence and contribution** – the success of our athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, and volunteers is widely celebrated and recognised by our community.

### The value of Play, Active Recreation and Sport

Play, Active Recreation and Sport requires recognition and investment in the Horowhenua Council's Annual Budget 2020/2021. Significantly, sport and active recreation contributes \$4.9 billion or 2.3% to our annual GDP to the national economy, while the sector employs more than 53,000 New Zealanders. We need to ensure our community regardless of age, ethnicity and ability level can participate in play opportunities, active recreation, and sport. In addition, evidence strengthens our position so that our spaces and places are fit for purpose, multiuse and adaptable to enable active and healthy lifestyles.

### What we know now

- Active recreation, sport, and physical activity connects the Horowhenua, and delivers significant physical and mental health and wellbeing, social, economic, and educational benefits.
- The Horowhenua District Council is a major provider of our sports and recreation facilities – the community appreciates this support and investment. Without it, much of what happens in our sector would not be possible.
- Sport and recreation connect people. All Horowhenua residents deserve opportunities to participate.
- A focus on facilities is essential. It is important that existing facilities have sufficient investment in renewals and improvements to maintain a network of fit for purpose facilities to meet existing needs. New facilities are also required to address the current shortfall and the rapid growth in population – these needs are applicable to both indoor and outdoor spaces.
- It is critical that investment meets growth. It is essential that growth in population both at the urban fringe and in the existing urban area is matched by investment in sufficient new facilities to meet the new demand that will be generated.
- The recreation and sport sector has aligned and collaborated in planning and prioritisation. The Regional Sports Facilities Priorities Plan demonstrates that we are playing our part in making sure every Council dollar is invested wisely for maximum return in benefits to the community.

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### **Horowhenua District Council Long Term Plan Te Mahere Tūroa (LTP)**

The Council's LTP (2015-2035) does not feature any specific new indoor sport/recreational facility developments. However, it does mention a general facility direction to make facilities multi-use and flexible enough to cater for demand changes related to growth and an aging population. A positive facility upgrade was the redevelopment of the Levin Aquatic Centre completed in 2016 which has serviced the increase in community demand. With a much higher long-term population growth now occurring in the district, and projections reinforced by the work being conducted by NZIER related to the RONS Wellington Corridor Project, investment into critical play, active recreation and sport projects will be crucial to meet the Council's community outcomes in the future.

An increase in population means increased demand and growth will place pressure on capacity in existing facilities. Additionally, we will need to be conscious about the state of our aging facilities with some likely require upgrades. There is clear evidence of the wide-ranging benefits of active recreation and sport including improved physical and mental health and wellbeing, social connectedness, economic and productivity gains, and educational outcomes. We are seeing growth in a number of recreational activities including off mountain biking, water sports and loop walks that are attractive for young and old alike. All of which the District is capable of servicing. Strategically, multipurpose facilities that can cater for a number of community groups will need to be considered above single use facilities in the future.

### **Community Splash Pad**

We support the Council's proposal for a 'splash pad' at Jubilee Park in Levin and we recommend option 2 if the Council prioritizes the one build option for the District. Alternatively, if the Council were thinking of more than one option in the future, then we would recommend option 3. We believe that Horowhenua residents have the right to lead active, healthy lives through participation in play, active recreation, and sport. A lack of fit-for-purpose facilities poses serious risks to the benefits of physical activity, resulting in a negative impact on the community. We feel the park's geographical location is appealing and visually open space is attractive to residents.

Given the unprecedented situation we have all found ourselves in with COVID-19, we believe recreational activities will play a critical role with the community recovery process. The Community Splash Pad project will be an excellent project to meet community demand following COVID-19. Supporting young people into physical activity is a key objective for Sport Manawatu and the Splash Pad project will be a great enabler for this to occur in our city. Jubilee Park will provide a safe area for young families to gather, and no cost access is highly attractive to low income families and visitors.

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### Investment into the Regional Sport Facilities Implementation Plan

We are seeking investment for the Implementation Plan coordination role, to help us maintain momentum with the Regional Sport Facilities Plan (RSFP). The Chief Executives which includes members from Palmerston North City Council, Horowhenua District Council, Tararua District Council, Manawatu District Council, Whanganui District Council, Rangitikei District Council and Ruapehu District Council adopted the RSFP in 2018.

The RSFP was prepared by Visitor Solutions in 2017, coordinated by Sport Manawatu, Sport NZ, Sport Whanganui, and a steering group comprising of representatives from each of the seven Councils. The process involved an assessment of over 500 facilities, as well as a research and consultation process, and code-by-code analysis of over 400 sport clubs across the region.

Led by Sport Manawatu, the plan was also jointly funded by the seven councils, Sport NZ, Sport Manawatu, Sport Whanganui and ECCT. The Horowhenua District Council contributed \$7,348 (excl. GST) towards the plan's development, with the Chief Executives signing off on the plan in 2018. The purpose of the regional plan is to:

- enable better decision making about sport facilities, spaces, and places.
- provide rationale for investment into priority facility projects to renew, replace and replenish facilities so they are future-proofed, fit for purpose and well-used.
- foster local collaboration between private providers, community, and schools to ensure planning and development is coordinated and aligned.
- support better use of facilities, spaces, and places through the provision of great sporting opportunities.

### Planning Principals

The framework was developed around wider planning principles including:

#### Sustainability

#### Multi Use

#### Accessibility

#### Partnerships / Collaboration

#### Adaptability / Functionality

#### Community Return on Investment

#### Avoid Overprovision / Duplication

#### Appropriate Maintenance

Importantly, the process was not intended to replace decision-making processes for individual stakeholders or detailed, site-specific investigations, but to inform and make recommendations to assist in the prioritisation of facility projects in line with the agreed approach. The planning framework is intended to be applied collaboratively across the seven Councils and used by funding agencies to assist with funding allocation. A funding assessment approach is now in place that promotes the collaborative engagement of key stakeholders including community funders, territorial authorities, regional sports organisations, facility trusts, clubs, and education providers.

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### Implementation Plan MoU

The Steering Group have supported the development of a robust, evidence-based Implementation Plan MoU. The Implementation Plan MoU applies the framework and considers the code-based recommendations alongside quantitative evidence to determine key regional priorities. Having consulted with the steering group on the RSFP priorities in October 2019, the RSFP moves into the important implementation phase. The Implementation Plan MoU (3-year term reviewed annually) sets out the overall terms, conditions, expectations, and obligations of the partners (seven councils, Sport Manawatu, and Sport Whanganui). It requires a funding commitment from each of the local authorities to establish a dedicated role within Sport Manawatu to progress the agreed actions. Sport NZ will be supporting the implementation phase through enabling Sport Manawatu with targeted investment, resources, and advice. Through supporting the implementation, partners receive additional benefits which are outlined in MoU. This includes access to Sport NZ funding (by application) for planning work including feasibility studies for priority projects. The Palmerston North City Council and Manawatu District Council have committed funding to the coordinator role. Sport Manawatu and Sport Whanganui are currently coordinating efforts to secure a signed commitment from the other Councils.

### RSFP alignment to Sport NZ Spaces and Places outcomes

Sport New Zealand aims to get more young people and adults into sport and active recreation and produce more winners on the worlds sporting stage. It does this through its strategic approach for Community Sport and High-Performance Sport outcomes. Spaces, places, and facilities for sport is one of five strategic priorities in the Community Sport Strategy with a goal to develop and sustain a world leading community sport system where the need of the participant and athlete is the focus. The drivers for taking a regional approach to facility planning can be one or more of the following:

- The desire of funders to invest wisely in identified priority projects that will make the most impact.
- An ageing network of facilities needing refurbishment, re-purposing, replacement, or removal.
- Changing demographics within a community, such as an increase in the population.
- Changing participation trends nationally and within a region requiring new types of facilities, or a new use of an existing facility.
- Increasing expectations of users and user groups.
- A growing acknowledgement that there is a hierarchy of facilities – regional, sub-regional and local – and that regional collaboration is the only fair and reasonable way to build and manage regional and sub-regional facilities.
- The risks inherent in focussing on and responding to the wants rather than the priority needs within a region.

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### **The value of the Regional Sport Facilities Plan and strategic partnerships**

Sport Manawatu believes the sport sector is demonstrating a maturity in creating a strategic partnership approach to facilities planning and supply. The RSFP steering group are in a unique position to oversee a number of regional and sub regional projects, share valuable learnings that will benefit the sector long term, and crucially play their part in making sure every Council dollar is invested wisely for maximum return in benefits to the community. The Implementation Plan MoU will give priority to low participation groups, promote shared use of multi-purpose facilities, and supports school/sport partnerships, involving community use of facilities.

### **Council Investment**

Sport Manawatu is seeking that:

- The Horowhenua District Council becomes a signatory to the proposed Implementation Plan MoU, which outlines key priority projects for the region.
- Commits \$7,297 annually for the RSFP coordination role.
- Horowhenua District Council continues to support the RSFP outcomes by committing a representative on the Steering Group, noting that the Horowhenua District Council Chief Executive will appoint the Council's representatives to the Steering Group.



Implementation Plan MoU

Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference

For the Implementation of the Regional Sport Facilities Plan for the Manawatū and Whanganui Regions

Between



WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

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## 1. Background

Sport Manawātū, Sport Whanganui and Sport New Zealand, together with the seven local authorities that make up the Manawātū and Whanganui region have developed and endorsed the Regional Sport Facility Plan (“the Plan”) to provide a high-level strategic framework for sport and recreation facility planning across the region.

The Plan is designed to provide direction on what should be done and crucially, what should not be done, and to focus thinking at a network wide sports facilities level with emphasis on national, regional, and sub-regional assets, while also capturing local level facility data.

## 2. Introduction

The Plan now moves into the important implementation phase with commitment from the local authorities and other parties to establish a dedicated role within Sport Manawatu to progress implementation of the Plan. This involves achieving the proposed priority actions detailed in Appendix 1.

This Agreement outlines the terms and conditions under which the Parties, outlined in Clause 4.0, will collaboratively work towards the delivery of the outcomes, priority projects, guiding principles, decision making framework and criteria identified in the Plan.

## 3. Date of Agreement

This Agreement shall commence on the date that the parties have signed it (“the Effective Date”)

## 4. Parties

**Palmerston North City Council (“PNCC”)**, a territorial authority constituted under the Local Government Act 2002 and an approved organisation controlling community infrastructure planning under the Local Government Act 2002.

**Manawatu District Council (“MDC”)**, a territorial authority constituted under the Local Government Act 2002 and an approved organisation controlling community infrastructure planning under the Local Government Act 2002.

**Horowhenua District Council (“HDC”)**, a territorial authority constituted under the Local Government Act 2002 and an approved organisation controlling community infrastructure planning under the Local Government Act 2002.

**Tararua District Council (“TDC”)**, a territorial authority constituted under the Local Government Act 2002 and an approved organisation controlling community infrastructure planning under the Local Government Act 2002.

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**Rangitikei District Council (“RTDC”)**, a territorial authority constituted under the Local Government Act 2002 and an approved organisation controlling community infrastructure planning under the Local Government Act 2002.

**Ruapehu District Council (“RDC”)**, a territorial authority constituted under the Local Government Act 2002 and an approved organisation controlling community infrastructure planning under the Local Government Act 2002.

**Whanganui District Council (“WDC”)**, a territorial authority constituted under the Local Government Act 2002 and an approved organisation controlling community infrastructure planning under the Local Government Act 2002.

**Sport Manawatu - Regional Sports Trust**, an incorporated society constituted in 2003 and is responsible for facilitating and guiding non-profit sport and recreation goals in the Manawatu region.

**Sport Whanganui – Regional Sports Trust**, an incorporated society constituted in 2003 and is responsible for facilitating and guiding non-profit sport and recreation goals in the Whanganui region.

**Sport New Zealand, (“Sport NZ”)**, constituted on 1 January 2003 under the Sport and Recreation New Zealand Act (2002) and as an approved organisation representing the government interests. Sport NZ provides leadership in research and the development and implementation of policies that recognise the importance of sport and physical recreation to New Zealand. It has partnerships with key organisations in the sport and recreation sector (primarily national-level sport and recreation organisations and regional sports trusts) to help achieve its outcomes.

## 5. Term

The term of the Agreement is from the 01 July 2019 until 30 June 2021, representing three years of Territorial Local Authority, Funding Agencies, Sport Manawātū, Sport Whanganui and Sport NZ investment in the Plans implementation. Should the majority of parties agree, the Agreement could be renewed for a further three-year term.

## 6. Funding and Resources

### 6.1 Territorial Local Authority Funding

Each Territorial Local Authority will contribute funding towards a specific role to lead implementation of the Plan to a combined total of \$50,000 per annum for the Term of the Agreement.

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The amount of funding to be contributed by each Territorial Local Authority will be proportionate to the population base of each Territorial Local Authority based on the latest census data.

- Manawatū region (MDC, HDC, TDC and PNCC) – 154,488
- Whanganui region (RDC, WDC, RDC) – 25,863

Territorial Local Authority	Population <sup>1</sup>	Percentage	\$Value
Palmerston North City Council	80,079	38.8%	\$19,416
Horowhenua District Council	30,096	14.6%	\$7,297
Manawatu District Council	27,459	13.3%	\$6,658
Whanganui District Council	25,863	12.5 % TBC	\$6,271 TBC
Tararua District Council	16,854	8.2%	\$4,087
Rangitikei District Council	14,019	6.8%	\$3,399
Ruapehu District Council	11,844	5.7%	\$2,872
<b>Total</b>	<b>206,214</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

All amounts referred to in this Agreement are exclusive of GST and payable annually. Sport Manawatu will request of the parties that portion of the charges payable by each party. Each party will pay the invoiced amount by the 20th day of the month following the date of receiving an invoice.

## 6.2 Sport New Zealand and Sport Manawatu Funding and Support

Sport New Zealand will contribute funding via Sport Manawatu's investment schedule to support implementation of the Plan. The Parties will also receive additional benefits from Sport New Zealand including:

<sup>1</sup> Population figures based on 2013 New Zealand Census Data

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- Access to a free and open source Facility Audit Tool (SFA-NZ) which will be a repository for all the regions facility data and information. This tool which is compatible with Sport NZ's Insights Tool will provide a comprehensive planning tool for projects at a local, district, regional and national level. The RST will encourage and support councils to keep the based facility data up to date which will provide costs savings at such time it is agreed to review a regions plan.
- Access on application to funding to support from Sport NZ for those projects as identified as being a priority from the Regional Plan. Funding would support project needs assessments, feasibility studies, business cases and design reviews.
- Use of Sport NZ's Project Peer Review Service for independent review of project concepts and plans, feasibility studies and business cases and funding applications.
- Relevant facility automatic registration onto Sport NZ's National Facility Benchmarking Tool which, through key performance indicators provides opportunity for comparative facility conversations that improve operational efficiency.
- Free Sport NZ time and advice/support through Sport Manawātū to build the capability of those actively working into sports and recreation spaces and places provision. Regional Spaces and Places working groups will be able to share best practice between regions, facilitated by Sport NZ.

Sport Manawātū will be responsible for leadership and management of the specific Plan implementation role and will work with Funders to gain investment for other costs associated with the Plan implementation role.

## 7. Provision of Services

Sport Manawatu will provide the following services in a professional and timely manner in accordance with the instructions of the Parties and any additional services as may be agreed between the Parties under the terms and conditions of this Agreement:

- Provision of support including advice, guidance and evidence gathering for the development of feasibility assessments and business case reports to guide the successful execution of the decision-making framework. This will include consultation on Local, District and Regional facility hierarchy of needs.
- Advocate with funders and investors for facilities that reflect the principles of the Plan.
- Arrange peer reviews for Regional facility development concepts only e.g. feasibility assessments, detailed business case and design concepts that are related to identified priority projects.
- Assist with investment negotiations alongside stakeholders for spaces and places project developments and utilisation.

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- e. Lead the development of a regional funding policy.
- f. Share knowledge including resources specific to sports spaces and places.
- g. Increase regional understanding and optimisation of spaces and places including providing regional sporting trend information, opportunities to benchmark outcomes and usage data, to understand demand and inform decision making.
- h. Facilitate discussions with user groups and gather evidence on behalf of Territorial Authorities where a conflict of interest may arise.
- i. Lead the review of the Manawātū Whanganui Regional Sport Facility Plan in 2020/21 to ensure it remains relevant and in line with sporting and demographic trends.

## 8. Obligations of the Parties

### 8.1 Obligations of Sport Manawātū

Sport Manawātū agrees to:

- a. Provide the services outlined in clause 7 of this Agreement in professional manner.
- b. Promptly comply with any requests, requirements, and directions from the Parties from time to time in relation to the provision of Services.
- c. Respond promptly, accurately, and adequately to any requests for information made by the Parties in relation to the performance of services.
- d. Comply with all laws and regulations relevant to the provision of the Services.
- e. Regularly report to the Steering Group on the implementation and outcomes of the Plan.

