

Hearing Schedule and Speaker's Submissions

2020/2021
Annual Plan



What's Our Plan 2020/2021

Annual Plan Hearing Schedule & Submissions

Wednesday 13 May 2020 Between 1pm - 7pm			
Time (pm)	Name of submitter or organisation	Submission #	Page # <i>(hearing book of submissions)</i>
1.00-1.15	Introductions		
1.15-1.30	Sue-Ann Russell	19	Page 5
1.30-1.45	Maurice John & Jacqueline Sophie Campbell	75	Page 8
1.45-2.00	Jacinta Liddell	114	Page 9
2.00-2.10	Kelvin Lane, Foxton Shannon Co Operating Parish	116	Page 13
2.10-2.20	Kelvin Lane	117	Page 14
2.20-2.30	Kelvin Lane, Manawatū Estuary Trust	118	Page 15
2.30-2.40	Garry Good	102	Page 16
2.40-2.50	Pam Good	112	Page 18
2.50-3.00	Suzanne MacFarlane	142	Page 20
3.00-3.15	Break		
3.15-3.30	Kimberly Montaperto, Ayurvanna	11	Page 22
3.30-3.45	Errol Brown	123	Page 24
3.45-4.00	Allen Little	119	Page 26
4.00-4.10	Kim Sylvia Turton	129	Page 29
4.10-4.25	David Roache	107	Page 30
4.25-4.45	David Roache, Foxton Community Board	98	Page 32
4.45-4.55	Ann Thomas, Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers Group	94	Page 35
4.55-5.05	Brian & Ann Thomas	95	Page 38
5.05-5.20	Peter Everton, Lakeview Farm Ltd	79	Page 40
5.20-5.35	Geoff Kane & Paul Olsen, Federated Farmers of New Zealand - Manawatū/Rangitikei	115	Page 43
5.35-6.00	Break		
6.00-6.15	Michael Morgan	81	Page 46
6.15-6.30	Sam Ferguson	5	Page 48

**Thursday 14 May 2020
Between 2pm – 6pm**

Time (pm)	Name of submitter or organisation	Submission #	Page # (hearing book of submissions)
2.00-2.15	<i>Introductions</i>		
2.15-2.30	Christina Paton	139	Page 50
2.30-2.45	William Huzziff	113A 113B	Page 52 Page 56
2.45-3.00	Nick McVeigh, Foxton Rugby Club	65	Page 59
3.00-3.15	Brad Cassidy, Active Communities Manager, Sport Manawatū	91	Page 61
3.15-3.30	Kerry Hocquard, Community Health Advocate, Cancer Society of New Zealand Manawatū Centre	128A 128B	Page 77 Page 88
3.30-3.45	Lewis Rohloff, Horowhenua Grey Power	104	Page 98
3.45-4.00	Terence Hemmingsen, Horowhenua Grey Power	105	Page 111
4.00-4.15	Ted Melton, Chairperson, Foxton Beach Progressive Association	122	Page 117
4.15-4.25	Mike Lepper	138	Page 123
4.25-4.40	Sharon Williams	130	Page 125
4.40-5.10	<i>Break</i>		
5.10-5.25	Vivienne Bold, Chair, Horowhenua Progressive Association	121	Page 131
5.30-5.40	Melissa Steedman	73	Page 133
5.40-6.10	Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association	41	Page 137

What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #19



Submission date: 11 April 2020, 7:11PM

Receipt number: 21

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
Contact Details	
Full Name:	Sue-Ann Russell
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
	Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.
Hearing of Submissions	
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
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
Please select your preference:	Option 1: Remove the paddling pool, but have no splash pad. (Estimated cost \$30,000)

<p>Why did you choose this option?</p>	<p>I would love to see a splash pad, but it should be within the swimming pool complex. I have seen these in places like Dubai and they are secure well-run facilities with changing rooms and toilet facilities. I feel that children will be at the risk of many factors with the present design.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This could be used as a urinal if not specifically separated for the use of age specific children. 2. If there is no supervision of the area there is a possibility of grooming and harassment. 3. The hygiene factor will need to be considered. 4. If not a secure area the use of the equipment for other activities and vandalizations is high. <p>Therefore I would suggest the splash pool be included in the swimming pool complex or another secure venue for the health and safety of the children.</p>
<p>Long Term Plan 2021-2041</p>	
<p>What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?</p>	<p>Our three waters, this is my major concern. We are not treating our sewerage properly, we are treating our water ways as drains and fresh drinking water is getting more scarce. I would like to see Lake Horowhenua used as an example for the rest of New Zealand of how to take a dead poisonous lake and bring it to life. To create a fully recreational facility as well as a fully functioning environmental ecosystem supporting fish and bird life with the indigenous species flourishing in its surrounds.</p> <p>I would like to see the POT out of our vocabulary and the sewerage discharge treated properly so that the POT is no longer needed.</p> <p>We could support the Foxton and Foxton Beach areas of the Manawatu River and the Ramsar sites with protection from pollution and silting from drains and treat the sewerage to a much higher standard. The food source for these birds needs protection.</p> <p>Why is opening the loop at Foxton on the Manawatu River taking so long?</p>

<p>What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?</p>	<p>Poisoning ourselves with dirty water. Losing our recreation areas to pollution. Allowing new housing to be built on suspect ground prone to flooding and areas with global warming water level concerns. Allowing growth economic, social, retail and manufacturing without adequate infrastructure also being developed and expecting the already dying environment to cope.</p>
<p>Your Comments</p>	
<p>Please provide any further comments:</p>	<p>The public do have a voice and should be given every opportunity to speak. There needs to be a more open discussion round submissions and organisations that support our society should be approached for comment. Be pro active, invite people in to speak on topics of concern. Stop being scared of controversy and seek opposing views to form one view of strong integrity.</p>
<p>Attach any other comments:</p>	

What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #75



Submission date: 22 April 2020, 12:32PM

Receipt number: 72

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
Contact Details	
Full Name:	Maurice John & Jacqueline Sophie Campbell
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	PO Box 136 Levin
Postcode:	5510
Telephone:	0272945503
Email:	mauricesophie@xtra.co.nz
Hearing of Submissions	
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
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
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?	
Long Term Plan 2021-2041	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	Infrastructure Utilities upgrading Helping existing small businesses Creating a support local business and "Buy Local" campaign
What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?	The increase in population and keeping residents supporting the local businesses
Your Comments	
Please provide any further comments:	Please support the local businesses especially the existing shops and encourage our residents to "shop local buy local be a local". Encourage strip shopping - this is essential for a town like Levin and will help to create a friendly, local shopping area.
Attach any other comments:	

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

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?

Annual Plan Submission Form

Horowhenua District Council

Contact Details

Full Name: Kelvin Lane

Organisation: Foxton Shannon Co Operating Parish

Postal Address: 11 Avenue Road, Foxton

Post Code: 4848

Telephone: 063627254

Email: kathrynlane201@gmail.com

Levin Splash Pad

At this uncertain time, this project should be put on hold. A good clean and paint may be all that is necessary .

Long Term Plan 2021-2041

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

As a charitable organisation, we are concerned at the escalating rate rises set against the proposed budget and debt forecast.

What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?

Hearing of Submissions

Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing? YES.

Sign language interpretation required? NO

Would prefer to speak on –Wednesday 13 May 2020

Annual Plan Submission Form

Horowhenua District Council

Contact Details

Full Name: Kelvin Lane

Organisation:

Postal Address: 136 Kaihinau Road, RD4,Palmerston North

Post Code: 4474

Telephone: 063627254

Email: kathrynlane201@gmail.com

Levin Splash Pad

At this uncertain time, this project should be put on hold. A good clean and paint may be all that is necessary .