### 8.2 Obligations of the Parties

In engaging Sport Manawātū to provide the Services, the Parties agree to:

- a. Work together collaboratively and in good faith towards the delivery of the Plan including.
  - i) The guiding principles and priority projects.
  - ii) The decision-making framework, including the provision of feasibility assessments and business cases.

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- iii) The development of a regional facility funding framework.
- iv) The collaborative delivery of sport and recreation across the region.
- b. Provide information as may be required by Sport Manawātū to undertake the services.
- c. Keep other Parties fully informed on matters relating to implementation of the Plan.
- d. Establish and actively participate in a Steering Group to oversee the implementation of the Strategy and undertake the functions and duties as outlined in Clause 8 of the Agreement.
- e. Sport Manawātū in partnership with Sport Whanganui will guide and support Council staff and facility proponents through the Regional Sport Facilities Plan priority actions during the agreed implementation plan period.

#### 9. Regional Sport Facility Plan Steering Group

The Parties will establish a Steering Group which includes representation from each contributing organisation to oversee implementation of the Strategy. The role and functions of the Steering Group is to:

- a. Provide leadership and guidance to Sport Manawātū in implementation of the Plan.
- b. Review and prioritise Plan recommendations and priority actions.
- c. Promote the Plan within the Region and through key stakeholder organisations.
- d. Monitor, review and provide regular updates on the progress in implementation of the Plan.
- e. Review and recommend key regional facilities projects based on application of the key principles, assessment, and prioritisation criteria.
- f. Facilitate communication with each of the executive groups from the organisations they represent.
- g. Identify opportunities for Council, Education and Community partnerships which align with the principles of the Plan and address sports facility needs in the Manawātū Whanganui regions.
- h. Provide six monthly written/verbal updates to the Manawātū Whanganui Local Authority Mayors and Chairpersons Forum on the implementation and outcomes of the Plan.

The Steering Group will meet on a quarterly basis however additional meetings may be required from time to time for a specific purpose.

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**Signed as an Agreement by the Parties**

Agreement has been signed on the date above in Clause 3.0: Effective Date of Agreement by the organisations Chief Executive or their nominee:

<p><b>Signed for</b> Palmerston North City Council</p>     <p>Name:</p>   <p>Position:</p>	<p><b>Signed for</b> Manawatu District Council</p>     <p>Name:</p>   <p>Position:</p>	<p><b>Signed for</b> Taranua District Council</p>     <p>Name:</p>   <p>Position:</p>	<p><b>Signed for</b> Horowhenua District Council</p>     <p>Name:</p>   <p>Position:</p>	<p><b>Signed for</b> Sport Manawatu</p>     <p>Name:</p>   <p>Position:</p>
<p><b>Signed for</b> Rangitikei District Council</p>     <p>Name:</p>   <p>Position:</p>	<p><b>Signed for</b> Ruapehu District Council</p>     <p>Name:</p>   <p>Position:</p>	<p><b>Signed for</b> Whanganui District Council</p>     <p>Name:</p>   <p>Position:</p>	<p><b>Signed for</b> Sport Whanganui</p>     <p>Name:</p>   <p>Position:</p>	<p><b>Signed for</b> Sport New Zealand</p>     <p>Name:</p>   <p>Position:</p>

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## Appendix 1

## Priority Actions

Agreed Steering group priority actions identified over the next one – two years are:

Priority Action	Outcome	Measure
Implementation Phase agreement is in place	All seven TA's agree to the outcomes of the Implementation Phase MoU	TA's to complete sign off by December 2019
Develop a one-page summary document details outcomes of the Regional Sports Facilities Plan.	To include: Decision making process Regional Facility Assets What we are doing now What we need to do moving forward Measures of Success	Completed by November 2019
Develop and implement a roadshow for the Regional Sport Facility Plan to promote the plans proposed approach and outcomes to the community and key stakeholders.	Complete a series of District area roadshows highlighting RSFP outcomes	Completed by June 2020
Engage with funders to develop a regional funding approach which may include a facility partnership funding MOU (this would cover key principles such as prioritization of funding to multiuse facilities, partnerships, and priority asset types).	Funders to attend RSFP Steering Group meetings	Develop and implement an engagement plan with identified funders  MoU in place by June 2020
Develop a school partnerships framework to help inform facility planning with the MOE (this would cover key principles of potential partnerships and identify specific areas/asset types that the MOE is interested in partnering in such facilities as aquatic facilities, playing fields, indoor courts, hockey turfs, and multiuse outdoor courts.	Identify partnership opportunities with Schools where Regional facility shortages for community usage might be addressed  Include Education Sector discussions	Develop and implement partnership Framework action plan by June 2021
Regional – develop a regional club sustainability plan to assist amalgamation, rationalization, and optimization of assets. It is	Sport Manawatu will assist TA's develop a detailed implementation plan at a Local/District level incorporating the Sport NZ Hub	Plans are completed and fully implemented by June 2021

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<p>anticipated that individual TA's will then prepare more detailed implementation plans at a district / city level.</p>	<p>Guide</p>	
<p>Steering Group members to assist with identifying existing regional assets and potentially new facility projects likely to be proposed for LTP consideration.</p>	<p>The following facility projects have been identified for the steering group to assess and support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donnelly Park upgrade</li> <li>• National White-Water Centre upgrade</li> <li>• Whanganui Regional Velodrome development</li> <li>• Manfeild Park development</li> <li>• CET Arena upgrade</li> <li>• Regional Gym Sports Centre</li> <li>• Regional Bowling facility</li> <li>• Regional Mountain Biking facilities</li> </ul>	<p>Projects identified by October 2019</p>

Finally, thank you for the opportunity in allowing us to make this submission. We would welcome the opportunity to speak to our submission in person if permissible.

Yours Sincerely

Trevor Shailer  
CEO

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**Attachments:** Annual Plan 2020-2021 Submission.docx

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**From:** Sharon F <sharonf@inspire.net.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 April 2020 1:59 PM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Waitarere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Assn Inc. Submission - Consultation Document for the HDC 2020/2021 Annual Plan

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Annual Plan 2020/2021 submission on behalf of our organisation and our community.

Regards

Sharon Freebairn  
President, WBPR  
127 Park Ave, Waitarere Beach.  
0274904491  
[sharonf@inspire.net.nz](mailto:sharonf@inspire.net.nz)



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[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

Submission to:

## Horowhenua District Council

### Annual Plan 2020/2021

From: Waitarere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Assn. Inc.

We would like to congratulate Councillors and Council Officers for the recently adopted Waitarere Beach Community Plan. This has been twelve months in the planning, consulting and collating of all information and opinions to formalise a completed plan and a guiding document for the next few years which will enable Council to draft Annual and LTP plans to accommodate the aspirations of our community. We look forward to finalising the Domain Development Plan shortly and also the Master Plan later this year.

We commend Council for being able to continue this draft Annual Plan Consultation process in what is an “unprecedented” event – Council is to be applauded in their efforts to engage with all residents and ratepayers at this time and utilising all forms of communication to achieve feedback from all communities in the Horowhenua.

As has been much discussed already, the consultation document presented may well be very different to the pre COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent Alert Level requirements – to this end we suggest that Council *reconsider the plan and re-engage with the community for consultation* and seek government support for this under its current emergency procedures to allow additional time beyond the statutory requirements.

COVID-19 has changed things and this will change spending priorities including proposed work going forward including futures LTP's. Further, there will be some community hardship and these need to be identified for effects upon home owners and businesses alongside capital programs going forward. Unemployment on the other hand can be mitigated through Council giving priority to work schemes e.g. proposed development of Queen St, improvements to Oxford St (dining), train station refurbishment, shared pathways, water demand management, Waitarere wastewater plant upgrade and other “spade ready” initiatives such as bringing forward the expressway. The latter to help accelerate our local economic development. Council's S&P's crediting rating is currently A+ which is a reflection of Council's sound financial management – however that credit rating highlighted Council's spending and account deficits being expected to remain high over the next couple of years. Will Council's debt position change to including the reserve funds due to COVID-19?

There are a number of issues in the Plan that we would like to address:

#### **Splash Pad at Jubilee Park**

We would support Option 3 to remove the paddling pool and contribute \$250,000 to the construction of a splash pad, with the community raising the additional funding – approx. \$200,000. This may need to be postponed due to the current situation and the ability of either Council to commit funds to this project and the availability of funding streams from within and outside the community.

## Rates

This is always a hot topic but most especially again this year having had properties revalued during the latter part of 2019. This raises many concerns and questions from community – among them querying Councils intent in the 2018-2021 LTP (2019/2020 plan) being Councils **resolve to review** the Development Contribution (and other forms of capital funding that may be available in the first year of the LTP). Also that Council may set up Lump Sum contributions under the LG (Rating) Act 2002 where infrastructure improvements have been requested or necessary to existing ratepayers. Ratepayers are concerned at the rate of growth within both Waitarere and the wider Horowhenua and the pressure that this will put on existing infrastructure – most importantly waste water treatment plants and storm water systems and the ongoing effect on rates as already seen in an increased rates rise for the coming year (6.90%) much greater than predicted in the 2018-2038 LTP (5.54%) Is this to be reflected in the coming years whereby predicted rates increases will continue to be greater than predicted in the 2018-2038 LTP?? At Waitarere Beach the majority (76%) of the population are in the age ranges of 30-64 (46%) and 65 and over (30%) – this may well be reflected in other communities and also Levin itself – a large proportion of fixed income ratepayers who are unable to absorb significant rate rises year after year.

To quote the 2018-2038 LTP – “there is a risk that growth may occur differently than in Council’s forecast. Council will monitor actual growth patterns in the District and may prioritise new schemes accordingly. With new schemes come additional costs to ratepayers and **there is a risk around rates affordability becoming an issue** for Horowhenua to be considered as part of the Financial Strategy”.

Viewing the supporting information there seem to be a couple of areas where predicted expenditure has had a “blowout” which may well influence rate increases each year – most particularly the increase in rubbish and recycling - an increase from the projected \$670,000 this year to \$1,895,000!! Was this ongoing increase communicated to ratepayers effectively when the Waste Minimisation and Management Plan was revisited in 2018 and a change of system implemented in 2019?

\$540,000 additional for Libraries (no key projects for Community Centres & Libraries Activity), Community Development \$512,000 and Community Grants & Funding \$84,000 are among other large budget increases not fully explained in the draft plan budgets. Town Centre – Phase 1 funding of \$113,000 – although necessary to continue the impetus for a Town Centre upgrade, we remember asking the question at the time “why has no funding been allocated in the the 2018-2038 LTP?” – again an additional expense contributing to an over projected rates rise for residents!

Bearing in mind the current COVID-19 economic effects on local economy and most especially small businesses, there is an opportunity for Council to show their support through the fees charged to businesses – nil changes to 2019/2020 fees and perhaps not charging any annual fees associated with the hospitality & tourism businesses who will be the most impacted moving through the Alert Levels. Another measure would be not **imposing** penalty charges/interest on any overdue rates or late payments until the end of 2019/2020/2021 years.

We would advocate Council **not** increase rates but keep within their proposed budget with rejigging of projects priority timing – both operating and capital.

**Water/ Wastewater/Storm water Supplies and Upgrades.**

*Water Supply* - At Waitarere Beach we await the results of the feasibility study into a possible reticulated water supply as part of the 2019/2020 LTP process. As a community we **expect** to have an active part in the decision making process either way – either **for** or **against** any proposal. We would like to have a representative on the proposed Water Working Party with regard to providing a reliable, supervised, first world water supply to the beach.

*Waste Water Treatment Plant* – it is noted that a strategic upgrade is planned for the 2020/2021 year – our question is whether this is to cope with existing residential need or expected growth? – as noted in the draft document “upgrades to the wastewater network due to growth occurring in Waitarere Beach have been identified and improvements will be designed and constructed to improve the existing network capability”. Again the question as to whether this should be part charged to developers?

*Stormwater* – it is noted that ‘development planning to improve current LOS and to meet additional demand. Upgrades of the stormwater network will be undertaken in accordance with the Master Plan for stormwater runoff from existing and new developments are addressed.’ We have ongoing issues with the current maintenance provided to the existing system due to drains being blocked by sand build up – only cleared after requests to Council by residents! There are still areas within the township where residents continually battle stormwater issues and surface flooding.

*Road Transport* - the most topical aspect for Waitarere is shared pathways. While Council has acknowledged the need for a shared pathway from the township to the State Highway 1 intersection and implementation of one stage is nearly complete along Waitarere Beach Road, there is growing momentum for a shared pathway other than along State Highway 1 to link Waitarere to Levin (through Waitarere Hokio Road). A highly motivated Action Group of residents is keen to advance these options with Council as soon as possible.

Residents are keen to see continued use of the community and many visitors to both the North and South Forests – this is a valued attraction to Waitarere. While entrances exclude motorcross and quad bikes and horses, cyclists and more recently ebike riders are welcome and some modification to the entrances to allow easier access for ebike users would be appreciated. We look to Council to support any initiatives requested of forestry managers.

We are pleased to see in the draft Master Plan that there will be many public walkways linking to our existing walkways in the village and once again we stress how important the interconnection through walkways to the beach is for our residents and visitors. We ask that Council regularly assess the conditions of these walkways to ensure they are maintained to a safe standard.

**In summary – we realise that across the region there will be many projects that may have their start/completion dates changed due to the way in which Council addresses the impending needs of the economy and social impacts to the wider Horowhenua region. We ask that Councillors and Council Officers use as much fiscal prudence as possible to support the community hardship which will be felt not only in the coming months but through the next couple of years.**

Sharon Freebairn

President - On behalf of the Waitarere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Assn Inc.

Contact details: [sharonf@inspire.net.nz](mailto:sharonf@inspire.net.nz), M:0274904491

**From:** annual plan  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 April 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** Records Processing  
**Subject:** FW: My wife and I wish to make the following submissions for consideration by council for the 2020/2021 financial year:

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Peter Burton <normalynandpeter.pb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 April 2020 2:28 PM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** My wife and I wish to make the following submissions for consideration by council for the 2020/2021 financial year:

Firstly, we believe there should be dedicated cycle tracks. During lockdown we have seen many people enjoying their bikes while there has been so little traffic on the roads.

However, once things start returning to normal, bike riding will become much more dangerous. Riding on the footpath is not an option, as every driveway could obscure a car reversing out.

Secondly, as residents of Winchester St, we believe the trees in our street have become too big, to the extent that the root systems are ruining the road and footpath. Also, in strong winds, the risk to life and property is considerable when trees as large as these are not maintained.

Your comments would be appreciated.

From Peter and Normalyn Burton

Sent from my iPad



# What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #94



Submission date: 23 April 2020, 8:53PM

Receipt number: 65

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Full Name:	Ann Thomas
Name of Organisation:	Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers Group
Postal Address:	[REDACTED]
Postcode:	[REDACTED]
Telephone:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
	Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.
<b>Hearing of Submissions</b>	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	Yes
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	Wednesday 13 May; or
Sign language interpretation required?	No
<b>Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)</b>	
Please select your preference:	Option 1: Remove the paddling pool, but have no splash pad. (Estimated cost \$30,000)
Why did you choose this option?	<p>Before a final decision on this subject can be made through a 3 point multi-choice option there is a lot of additional information that is required to be able to make a fully informed decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why is the paddling pool at end of life?</li> <li>2. Can the paddling pool be repaired?</li> <li>3. How accurate are the estimated costs provided?</li> <li>4. What is going to be the cost to Council for ongoing maintenance?</li> <li>5. Can the cost of this project be fully funded from Donations, Grants and local fund raising projects?</li> </ol>
Long Term Plan 2021-2041	

<p>What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?</p>	<p>Development Contributions - these should be reintroduced to help fund the cost of the additional infrastructure that will be needed for the anticipated growth of 440 houses a year.</p> <p>Rating Differentials - with the increase in urban housing and population the 25% of the General Rate that is paid by the Rural Business sector should be reviewed and reduced to reflect the population demographic.</p>
<p>What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?</p>	<p>Will the need for growth be as high once Covid-19 is over. With the borders closed until a vaccine is available the net migration to New Zealand, which over the past few years has been fuelling the housing boom, will be significantly reduced. Therefore will there still be the need for 440 new houses a year?</p> <p>How many small business will not survive and will need to close, how many people in the Horowhenua will become unemployed or have to take major reductions in income.</p>
<p>Your Comments</p>	
<p>Please provide any further comments:</p>	<p>We believe that there should be no rates increase for the 2020/2021 year. The rates charged should be the same as the previous 2019/2020 year so that this provides the ratepayers with certainty of their costs going forward.</p> <p>The only increases should be</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Charged to those people who were rated as owning a bare section as at 1 July 2019 and have completed the house build in the rating year, they should be rated at the full new capital value but based on the 2019/2020 rating calculation.</li> <li>2. Any land within the zones that were re-zoned as residential some years ago and currently get the rebate as land use has not changed. Should any of that land have changed ownership and/or land use ie subdivided, then that land should not be eligible for the rebate and should be charged rates at the residential value but based on the 2019/2020 rating calculations.</li> </ol> <p>There are a number of "feel good" projects</p>

listed as "Key Projects for the year ahead" which need to be addressed and delayed as follows:

1. Creating a destination plan
2. Planning to improve the Al Freco dining in Oxford Street
3. Redevelopment of Queens Street to better reflect the historical links between Lake Horowhenua and Tararua Ranges

These projects need to have the "pause" button pushed on them as the next 12 months are going to be a time of consolidation and expenditure only on core Council business of infrastructure ie water, waste water, roading etc.

4. Adopting the Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy

NZTA have already put out a time line for the O2NL and they are only going to start the planning phase now and do not expect to commence construction until 2025. So this project could be scaled back to better reflect the NZTA timeline

Attach any other comments:

# What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #95



Submission date: 23 April 2020, 9:06PM

Receipt number: 86

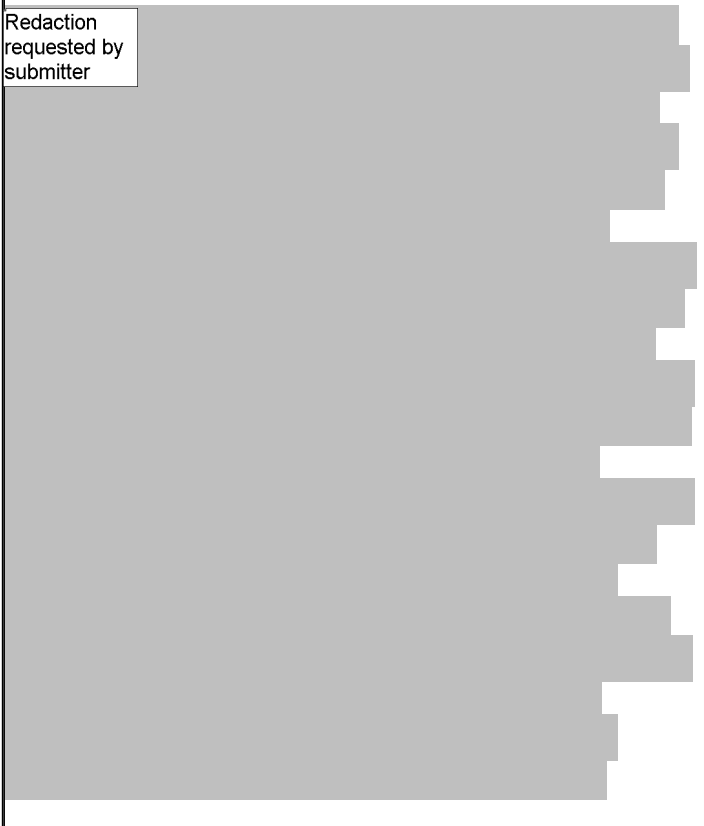
Related form version: 1

Question	Response
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Full Name:	Brian & Ann Thomas
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
	Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.
<b>Hearing of Submissions</b>	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	Yes
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	Wednesday 13 May; or
Sign language interpretation required?	No
<b>Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)</b>	
Please select your preference:	Option 1: Remove the paddling pool, but have no splash pad. (Estimated cost \$30,000)
Why did you choose this option?	I think that this is a waste of money
<b>Long Term Plan 2021-2041</b>	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	Rating Differentials reassessed Development contributions reintroduced

What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?

How great is the downturn/recession that will be a factor in life going forward after Covid 19 is going to impact on the Horowhenua District in terms of unemployment, reduced migration and business failures  
440 new houses per annual????

Redaction requested by submitter



<b>Your Comments</b>	
Please provide any further comments:	NIL rate rise for 2020/2021
Attach any other comments:	

**From:** annual plan  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 7:55 AM  
**To:** Records Processing  
**Subject:** FW: 2020-21 Proposed Annual Plan  
**Attachments:** Submission on Proposed Annual Plan 2020.docx

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**From:** Trevor Hinder <TAWHinder@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 April 2020 6:31 PM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Christine Mitchell <cr.christine.mitchell@horowhenua.govt.nz>; Wayne Bishop <cr.wayne.bishop@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** 2020-21 Proposed Annual Plan

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



## **Submission on Proposed Annual Plan 2020/21**

Given the demographics of the District, an average rate increase of 6.9% is not acceptable, particularly after the large increases in recent years. Covid- 19 has also left individual ratepayers in a worse than expected financial position. After five consecutive years with an operating loss I understand the need to generate a surplus for 20/21. However, this should not be done with such a large increase in rates. Other efforts must be made to balance the books.

Capital expenditure should be *deferred unless essential*. This includes drawing up plans for the expected increase in population. HDC effectively controls the rate of increase as it is responsible for issuing building permits. Where HDC personnel would be working on capital expenditure projects, a serious review of manpower should be made to ensure that the costs for these employees do not appear as operating costs.

All operating costs should come under scrutiny and procedures and processes reviewed to see where costs can be cut. Operations during Covid-19 should have given some insights. Can grass be cut less frequently? Can recycling be collected every three weeks instead of two? Can printing costs be reduced? There are hundreds of such questions and a little gained from each would go some way towards a significant reduction in overall costs.

In business, revenue is an uncertainty, but costs are always there. A District Council has the ability to set its own revenues, which deflects its concentration from cost control. Too many benefit from a larger pie.

It is all very well showing how the proposed capital expenditure, revenues and costs differ from the LTP, but I would like to be shown are the reasons why. To this end can we please have details why any line item cost in the AP differs by +/- \$100K or more from the LTP?

When the NZ inflation rate for Q1 2020 was 2.5%, ratepayers will find it difficult to understand why an average rates increase of 6.9% is needed for Horowhenua.

I hope HDC will relook at its proposals and come up with a more acceptable Annual Operating Plan.

Trevor Hinder

12, Grefor Lane, RD4, Levin 5574

**Annual Plan 2020/2021**

*Phone submission*

**Date:** 23 April 2020

**Name:** Jack and Maureen Shailer

**Address:** [REDACTED]

**Phone number:** [REDACTED]

**Contact details private:** Yes

**Hearing:** No

**Date of hearing:** N/A

**Submission**

**Splash Pad**

Option 2 or Option 3

Want to see the splash pad go ahead.

Removing the paddling pool and building a splash pad the best option. It is a great asset for the pre-schoolers and young kids. It's for the future of other young children. When my grandchildren were young I would spend a lot of time there. When my children were young we would spend lots of time at the Lake. This is walking distance for young families to get to.

Both options are a cost for the ratepayer.

**Long Term Plan**

Q1 What major issues do you think Council needs to consider for the next LTP?

Q2 What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?

**Other comments**

N/A

**From:** annual plan  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 10:31 AM  
**To:** Records Processing  
**Subject:** FW: Foxton Community Board submission  
**Attachments:** Foxton Community Board submission to the Horowhenua District Council 2020-21 Annual Plan.pdf

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**From:** Lacey Winiata <LaceyW@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** David Roache <DavidRoache@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Foxton Community Board submission

Good morning,

Please find attached the Foxton Community Board submission to the Horowhenua District Council 2020/21 Annual Plan.

Below are details of the submitter:

Full Name: David Roache  
Organisation: Foxton Community Board  
Postal Address: 37 Coley St, Foxton  
Post code: 4814  
Telephone: 027 442 5961  
Email: [davidroache@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:davidroache@horowhenua.govt.nz)

Hearing Submissions:

Do you wish to present to Council at a Hearing? Yes

Sign language interpretation required: No

At this stage, there is no preferred date for the hearing.

Please do get in contact if you have any questions or concerns.

### Lacey Winiata

Community Engagement Manager • Tumu Kaupapa Hapori

126 Oxford Street, Levin • Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540

Waea Mahi P (06) 366 0999 • Waea Pūkoro M: [REDACTED]

[www.horowhenua.govt.nz](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz)

*Working together to take Horowhenua from Good to Great*



**Foxton Community Board submission to the Horowhenua District Council Draft Annual Plan 2020/21**

Date: 21 April 2020

**Impact of Ōtaki to North of Levin roading project**

The Foxton Community Board are excited and relieved to have the confirmation that the Ōtaki to North of Levin (O2NL) roading project will be happening within the next nine years. The Board thanks Council for their tenacity and leadership in advocating for the community over the years for this project.

Once complete, Foxton will be the first town out of Wellington; it will be off the ferry and into Foxton. As a result, the project provides fantastic opportunities as well as a few challenges. These include economic, tourism and growth opportunities as well as safety challenges.

The Foxton Community Board expects to be involved in discussions with Horowhenua District Council and NZTA, to ensure these opportunities and challenges are met with the best interests of the Foxton Community.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Foxton Community Board is involved in planning discussions with Horowhenua District Council and NZTA in regards to O2NL.

**Estuary Management**

The Manawatū Estuary, including the internationally acclaimed RAMSAR site, is an integral part of not only Foxton and Foxton Beach, but of Horowhenua.

Currently there are three statutory managers of the area; these being Horowhenua District Council, Horizons Regional Council and the Department of Conservation.

The Board acknowledges that in the past Council has played a vital role in managing this area, and more recently has been heartened to hear that the three statutory managers have been working well together.

The Foxton Community Board would like to see the three statutory managers collaborate more and take a more collective ownership of the care of the estuary, working together with our community and volunteers. Additionally, the Board would like Horowhenua District Council to explore ways, alongside their partners, in improving governance of the estuary.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Horowhenua District Council continues to collaborate with Horizons Regional Council and the Department of Conservation, alongside the community and volunteers, in managing and caring for the Manawatū Estuary.

And that the Horowhenua District Council investigates ways to demonstrate improved governance of the estuary which exhibits best practice.

**Holben Reserve**

For the past few years we have seen Holben Reserve transform into a space which is reflective of the activities our community enjoys.

The community and Foxton Community Board partook in the Reserve Management plan process and have been proud to see the plan come to life in the reserve.

Most recently the Board received an update from the Parks and Property team outlining a high level concept design of future development of the reserve. The Foxtton Community Board agree with the concept design at a high level, subject to feedback from the community. The Board would like to see the implementation phase moving quickly, with the entire project finished in just a few years.

There is ongoing concern that as the park is so popular, with both locals and visitors, that the roading provisions are no longer adequate to provide safety for our community.

The Foxtton Community Board are encouraged to hear that the Parks and Property team have been working alongside their Roading team colleagues in creating the concept design. The Board anticipates that some of the roading safety improvements will be incorporated into the Annual Plan 2020/2021 budget, in particular that crossing and safety concerns are addressed on the sections of Nash Parade and Seabury Avenue that border the Holben Reserve.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Horowhenua District Council start implementing the concept designs for Holben Reserve with the aim to have them all completed within a few years.

And that the Horowhenua District Council incorporates road safety on the sections of Nash Parade and Seabury Avenue that border the Holben Reserve into the 2020/2021 roading projects.

#### **Foxtton Futures**

Over the past few months, the Foxtton Community Board has been involved in receiving updates and being consulted on what is now known as 'Foxtton Futures'.

The Board would like to acknowledge the work and effort Council Officers have put into this project and are very supportive of the strategy and action plan which takes a multi-phase approach.

While the Foxtton Community Board recognises the need for the multi-phase approach, there is still the ultimate goal of the Board and the community, of re-opening the Foxtton River Loop.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Horowhenua District Council continue investigating ways to get the Foxtton River Loop open as soon as possible.

#### **Foxtton Beach CCTV Cameras**

At the Foxtton Community Board workshop held Monday 24 February 2020, the Board workshopped the review of the Foxtton Beach Freeholding Account Policy and Strategy. During this, the Board discussed occasions where it would be supportive of providing 100% of funds from the account for particular projects which would benefit the Foxtton Beach community.

Recently, the Foxtton Beach Progressive Association presented to the Board their proposal for the installation of CCTV cameras across Foxtton Beach.

The Foxtton Community Board would like to congratulate the Progressive Association for the extensive research and work they have done to get the proposal to this stage. It is beneficial projects such as this, that the Board was thinking of when discussing exceptions to access 100% of funds from the Foxtton Beach Freeholding Account.

The Foxtton Community Board supports the Foxtton Beach Progressive Association submission request for 100% project funding of up to \$60,000 from the Foxtton Beach Freeholding Fund.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Horowhenua District Council approves 100% of the costs of purchasing and installing CCTV cameras in Foxton Beach, up to \$60,000, from the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account.

**Rates**

The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected a number of households in our community in a variety of ways. Many are currently facing hardship as a result of the lockdown and economic uncertainty.

The Foxton Community Board believes it is times such as these where great leadership can be revealed and highlighted. The Board requests that the Horowhenua District Council displays their leadership in exercising as much restraint as possible relating to cost efficiency.

The Foxton Community Board is aware that Council employs and contracts a number of local services within Horowhenua. It is through the continuation of projects and maintenance that Council will be able to continue to support these services and businesses and therefore our local economy.

Additionally, the Board is aware that any restrictions placed on much needed maintenance or improvement projects could not only mean these will need to be undertaken at a later date, therefore placing the cost burden on ratepayers in the future, but may also hinder the wellbeing of our community.

The Foxton Community Board is confident the Horowhenua District Council will demonstrate its solidarity with our community, by showing restraint and ensuring any expenditure supports and improves the wellbeing, both economic and social, of our community.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Horowhenua District Council exhibits restraint, without negatively impacting our local economy or the wellbeing of our community, when setting the rates for the 2020/2021 Financial Year.

# What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #99



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 9:53AM

Receipt number: 87

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Full Name:	Joe Havill
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
	Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.
<b>Hearing of Submissions</b>	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	No
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	
Sign language interpretation required?	
<b>Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)</b>	
Please select your preference:	Option 1: Remove the paddling pool, but have no splash pad. (Estimated cost \$30,000)
Why did you choose this option?	<p>1 More critical projects requiring priority and the money.</p> <p>2 Even expenditure of \$30k for removal is not justified.</p> <p>3 Location of a new water development requires greater research and publicity and places like the Adventure Park or current public pool area need to be considered also as alternatives.</p> <p>4 This appears to be a want, not a need, and with no business case presented, surely cannot proceed</p>
<b>Long Term Plan 2021-2041</b>	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	The three Waters: Reticulation, Storm and Sewerage
What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?	As above

Your Comments

Please provide any further comments:

Council must concentrate on needs and not wants.  
It requires a strong business plan that will allow for borrowings for capital works and the allocation of those works to local businesses and residents so to achieve the greatest value for the money

Attach any other comments:



# What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #100



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 10:50AM

Receipt number: 88

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Full Name:	Lee-Ann Strange
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	628 Waitarere Beach Road Waitarere Beach Levin
Postcode:	5510
Telephone:	0274387619
Email:	limecurry@yahoo.co.nz
<b>Hearing of Submissions</b>	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	No
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	
Sign language interpretation required?	
<b>Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)</b>	
Please select your preference:	Option 1: Remove the paddling pool, but have no splash pad. (Estimated cost \$30,000)
Why did you choose this option?	
<b>Long Term Plan 2021-2041</b>	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	PLEASE SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT, THANK YOU
What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?	PLEASE SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT, THANK YOU
<b>Your Comments</b>	
Please provide any further comments:	If you're unable to open the file attached please contact me by email limecurry@yahoo.co.nz
Attach any other comments:	<a href="#">HDC plan.docx</a>

**Submission to Annual Plan 2020/2021**

I'm just going to jump right in, go hard and go early seems to be a popular moto. It seems a long time ago that we were submitting on this. In fact it seems like a world away, and there's a reason for that. **It was a world away.**

Is anyone else just a little bit disturbed by the thought that we're proceeding unchanged, because 'we're still required by law to adopt the annual Plan 2020/2021 by 30 June 2020'?

Is it advisable to plough ahead in this crazy new world before we even try to quantify the new challenges our district will face? Like, what are our unemployment rates likely to be/how many businesses will not recover and subsequently what impact does that have on our community/what interest rates will our seniors be receiving if they're counting on returns to pay their rates/ what social fall out is already occurring and likely to snowball moving forward - including access to longterm housing, employment and health services. **How will we, as a district meet those needs?**

Is it advisable to plough ahead before we consider the possibility of **new opportunities** that fall out of the fallout? ...Of realigned priorities, improved processes, altered aspirations, new economic opportunities.

I was listening to someone this morning who made this comment about a bicycle. I think it's called an analogy. She was talking about opportunity, saying that the bicycle tyre isn't just a bit flat anymore, it's blown to smithereens, (I think the whole blimmen wheel's fallen off, myself!). So now, yep right now, we've had to hop off that bicycle. Now that we're off it, maybe it's time to consider whether we as community could have a different make of tyre; maybe, as we wander more slowly around that bicycle we might realise there's a better way of making the wheel, or the frame for that matter.