Long Term Plan 2021-2041

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

I am concerned at the escalating rate rises set against the proposed budget and debt forecast.

I support the continuum of the water and stormwater policies; Also the wastewater policy of land based disposal consistent with the One Plan.

What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?

Hearing of Submissions

Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing? YES.

Sign language interpretation required? NO

Would prefer to speak on –Wednesday 13 May 2020

Annual Plan Submission Form

Horowhenua District Council

Contact Details

Full Name: Kelvin Lane

Organisation: Manawatu Estuary Trust.

Postal Address: PO Box 11, Foxton Beach

Post Code: 4815

Telephone: 063627254

Email: manawatu.estuary@gmail.com

Levin Splash Pad

At this uncertain time, this project should be put on hold. A good clean and paint may be all that is necessary .

Long Term Plan 2021-2041

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

The Manawatu Estuary Ramsar site at Foxton Beach is of international significance and an integral part of the Horowhenua . There are 3 statutory managers , Horowhenua District Council (HDC), Horizons Regional Council (HRC), and Department of Conservation (DOC), and there is a growing collaborative effort between them. The Manawatu Estuary Trust would request HDC that they continue to work collaboratively with HRC and DOC and local volunteer groups in the governance and care of the Estuary.

What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?

Within the dune area at Foxton Beach there are plants growing , unique to the New Zealand Dune landscape .The Manawatu Estuary Trust request the protection of this area as part of the estuarine ecosystem.

Hearing of Submissions

Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing? YES.

Sign language interpretation required? NO

Would prefer to speak on –Wednesday 13 May 2020

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
Contact Details	
Full Name:	Garry Good
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	58 Highbury Drive Levin
Postcode:	5510
Telephone:	0272359195
Email:	tzgood@xtra.co.nz
Hearing of Submissions	
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?	
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
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.
Long Term Plan 2021-2041	
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>
Your Comments	
<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 #112



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 3:25PM

Receipt number: 97

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
Contact Details	
Full Name:	Pam Good
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	58 Highbury Drive Levin
Postcode:	5540
Telephone:	0211685976
Email:	pamgoodnz@gmail.com
Hearing of Submissions	
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?	
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
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.
Long Term Plan 2021-2041	
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.
Your Comments	
Please provide any further comments:	
Attach any other comments:	

Submission to the Annual Plan of Horowhenua District Council.

David Clapperton. CEO

Bernie Wanden. Mayor

Wayne Bishop. Councillor

Robert Keto. Councillor for Shannon.

Sirs.

I am a resident and ratepayer from Shannon where I have lived for 3 years. Formerly I was a resident and ratepayer living in Kuku.

I am also a superannuitant, with a low fixed income, still with a small mortgage and the usual outgoings of owning a home.

I am appalled at the amount of the rates increase and the debt incurred by this council of mostly higher income business/ farm owners who have absolutely no idea of the financial difficulties of coping with the increasing costs of rates and spending being carried out by the Council.

Further the flyer outlining the desire to create a Splash Pad in Jubilee Park beggars belief in the current situation of Covid 19, with the resulting losses of jobs and financial hardship which many residents of the Horowhenua are experiencing now and which is likely to continue for some time to come. That you could and would intend to spend this amount of money on any of the options is an outrage. You say the paddling pool has reached the end of its life, what exactly is wrong with it? Maybe it is outdated but that is no reason to spend this or any amount of money at this time. Rather you should be trimming your spending in areas which are for Council edification and making sure that core principals of Council are a priority.

I have to live on a very strict budget and if I wasn't prudent with my fortnightly superannuation I would be in a pickle of debt as you are.

I would like to speak to the Council Meeting and the Annual Plan when appropriate.

Suzanne MacFarlane

55 Clapham Street

Shannon 4821

06 2100121 0297782020

seteatclapham@gmail.com



Submission for Annual Plan 2020-2021

I am concerned about the Annual Plan Process being open for submissions on a narrow timeframe in conjunction with our Nation being in a State of Emergency.

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

It is of prime importance that the Council focus on how best it can serve the Community as the economic fallout takes effect.


I consider the Annual Plan Process be suspended and the Council staff be directed to rework the Plan that would best serve the Community. 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?

I consider the Process should be paused while the plan is reworked. Horizons Regional Council have suspended their Annual Plan Process while they rework the plan. In the leaflet handed out yesterday it was stated that consultation is a legal requirement. I am sure that central government would not hold any local body to account for postponing the process in order to review the plan.

I consider a 6.9% rate rise should also be suspended as this is likely to have a big financial burden on the community. The promo leaflet handed out yesterday 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?

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 

What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #11



Submission date: 9 April 2020, 9:20AM

Receipt number: 13

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
Contact Details	
Full Name:	Kimberley Montaperto
Name of Organisation:	Ayurvanna
Postal Address:	39 George Street
Postcode:	5510
Telephone:	0224711280
Email:	vana2010@live.com
Hearing of Submissions	
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
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
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?	The council has obligation to ensure the children of Levin have an adequate facilities .
Long Term Plan 2021-2041	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	More local free facilities for young people. Branching out to ensure we have holistic, peaceful areas for people to walk and get sufficient eco therapy , easily accessible
What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?	Mental health is a huge issue in our community . Mental health facilities lacking not only in our community but in New Zealand we need to be finding ways to ensure people have the tools to access nature and be encouraged to do so.. Poverty and job loss due to Covid19, we need to have more education around self sufficient living.

Your Comments

Please provide any further comments:

I propose at the jubilee Park we also build a community vegie garden & meditation area, where locals can grow seeds and also enjoy a area to relax with seating and spaces to do yoga practice. The space can also be used by local schools and kindergartens to teach children the basics of planting and harvesting seeds.

Attach any other comments:

23 April 2020

Submission To

Annual Plan. Consultation Document 2020 - 2021

I read in the local newspaper that submissions for the Annual Plan are being called for.

Like the great majority of the Horowhenua District residents I am unhappily aware of the havoc the COVID-19 outbreak is causing, has caused and will cause.

Alas, unhappily, it appears that those who submit proposals and advice to Horowhenua District Councillors are living in locations where COVID-19 does not exist. They appear not at all concerned that in the Horowhenua, as in the rest of New Zealand, people are losing their jobs, businesses are fighting for survival, tourism has been cancelled and the recession that is building is considered by some of this country's financial gurus as developing to be the worst they have seen.

When I read the HCDC plan what do I find? Once again, our rates are going up by over 6%.

It is more than time for Council to act constructively and adjust their planned expenditure to reflect the dawning national economic reality.

- What is their response to the COVID-19 Pandemic?
- How do they plan to help the Horowhenua District overcome the economic effects of this virus?

Immediate relief could come from a zero rate increase. **YES.**

Central Government has introduced policies to carry the country through, making funds available to help implement a recovery. This is the time for Horowhenua Councillors to adopt a policy that will help their ratepayers as we all grapple with reduced incomes, decreases in property values, job losses and rising costs.

Hold rates to the existing level and borrow for essential capital works that cannot be deferred for 12 months. Next year re-evaluate the position when hard facts are available.

It is time to take a deep breath and adjust plans to meet the reality that is evolving even as we talk.

It is really too much of a mind-set change and plan to reduce rates?

Perhaps we should accept that the days of small local authorities have passed and it would be better to amalgamate with our neighbours now, than get forced into it when overall economics are even more unfavourable.

Some of our Councillors are business owners. At this time their council income will help off-set any additional COVID-19 expenses their business may face. Not all of us have that cushion as for an as yet unknown number of ratepayers, their income is slashed and business failures can be expected.