**Are we just gonna do this, like nothing's changed?**

**I submit that the introduction of this plan is deferred due to exceptional, unplanned, global and community circumstances. That we take a few breaths as a community, look with new eyes at the new challenges and opportunities now facing us.**

Thank you, Lee-Ann

# What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #101



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 11:29AM

Receipt number: 90

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Full Name:	Carolyn Cordery
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
	Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.
<b>Hearing of Submissions</b>	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	No
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	
Sign language interpretation required?	No
<b>Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)</b>	
Please select your preference:	Option 2: Remove the paddling pool and Council build a splash pad. (Estimated cost \$450,000)
Why did you choose this option?	Our Council is one of the most expensive in the country I believe. We are now being given an increase in our rates, which people at this time cannot afford! So asking for extra funding for this work would not be accepted!
<b>Long Term Plan 2021-2041</b>	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	Unemployment...create community work projects that benefit the area.
What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?	Improvement to main shopping areas to encourage locals and visitors especially with less traffic after the motorway is completed. Lower rents to get the economy back and keep businesses going.
<b>Your Comments</b>	

Please provide any further comments:

Now is a such bad time to be increasing our rates! They should be lowered!  
We aren't using half the services, and there is little income for most. People just won't be able to afford this increase!  
Businesses will close and it is unlikely that new ones will start up.  
I am aware that house prices have increased but surely at this time with Covid 19 struggles a decrease, or at best, a postponement of an increase for a year at least would be more appropriate.

Attach any other comments:

# What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #102



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 11:57AM

Receipt number: 91

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Full Name:	Garry Good
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	58 Highbury Drive Levin
Postcode:	5510
Telephone:	0272359195
Email:	tzgood@xtra.co.nz
<b>Hearing of Submissions</b>	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	Yes
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	
Sign language interpretation required?	
<b>Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)</b>	
Please select your preference:	Option 2: Remove the paddling pool and Council build a splash pad. (Estimated cost \$450,000)
Why did you choose this option?	There is merit in having a range of recreational activities spread across the district so the Bath St location is ideal. Although it would be great to have a significant component of the cost contributed by the community I would not want the project held up for a long period waiting for funds to be raised.
<b>Long Term Plan 2021-2041</b>	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	Managing growth to ensure housing and commercial developments best reflect the values of our community. Take into account the demographics of the community into the future.

<p>What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?</p>	<p>The completion of the O2L roading project as soon as possible to ensure a safer and more efficient addition to our district roading Managing growth in a cohesive manner to ensure we best take advantage of the opportunities provided in terms of: Transport, marketing the district, recreation, housing, commercial development, relocation of retail, industrial and transport hub opportunities.</p>
<b>Your Comments</b>	
<p>Please provide any further comments:</p>	<p>This community is on the cusp of the most challenging period for Council experienced in the last 30 years. I believe you are up for it and hopefully we will see the significant opportunities and benefits reign supreme.</p>
<p>Attach any other comments:</p>	

# What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #103



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 11:58AM

Receipt number: 89

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Full Name:	Teri-Robyn Whiti
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
	Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.
<b>Hearing of Submissions</b>	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	No
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	
Sign language interpretation required?	No
<b>Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)</b>	
Please select your preference:	
Why did you choose this option?	I don't agree with any of the options you have supplied I believe the splash pad can be deferred because of the current economic climate which has been dictated by the covid 19 virus. This is not essential to the needs of our people it is not important as affordable housing!!!
<b>Long Term Plan 2021-2041</b>	

<p>What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?</p>	<p>Restoration of shared pathways in Shannon and Tokomaru.          Alfresco dining in Levin is unimportant especially when these business sectors have been closed due to the virus who is to say there won't be more lockdowns in the future. Major issues are Affordable social and private housing. Having a more efficient network or organization handling the future lockdown procedures (making sure needy people are getting kai and essential items in a speedy timeframe, the Kapiti council went over and above for their community during lockdown it makes me think perhaps I should move there!! Also they have a great wastewater system putting our waste to land is paru and backward you need to be spending the money on the key infrastructures instead of trying to pretty up Levin, there are other towns in this district.</p>
<p>What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?</p>	<p>Affordable social and private housing.          Not enough Trade apprenticeships leading to work          Lower rental prices in the business sector of Shannon.          The wastewater system in Shannon is archaic, what happens when there is too much rainfall? the paru still ends up in the river, we live in a digital age surely there are more economical and environmentally conscious systems that are better than the one we currently have. Defer the rates increase for households who have been out of work because of the lockdown.</p>
<p>Your Comments</p>	
<p>Please provide any further comments:</p>	<p>HDC - Need to make a conscious effort to provide for everyone's needs not just a selection of towns but the district as a whole because as usual the small rural towns, especially in the Miranui ward, get left out. If you don't think we are important then don't take our rate payments!</p>
<p>Attach any other comments:</p>	



**From:** annual plan  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 12:19 PM  
**To:** Records Processing  
**Subject:** FW: ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION (1) - HOROWHENUA GREY POWER  
**Attachments:** HDC Annual Paln Submission Cover Page 24Apr'20.PDF; HGP-HDC(DraftAnnualPlan2020-21\_Submission).pdf

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**From:** Terence Hemmingsen <diane.terryhem@xtra.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 11:53 AM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION (1) - HOROWHENUA GREY POWER

Good morning

attached please find a submission (1) from Horowhenua Grey Power Association Inc.

This submission has been prepared by Mr Lew Rohloff, the Director of our Research Unit and reflects the views of Horowhenua Grey Power.

We thank you for this opportunity to make this submission, but wish to state that we would like to have Lew Rohloff speak to the submission in person (face-to-face) as part of the Public Consultation process. We note that this can only be achieved (at best) when we reach COVID-19 Alert Level 2 and would request that the public consultation process be postponed until such time as this can occur.

Regards

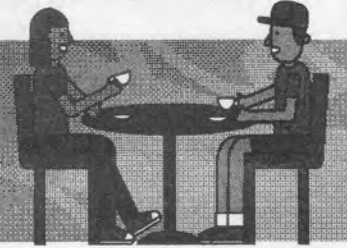
***Terry Hemmingsen***

**PRESIDENT**

**HOROWHENUA GREY POWER**

# Annual Plan Submission Form

Submission #104



## What's Our Plan 2020/2021

We've told you what's planned for 2020/2021. Now's the time to have your say.

### Submission can be:

- Delivered to:**  
Horowhenua District Council,  
126 Oxford Street, Levin
- Posted to:**  
Horowhenua District Council,  
Attn: Strategy and Development  
Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540

- Emailed to:**  
annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz
- Completed online at:**  
www.horowhenua.govt.nz/  
annualplan2020/2021

**Submissions must be provided to Council by no later than 5.00pm, Friday 24 April 2020.**

### Contact Details

Full Name: Lewis Rohloff  
Organisation: Horowhenua Grey Power  
Postal Address: P.O. Box 320  
Post code: 5540  
Telephone: 06 368 3070  
Email: lew.rohloff@extra.co.nz

### Privacy Act 1993

Please note that your submission is public information. Information on this form including your name and submission will be made available to the media and public as part of the decision making process. Your submission will only be used for the purpose of What's Our Plan 2020/2021. The information will be held by the Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. You have the right to access the information and request its correction.

Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.

### Levin Splash Pad (please tick your preference)

- Option 1: Remove the paddling pool, but have no splash pad. (Estimated cost \$30,000)
- Option 2: Remove the paddling pool and Council build a splash pad. (Estimated cost \$450,000)
- Option 3: Remove the paddling pool and Council contributes \$250,000 to the construction of a splash pad with the community raising the additional funding. (Council's Contribution \$250,000)

Why did you choose this option? provided the \$250,000 is funded by:  
(1) 20% contribution from General Rate  
(2) 80% " " from targeted rate  
on Levin properties based on CV.

This page is removable so you can tear it off, fold and send back to us with FreePost.

Please attach additional pages if necessary.

# Long Term Plan 2021-2041

Next year, Council will be creating the Long Term Plan for 2021-2041.

What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?

See attached Submission

What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?

See attached Submission

Please provide any further comments.

## Hearing of Submissions (please tick your preference)

Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a Hearing? Yes  No

Sign language interpretation required? Yes  No

If YES then would you prefer to speak on - Wednesday 13 May  or Thursday 14 May

Note: It is not guaranteed that every submitter will get their preferred day to present.

Fold here

FreePost 108609



Strategy and Development Team  
Horowhenua District Council  
Private Bag 4002  
Levin 5540



24 April 2020

## Submission

### Horowhenua District Council Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021

**Name:** Lew Rohloff  
**Position:** Director, Research Unit  
**Organisation:** Horowhenua Grey Power Association Incorporated  
**Address:** P. O. Box 328, Levin 5540  
**Telephone:** 368 3070  
**Email:** [lew.rohloff@extra.co.nz](mailto:lew.rohloff@extra.co.nz)

District Mayor and Councillors,

Please accept that this Submission has been authored in a format which recognises it is a public document. It includes statements or references which might already be understood and observed by councillors and their staff. The editorial style or context has been chosen to minimise misunderstanding by an otherwise inadequately informed public.

#### **The background to our engagement.**

At this time last year we called upon Council to justify its apparent long standing policy with regard to property rating, namely the prioritising of patronage by way of rating relief for the 'business' community, comprised particularly of pastoral and horticultural enterprises and to a lesser degree, urban business; regardless of the seriously compromised affordability of rates for low and middle income urban households.

Our pleas and indeed, our implicit challenge to Council, to publicly justify such discrimination simply were ignored. The consultation surrounding the adoption of the 2019-2020 Annual Plan ended with the vested interest of businesses and other tax-efficient entities prevailing over the well-being of the majority of the peoples of our district.

Our disappointment was deep and prompted us to submit to the '2019 Local Government Funding and Financing Inquiry' undertaken by the New Zealand Productivity Commission in a manner that was frankly critical of our local elected representatives. Apparently, our criticisms were regarded by the Commission to be at least of prima-facie quality and were, in part, published in its final report to Government.

Our submission to the Productivity Commission inquiry may be viewed at:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Submission 026, Horowhenua Grey Power to N Z Productivity Commission  
<https://www.productivity.govt.nz/have-your-say/view-submissions/inquiry/26>

We believe each councillor elected for the present triennium has inherited responsibility for the unfinished business of their predecessors and we call on all ward representatives to personally undertake to address the long-standing inequities embedded within Council's rating policy.

Another of our background issues involves the arbitrary approach Council has again adopted for consultative engagement in respect of the 2020-2021 Draft Annual Plan.

The document format you have chosen for this year's consultative procedure, namely "What's Our Plan—Engagement Document" with its absolute avoidance of specific quantitative disclosure information, indicates a desire by elected representatives to 'hide' behind senior and middle management staff and an 'ill-advised' public rather than stand on your 2019 campaign undertaking to effectively represent the householders within the wards you are responsible for.

This reliance on an overly simplistic 'propaganda' styled publication reinforced by your indication that "submissions are likely to be heard remotely" thus moving 'constructive' dissent to 'closed' meeting, is a further abrogation of your legislated requirement to act transparently.

At this point we must observe that these background issues we refer to are neither caused by nor related to the Covid-19 pandemic. They are longer term grievances which in our opinion have assumed proportions which, notwithstanding the onset of Covid-19, must be addressed in the short term and medium term.

Having said this, the increasing tendency over the past two years to move to only cursory reference to the complex implications of funding local government by inconsistent local decision making independent of central government direction has been shown to be unsustainable by the onset of Covid-19. If we are to learn anything from the Covid-19 experience it must be that the costs of funding local government must inevitably be underwritten by central government and thereby funded from a dedicated grant from income and expenditure taxes.

### **Our Submission.**

Our most recent discovery that the 'lockdown' has prompted Council to withhold distribution of the consultation document titled 'This is our Plan' together with the yet to be defined 'big picture' changes required of a nation endeavouring to reconstruct a viable ongoing economy, has rendered 'community engagement' entirely inadequate, requiring Council now to revert to a 'zero based' approach to substantially reduce the costs of the Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021.

It is clearly necessary for Council to utilise whatever power it has to curtail new project and non-urgent renewals during the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 with a view to delaying borrowings and reducing rate revenue by at least one third of that levied in the current year.

This extra-ordinary conservatism needs to endure until a first principles review of local government funding and financing is undertaken in collaboration with central government. Just as central government has determined it necessary to extend financial assistance to businesses and the self-employed it will might well need now to underwrite the costs of local government, thereby delivering justifiable relief to ratepayers from their otherwise insurmountable obligations.



Our organisation has serious concerns regarding, governance, transparency, accountability, management of operations and new infrastructural planning and, of course, affordability for low to medium income households; in a system where presently many smaller territorial authorities levy such a large proportion of revenue predominantly from property rating.

Our considered opinion is that the 2020-2021 Draft Annual Plan, like most of its previous iterations over the last two decades, is:

1. **Totally unaffordable**, for low to middle income urban households.
2. **Is inequitable**, in terms of the proportional impact of rating across the varying property categories comprising the residential and productive sectors of the district, suggesting political patronage of business to the disadvantage of urban householders and lifestyle residents.
3. **Requires immediate review**, focussed upon removing the anomalous policies embedded in the Financial Strategy and Funding Impact Statements of the 2018-2038 Long Term Plan and earlier versions of same, spanning the last two decades.

Of course, all this is overshadowed by the economic upheaval resulting out of and consequent upon, the Covid-19 pandemic. Serious thought must be given to determining whether the district remains a viable territorial authority.<sup>2</sup> In the particular case of Levin, even if the pandemic had not bedevilled us there has been insidious deterioration of the economic health of our largest population centre arising from globalisation and the 1989 local government amalgamation,

Conscientious reference by elected representatives and senior staff to publicly available internet and industry repositories of data and ‘best practise’ models, will indicate that the assertions we offer in this submission are of ‘prima facie’ quality; at the very least!

In respect of the three major criticisms we list under bullet points ‘1 to 3’ above, we believe that within the many available research libraries, the data sources and the research papers appended to this submission along with the following observations related to Financial Strategy, all add obvious credence to our call for elected representatives (particularly those representing wards with significant urban concentrations within their constituency); to use the powers at their disposal to provide long overdue relief for low to middle income households by mitigating the ‘urban’ impoverishment inherent in existing policies which patronise ‘businesses and primary industry.’

### **1.1 “Unaffordable for low to middle income urban households.”**

While local government rating is not considered ‘unaffordable’ per se, the two major government sponsored ‘financing and funding’ reviews of the last fifteen years being the 2007 ‘Shand Report’<sup>3</sup> and the 2019 ‘Report of the Productivity Commission’<sup>4</sup> recognise that relief needs to be provided for low to middle income households.

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix No.3

<sup>3</sup> 2007 Shand Report,

<https://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/ArcAggregator/arcView/frameView/1E12126512/http://www.dia.govt.nz/Agency-Independent-Inquiry-into-Local-Government-Rates-Index>

<sup>4</sup> Final Report of N Z productivity Commission, Funding and Financing Inquiry

[https://www.productivity.govt.nz/assets/Documents/a40d80048d/Final-report\\_Local-government-funding-and-financing.pdf](https://www.productivity.govt.nz/assets/Documents/a40d80048d/Final-report_Local-government-funding-and-financing.pdf)

Extracts from the consultation documents and final reports of these important inquiries are appended to this submission.

Accepted wisdom recognises that New Zealand wide property rates approximate 2% to 3% of gross household incomes, with an affordability problem arising where they approach 5% of gross household incomes.

The impact of rating on low to middle income households throughout Horowhenua has substantially breached this threshold for at least the last two decades.<sup>5</sup> Local government funding policy has therefore contributed largely to a Deprivation Index<sup>6</sup> for urban localities in Horowhenua which has deteriorated to a level regarded as ‘the most deprived in the nation.’

## **2.1 “Inequitable, in terms of the proportional impact of rating across the varying property categories.”**

In the main, local government rating is levied in proportion to either the Land Value (LV) or the Capital Value (CV) of all privately owned land throughout the district. It is possible that one further approach i.e. Annual Rental Value might be used but this seldom eventuates. The respective LV (unimproved value) and CV (improved value) is determined according to market data in periodic reviews by registered valuers contracted to the territorial authority (local council).

While the first principle is that the rate should be ‘proportionate’ to value most councils manipulate this rationale by way of prescribing ‘differentials’ which distort the rating value apportionment. ‘Differentials’ are widely used across territorial authorities throughout New Zealand and are by nature a mechanism that permits elected representatives to indulge in ‘political’ manipulation of a system which, in the purest sense, should be essentially neutral.

The Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021 employs three main types of rating categorisation being General, Rooding and Targeted rates as the mechanism for funding budgeted operating and project activity across the district.

Extrapolation of the data produced in the same document reveals that the ‘rating values,’ utilised as the basis of revenue collection for the General Rate are ‘Rural’ at \$1.688billion (40.1%) and ‘District Wide’ at \$2.521 billion (59.9%). The General Rate is Council’s largest single source of rating revenue at \$11.149 million and had it been levied neutrally, without political manipulation, the sectorial contributions would be Rural \$4.471million (neutral) and District Wide \$6.678 million (neutral). Council’s intention, however, is to levy the Rural sector \$2.787 million and the District Wide sector \$8.362 million, thereby effectively patronising Rural General Rate payers no less than \$1.684 million, at the direct additional expense of the District Wide rate payers.

How marked then is the ‘cross subsidization’ of rural ratepayers (excluding ‘lifestyle’ property) over the total rates revenue Council intends to collect for the year ending 30 June 2021?

Because of the peculiar complexity of funding district councils like Horowhenua which need to service the widely diverging infrastructure required of a mix of urban, lifestyle

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<sup>5</sup> Rates breach affordability threshold, see Appendix No. 1

<sup>6</sup> Deprivation Indices (Horowhenua) see Appendix No. 1

and rural property, it cannot reasonably be held that the proportionality should directly reflect the sectorial property valuation. However, patronage of rural ratepayers is more than hypothetical and, in Grey Power's opinion, it has become so unbalanced in Horowhenua that it has contributed to the significant impoverishment of low to middle income households.

### **3.1 "Requires immediate review, focussed upon removing the anomalous policies embedded in the Financial Strategy and Funding Impact Statements."**

We note that Revenue and Financing Policy along with Funding Impact ratios are embedded in the Draft Annual Plan according to the decisions laid down in the 2018-2038 Long Term Plan. In our assessment, inequities inherent in these policy and impact statements are clearly identifiable and can be demonstrated as direct contributors to a contrived, unreasonable and clearly unacceptable distortion of 'rating impact' outcomes, contrary to the interest of low to medium households.

#### **3.1a General Rate**

Within our revelations elsewhere in this Submission we have drawn attention to the inequity within the General Rate. We challenge Council to justify this 'patronage' of rural ratepayers in the current environment when affordability issues are so graphically demonstrated as primarily impacting on 'district-wide' low and middle income householders.

#### **3.1b Targeted Rate – Solid Waste**

What has happened to the once universal recovery of costs through the 'exacerbator' principle?

We note that rural SUIP's are by way of their allocated differential, attributed with the creation of only 20% of all costs associated with solid waste collection and disposal. An arbitrary 80% is held to be the responsibility of 'district-wide' ratepayers. This is one consideration but hardly the most appropriate allocation.

The present policy is another example of business sector patronage requiring justification and, likely reassessment.

The great majority of solid waste is packaging of one form or another, introduced by the business community and beyond the control of householders included in the 'district-wide' category. Our guess is that actual causation is close to Business 80% and Residential 20%. Equity will be best served by recovering costs of solid waste through a differentiated rate on Capital Value (CV).

#### **3.1c Water Supply**

Until such time as district-wide metering is installed for all water connections it will be difficult to achieve ultimate equity in respect of water supplies. But this service is another significant example of how advancement toward equity should be undertaken through application of the 'exacerbator' principle.

Over many decades, run-off from pastoral and horticultural property has seriously contaminated district aquifers requiring resort to expensive alternative collection, treatment and storage of water from the Ohau River in the case of Levin and additional treatment from remaining bore sources elsewhere. We suggest a justifiable case for a levy upon rural businesses might well exist to supplement remedial funding of the resource contamination they have caused.



### **3.1d Wastewater**

Ideally, wastewater should be subject to similar Funding and Financing policy as we have recommended for Water Supplies. We recommend that the need to achieve equity with regard to costs recovery for this service be adopted as an additional incentive to comprehensive metering of water connections.

### **3.1e Land Transport (Roads and Footpaths).**

We have been unable to make an informed assessment of the equity inherent in the Business and District Wide differentials declared for this rate. To draw any meaningful conclusion we would need to know the proportionality of cost centres aligned with the geographic profile of the roading network.

We suggest that In the longer term a separate funding and financing policy for 'urban' and 'rural' roading networks together with dedicated income and expenditure accounts, would eliminate any need for differentials and place this 'high cost' category of rating secure from political manipulation.

### **3.1f Stormwater.**

From an equity stand-point our concerns regarding this rate focus upon our suspicion that the determination of 'run-off' from the extensive parking areas of supermarkets, the CBD areas of our townships and, in some cases retirement villages: is equivalent to such a ridiculously inadequate multiple of the capital value of urban rating units.

We would appreciate current advice of the 'rating value' of such concentrated paved areas as they clearly deliver much more run-off into natural waterways than a residential unit which is required to disperse stormwater 'on-site.' This rate is another opportunity to apply the 'exacerbator' principle and a differential which adds a premium for 'business' categories.

### **3.1g Libraries and Community Centres, Representation and Community Leadership, Aquatic Centres.**

We believe each of these rates are particularly inequitable.

They each add substantially to the appeal of the district and enhance the market value of both business and residential property but their active use varies greatly between households and individual businesses. Therefore, rating these services on a SUIP basis is manifestly inequitable.

We recommend that these services are rated on Capital Value from this point forward.

### **Recommendation(s)**

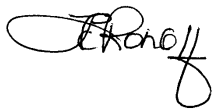
**“That Council honour its obligation to the requirement for open and transparent consultation by hearing submitters and deliberating adoption of its 2020-2021 Annual Plan in session(s) open to the public. and**

**“that Council utilise every power at its disposal to curtail new project and non-urgent renewals during the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 with a view to delaying borrowings and reducing rate revenue by at least one third of that levied in the current year,” and further**

“that Council invite Horowhenua Grey Power to participate along with elected representatives on a basis with full speaking rights in the pre-consultation ‘workshop’ discussions commencing later this year related to formal review of a 2021-2031 Long Term Council Plan.”

Please also note this submission directly addresses elected representatives as we believe communication by way of public response should not be filtered through council officers who place their own interpretation on the public’s perception of the issues at stake. We seek to ensure direct access to our ward representatives, leading to improved transparency, prudence and accountability.

Sincerely,



**Lew Rohloff**  
Director  
Horowhenua Grey Power Research Unit

Please see appendices attached /-

**Submission Ends.**

Horowhenua Grey Power Association Incorporated  
 Submission to Horowhenua District Council 2020-2021 Draft Annual Plan  
 Appendix No. 1

**Personal Incomes – Indicative Rates – Deprivation Indices**

Locality	Personal Income (gross)		Indicative Rate (residential) 2020-2021		Deprivation Indices 2018
Donnelly Park	\$22300		n/a		9
Fairfield	\$23800		n/a		7
Foxton Beach	\$23500		\$2567		7
Foxton North	\$23000		n/a		9
Foxton South	\$21400		\$2266		10
Kawiu North	\$27900		n/a		5
Kawiu South	\$24700		n/a		8
Kere Kere	\$35900		n/a		6
Kimberly	\$29500		n/a		5
Levin Central	\$21500		\$2796		10
Makahika	\$39000		n/a		4
Mako Mako	\$20600		n/a		10
Miranui	\$36700		\$2536		5
Ohau-Manakau	\$27600		\$2253		5
Playford Park	\$21800		n/a		10
Queenwood	\$21300		n/a		9
Shannon	\$21300		\$2359		10
Taitoko	\$20500		n/a		10
Tararua	\$24200		n/a		9
Waikawa	\$29700		\$2079		7
Waiopehu	\$22700		n/a		9
Waitarere	\$29800		\$2206		6
Source: N Z Census 2018			Source: Draft Annual Plan		Source: Otago University 2020

**Notes:**

We observe just how lacking in transparency is Council's published Draft Annual Plan. The data in the central pillar in this depiction is extracted directly from the 'supporting information' version of the 2020-2021 Draft Annual Plan. There are so many localities 'not included' that the information at best can only be regarded as an indication of the scant consideration given to 'affordability' of rates for low to medium households

## Advance of Household Deprivation Horowhenua compared with Neighbouring Districts

Census Year	2001	2006	2013	2018
Kapiti Coast	5.0	5.0	5.1	?
Horowhenua	6.6	7.0	7.6	?
Manawatu	4.9	5.0	5.4	?
Rangitikei	6.0	6.0	6.5	?
Tararua	5.6	6.0	6.7	?
New Zealand	5.4	5.5	5.4	?

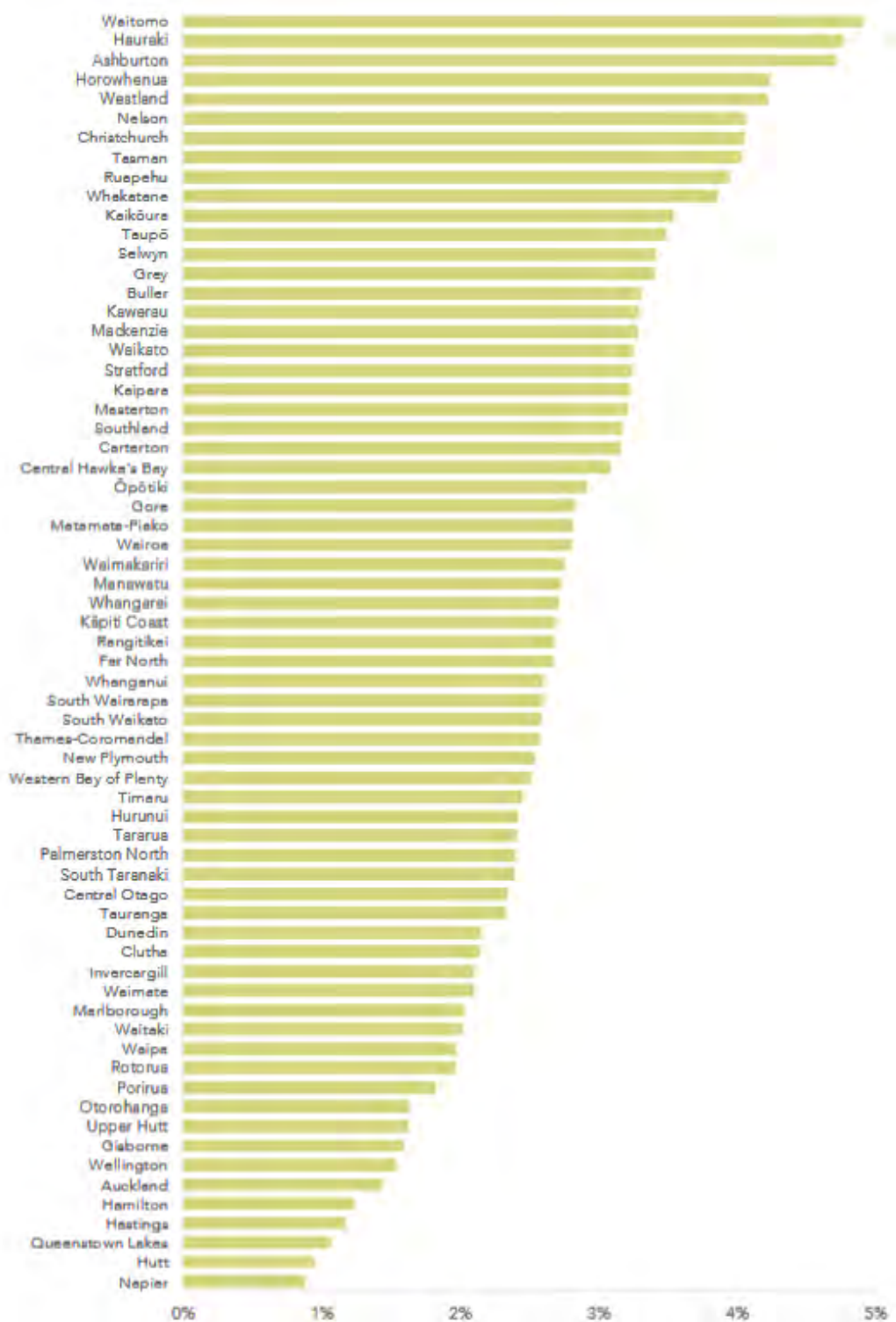
### Note:

scale 1 = least deprived, 10 = most deprived

Horowhenua District not only has the worst deprivation amongst its regional neighbours: it also indicates significant and continuous decline, whereas neighbouring districts exhibit relative stability.

Regarding Census 2018; the aggregated territorial authority and nation-wide indices were not available when this submission was prepared. However, the small locality deprivation indices depicted in Appendix No. 1 suggest further deterioration within Horowhenua as evidenced by the unwelcome presence of decile 10 indices in the main urban areas of the district.

**Average yearly growth in rates per person across territorial authorities, 2000-2018**



Source: Stats NZ (2019e, 2019d).

**Notes:**

The long standing, extra-ordinarily steep increases in annual rating demands of Council (HDC) let alone the proposal this year to increase rates for typical urban households ranging from 9.3% to 14.1% is totally unacceptable, indicating a rating policy and possibly an overall administration which is no longer viable.

**From:** annual plan  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 12:18 PM  
**To:** Records Processing  
**Subject:** FW: ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION (2) - HOROWHENUA GREY POWER  
**Attachments:** ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION FORM 24Apr'19.pdf; Annual Plan Submission - HGP - 2020.doc

---

**From:** Terence Hemmingsen <diane.terryhem@xtra.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 12:06 PM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION (2) - HOROWHENUA GREY POWER

Good afternoon

attached please find a submission (2) from Horowhenua Grey Power Association Inc.

This submission has be prepared by Mr Terry Hemmingsen, President and reflects the views of Horowhenua Grey Power.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission, but wish to state that we would like to have Terry Hemmingsen speak in support of this submission in person (face-to-face) as part of the Public Consultation process. We note that this can only be achieved (at best) when we reach COVID-19 Alert Level 2 and would request that the public consultation process be postponed until such time as this can occur.

Regards

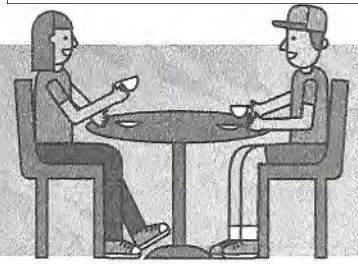
*Terry Hemmingsen*

**PRESIDENT**

**HOROWHENUA GREY POWER**



## What's Our Plan 2020/2021



We've told you what's planned for 2020/2021. Now's the time to have your say.

### Submission can be:

-  **Delivered to:**  
Horowhenua District Council,  
126 Oxford Street, Levin
-  **Emailed to:**  
annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz
-  **Posted to:**  
Horowhenua District Council,  
Attn: Strategy and Development  
Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540
-  **Completed online at:**  
www.horowhenua.govt.nz/  
annualplan2020/2021

**Submissions must be provided to Council by no later than 5.00pm, Friday 24 April 2020.**

### Contact Details

**Full Name:** Terence James Hemmingsen  
**Organisation:** Horowhenua Grey Power  
**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 328, Levin  
**Post code:** 5540  
**Telephone:** 0274-805-834  
**Email:** terry.hemmingsen@gmail.com

### Privacy Act 1993

Please note that your submission is public information. Information on this form including your name and submission will be made available to the media and public as part of the decision making process. Your submission will only be used for the purpose of What's Our Plan 2020/2021. The information will be held by the Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. You have the right to access the information and request its correction.

Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.

### Levin Splash Pad (please tick your preference)

- Option 1:** Remove the paddling pool, but have no splash pad. (Estimated cost \$30,000)
- Option 2:** Remove the paddling pool and Council build a splash pad. (Estimated cost \$450,000)
- Option 3:** Remove the paddling pool and Council contributes \$250,000 to the construction of a splash pad with the community raising the additional funding. (Council's Contribution \$250,000)

### Why did you choose this option?

Refer: Submission Item (3) attached.

Next year, Council will be creating the Long Term Plan for 2021-2041.

What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?

A change to the Rating System from LV to CV with no preferential or weighting system.

What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?

The lack of "other" major funding options for Council other than borrowing, rates or resource consents.

Please provide any further comments.

Refer to submissions, attached.

Hearing of Submissions (please tick your preference)

Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a Hearing?

Yes

No

But face-to-face.

Sign language interpretation required?

Yes

No

If YES then would you prefer to speak on – Wednesday 13 May

or

Thursday 14 May

Note: It is not guaranteed that every submitter will get their preferred day to present.

Fold here

FreePost 108609



Strategy and Development Team
Horowhenua District Council
Private Bag 4002
Levin 5540



**P.O. Box 328  
Levin 5540.  
New Zealand.**

24 April 2020

## **SUBMISSION**

### **Horowhenua District Council Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021**

**Name:** Terry Hemmingsen  
**Organisation:** Horowhenua Grey Power Association Incorporated  
**Position:** President  
**Address:** P O Box 328. Levin, 5540  
**Telephone:** Mob: 0274 805 834  
**Email:** [terry.hemmingsen@gmail.com](mailto:terry.hemmingsen@gmail.com)

District Mayor and Councillors

Please accept that this Submission has been authored in a format which recognises it is a public document.

#### **Preamble:**

Horowhenua Grey Power acknowledges the receipt of an email, dated 31 March 2020 from Katrina Grant entitled "**Annual Plan 2020/2021 – open for consultation**". The content of that email states;

*"We are aware that COVID-19 has impacted our intended engagement process, and are arranging alternative ways for our community to access the Annual Plan information and have their say from home."* Put simply, the idea that people can engage in a "Public Consultation" process from the comfort of their own home flies in the face of any sort of common sense. Consultation undertaken in that manner is definitely not public. We acknowledge that COVID-19 has changed the way in which we meet and interact, but; public consultation needs to be just that, public. The only way that can be achieved is by delaying the consultation process until such time as we reach a COVID-19 Alert Level that can allow for us to consult in public.