As property values drop, we can surmise, that the actual rate increases will become excessive. Our Leaders, in this their first budget after elections, have the ideal opportunity to take a dose of reality and common sense.

Is any Councillor prepared to accept a salary cut to demonstrate solidarity with their ratepayers and other progressive councils in this small slice of paradise that abruptly, no longer has tourism income?

A zero rates increase and demonstrations from Councillors that they share the ratepayers income loss and concerns will speak louder than words.

Signed.....

Errol C BROWN

24 April 2020

Allen Little QSM,JP

7 Earl Street, Levin 5510

Phone (06) 3675900 Mobile (021) 02533330 Email: vision@inspire.net.nz

24TH April 2020

Strategy and Development Team

Horowhenua District Council

Private Bag 4002

Levin 5540

Strategy and Development Submission 2020

Introduction:

We share in common, a District wide community of interest which I earnestly believe is second to none. District wide the facilities are well managed and appear to be in good order and condition. This submission is made reflecting on our future about which I'm optimistic rather than pessimistic.

I applaud the effort put in by Council Staff reporting on and profiling our District today and into the future.

Our strength is in the people who collaborate, devise and design facilities in support of Community Wellbeing.

Splash Pad:

I'm concerned that the "**Levin Splash Pad**" seems to be of paramount importance. Sadly there is little description around what we are actually concerned about and how this comes to be. I confirm we are speaking of the facility at Jubilee Park, Levin which I think we should develop.

We should be concerned about 'Public Amenity'. In the Horowhenua we provide an array of services for residents. Including public spaces and community facilities. Capital improvements include a variety of civic buildings, water and sewer lines and treatment facilities, parks and recreational facilities plus our network of local streets and pedestrian pathways.

"**Levin Splash Pad**" is a public amenity. I suggest it is of importance to younger people. It is a facility offered to the general public for their use and/or enjoyment, with or without charge along with other amenities such as Restrooms, Libraries, Rain shelters, Drinking fountains, etc. The quality of neighbourhood's with streets for pedestrians, plus frontage landscaping and general ease of movement for the people support the sense of wellbeing as do the array of interconnected parks, trails, and pathways etc.

Community facilities enhance the lives of residents in numerous ways. Parks provide green space and room to move. Libraries, museums, community centres, and performance spaces open doors to knowledge and ideas, culture, and enjoyment. In the Horowhenua we have good parks and open spaces.

Other community facilities include our Libraries, small Museums and historic sites. Improving those facilities can mean different things for different communities. Some people may think adequate parks or facilities don't exist, and need to be created whilst others know about and access the existing facilities. **The 'Splash Pad' is a resource which should be maintained.**

Generally the accessibility and usefulness of community facilities needs to be actively monitored. We need to ensure they are not in a run down or dangerous state, and needing to be revitalized. In maintaining the public amenity of facilities we need to be assured they are both safe and fit for purpose.

The major issues I think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan include,

1. It is very important for people to move freely, with comfort, and in safety throughout the Horowhenua. The Integrated Transport Strategy which takes the issue of 'Public Transport' seriously needs to become a more Urgent priority. We need to secure improved Public Transport, refurbished the rain station; Improved Bath Street Bus stand.
2. Encouraging opportunities for our 'Community' to come together in appealing ways which celebrate our diversity as the people of the Horowhenua. enhancing our appeal as a community and welcoming destination of choice for traders or visitors alike.
3. Providing tangible infrastructure so new residents feel they are welcome and valued as new arrivals. The estimated 440 new houses each year should be assured they are within a trustworthy, safe and congenial society where its people matter.
4. Its really important to encourage domestic tourism and an opportunity to sample the Horowhenua at its best. Our Destination Management needs to project our district as a great place to live, work, play and visit at all times and stages of life.
5. Moving the last of our wastewater discharges from disposal to a waterway to land-based disposal.
6. We need to do more than pay lip service to Inter-Ethnic relations. It is good for Council to recognise and maintain special collaborative relations with the tangata whenua of our region. I believe Council should show its working relationships with the Maori community who see people and the environment as closely inter-related and this should be reflected through a strong interest in maintaining and protecting the environment as well as developing the economic future of the District. Through its decision-making processes, Council recognises the principals of the Treaty of Waitangi and kaitiakitanga, providing for the relationship of Maori and their traditions with their ancestral lands, water sites, waahi tapu and other taonga. Council should remain committed to continuing process of consultation with Maori in our District.

In all the preceding the six issues I think Council needs to consider and anticipate more opportunities for across the board collaboration, consolation and communication. The essential core component to all of these is fostering and promoting open, honest communication. We need to take care and ensure adequacy of our Districts Community Development and Communication Team charged with accentuating the many Positive and Life enhancing opportunities available to Citizens of the Horowhenua.

Key challenges or opportunities facing this district.

The big challenge which faces our district are a combination of 'Apathy', 'Misinformation' and 'Negativism' generated by the disaffected minority. People need to feel good about themselves and their living location. Sadly some don't want to belong to a positive vibrant community where its OK to care and share one with another. Sadly some people remain disaffected and unengaged.

We have an awesome Community of caring engaged people doing what they can to thrive in fast changing times. So I believe the key challenge we face as a Community is not about the 'Cost' of our local living but motivating and encouraging people to do their best and build a community committed to caring.

Conclusion:

To some this submission may seem like a lot of words. As we look to our shared future first show me the people, empower their purpose and liberate their energies for the common good.

Thank you sincerely



Allen Little

What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #129



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 4:44PM

Receipt number: 102

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
Contact Details	
Full Name:	Kim Sylvia Turton
Name of Organisation:	Resident
Postal Address:	51 Duke Street Levin
Postcode:	5510
Telephone:	0212317878
Email:	ksturton50@gmail.com
Hearing of Submissions	
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
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
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?	Because we need to reduce spending and reduce our over all debt that the council currently has
Long Term Plan 2021-2041	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	People's ability to pay their rates. If the rate continue to Rise
What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?	The debt the council has and is not reducing needs to be addressed
Your Comments	
Please provide any further comments:	This council. has huge potential but for too long now finances have clearly been mismanaged. This is an issue of correcting past mistakes. It appears to me the problems are snowballing.
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
Contact Details	
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
Hearing of Submissions	
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
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
Please select your preference:	
Why did you choose this option?	
Long Term Plan 2021-2041	
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
Your Comments	
Please provide any further comments:	
Attach any other comments:	Annual Plan Submission 2020 2021.docx

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

24th 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.



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 #94



Submission date: 23 April 2020, 8:53PM

Receipt number: 65

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
Contact Details	
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.
Hearing of Submissions	
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
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
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"> 1. Why is the paddling pool at end of life? 2. Can the paddling pool be repaired? 3. How accurate are the estimated costs provided? 4. What is going to be the cost to Council for ongoing maintenance? 5. Can the cost of this project be fully funded from Donations, Grants and local fund raising projects?
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 boarders 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"> 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. 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. <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