#### **Submission:**

Our Submission is in four (4) parts as listed below;

- (1) That the Public Consultation process be delayed / postponed until such time as public hearings can be safely held in a face-to-face forum.
- (2) That the proposed Rates rise be set aside and that a Zero Rates increase be adopted for the 2020-2021 year.
- (3) That the proposed "Splash Pad" planned for Jubilee Park should proceed, provided that it be funded from a targeted rate imposed on **only** the ratepayers of the Levin Ward. (as outlined in our recommendations, attached)
- (4) That the Horowhenua District Council introduces a voluntary Rates Postponement Policy for those of our citizens who are sixty-five years of age or older and who meet certain criteria

**Explanation:**

(1) As was outlined in the preamble (above), COVID-19 has forever changed the environment in which we work. While we recognise that it is important to have a plan and to make decisions for the good of the community around that plan, we would submit that the whole annual plan process MUST be suspended until such time as the impact on families, individuals, small to medium businesses and even Council activities can be fully analysed, particularly insofar as the economic impacts can be understood.

All of the information coming out from social agencies, MBIE and economists tells us that, in the short term there will be a fair degree of negative financial impact. Until such time as we can fully understand what those impacts are, for at this point in time we cannot know, the Annual Plan must be put on hold.

(2) Given the statements made in item (1) above and the understanding that we are facing a national economic crisis worse than the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), particularly as it applies to low- and medium-income households it is our view that any increase in rates is completely unsustainable. Just this week we have been told from one major source that requests (demands on) foodbanks has increased by 900%. The question is; why is that happening? The answer is of course easy to understand. If you have no money then you cannot buy food. If you are on a limited budget; what is the first thing you see as an essential? The answer – food !!! Then rent or your mortgage and other necessities. And where do rates come in this equation? Again, the answer is simple – a long way down the list of essentials.

The real question is; why would Council want to add to the misery and financial burden of so many households by even beginning to consider adopting a rate increase of 6.9% or more on household budgets that are already over-burdened.

We would strongly suggest that you hold the rates at pre-COVID-19 levels and NOT increase the rates in the 2020 / 2021 year. Adjust your plans, adjust your budgets and make allowances for the community to slowly recover from the burdens created by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

(3) Someone, somewhere has come up with the suggestion that the Levin Community needs to have a “Splash Pad” installed at the Donald Duck Park.

What a brilliant suggestion at a time like this, or in fact at any time. Have we forgotten that during our summer months when the splash pad would be used most frequently, we have water restrictions? This is clearly a Want and not a Need for our community. Who will benefit from such an installation?

Grey Power does not wish to be seen as a bunch of oldies who are negative about anything and everything that benefits our younger families and their children. For that reason, we would support the suggestion that the splash pad proceed with the condition that it is fully funded from a targeted rate collected solely from within the Levin Ward of the Horowhenua District Council. To levy any of the other Wards would be completely unreasonable as few of their residents would get any benefit from such an installation.

(4) Previously, Horowhenua Grey Power has presented a draft submission for the creation of a Rates Postponement Scheme to the HDC Chief Executive, Mr David Clapperton for his consideration and that of the elected representatives of the Horowhenua District Council. Given the current state of the economy and the financial burdens being faced by many of our Seniors, who live solely on the income from their pensions, the concept of a Rates Postponement Scheme has real relevance at this time.

We sincerely believe that the Horowhenua District Council should, like many other Councils from around New Zealand, introduce a Rates Postponement Policy for our Seniors.

Horowhenua Grey Power will happily re-produce the previously presented documentation relating to this Policy and make it available to our elected representatives for their consideration.

Two points to note:

(i) The proposed Rates Postponement (Policy) scheme is not a Rates Rebate Scheme and differs greatly in that it is not means tested or based on current income levels.

(ii) The proposed Rates Postponement scheme must be a voluntary scheme, to be taken up only by those who choose to avail themselves of that option.

**Recommendations:**

(1) That the Horowhenua District Council suspend the Annual Plan Public Consultation process until such time as New Zealand enters a COVID-19 Level of 2 or less so that those members of the community wanting to make submissions to Council in a face-to-face forum can have the opportunity to do so; particularly insofar as those without internet or email connectivity might be unable to otherwise contribute.

(2) That the Horowhenua District Council adopt a 0.0% Rates Increase for the 2020 – 2021 year and adjust their budgets to match the 2019 – 2020 levels.

(3) That the Horowhenua District Council delay the establishment of a Splash Pad until such time as; (a) the water supply systems that have plagued the community for the last few summers is resolved, (b) there can be definitively shown that there is a need for such a facility, and (c) that the funding for such a facility can be funded at a targeted rate of 80% by the residents of the Levin Ward only and 20% from the general fund.

(4) That the Horowhenua District Council enact under urgency a Rates Postponement Policy in order to provide some rates relief for those of our Seniors in the community who wish to take up this opportunity, and further;

To ensure that the community are advised of this opportunity at the earliest possible time.

**We thank you for the opportunity to make these submissions and request that the opportunity to speak in person (face-to-face) be provided to us, at your earliest convenience.**

**We wish to be heard on this matter.**



**Terry Hemmingsen  
PRESIDENT  
HOROWHENUA GREY POWER**

# What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #106



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 12:32PM

Receipt number: 92

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Full Name:	Robyn Mouzouri
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
	Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.
<b>Hearing of Submissions</b>	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	No
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	
Sign language interpretation required?	
<b>Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)</b>	
Please select your preference:	
Why did you choose this option?	
<b>Long Term Plan 2021-2041</b>	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	Shannon region needing easy access to the Memorial Hall..... safe cycle tracks around Shannon....more meeting keeping residents informed re progress
What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?	Keeping people informed.....transparency.....public meetings
<b>Your Comments</b>	
Please provide any further comments:	Meetings encouraging participation.....
Attach any other comments:	

# What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #107



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 1:49PM

Receipt number: 93

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Full Name:	David John Roache
Name of Organisation:	N/A
Postal Address:	37 Coley Street, Foxton
Postcode:	4814
Telephone:	06 363 7484 - 0274 425 961
Email:	roachesconcrete@xtra.co.nz
<b>Hearing of Submissions</b>	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	Yes
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	Wednesday 13 May; or
Sign language interpretation required?	No
<b>Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)</b>	
Please select your preference:	
Why did you choose this option?	
<b>Long Term Plan 2021-2041</b>	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	Zero Increase on Rates Foxton East Drain WINZ Building
What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?	See attached sheet for comments relating to this submission
<b>Your Comments</b>	
Please provide any further comments:	
Attach any other comments:	<a href="#">Annual Plan Submission 2020 2021.docx</a>

**Submission from David Roache to the Horowhenua District Council Draft Annual Plan 2020/2021**

24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

1. Request Council have a Zero Rate Increase. Defer spending on all non-essential items. Maintain existing services and all programmed works. Consider funding all programmed works from depreciation. CEO and Senior Managers need to take a hard line on all internal and external expenditure.

REASON: COVID-19 and the financial implication to businesses being down for 5 weeks plus, loss of income for businesses, loss of wages for employees, loss of jobs for employees. It will take time to recover and many businesses may not recover. This is unprecedented times and Council needs to show leadership and helps its ratepayers.

2. FOXTON EAST DRAIN. Following the brief at Council with the reviewed scheme at 5 Million plus. This needs to be put on hold for 12 months. That will also give time for public input and a more rigorous valuation of the cost. All the public meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19.

REASON: **COST**. The Cook Street project was rejected on cost and it being an ill-conceived project. Council voted not to go ahead and to explore other options that were more affordable. If Council vote to go ahead then Council must revise the 40/60 split, as this puts too high an onus on the Foxton ratepayers. 40% of HRC rate equates to 24% for the Foxton ratepayers. Plus, with the harmonization rate of HDC's 60% this becomes an unreasonable burden on the Foxton Ratepayers.

Bearing in mind that this is RURAL WATER and a RURAL DRAIN to a RURAL PUMP STATION.

HRC has collected \$100K in the 2019-2020 year, some of these funds should be used for a higher maintenance program which the project is on hold for 12 months.

3. WINZ Building; the sale of this building should be put on hold.

REASON: Lack of the \$300,000 yearly income from rent. The lack of this income has to be added to the general rates. Retaining this building in the mean time would be one option to assist with a Zero Rate Drive.



# What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #108



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 2:10PM

Receipt number: 94

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Full Name:	Christine Avery
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	8 Flagstaff Street, Foxtan Beach
Postcode:	4815
Telephone:	0274272402
Email:	chwedavery@gmail.com
<b>Hearing of Submissions</b>	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	No
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	
Sign language interpretation required?	
<b>Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)</b>	
Please select your preference:	Option 1: Remove the paddling pool, but have no splash pad. (Estimated cost \$30,000)
Why did you choose this option?	As I do not live in Levin and have no children/grandchildren in this area, it is of no relevance to me or my family and I would rather not vote on this option.
<b>Long Term Plan 2021-2041</b>	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	As stated in the manifesto, "if new challenges/opportunities arise that we need to respond to", I would say the COVID-19 conditions we are currently experiencing DEMAND that there be an IMMEDIATE rates FREEZE! A rate increase of 6.9% intended will not be viable for a lot of ratepayers who will be struggling financially because of lockdown and possible job loss.

What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?	The Council needs to tighten its belt and ensure that projects undertaken, whether by Council staff or contractors, are carried out in the most efficient and effective way. A good example was the redesigning and upgrading of the intersection of Palmer Road and Seabury Avenue, Foxton Beach which, once completed, was not a practical design and had to be changed - at whose cost?
<b>Your Comments</b>	
Please provide any further comments:	
Attach any other comments:	



**From:** annual plan  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 2:44 PM  
**To:** Records Processing  
**Subject:** FW: 2020-21 Annual Plan Submission  
**Attachments:** Annual-Plan-Submission-2020-21-WKimber.pdf

-----Original Message-----

**From:** William Kimber <williamk@orcon.net.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>; david.c@horowhenua.govt.nz; Mayor Bernie Wanden <mayor@horowhenua.govt.nz>; Christine Mitchell <cr.christine.mitchell@horowhenua.govt.nz>; Wayne Bishop <cr.wayne.bishop@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** 2020-21 Annual Plan Submission

Please find attached submission for the 2020-21 Annual Plan

William Kimber

## Annual Plan 2020-2021 Submission

The budget for the Annual Plan 2020-2021 was set prior to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The situation for the Horowhenua District Community will change dramatically as a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

What projects or operational costs can be cut or deferred? What is the Community going to afford going forward?

Why is the Council consulting about a splash pad at this time of great uncertainty? If the Council must continue with this why not have a **fourth** option: Council pay \$130 000 to remove and put in basic pad. If the Community raise sufficient funds then a better pad could be constructed.

If Council had taken the correct and prudent policy of putting aside money every year for renewal of assets then the current ratepayers would not be lumbered with the total cost. By using loans particularly at current low interest rates it spreads the cost over all or part of the lifetime of the asset.

The Horowhenua District Council Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021 Supporting Information – Final is not very helpful to the less financially literate and does not clearly lay out costs and income.

To quote from it:

*The proposed rates income increase is 1.36% higher than projected in the Long Term Plan 2018-2038. Two key reasons for the increase include our new and improved recycling service and increased water rate (mainly for Levin).*

What recycling service? Council years ago closed down a good service and returned the leased property to its owner's with much recycling left at the property.

It is impossible to work out the costs and income from taking Kapiti Council's solid waste.

There is nothing in the Draft Plan to cover increasing capacity of Levin's water treatment plant. I note after several months of very dry weather Auckland has yet to go to Level 1 restrictions but in a month might need to go to Level 2. Every summer with a few weeks of dry weather we end up in level 3 or 4.

I understand that Council looked at a presentation on Waste to Heat & Power that would produce income within a few years yet not even a small amount is put aside for this. If the council does not get in quickly other Council's will and Horowhenua District Council will end up paying another Council instead of making money from them.

I consider the 6.9% rate rise should also be suspended as this is likely to have a big financial burden on the community. The promo leaflet delivered recently states 'you can compare your valuation with **others across the district**'. How do you do that without being able to look up all the others to get their increase? The new **Total Rateable** value is not given on Council's web site.

With all the development in the Levin area.

2000 homes proposed for north east, although that would involve prime horticultural land which goes against stated Central Government aims.

Infill of sections in central area of Levin.

Many new houses at the old IHC site in Kimberly road.

**It is essential that Development Contributions be reinstated.** Though it will be a bit like shutting the stable door after the horse has left or in this case bolted.

I consider the Annual Plan Process should be suspended and the Council staff be directed to rework the Plan to best serve the Community in the current circumstance. Horizons Regional Council have suspended their Annual Plan Process while they rework their plan. I am sure that Central Government would not hold any local body to account for postponing the process in order to review the plan given the Country is in a "State of Emergency". Alternately Council can do as it usually does and pass the Plan then ignore it totally.

It is of prime importance that the Council follows its stated aims and focus on how best it can serve the Community as the economic fallout takes effect, rather than supporting Councillors' aims.

I am concerned about the Annual Plan Process being open for submissions on a narrow time frame in conjunction with our Nation being in a State of Emergency. People who don't have access to a computer will be unable to engage in the process. That is not a fair and democratic way that denies a voice to a section of the community.

Thank you

William Kimber

**From:** annual plan  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** Records Processing  
**Subject:** FW: submission annual plan  
**Attachments:** Submission annual plan 2020 -2021 Horowhenua .docx

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**From:** Customer Services - Public <CustomerServices@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 April 2020 10:19 AM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: submission annual plan

## Customer Experience

• Whakawhanaunga Kiritaki

126 Oxford Street, Levin • Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540  
Waea Mahi P (06) 366 0999  
[www.horowhenua.govt.nz](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz)

*Working together to take Horowhenua from Good to Great*



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 18 April 2020 12:46 PM  
**To:** Customer Services - Public <[CustomerServices@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:CustomerServices@horowhenua.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** submission annual plan

Hi,

Please find attached my submission.

Cheers, Josien

## **Submission to annual plan 2020/2021 Horowhenua District Council**

Contact information:

Josien Reinalda



16 April 2020

In November 2011 I wrote my first submission to the long term plan of Horowhenua District Council. I have attended a workshop to determine the use of the reserves in the Foxton Beach Area. And I have made several submissions since, to include equestrians in the transport strategy, the annual and long term plans.

So far these submissions and the submissions and requests from other equestrians have fallen on deaf ears.

In reality our circumstances have deteriorated, often in favour of other road users and other sports.

Equestrians contribute a lot of money to the district. It is estimated that equestrians spend around \$13,000 per horse yearly. And this is apart from the lifestyle blocks that are purchased to accommodate having a horse at home.

While the number of equestrians in the district is not known, not everybody is associated with a club, the popularity of the equestrian events gives an indication.

- The number of participants in competitive trail riding events regularly needs to be capped between 100 and 150 competitors because of limitations to the parking space.
- The grounds of Foxton Racecourse draw large crowds of competitors because the sandy soil is second to none in suitability for equestrian events.
- A driving competition drew competitors from Wairarapa, Gisborne and above Auckland.

And all these people, even the ones that do not live locally, are spending money on food and fuel locally.

With the beaches, forests and access to the Tararuas in the Horowhenua, the potential is huge.

And yet in many cases the enjoyment of the sport and safety of equestrians as road users in this council is of no consideration and in many cases openly obstructed.

While the Kapiti District council starts to make a name for itself as horse friendly and reaping the benefits of it, Horowhenua is lagging far behind.

So again: I request that horse riders and carriage drivers not only be considered, but be consulted and included as users in:

- Shared pathways.
- Parks and reserves.
- Subdivision designs.
- Any subject involving recreation and sport.

Since the excuse is often "there is no budget for it", here some low cost options:

- Make provision for horses in every shared pathway. A strip of sand 1m wide will do.
- Make provision for beach access for horses in every location. A sign "bridle way" is sufficient. A horse is very capable of going over the dunes.

- Make paper roads available for riding and driving. Again a very low cost option.
- Restrict farmers to fence off wide berms for grazing, allowing a safe space to ride and drive. No cost.
- Develop Target reserve as an equestrian centre for the lower North Island. This can be done by relocating the other clubs that use the forest, open up the forest and let the equestrians make tracks and build eventing obstacles. An all weather arena, horse yards, suitable show grounds and amenities are already on site.
- Provide interconnected safe riding and driving loops/network of 5km or more in every locality. Shared pathways and paper roads can be used for this.

Please read the rest of the document for benefits of equestrian sports and proposals.

- **I am able and happy to organise representatives from several branches of equestrian sports to act as a sounding board for plans and developments.**

*The website <http://www.nzhorseriders.info>, in particular the chapter "resources" offers a lot of information on the subject once the willingness is there to accommodate equestrians within the district. I am also crediting this website as a source of a lot of information in the following chapters of this submission.*

Kind Regards,

Josien Reinalda

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## Introduction

There are many horses riders in Horowhenua and not everybody is a member of a club or has the opportunity to transport their horse.

A horse is not an ordinary pet, but an animal that requires dedication and many horse owners spend a lot of time and money on their horse.

One of the great joys of owning a horse is to go for a ride or drive in a safe place.

However the safe places to ride/drive in Horowhenua are very limited.

- The berms of many roads are narrowed by temporary or permanent fencing to allow cattle to graze.
- Horses are not allowed in most reserves.
- The safe riding places are small and not connected.
- Many places cannot be reached without transport.
- There are no public equestrian facilities within the council.

## The importance and benefits of recreational horse riding and carriage driving

Horses provide healthy recreation for people of all ages and abilities; they are an integral part of our traditional landscape and history. The horse was an essential component to the development of this country; in transport, agriculture, industry, military and sport.

The strong legs, lungs and back of the horse can enable people with disabilities to gain access to recreation, and natural, wild or remote environments.

Equestrian is as diverse as pedestrian. There are some many distinct disciplines, in addition to the horse racing industry, making up the sport referred to as "equestrian". Horses and riders may specialise, or participate in more than one equestrian sport. The vast majority of horse riders and carriage drivers participate recreationally, and many may not belong to any sporting club or organisation.

It is a sport and recreational activity that whole families can participate in together; and creates a lifelong active lifestyle.

Sport and Recreation New Zealand's (SPARC) latest Survey estimates that 3% of adult New Zealanders participate in equestrian activity.

Horse riding and carriage driving has a high female participation rate at all ages, and is the third ranked sport for girls 5-17 years old. (SPARC, 2003) Women in their 30's and 40's take up riding for the first time, or return to it after having children. However, it is also an activity that many in their 20's must give up due to the time and money constraints on young adults as they leave home and start a career or family.

Learning to ride and control a horse creates self-confidence; it is an outdoor activity that many women enjoy because it involves freedom, adventure, and physical recreation without having to break into more male dominated activities. Once independent riding is achieved, disabled riders can enjoy the freedom of pursuing an outdoor activity on a similar basis to able-bodied participants.

Equine programmes could be enhanced greatly by the provision of bridleways to enable integration with the community, and greater opportunities for those participating i.e. the ability to ride out into the community (graduate to independent riding) and continue with active equestrian sport or recreation when well, or as continuing therapy.

Sports and recreation facilities should be provided in an *equitable way*. For the most part, the Council provision of sport and recreation is biased toward male dominated ball sports regardless of participation rates, current inequity of provision, or the additional therapy or economic benefits to the community.

Horowhenua has many public parks and reserves. They allow for a variety of activities and sports such as swimming, volleyball, basketball, cricket, netball, soccer, pump tracks, skating, rugby, mountain biking, walking, jogging, tennis, cycling, squash, petanque etc.

**Yet in the whole of the Horowhenua Council there is not one public equestrian sports facility.**

## **Horse riding and carriage driving is for all abilities**

Horse trekking also affords those with disabilities access to our more remote natural and scenic places. Many riders and drivers have disabilities, such as knee and hip arthritis (or replacements), or have suffered from a variety of injuries or illnesses that restrict their ability to walk or cycle long distances (stroke, heart problems etc). However, the horse provides strong legs and healthy lungs to travel long distances. It travels nearly silently and affords riders and drivers the ability to enjoy natural surroundings without disturbing the enjoyment of others.

Riding and carriage driving is an activity that can be continued well into the 60s and even 70s and beyond. However, these people may not be quite so able to enjoy long treks into natural or 'wilderness' environments on their own two feet. Continuing to deny access to horses in these areas, denies access to a sector of the population.

The horse can and does provide access to natural areas, and experiences for many. Riders and drivers, who may not consider themselves 'disabled', nonetheless may have a wide range of disabilities, and disabled children or adults can often achieve independent riding.

## **Promote tourism**

Domestically, horse trekking is popular but is restricted almost entirely to commercially organised treks over private land. The ability to undertake a multi-day trek would appeal to a large number of New Zealand riders and drivers as a holiday option, and Manawatu's beaches, rivers, forests, and the Tararua forest park create numerous areas of interest to visit. In the UK, US and Europe multi-day horse riding is a popular option, one that opens up opportunities for more service businesses along bridlepaths .



Long distance non-motorised journeys, on foot, on bike or on horseback require rest stops and overnight accommodation. Development of bridleways (or rural shared pathways for walkers, cyclists and horse riders) will provide local recreation, and open tourism opportunities that increase visitor stays.

More comprehensive shared pathways for a variety of modes of travel (walking, tramping, cycling, horse riding and mobility devices) should be created, that link different areas. Not only will this create tourism opportunities, but also local expand local recreation access.

And council support, creating partnerships with private land owners and tourism operators, and working with DOC, local Iwi, etc. for access to or across land for trail formation would unlock new opportunities.

### **Foxton in particular:**

If Foxton is to be developed at the “tourism hub” of Horowhenua, then transport between Foxton and the estuary in Foxton Beach should be developed, which is attractive for tourists.

One popular mode of transportation is horse drawn carts.

Therefore I propose that the walk/cycle way along the Manawatu river includes a path suitable for horse riders and horse drawn carts.

## **Promoting sustainable living and working**

There is a walking and cycling strategy, but no mentioning of horse riding/carriage driving. Horse riding and driving are a quiet and sustainable way of transport and recreation.

Bridleways in the UK have always been open to both horses and walkers, they were opened to cyclists in 1967, and provide an excellent case study of having networks of natural (footing) shared trails can provide local recreation resources and tourism opportunities.

## **Horses and the Environment**

NZ Horse Recreation respects the rights of other recreational users to enjoy the environment, and provides information on environmental effects of horses.

NZ Horse Recreation has researched and can provide publications on the effects of horses on trails through erosion, weed spread through manure or hoof traffic, pathogens or water contamination effects.

The net effect of allowing horses into native or sensitive environments is generally minimal and often less than allowing humans themselves into environments (horses for instance do not carry or shed cryptosporidium or giardia like humans).

## **Shared pathways**

While shared pathways have started to take shape in Horowhenua, so far equestrians have not been included or even considered.

And in the case of the pathway along Palmer Road in Foxton Beach in particular, the situation for equestrians has deteriorated. While previously the berm was suitable for horse riding, the shared pathway has left no space or suitable surface for horses. The other side of the road is often too wet and in places too narrow to accommodate horses. This is an example of a missed opportunity and deteriorating environment for equestrians.

I request that this example be remedied by providing a strip of sand along this path. And for all future shared pathways to make provision for equestrians.

## More proposals

1. Create equestrian facilities for public use.
  - Foxton has beautiful facilities at the race course, these are however not open for public use. Target Reserve could easily be developed at the equestrian centre for the lower North Island.
  - The Levin Pleasure Horse Club hires the A&P Showgrounds for their rallies. These grounds are a large proportion of the year unusable because of the wet surface.
  - The future of RDA in Kimberley Centre is safe for now, but the arena is not open for public use.
2. Parks and reserves to have a more inclusive access policy for activities such as carriage driving and horse riding. Some examples for the Foxton area:
  - Access to reserves like Target Reserve, Ferry reserve, Foxton Beach Coastal reserves.
  - Although, according to the "What is permitted on our reserves" map, the Cousins Avenue Forestry Reserve is not forbidden for horses, but the barriers at the entrances make it impossible for most horses to enter.
  - Off road vehicles with permit are allowed at the MacKenzie trail in Foxton Beach. There are however no trails available for horse riders in the dunes or towards the beach.
3. Creating a shared pathway / bridleways network to link some of Horowhenua's parks and reserves will provide both recreational and tourism opportunities.  
Examples that could be developed in the Foxton Area:
  - Foxton Beach loop.  
Through the Cousins Avenue Forestry, through the dunes, along the beach south, along the Manawau river East, through Ferry reserve and along Palmer Road.
  - From Foxton Beach to Foxton.  
From the beach, through the dunes and private forestry, over private land to Wylie road, over Round Bush and through Target Reserve to the race course and pony club grounds.
  - Along the Manawatu river and river loop from Foxton Beach to Foxton or to Shannon.
  - Foxton Beach - Himatangi loop  
Through the dunes and back over the beach or vice versa.
4. Council to actively support and monitor the public use of unformed roads for recreation and public access. Publish paper roads accessible for horse riders and drivers.
5. Whenever a shared pathway / cycling or walking path/track is created to leave a few meters of sandy surface to the side to be used by horses. E.g. a path along the Manawatu river and from Shannon to Eketeuna.
6. Road verges not to be narrowed by temporary or permanent fencing for grazing cattle.
7. When a large block of rural land is subdivided add the requirement for a perimeter bridleway.  
Perimeter bridleways (shared rural trails of natural surfaces) will provide:
  - an extra margin between existing rural blocks and new developments to mitigate reverse sensitivity issues,
  - new recreation spaces at no cost to the Council
  - linkages between old and new development areas
  - rural amenity (views, recreation etc)

These bridleways should be natural surfaces – grass, and ideally planted with tree scapes or hedging to provide screening\rural amenity. This will reduce the implementation costs, and maintenance requirements ongoing.

8. Council can also help to liaise and advocate with private landowners, such as forest management companies to gain access to these resources. Possibly planning, negotiating or implementing public rights of way\bridlepaths on agreed routes to help create trail networks, and\or managing recreational access.

### **References:**

"Out and about in Horowhenua", your guide to parks and reserves

Foxton Beach Coastal Reserves Management Plan, april 2009

Horowhenua District Council Walking and Cycling Strategy, Feb 2009

<http://www.nzhorseriders.info>

"Reach your affluent and upmarket equestrian audience", Equestrian Sports New Zealand, 2018



# I CAN

*John A. Davies,  
Disabled Equestrians Organisation (USA)*

I CANNOT WALK, OR RUN OR PLAY  
A GAME OF TENNIS EVERY DAY,  
I CANNOT DANCE OR RIDE A BIKE  
I'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT SKATING'S LIKE.

I HAVE NO SOCCER BOOTS OR BALL  
THEY ARE NO USE TO ME AT ALL,  
I'LL NEVER SKI THE WAVES OR SNOW  
SO MANY THRILLS I'LL NEVER KNOW

I'LL NEVER SAIL THE WIND OR SURF  
OR CHASE A BALL ACROSS THE TURF,  
NOR CLIMB THE SNOW CAPPED PEAKS ABOVE,  
SO MANY THRILLS I'LL NEVER LOVE.

BUT I CAN RIDE THROUGH FOREST TRAILS  
TO SEE THE FOX AND RABBIT TAILS  
AND WATCH THE GEESE AND DUCKS TAKE FLIGHT  
WHILE LEAPING STAGS AND DEER TAKE FRIGHT.

AND I CAN FOLLOW MOUNTAIN TRACKS  
PAST CLIMBERS WEIGHTED DOWN WITH PACKS  
TO TRACE A RIVER TO ITS SOURCE  
ABOVE THE CLOUDS AND FEEL THE FORCE.

YES, I ENJOY THE "SPORT OF KINGS",  
WHEN CARRIED HIGH MY FEET TAKE WINGS  
TO FLY ME ON A PLEASURE COURSE,  
FOR I CAN MOUNT AND RIDE A HORSE.

# What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #111



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 3:12PM

Receipt number: 96

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Full Name:	Christine Toms
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
	Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.
<b>Hearing of Submissions</b>	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	No
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	
Sign language interpretation required?	No
<b>Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)</b>	
Please select your preference:	
Why did you choose this option?	
<b>Long Term Plan 2021-2041</b>	

What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my views on the Annual Plan for 2020/2021.

The Global Pandemic has shunted all previous expectations for the Annual Plan to one side.

Therefore, I submit that:

An audit of staff and staff turnover to reduce staff numbers and retain experienced personnel.

Rates must be held at zero increase, particularly in view of ratepayers' decreased income due to the crisis.

Rates penalties should be abolished during the crisis. People are doing their best to accommodate outgoings, often without jobs and regular income.

Through no fault of Council, who are unable to provide normal services during a variety of levels of lockdown e.g. swimming pools, libraries, parks, recreation facilities a rates rebate should be provided to all HDC ratepayers.

The Civil Defence Management facility for Horowhenua should be reinstated at the civic building, with appropriate building reinforcement/upgrade and management particularly during the crisis. This is seen as essential for District-wide protection and information during the Pandemic.

Only essential services, e.g. drinking water and wastewater, essential infrastructure including some roads but not all, and other vital services should be applicable in the 2020/2021 AP.

In line with other District Councils in New Zealand, could HDC consider:

A 20% reduction in salary for the mayor, CE, deputy CE and councillors?

Free delivery of medicines and other essential items from pharmacies to patients in the District?

Other concessions to Horowhenua District Council residents and ratepayers to assist in their wellbeing during the Pandemic crisis which it is understood will flow into 2021, at least.

<p>What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?</p>	<p>Financial considerations are the major challenges to all Councils, particularly to the Horowhenua District. Prompt and precise auditing of current levels of expenditure must be implemented to ensure that what little money there is available is used conscientiously and wisely during 2020/2021. No other expenditure should be planned for building Council projects, including those health and recreational facilities already in the pipeline.</p> <p>Only solid investments should be entered into with valid, independent and transparent advice and auditing. Futures and Swaps must no longer be entertained. All losses on high risk and other tenuous markets, including overseas gains and losses, should be publicly disclosed. Losses should be attributed to Council and councillors, not to ratepayers. Potential and/or real mortgage sales in the event of high risk losses should be disallowed and the onus put back on Council/councillors.</p>
<p><b>Your Comments</b></p>	
<p>Please provide any further comments:</p>	<p>It is foreseeable that Councils will be restructured as the fall-out of the Pandemic becomes apparent. It may be advantageous that Horowhenua District considers working with and/or amalgamation with other Councils during the looming cash-strapped Local Government sector. This could benefit the organisation which is Horowhenua District and its ratepayers as a whole. We are, after all, in this together.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Attach any other comments:</p>	

# What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #112



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 3:25PM

Receipt number: 97

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Full Name:	Pam Good
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	58 Highbury Drive Levin
Postcode:	5540
Telephone:	0211685976
Email:	pamgoodnz@gmail.com
<b>Hearing of Submissions</b>	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	Yes
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	Wednesday 13 May; or
Sign language interpretation required?	
<b>Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)</b>	
Please select your preference:	Option 1: Remove the paddling pool, but have no splash pad. (Estimated cost \$30,000)
Why did you choose this option?	A Splash Pad in Levin is a much needed asset and many visitors and residents of Levin have asked about a Splash Pad to enhance our park facilities.  In my view Jubilee Park is not the right place to have one. It should be on a much grander scale and at a different venue. Yes we need one but definitely not at Jubilee Park.
<b>Long Term Plan 2021-2041</b>	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	To ensure : * the O2L road is completed as early as possible. * there is sufficient housing * there are appropriate infrastructures in place * Horowhenua is promoted as a place to live and visit ( facilities continue to be upgraded and enhanced



What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?	Key challenges are the low socio-economic status of many of our residents. Covid 19 effects on our community and country. Council should be seen to have a voice for NGO's with all the Ministries involved at the grassroots level to enhance wellbeing in our community. Lack of money and food is a challenge for many of our families. Local Government support and lobbying is needed to mobilise our residents back to where they were and further in the future.
<b>Your Comments</b>	
Please provide any further comments:	
Attach any other comments:	

**From:** annual plan  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** Records Processing  
**Subject:** FW: sub-HDC-Operating deficit\_0001.pdf — Page 1  
**Attachments:** sub-HDC-Operating deficit\_0001.pdf

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**From:** Bill Huzziff <wrhuzziff@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 3:36 PM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** sub-HDC-Operating deficit\_0001.pdf — Page 1

Good afternoon HDC,  
Attached is my submission on HDC's chronic operating deficit.  
Regards, Bill Huzziff

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## What's Our Plan 2020/2021



We've told you what's planned for 2020/2021. Now's the time to have your say.

### Submission can be:

- Delivered to:** Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
- Posted to:** Horowhenua District Council, Attn: Strategy and Development, Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540
- Emailed to:** [annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz)
- Completed online at:** [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/annualplan2020/2021](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/annualplan2020/2021)

**Submissions must be provided to Council by no later than 5.00pm, Friday 24 April 2020.**

### Contact Details

**Full Name:** William Huzziff  
**Organisation:** —  
**Postal Address:** Baker St., Foxton  
**Post code:** 4891  
**Telephone:** 027 338 3218  
**Email:** wrhuzziff@gmail.com

### Privacy Act 1993

Please note that your submission is public information. Information on this form including your name and submission will be made available to the media and public as part of the decision making process. Your submission will only be used for the purpose of What's Our Plan 2020/2021. The information will be held by the Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. You have the right to access the information and request its correction.

Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.

### Levin Splash Pad (please tick your preference)

- Option 1:** Remove the paddling pool, but have no splash pad. (Estimated cost \$30,000)
- Option 2:** Remove the paddling pool and Council build a splash pad. (Estimated cost \$450,000)
- Option 3:** Remove the paddling pool and Council contributes \$250,000 to the construction of a splash pad with the community raising the additional funding. (Council's Contribution \$250,000)

Why did you choose this option?

Council spending is out of control.

This page is removable so you can tear it off, fold and send back to us with FreePost.

Please attach additional pages if necessary.



Next year, Council will be creating the Long Term Plan for 2021-2041.

What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?

Council spending + Balanced Budgets.

What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?

Affordable development.

Please provide any further comments.