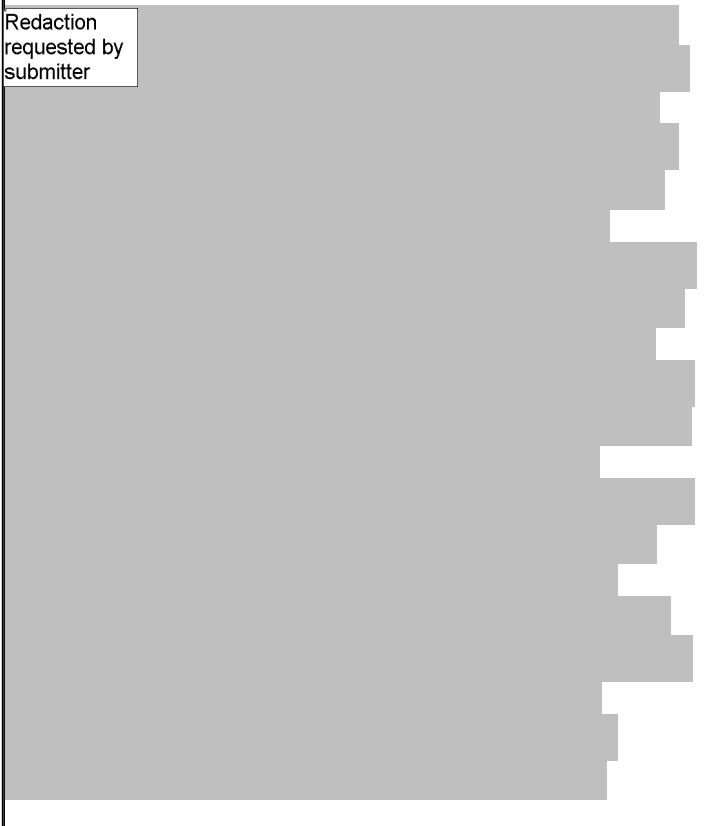
Related form version: 1

Question	Response
Contact Details	
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.
Hearing of Submissions	
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
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
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
Long Term Plan 2021-2041	
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



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

What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #79



Submission date: 22 April 2020, 3:26PM

Receipt number: 75

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
Contact Details	
Full Name:	Peter Everton
Name of Organisation:	Lakeview Farm Ltd
Postal Address:	P O Box 1012, Levin
Postcode:	5540
Telephone:	06 3685105 and mobile 027 4454623
Email:	lakeviewlevin@gmail.com
Hearing of Submissions	
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
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
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 DID NOT PICK AN OPTION BUT CANNOT MOVE ON UNTIL ONE WAS SELECTED. Council has never explained why they have to remove the existing paddling pool within two years. The \$30,000 estimated cost to remove the pool could be used to maintain it. It would be irresponsible of Council to spend an estimated cost of \$250,000 of ratepayers money on building a splash pad on the site of an old Levin dump that would only be used over the summer months and would need maintaining over the winter months. If a splash pad is to be built in the future, it should be at the Levin Adventure Park where it would get more use and be built on firmer ground and at possibly less cost to build. It would be better to spend \$250,000 on maintaining our infrastructure in the meantime. I don't want our rate money spent on this project at Jubilee Park.
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>The Long Term Plan needs to be put on hold. Make no changes at this stage until Covid-19 is over and see if New Zealand's economy spirals into a recession - and if so how long it takes it to recover.</p>
<p>What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?</p>	<p>Like the rest of New Zealand we could be in a serious economic recession for the next few years - you can't get blood out of a stone. Because of Covid-19 I do not see any opportunities for the Horowhenua District in the near future.</p>
<p>Your Comments</p>	
<p>Please provide any further comments:</p>	<p>We farm to the west of Lake Horowhenua - our rates for the 2019-20 rating year were \$62,255 (incl GST) - Horizons rates are in addition to this amount. There should be NO increase for the 2020-21 rating year. Farming incomes will be substantially reduced - income from sheep and beef has already reduced by 30% since January 2020, it could fall further. Dairy farm milk solids are predicted to be around \$5.60 kg for the 2020-21 season - down from the predicted \$7.30 for the 2019-20 season. At \$5.60 kg dairy farming is hardly sustainable.</p> <p>With any increase in rates Lakeview Farm Ltd would have to consider making one staff member redundant.</p> <p>Council needs to stick to the basics - maintenance of our major infrastructure only.</p> <p>A large percentage of our rates go to pay Council staff wages and our rates have supported a lot of staff through the lockdown. Did Council apply for wage subsidies from Government for those people that could not work through this period?</p> <p>With the country heading into what looks like a recession, rural ratepayers will struggle paying their rates let alone any increase on last years rates. Are Councillors or their staff willing to take a pay cut just like the rural ratepayers are going to have to because of lower farming incomes for the next season? Now is the time to wait and see what is going to happen over the next year - all key projects need to be put on hold. With economists predicting possible business closures, increased unemployment, falling incomes and increasing Government</p>

debt (in the billions) this will probably mean Government will have to increase taxes to repay the debt. The proposed Horowhenua District Council rate increase of 6.9% on the average to ratepayers at this time would be irresponsible.

I recall in the 1960's Levin was booming - there was lots of new industry and a large increase in population. This all died suddenly because of changes made by central Government and Levin stagnated for the next 50 years - it could happen again.

Attach any other comments:



Federated Farmers of New Zealand

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

24 April 2020



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

To: Horowhenua District Council
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

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.

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



Annual Plan 2020/2021*Phone submission***Date:** 21 April 2020**Submitter name:** Michael Morgan**Address:** [REDACTED]**Phone number:** [REDACTED]**Contact details private:** Yes**Hearing:** Yes**Date of hearing:** Not specified.**Submission****Splash Pad**

Option 1

Concerned about the lockdown. Lots of people in Levin are not having an income.

Long Term PlanQ1 What major issues do you think Council needs to consider for the next LTP?

Debt reductions. Not liable for debt when CEO leaves.

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

High number of pensioners, low income residents.

Other comments

Concern about high levels of rates in Levin, my property has a rates increase of 9.8%.

Concern about high level of Council debt not being paid. This is a major concern. Concern that the community will be left with the debt when the CEO leaves. The CEO's salary is too high. No one seems to be worried about this. Not sticking to budget a concern. Should keep spending under what is received in rates to get debt down.

Don't need a loan to build a splash pad, should be rates funded. If all ratepayers contributed \$3.90 in one year this would be paid for without the need for a loan. This would save interest and stop us getting further in debt.

If someone was running a business and owed as much money as Council they would be bankrupt.

Concern about pensioners and the amount they are paying in rates.

People are just trying to survive and rates keep going up.

For most people wages do not rise as fast as rates. People will have a pay freeze but Council keeps putting up the rates. This is not just a concern for me, other people in the town are struggling.

Only concern from Council seems to be getting the houses built on the other side of town (other side of Arapaepae Road). Housing prices will drop soon and they won't be needed for a couple years. The people subdividing in this area aren't paying the royalties that they used to have to pay e.g. connections for houses.

If house prices and the cost of sections drop, then rates don't drop. Every time house prices have dropped in the past, rates have not dropped to adjust to this. This includes land prices.

Not just thinking of myself, thinking of a lot of ratepayers in Levin.

What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #5



Submission date: 1 April 2020, 8:56PM

Receipt number: 6

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
Contact Details	
Full Name:	Sam Ferguson
Name of Organisation:	
Postal Address:	13 Sussex St
Postcode:	5510
Telephone:	0278277037
Email:	sdf.blackbetty@gmail.com
Hearing of Submissions	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	Yes
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	Thursday 14 May
Sign language interpretation required?	No
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
Please select your preference:	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?	
Long Term Plan 2021-2041	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate change - risk mitigation and transition to a low carbon economy 2. Unsustainable Urban growth leading to loss of land for other our purposes 3. Strengthen communities through business, transport, and social connections.
What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Growth and transport 2. Sustainable food production 3. Housing
Your Comments	

<p>Please provide any further comments:</p>	<p>Our district needs to be focusing and investing on active transport - primarily walking and cycling.</p> <p>There are significant benefits to the community with active transport, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - kids learn better if they walk or bike to school. - reduce health costs on the community. - more social connections. - safer for all users. - less environmental impact of vehicles - less road maintenance requirements. - free up land in the town center for other purposes - less carbon pollution - less dependency on fuel prices beyond our control - increase mobility for elderly - free up road space for essential services - extend capacity of existing roads - reduce vehicle conflict in the town center with SH1 and town traffic <p>With a relatively flat terrain and wide roads, there is plenty of opportunity to achieve multiple community benefits with a focus on active transport. This doesn't need to wait for central govt. and can be prioritised by this council.</p>
<p>Attach any other comments:</p>	

To: Horowhenua District Council
126 Oxford Street
Levin

From: Mrs C. Paton
6 Warren Street
Foxton Beach
Foxton 4815

Phone: 363 8494

Email: malimidwe@gmail.com

Date: 30th April 2020

Subject: Submission to Annual Plan 2020/2021.

Levin Splash Pad Option 1.

The Splash Pad is not an essential item.

The Horowhenua District is well served with swimming pools in Shannon, Foxton and Levin together with a very swimmable coastline.

There is already a significant debt burden in the Horowhenua District.

If the Levin ratepayers indicate a strong preference for the Splash Pad then it must be paid for with a Levin targeted rate.

Long Term Plan 2021-2041

Major issues to consider:-

1. Reconsider planned expansion of coastal communities given the advice contained in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement i.e. implement managed retreat given that global warming is causing sea level rise.
2. Liquefaction must also be taken into consideration.
3. There are already constraints on public water supplies.
4. The national economy is already taking a big hit from the Coronavirus scenario and Horowhenua is not immune from those effects.
5. Noting that Manawatu District Council is sensibly advocating for a nil rates increase. That is a common sense approach to managing the economic crisis that is affecting us all nationwide and the Horowhenua District may do well to follow suit.

6. Development Contributions must be re-instated. It is totally unacceptable that developers should be subsidised by the ordinary ratepayer given that the developers are the ones to benefit from profits made on sales.
7. There is a significant portion of our communities right now that do not have access to computers or community newspapers and this is discriminating against them as regards their ability to engage with local government at this important time when all input should be sought as much as possible. In my view the discrimination is acute against low income and many senior citizens. The Horowhenua District Council in my view has not made a worthy effort at trying to communicate with the ratepayers.

I request speaking rights to my submission.

Signed: Christina Paton

What's Our Plan 2020/2021



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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: Baker St., Foxton
Post code: 4891
Telephone: 027 338 3218
Email: wrhuzziff@gmail.com

Privacy Act 1993

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Why did you choose this option?

Council spending is out of control.

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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?

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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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 30th 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.

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Contact Details

Full Name: William Huzziff
Organisation: —
Postal Address: 23 Baker St., Foxton
Post code: 4891
Telephone: 027 338 3218
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Why did you choose this option?

Council must concentrate on the necessary not on wish lists

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Long Term Plan 2021-2041

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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

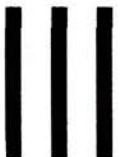
Sign language interpretation required? Yes No

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

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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:

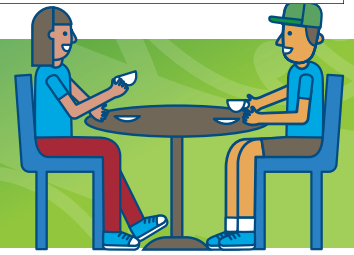
[a] that no start be made on any new works by HDC and Horizons until full consultation has taken place

[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.

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annualplan2020/2021

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Contact Details

Full Name: Nick McVeigh

Organisation: Foxton Rugby Club

Postal Address: 42 Cook Street Foxton

Post code: 4814

Telephone: 0210581167

Email: NICK.MCVEIGH@GMAIL.COM

Privacy Act 1993

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Why did you choose this option?

The idea of a splash pad is great especially if removing the paddling pool. It will provide the community somewhere to cool down during the summer months.

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Easton Park in Foxton needs an upgrade as the current facilities are not currently suitable for use. The Grandstand needs an upgrade, and new Flood lights would enable the ground to be used at night during the winter and possible night matches being played on the rugby field.

What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?

With the expressway opening a lot of people are moving North from Wellington and the area requires facilities to cope with the extra population and the ability to provide somewhere safe to do leisure activities.

Please provide any further comments.

A case is being prepared to make a sporting hub within Foxton at Easton Park. Currently there are only 2 changing rooms in the grandstand which we would like to see have a further 2 changing rooms added. A netball court added to the Park possibly where the old swimming pool is located which could have flood lights. The current flood lights be removed with new ones which would allow a safe training to happen at night for all that use them, and also allow the facility to have night games on the park as well.

Hearing of Submissions (please tick your preference)

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

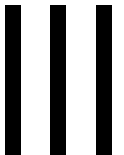
Sign language interpretation required? Yes No

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

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.

HEAD OFFICE

Sports House, 47 Queen Street
PO Box 797, Palmerston North 4440

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Makino Aquatic Centre
Feilding 4702

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40 Denmark Street,
Dannevirke 4930



- 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

HEAD OFFICE
Sports House, 47 Queen Street
PO Box 797, Palmerston North 4440

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40 Denmark Street,
Dannevirke 4930



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 ¹	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
Total	206,214	100%	\$50,000

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:

¹ 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>Signed for Palmerston North City Council</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>	<p>Signed for Manawatu District Council</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>	<p>Signed for Taranua District Council</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>	<p>Signed for Horowhenua District Council</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>	<p>Signed for Sport Manawatu</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>
<p>Signed for Rangitikei District Council</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>	<p>Signed for Ruapehu District Council</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>	<p>Signed for Whanganui District Council</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>	<p>Signed for Sport Whanganui</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>	<p>Signed for Sport New Zealand</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Position:</p>

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"> • Donnelly Park upgrade • National White-Water Centre upgrade • Whanganui Regional Velodrome development • Manfeild Park development • CET Arena upgrade • Regional Gym Sports Centre • Regional Bowling facility • Regional Mountain Biking facilities 	<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

Organisation: Cancer Society of New Zealand Manawatu Centre Inc.		
Representative Name: Mrs Kerry Hocquard, Community Health Advocate		
Postal Address: Addis House, PO Box 5170, Palmerston North		
Phone: (mobile) 027 3378166	(hm)	(wk) 06 356 5355
Fax: 06 356 7804	Email: Kerry.hocquard@cancercd.org.nz	

Do you want to speak to the Council in support of your submission? Yes

Re: Cancer Society Manawatu submission to the Horowhenua District Council Annual Plan
2020/2021

ABOUT THOSE MAKING THIS SUBMISSION:

The Cancer Society of New Zealand Manawatu Centre aims to reduce the rate of cancer in the Horowhenua region caused by harmful exposure to smoking, both active and secondhand exposure, and harmful exposure to Ultra violet radiation (UVR).

Cancer Society of New Zealand Manawatu Centre Incorporated is a charitable organisation covering the Midcentral DHB region of Horowhenua, Manawatu, Tararua, and Palmerston North city.

Our core services are in Health Promotion, Supportive Care, Information and Research. We work with our communities to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer.

Executive Summary:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the proposed Annual Plan 2020/2021. This plan proposing alfresco outdoor dining, gives an opportunity to bring to life Horowhenua District Council's commitment to central Government's Smokefree 2025 goal, and vision of a Smokefree community, as outlined in the Horowhenua District Council Smokefree Environment Policy (2017).

To deliver on Horowhenua District Council's Smokefree 2025 commitment to our community it is important that Smokefree public places, including outdoor dining spaces, are included within the Smokefree Environment Policy, and essential in the development of the alfresco dining spaces.