Council has been deficit budgeting for several years. This is not sustainable for operating expenditure.

Further details of our submissions is contained in the accompanying pages.

Hearing of Submissions (please tick your preference)

Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a Hearing? Yes  No

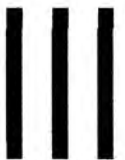
Sign language interpretation required? Yes  No

If YES then would you prefer to speak on - Wednesday 13 May  or Thursday 14 May

Note: It is not guaranteed that every submitter will get their preferred day to present.

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FreePost 108609



Strategy and Development Team
Horowhenua District Council
Private Bag 4002
Levin 5540

## Out-of-control Council expenditure

I am deeply concerned that Council operating expenditure is out of control. The actions of past and present councillors have contravened the local government act 2002 which requires:

### Balanced Budget Requirement

**[1] a local authority must ensure that each year's projected operating revenues are set at a level sufficient to meet the years projected operating expenses.**

Past and present counsellors are setting up an almost insurmountable financial hurdle for the ratepayers of Horowhenua. Particularly vulnerable will be the one quarter of our population who are over 65 years of age.

I will set out my reasons for my concerns in the following list:

- [a] there have been sharp increases in operating expenditure over the last 3 years
- [b] the rates charged have not been sufficient to fund the expenditure
- [c] the deficit has been funded by borrowing.

Those listed reasons will be more fully explained in the body of this document.

*In the financial year 2017/2018, ending 30 June 2018, rates received by the Horowhenua district Council was \$36,381,000.*

### **This is the base year I will work from.**

- [a] sharp increases in operating expenditure over the last 3 years.

2018/2019 financial year, the rate take was:	\$38,562,000
2019/2020 financial year, the forecasted rate take is:	\$40,090,000
2020/2021 financial year, the proposed rate take is:	\$ 43,073,000.

This gives an annual average rate over the 3 years of: \$40,578,000 equating to an approximately 6% compounding increase over the base year.

But this is not the full picture, all 3 years have a shortfall or operating deficit.

2018/2019 shortfall of rates needed to cover the operating expenditure was: \$5,714,000

2019/2020 shortfall of rates needed to cover operating expenditure is forecasted to be: \$2,489,000

2020/2021 shortfall of rates needed to cover operating expenditure is proposed to be \$3,729,000.

The total rates shortfall over the 3 years is: \$11,186,000 or an annual average over the 3 years of \$3,729,000.

This is equivalent to an annual average deficit of 11%.

A balanced budget for operating expenditure [as required by the local government act 2002 would have required, and will require, an average rate increase of 17% made up of the 6% rate increase charged plus the average shortfall or deficit of 11%.

The shortfalls do not disappear. They are financed by loans, which does not remove the requirement to pay the full costs of the rates, just transferring the requirement to a future date but with interest added.

Note: the rate deficit for individual years may be grossly underestimated. To give an example from the past I quote HDC's annual report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2019

[ page 8 ] "Disappointingly, the 2018/19 financial result shows an operating deficit of \$5,714,000 against a budgeted operating surplus of \$1,655,000."

**Some hard financial decisions need to be made.**

It is clear, from the information that I have provided, the Council as a whole is violating the local government act 2002 as set out under the following heading;

**Financial management.**

[1] local authorities must manage revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments, and general financial dealings prudently and in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community.

Regards, Bill Huzziff phone: (02) 7338 3218.



**From:** annual plan  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** Records Processing  
**Subject:** FW: sub-HDC 24-4-2020 Kings Canal\_0001.pdf — Page 1  
**Attachments:** sub-HDC 24-4-2020 Kings Canal\_0001.pdf

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**From:** Bill Huzziff <wrhuzziff@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 3:12 PM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** sub-HDC 24-4-2020 Kings Canal\_0001.pdf — Page 1

Good afternoon HDC,  
My submission on Foxton East Drainage Scheme is attached.  
Regards, Bill Huzziff

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



We've told you what's planned for 2020/2021. Now's the time to have your say.

### Submission can be:

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- Emailed to:** annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz
- Completed online at:** www.horowhenua.govt.nz/annualplan2020/2021

**Submissions must be provided to Council by no later than 5.00pm, Friday 24 April 2020.**

### Contact Details

**Full Name:** William Huzziff  
**Organisation:** —  
**Postal Address:** 23 Baker St., Foxton  
**Post code:** 4891  
**Telephone:** 027 338 3218  
**Email:** wrhuzziff@gmail.com

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- Option 3:** Remove the paddling pool and Council contributes \$250,000 to the construction of a splash pad with the community raising the additional funding. (Council's Contribution \$250,000)

### Why did you choose this option?

Council must concentrate on the necessary not on wish lists

This page is removable so you can tear it off, fold and send back to us with FreePost.

Please attach additional pages if necessary.



# Long Term Plan 2021-2041

Next year, Council will be creating the Long Term Plan for 2021-2041.

What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?

Costs

What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?

Getting the storm water sorted out.

## Please provide any further comments.

In particular Foxton East/King's Canal needs to be sorted out with works that are affordable.

Further details in the accompanying page.

## Hearing of Submissions (please tick your preference)

Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a Hearing? Yes  No

Sign language interpretation required? Yes  No

If YES then would you prefer to speak on – Wednesday 13 May  or Thursday 14 May

Note: It is not guaranteed that every submitter will get their preferred day to present.

Fold here

FreePost 108609



Strategy and Development Team  
Horowhenua District Council  
Private Bag 4002  
Levin 5540

**Foxton East drainage scheme.**

We are Huzziff Farms Ltd, 23 Baker Street, Foxton.

We are major ratepayers to the Foxton East drainage scheme to the tune of \$5500.

The first proposal for Kings canal/Foxton East drainage scheme was to divert 60% of the water from Kings canal down through Foxton to the loop, a distance of 1.2 km. The pipe diameter to achieve this was 750 mm. The cost of the scheme was going to be \$3.4. After considerable discontent was expressed by the ratepayers the scheme was peer reviewed. The peer review established it was not feasible. A 1.4 m diameter pipe would be needed. At the time the scheme was mooted there was a reluctance to release the details. It seems as though history is repeating itself.

There are rumours that a new scheme being proposed. This would divert the bulk of the water into the Whirokino drainage scheme area. The rumoured cost of this diversion is in excess of \$5 million. But these are just rumours. There has been no consultation with the affected ratepayers. Will it be another disastrous undertaking? Why was I with schoolboys maths, learnt over 60 years ago, able to work out the first proposal was ridiculous but the consultants employed by the council could not?

[Were the consultants paid? They should not have been.] The councils attitude seems to be **trust us we know what we doing.**

Can you understand why I don't?

Therefore I asked two things from the council:

[a] that no start be made on any new works by HDC and Horizons until full consultation has taken place

[b] there is an alternative to the Cook Street diversion pipe and the rumoured Whirokino diversion. This alternative has been fully costed which has revealed the alternative would be effective in dealing with the problems of the Foxton East/Kings Canal drainage scheme with the significant advantage of costing less than \$1 million. This alternative should be given a fair hearing.

The problems of Kings Canal should have been dealt with years ago but just because it should have been dealt with years ago does not mean the council should now rush into an expensive scheme without consulting with those people who will foot the bill.

Regards, Bill Huzziff phone: (02) 7338 3218.

**From:** annual plan  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** Records Processing  
**Subject:** FW: annual plan  
**Attachments:** annual plan submission.pdf

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**From:** jacinta@kerrywales.com <jacinta@kerrywales.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 3:35 PM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** annual plan

Hi there - I wish to add my voice to those of others who are asking the council to re-write the annual plan so that it reflects a more appropriate response to the impact of COVID-19 on our community. Please see submission form attached. Thank you.

Regards,  
Jacinta Liddell



## Annual Plan Submission Form

Horowhenua  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## What's Our Plan 2020/2021



We've told you what's planned for 2020/2021. Now's the time to have your say.

## Submission can be:

**Delivered to:**  
Horowhenua District Council,  
126 Oxford Street, Levin

**Emailed to:**  
annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz

**Posted to:**  
Horowhenua District Council,  
Attn: Strategy and Development  
Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540

**Completed online at:**  
www.horowhenua.govt.nz/  
annualplan2020/2021

**Submissions must  
be provided to  
Council by no later  
than 5.00pm, Friday  
24 April 2020.**

## Contact Details

Full Name: Jacinta Liddell

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: 191 Hokio Sand Rd

Post code: 5571

Telephone: 021 215 9099

Email: jacinta@kerrywales.com

## Privacy Act 1993

Please note that your submission is public information. Information on this form including your name and submission will be made available to the media and public as part of the decision making process. Your submission will only be used for the purpose of What's Our Plan 2020/2021. The information will be held by the Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. You have the right to access the information and request its correction.

Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.

## Levin Splash Pad (please tick your preference)

- Option 1:** Remove the paddling pool, but have no splash pad. (Estimated cost \$30,000)
- Option 2:** Remove the paddling pool and Council build a splash pad. (Estimated cost \$450,000)
- Option 3:** Remove the paddling pool and Council contributes \$250,000 to the construction of a splash pad with the community raising the additional funding. (Council's Contribution \$250,000)

## Why did you choose this option?

At a time when we are dealing with a pandemic  
this is not an important priority.

This page is removable so you can tear it off,  
fold and send back to us with FreePost.

Please attach additional pages if necessary.

Perhaps the current paddling pool could be filled with  
sand and turned into a playground for an even

### Long Term Plan 2021-2041

Next year, Council will be creating the Long Term Plan for 2021-2041.

**What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?**

*Please see attached.*

**What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?**

- 1. Rebuilding community post pandemic in ways that do not repeat past mistakes*
- 2. Healing the environmental damage of the past*

**Please provide any further comments.**

### Hearing of Submissions (please tick your preference)

Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a Hearing? Yes  No

Sign language interpretation required? Yes  No

If YES then would you prefer to speak on – Wednesday 13 May  or Thursday 14 May

*Note: It is not guaranteed that every submitter will get their preferred day to present.*

Fold here

FreePost 108609



Strategy and Development Team  
Horowhenua District Council  
Private Bag 4002  
Levin 5540



**The Annual Plan 2020/2021**

1. Priorities have obviously changed. A plan that was created in a pre-pandemic world is no longer appropriate. Improving Horowhenua as a destination and developing the town centre are hardly important when there are families in our community struggling to pay rent and mortgages, buy food and stay healthy. Council's first priority must be to assess the impact of COVID-19 on our community and re-write a more humane annual plan. I propose that you invite a group of key leaders in the community from across all the sectors to aid you in this task.

2. The somewhat pedantic way that council operates may no longer be appropriate. Council processes need to be more flexible, more able to respond quickly to a rapidly changing world and more humane when dealing with individuals. Our Prime Minister is showing us that it is possible to initiate kinder systems. I propose that this council takes on the challenge of reviewing council processes and coming up with some bright ideas about how we can do things better. Rigid annual plans may be the first thing you scrap. To send out a beautifully printed, colourful notice offering only 3 options dealing with an old paddling pool at a playground at this time could be viewed as somewhat insensitive don't you think?

3. Increasing the rates is contentious and may lead to further hardship for some families in the community. I don't believe any of us would like to see that. How can we do this differently? Let me see. Last year we personally paid 11.23% of our annual income on rates. I haven't done the sums for the proposed increase, I'm still reeling from last year's rates. Can you imagine the outraged feelings if someone earning \$100,000, say the mayor for instance, was presented with a rates bill (or property tax) of \$11,230.00. Can you imagine the depressing powerlessness of being unable to protest such a sum because that is considered a 'fair' assessment? I would like to propose that rates be assessed on income and that the same percentage of income is paid by all. Say 5 percent? Would that do it? Would that bring in the same amount of money to council? Would that be a fairer way of making us pay for the privilege of home ownership?

4. I don't see any reference in the annual plan to council deciding upon a closure date for the landfill. This is a crucial environmental issue facing the community. There is not much point in spending money on beautifying various areas around town if the surrounding environment is polluted is there?

5. And whilst on the topic of planning....is it really necessary to spend so much money on developing great colourful consultation documents and plans if we can accept that any plans we might make for the future may have to change at short notice? Can we keep it simple? Can we create discussion forums that people are invited to and that result in real action plans that shape our community?

**From:** annual plan  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** Records Processing  
**Subject:** FW: Submission - Draft Annual Plan  
**Attachments:** 20200424 Submission to the Horowhenua District Council on the Draft Annual Plan 2020.pdf

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**From:** Coralee Matena <cmatena@fedfarm.org.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 3:32 PM  
**To:** annual plan <annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Submission - Draft Annual Plan

Please find attached FFNZ's submission to the Draft Annual Plan.

If Hearings are to be held, can the speaking time for this submission please be adjacent to the speaking time for Geoff Kane's individual submission.

Kind regards

Coralee

**Coralee Matena**  
Senior Regional Policy Advisor

Federated Farmers of New Zealand

**M** 027 265 1648  
**E** [cmatena@fedfarm.org.nz](mailto:cmatena@fedfarm.org.nz)



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# Federated Farmers of New Zealand

## Submission to the Horowhenua District Council on the Draft Annual Plan 2020

24 April 2020



0800 327 646 | FED FARM .ORG.NZ



**SUBMISSION TO THE HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL ON  
THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2020**

To: Horowhenua District Council  
[annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz)

Name of submitter: **Federated Farmers of New Zealand – Manawatu/Rangitikei**

Geoff Kane  
Manawatu/ Rangitikei Province  
Horowhenua District Chair

Paul Olsen  
Manawatu/ Rangitikei Province  
Vice President

Coralee Matena  
FFNZ Senior Regional Policy Advisor

Address for service: Federated Farmers of New Zealand  
PO Box 945  
Palmerston North, 4440

Mobile: 027 265 1648

Email: [cmatena@fedfarm.org.nz](mailto:cmatena@fedfarm.org.nz)

1. The Manawatu/Rangitikei Province of Federated Farmers (Federated Farmers) thanks Council for the opportunity to comment on the Horowhenua District Council Draft Annual Plan (Annual Plan). We also acknowledge any submissions made by individual members of Federated Farmers.
2. Federated Farmers understands that Council prepared the Annual Plan prior to COVID-19 events, and therefore it can be considered 'out of date'. Accordingly, we have submitted to Council with recommendations for future actions, both short and long term, that we consider are more appropriate for the District and its communities.
3. Where appropriate, we would like to be heard in support of this submission.

**SUBMISSION**

4. Federated Farmers notes that the Annual Plan proposes an increase of 1% above LTP. Given the current situation (COVID 19), we **do not support any increase in rates**.
5. Federated Farmers is a regular submitter to Council's draft Annual and Long-Term Plans, principally reiterating the same concerns: increasing debt, increasing costs, inequity in rates across ratepayer groups and unnecessary spending and activities. It has been widely stated that New Zealand will not be the same post COVID 19 and will result in unprecedented social and economic reform. We therefore ask Council to take a prudent approach to its budget for 2020, and also when working up the 2021 Long Term Plan, given the long-term impact that COVID 19 will have on the District. We submit that:
  - a. Council utilises this opportunity to **review its work programme in full, removing or delaying unnecessary projects**, for example improvements to Oxford Street. It is important that Council focuses its priorities and resources on core business. Operating

costs need to be reduced, with savings re-appropriated to key economic projects as identified.

- b. **For those projects that are retained, Council review the activities and expenditure under each**, line by line. Amalgamated project costs need to be unpacked as we are concerned that unnecessary costs have crept in across the business, as business as usual, i.e. overuse of external consultants. While we appreciate that there are instances where external input is required, consultants should not also be utilised for activities Council staff can undertake, for example to facilitate and deliver workshops.
- c. Council **look for opportunities to make personnel savings**. Council have a formidable team of officers and we appreciate that to retain great staff, they must be reimbursed commensurately. We do however note that Council is proposing to increase staff remuneration by \$1.5 million. Nationally, employees are facing reduced remuneration to ensure businesses can remain viable, and we consider that this should also extend to Local Government where appropriate.
- d. Council **look for opportunities to work with other Councils to share resources**. This could be formally via a Shared Services arrangement, like the ongoing arrangement Rangitikei and Manawatu District Council have in place, or on a project by project basis. For example, the Territorial Authorities within the Horizons Region recently jointly submitted to the Horizons Regional Council Proposed Plan Change 2. Pooling resources spreads capability while also reducing costs.
- e. Council **review its rating system in the 2021 Long Term Plan to ensure rates are proportioned fairly** across rate payer groups. The scope of this review should include: property value as the proxy to recover rates, updating differentials, equity with roading rates, use of targeted rates, the benefits of a uniform annual general charge, and also utilisation of development contributions.
- f. Council **reduce its reliance on debt**. We reiterate our concerns with the significant level of debt that Council is accumulating, largely because of large non-priority nice to have projects. Debt should not continue to increase.
- g. Council should **consider extending the deadlines by which rates are due**, perhaps on a case by case basis. Federated Farmers understands that Palmerston North City Council are in the process of setting up a small team to work with ratepayers as required to facilitate tailored rates payment plans.

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Manawatu/Rangitikei Federated Farmers thanks the Horowhenua District Council for considering our submission.