Manawatu Cancer Society's submission rationale for why Smokefree and vapefree alfresco dining needs to be included:

Reasons for Smokefree Outdoor dining spaces:

1. Second-hand smoke harms patrons and staff in outdoor dining areas
2. The more children see smoking and vaping, the greater likelihood they will start.

Having Smokefree and Vapefree places in our community helps prevent children from starting to smoke.

3. Most people that smoke want to quit.
4. Reducing the places that people can smoke and vape encourages people to smoke less or quit.
5. Smokefree environments help those who have to quit to stay Smokefree.
6. Feedback from business owners overseas shows Smokefree and vapefree outdoor dining provides a better environment for staff and makes outdoor dining more enjoyable for patrons.
7. The lessons learnt from the Smokefree Environment Act- that people were more likely to visit cafes and bars if they were Smokefree and vapefree.
8. Smoking bans did not have a significant effect on businesses and often had a positive effect
9. Every state in Australia has now committed to Smokefree Outdoor dining.
10. Smoking in outdoor areas contributes to air pollution and cigarette butt litter

11. Local research conducted in the Palmerston North region shows that not only do the public want Smokefree outdoor dining and events, but they would be more or as likely to go if they were Smokefree.

Manawatu Cancer Society's key recommendation is that the Smokefree Policy is amended to include outdoor dining areas and footpaths and that outdoor dining areas have no ashtrays available, smokefree and vapefree signage is displayed and that smoking and vaping are banned.

In considering smoking rates nationally, controls on cigarette sales, advertising, and sponsorship, and the use of cigarettes in confined spaces, have contributed to a decline in smoking rates - the current estimate is that 12.5 % of New Zealanders smoke regularly (1). **In comparison, for the Midcentral DHB region, 15% identified as regular smokers, with 59.1% identifying as having never smoked regularly (1) and Horowhenua region have 19% identifying as regularly smoking.**

Research shows that children who regularly see smoking around them are more likely to start smoking (2). Making public places and events Smokefree and vapefree is about stopping our young people from starting to smoke and/or vape and supporting people to quit.

The Cancer Society (2019) review of *Vaping: degrees of harm E-cigarette and smokeless tobacco products Summary of evidence* reveals some concerning trends of Māori students were around 5 times as likely to report daily smoking as non-Māori non-Pacific students. Young New Zealanders (14- to 15-year olds) who had ever tried vaping more than tripled between 2012 and 2016, with 27.7% of young people having ever tried vaping in 2016. Just under 2% of Year 10 students reported using e-cigarettes daily in 2018 (Vaping: degrees of harm E-cigarette and smokeless tobacco products Summary of evidence) (3)

Horowhenua District Council Policy support

Horowhenua District Smokefree Environment Policy (2017) identified the following objectives:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of Horowhenua's communities by reducing the prevalence of smoking and de-normalising smoking behaviour.

- Protect Horowhenua's environment by decreasing risk of fire from cigarette butt litter and by reducing the amount of cigarette packet and butt litter that enters the environment. (4)

High public support for Smokefree outdoor dining areas has been shown in Palmerston North Community

Smokefree public places and in particular outdoor dining areas have wide public support and hospitality industry support both internationally and in New Zealand.

Internationally, NSW research (2013) shows strong community support for smoking bans in commercial outdoor dining areas and at entrances to public buildings by both non-smokers and smokers:

- four in five people support a smoking ban in commercial outdoor dining areas of restaurants, hotels, clubs and cafés
- four in five people support a smoking ban within 4 metres of a pedestrian access point to a restaurant, hotel, club or café
- seven out of ten people support fines being issued to those who fail to comply with the outdoor smoking laws (5)

The Victorian Parliament passed the *Tobacco Amendment Act 2016 (Vic)*. The Act amends the *Tobacco Act 1987* to include a ban on smoking in all outdoor dining areas where food (other than pre-packaged food or uncut fruit) is provided on a commercial basis. The amendments also prohibit smoking at certain food fairs and organised outdoor events (6).

In New Zealand, there has also been strong support for outdoor dining where 37% of the New Zealand District Councils have now adopted regulations prohibiting smoking in outdoor dining venues under council lease, or councils have included smokefree outdoor dining in their smokefree policy promoting a voluntary or 'educational' approach. smokefree outdoor dining areas. (7).

Smokefree outdoor dining does not harm business

Palmerston North City Council chose to adopt specific regulations prohibiting smoking in outdoor dining venues under council lease.

This decision was evaluated in 2017 and it was encouraging to see that the evaluation report of the smokefree permit conditions for outdoor dining illustrated positive support

by hospitality managers of the new permit conditions, and that the smokefree conditions have had minimal effect on businesses (8)

Customer perceptions of smokefree outdoor dining

New Zealand and other public support research indicate almost all people are more likely or as likely to visit outdoor dining areas if they were Smokefree, indicating a positive financial impact (9).

There is clear evidence of harmful exposure of patrons and staff to second-hand smoke in both outdoor dining settings and indoor locations adjacent to outdoor settings, through smoke drift (10).

Smokefree outdoor dining de-normalises smoking

The high visibility of smoking in outdoor dining venues acts to normalise smoking to young people, a powerful determinant of smoking uptake (11).

Evidence suggests that the normalization of smoking can have a powerful influence on the urge to smoke, particularly among children and youth (12, 13).

Research has shown that youth who observe adults or their peers smoking in public places are more likely to think of smoking as a socially acceptable behaviour and that youth who have a positive social image of smoking tend to be more likely to experiment with tobacco use (12).

Conversely, Smokefree outdoor dining helps prevent children starting. Studies have found that stronger restrictions around smoking in public places are associated with a significantly protective effect on smoking prevalence in youth (14, 15).

Smokefree areas help to de-normalise smoking, help to establish Smokefree role modelling for children (16) and communicate to smokers and youth the significant risks from tobacco use (17).

Limiting opportunities for people to smoke through the introduction of Smokefree policies, can help to reduce cigarette consumption and reduce smoking uptake by young people particularly if this is part of a more comprehensive tobacco control programme (18,19,20)

Smokefree outdoor dining will help those who want to quit and those who have quit to stay Smokefree

Most smokers in New Zealand want to quit (21). This was illustrated poignantly by one of the survey participants who smoked “I smoke and wish I could give up- I know the health risks, and I know we need to do this for our kids.”

The partner of a smoker commented “My husband smokes- and I wish he wouldn’t-I’d like him to be around a lot longer.”

Evidence has shown that Smokefree environments both encourage smokers to make quit attempts and help those who have quit to stay Smokefree. (22, 23)

An increase in quit attempts was evident with the introduction of Smokefree bars and restaurants in New Zealand, resulting in increased caller registrations increased issuing of NRT2 exchange cards through Quitline. (24)

When smoking was banned in outdoor dining and drinking areas throughout Queensland in 2006, 22 % smokers had attempted to quit because of the new laws (25). This is likely to be the case with the introduction of Smokefree outdoor dining in the Horowhenua region.

Risk of second-hand smoke to hospitality workers

(Chapman & Hyland, 2010) review considers the evidence about whether outdoor secondhand smoke (SHS) might also pose health risks to others. Because of repeated and cumulative exposure to SHS in outdoor settings like outdoor eating areas, occupational exposures to particulate pollution (PM2.5) from SHS are likely to be far higher than those experienced by patrons who are present for far shorter periods. (26)

Dining experience

Businesses report Smokefree outdoor dining provides a better environment for staff, as well as making outdoor dining more pleasant for patrons. (27)

A survey of 143 restaurants/cafes in NSW (41% of which had outdoor dining areas) showed that the majority of establishments when asked about a total ban on smoking believed that this would deliver: a much nicer environment for patrons (82% of establishments permitting smoking in outdoor dining areas and 92% of Smokefree establishments); a much nicer environment for staff (74% of establishments permitting smoking in outdoor dining areas and 90% of Smokefree establishments); and greater peace of mind for staff about their health (59% of establishments permitting smoking in outdoor dining areas and 85% of Smokefree establishments).(28).

Reasons for a Smokefree outdoor dining bylaw:

When asked about supporting a bylaw requiring ashtrays to be removed and smokefree signage to be displayed, 91.2% of those surveyed in PNCC Bylaw Consultation on Smokefree Outdoor Dining 2015 were in favour, recognising the importance of clear visible signs and the absence of ashtrays to the philosophy and vision of a Smokefree city as outlined in Palmerston North Smokefree Outdoor Areas Policy 2013 (amended 2015) (29).

Clear visible smokefree signage and no ashtrays available could also enhance the outdoor dining experience and Smokefree commitment of the Horowhenua communities.

The final comments made by local people of Palmerston North summarise the Smokefree issue very clearly:

“I want to live in a society where nobody smokes!”

“Smokefree by 2025 won’t happen unless we make steps towards it.”

“Our goal- a healthier Aotearoa, healthier communities and healthier families”

Conclusion

The Cancer Society of New Zealand is working hard to raise awareness about the on-going harm caused by smoking. We are fully aware however that we are only one player in a complex environment where we need the support of many agencies to achieve a successful outcome for the wellbeing of New Zealanders.

If further extensions to Smokefree Outdoor Areas are successful and more organisations are actively promoting smokefree, New Zealand could see a move towards whole communities, towns and cities becoming smokefree.

It is only by working together that we can hope to make a real difference to the burden caused by smoking in our community and our country.

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CANCER SOCIETY SUNSMART POLICY SUBMISSION TO HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL PLAN 2020/2021

Organisation: Cancer Society of New Zealand Manawatu Centre Inc.		
Representative Name: Mrs Kerry Hocquard, Community Health Advocate		
Postal Address: Addis House, PO Box 5170, Palmerston North		
Phone: <i>(mobile)</i> 027 3378166	<i>(hm)</i>	<i>(wk)</i> 06 356 5355
Fax: 06 356 7804	Email: Kerry.hocquard@cancercd.org.nz	

Do you want to speak to the Council in support of your submission? YES

ABOUT THOSE MAKING THIS SUBMISSION:

CSNZ Manawatu is a charitable organisation covering the Midcentral District Health Board region of Horowhenua, Manawatu, Tararua and Palmerston North.

Our core services are in Health Promotion, Supportive Care, Information and Research. We work with our communities to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer through prevention, raising awareness of the need for early detection and providing support.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<p>The Cancer Society of New Zealand Manawatu Centre aims to reduce the rate of melanoma and other skin cancers in the Manawatu region caused by harmful exposure to the sun. This goal can only be achieved with a community commitment to reducing the risk of skin cancer through SunSmart policies in schools and workplaces, SunSmart behaviour in the outdoors and the creation of SunSmart environments in which we live, work and play</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the proposed Horowhenua Council's Annual Plan 2020/2021.

The Horowhenua District Annual Plan and Sun Protection Policy (2001) represent a unique opportunity to bring to life Horowhenua District Council's vision of a healthy Horowhenua community.

In 2001 Horowhenua District Council showed great leadership in adopting a comprehensive sun protection policy. The Horowhenua District Council Sun Protection Policy was a crucial step in establishing sun protection as a key principle of the Horowhenua District Council's commitment to the health of our community. The Horowhenua District Council Sun Protection Policy showed the council was prepared to take positive action to reduce the alarmingly high rates of skin cancer in New Zealand. The Horowhenua District Council Sun Protection policy was an opportunity to demonstrate that safety is important for all using parks, reserves and swimming pools and that HDC recreation areas are healthy environments.

The Horowhenua District Council Sun Protection policy incorporated shade planning as part of council's planning processes, recognised council responsibility as employer of outdoor workers and contractors, the role of council as community educators and community event organisers and council as consent authorities. This comprehensive policy has since become the model for local government sunsmart practices in our region.

However, there remains real concern that without the Horowhenua District Council evaluating and prioritising actions identified in this policy, the intended SunSmart progress will not eventuate and our community will continue to be at increased risk of skin cancer.

Manawatu Cancer Society's key recommendations:

This submission requests Horowhenua District Council recommit to the Horowhenua District Council Sun Protection Policy that was adopted in 2001.

The council goals proposed in the Horowhenua District Council Sun Protection Policy included a range of evidence-based sun protection strategies (shade, community education, personal protective equipment for outdoor workers) which helped the Horowhenua community and Council staff be protected from harmful exposure to UVR from the sun.

The Sun Protection Policy strategies serve as a useful framework from which to evaluate the proposed Splash Pad, the development of Donnelly Park, Waiatarere Beach Domain, and Playford Park in terms of shade provided.

Further recommendations:

- HDC conduct a shade audit of parks and playgrounds, and incorporate shade planning into all future playground and outdoor gym development across the region.
- An equity lens to be used in shade planning of neighbourhood recreational spaces
- HDC support 'sunsmart' community events through the provision of the CSNZ Manawatu sunsmart event toolkit for event planning and portable shade for loan to assist 'sunsmart' events.

The Cancer Society offers assistance with policy development and an implementation strategy.

The CSNZ Manawatu's aim is to reduce the rate of melanoma and other skin cancers in our region caused by harmful exposure to UVR. This goal will be achieved with HDC support

Local Government plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of our community. The plans and strategies supporting the Annual Plan, could give great hope for us as a healthy, connected community and a place we are proud to call "home."

Council commitment to infrastructure

While the Cancer Society recognises the importance of Horowhenua District Council essential infrastructure maintenance of our roads, the water, wastewater and storm water networks; the parks, sportsgrounds and walkways; and community resources, we also need to:

- Maintain or improve public health and environmental outcomes or mitigate adverse effects on them
- Provide for the resilience of infrastructure assets by identifying and managing risks relating to natural hazards and by making appropriate financial provision for those risks (1)

This would include solar ultraviolet radiation (UVR), specifically minimising the impact of UVR, at peak times of September to April especially between 10am to 4pm.

Why does the Council need to be involved in Sun protection policies and practices in our community?

(Reeder & Jopson, 2006) made recommendations for strong council sunsmart commitment. As a community, we need to reinforce and complement personal sun protective strategies with environmental change and supportive public policies, including for many outdoor areas and facilities administered by territorial local authorities.

The public requires local government not only to inform, but also to offer the best possible opportunities to practice being sunsmart. The ultimate aim is to increase the number of environments in the community that provide protection from sunburn, and to increase public support for such environmental change. (2).

It is timely to encourage HDC to strengthen their sunsmart commitment and recommit to integrating sun protection strategies through Council departments into a sustainable sun protection policy, improving work place safety and community safety.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE:

New Zealand Burden of Skin Cancer

Whiteman, Green & Olsen's (2016) recently published study on invasive melanoma shows that Australia's rates are declining and predicted to keep falling over the next 15 years. In comparison, New Zealand's rates are increasing with the highest mortality rate in the world. (3).

Skin cancer, including melanoma, is New Zealand's most common cancer. It is estimated that skin cancers account for 80% of all new cancers each year. New Zealand and Australia have the highest rates of melanoma in the world. Skin cancer is largely preventable. Over 90% of all skin cancer cases are attributed to excess sun exposure. (4)

Council's Long -term plan

In the Horowhenua District Council 2018-2038 Long Term Plan, the Council identified goals of:

Our communities have access to health, social and recreation facilities which enable people to enjoy positive healthy lifestyles.

Our communities live in a safe and supportive environment and are empowered to make positive and healthy lifestyle choices (5).

Council's role as employer of outdoor staff

Local government employ many staff working some of their day in an outdoor environment. Sun protection is an important workplace health and safety issue and there is a responsibility for employers to provide a safe environment for employees.

Outdoor workers have a particularly high risk of skin cancer because of regular and cumulative exposure to peak UVR in outdoor work settings (6). Outdoor workers generally receive five to 10 times more UVR exposure per year than indoor workers (7).

Council as Shade Planners

The development of a shade policy is a crucial step in establishing sun protection as a key principle of HDC's commitment to the health of our community. A sun protection policy makes possible shade planning to be incorporated as part of council's planning processes, recognises council responsibility as employer of outdoor workers and contractors, the role of council as community educators and community event organisers and potential role as consent authorities.

This policy would show that the council is prepared to take positive action to reduce the alarmingly high rates of skin cancer in New Zealand.

It is an opportunity to demonstrate that safety is important for all attending community events and festivals, using parks, reserves and swimming pools and a healthy environment is created in our recreation areas and work places.

As well as contributing to the health and safety of the community, the increased comfort levels are likely to increase community satisfaction, increased participation in community events and festivals and will result in increased economic benefits to the community.

Horowhenua District Council offers a range of sporting facilities, community events, festivals and playgrounds. Wouldn't it be great to ensure our community can enjoy these facilities in the safest possible environment?

NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS

Palmerston North City Council and Whanganui District Council have all recognised the need for UVR protection policies and now incorporate steps to address the burden of melanoma in the community through regular shade audits of parks and recreation spaces, providing sunsmart support for outdoor work employees, and sunsmart event practices. (8, 9).

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:*Shade*

A shade audit is recommended to be undertaken to assess existing shade and identify additional shade requirements as part of best practice planning for outdoor locations that cater primarily for children such as children's services, schools, playgrounds and parks. (10).

Anderson, Anderson, Jackson, Egger, Chapman & Rock (2014) highlighted the need for socio-economic status (SES) to be factored into shade audits of our community parks and reserves.

The study highlighted the disparities in the available shade in playgrounds in urban Sydney, leaving many families who use them without sufficient protection from the sun. The study drew attention to the inequities in shade availability for those living in lower SES areas. There was significantly more shade covering activity areas in playgrounds of higher SES areas, with these playgrounds making more use of natural shade than playgrounds in lower SES areas. Environmental sun protection is particularly important in lower socioeconomic status (SES) areas, as families on lower incomes can face economic barriers to improving personal sun protection such as the costs associated with buying appropriate sun protection. (11)

The provision of sun awareness education and shade by the Council can do much to raise the level of community awareness of skin cancer and the very simple and practical ways in which we can protect ourselves from it, yet still enjoy the benefits of outdoor recreation. Contributing to the health and safety of the community, the increased comfort levels are likely to increase community satisfaction; tree planting will also reduce the effects of greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions.

A decision to provide increased shade at local parks provides HDC with the opportunity to promote a healthier community and demonstrate that safety is important for those using its recreation spaces.

This action is supported by the community and has been illustrated by over 4,900 people nationally signing an Auckland mother's petition urging councils to provide shade at playgrounds to protect kids from skin cancer and heat-related risks. (13).

“Our children are our future we have to protect them in every way we can! Shade is an absolute must at playgrounds and should be mandatory if you build a playground add a sun shade you wouldn't build a tire swing without a tire why build a playground that children can't use because it is too hot to play on and far too dangerous to be out in the sun.” Lisa, a parent from Timaru. (13).

Shade recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- A shade audit is undertaken to assess existing shade and identify where additional shade is required as part of best practice planning for outdoor locations that cater primarily for children such as children's services, schools, playgrounds and theme parks (10).
- That HDC consider providing portable shade available for loan for low decile community and school events
- Trees are planted to provide shade and mitigate environmental effects of carbon emissions

Community Education Recommendations:

It is recommended that the community be made aware of the risks of UVR and encouraged to make use of any sun protection measures made available to them. These sun protection measures include:

- The display of sun-safety and skin cancer prevention information.
- Signage promoting sun protection messages to remind patrons to improve their sun protection behaviours while exposed to UV radiation.

Community Events Recommendations

Horowhenua District Council as community educators and consent authority for community events and festivals, commit to a range of evidence-based sun protection strategies to help protect current and future community events and festivals from harmful exposure to UVR.

These strategies include the following practices for Council staff, event contractors and volunteers:

- Ensure all Council-run events have risk-management processes that minimise sun exposure
- Shade: The need for shade assessment and provision
- Community marquees being made available
- Information and signage:
- Pre-event publicity and promotion encouraging audiences to be sunsmart
- Signage promoting sun protection messages is important to remind patrons to improve their sun protection behaviours while attending community events and festivals.
- Event timing: Timing of events to reduce exposure to extreme UVR levels (Christmas Parade frequently held during a time of extreme UVR levels with families waiting in the sun)

(Resources available: The Cancer Society SunSmart Event Planning Toolkit (13) and DHB Smokefree Event Planning Toolkit (14))

Council as consent authority recommendations

It is recommended that UVR protection be integrated into the council's long-term strategy rather than as a stand-alone mechanism. It is recommended that:

- Owners of outdoor eating venues are encouraged to provide shade for patrons
- Information on UVR protection is provided to people prior to making an application for consent to council
- A street tree policy is maintained to ensure appropriate selection, planting and maintenance of street trees
- Awareness of the issue is raised within council, highlighting sun protection practices within council goals and objectives.

Recommendations to Council as employer of outdoor staff:

- Provision of Personal Protective Equipment, that is, SunSmart clothing, broad-spectrum sunscreen, appropriately placed shade, scheduling of work and a commitment to SunSmart behaviour.

Potential Resources:

- Sunsmart accreditation for workplaces: Bay of Plenty District Health Board Toi Te Ora Public Health Service (2010) Work Well for Sun Safety Toolkit (15).
- The resource Work Well for Sun Safety toolkit provides an accreditation framework of quality assurance in sun safety for management, employees and potential stakeholders and community partners ensuring that sun safety is planned, implanted and evaluated and workplaces are recognised for their sun safety commitment.

Policy development:

- Policies supportive of sun safety, promoting sun safety practices as the norm among outdoor staff
- Review and monitoring of sun safety policy

Workplace Practices & Training

- Provide accessible information and training to all staff about prevention and early detection of skin cancer.
- Contractors and casual employees are expected to abide by sun safety regulations and demonstrate good sun protection behaviour.
- Limit or minimise exposure to peak UVR by reviewing work areas and practices. Peak UVR periods could be used to complete indoor tasks or rotate indoor and outdoor work so that outdoor work is shared during peak UVR times.

Work environment and events:

- Ensure all staff events have risk-management processes that minimise sun exposure.
- Make use of shade, including permanent, portable or natural.
- Air-conditioned vehicles and large areas of glass tinted to provide UV protection.
- Canopies fitted to the tractor mowers that previously have no cover.

CONCLUSION

The Horowhenua District Council offers a range of fantastic sporting facilities, community events, festivals and playgrounds. Wouldn't it be great to ensure residents and visitors can enjoy these facilities and community in the safest possible environment?

This is the time for local government to play an active role and help reduce the incidence and number of deaths from skin cancer in the Horowhenua region.

Our community has an increasing rate of skin cancer, and New Zealand men have the highest death rate from melanoma in the world. Every statistic represents a person's life, family, friends, workplace, and leisure activities all being affected by the impact of cancer.

The financial cost of loss of earnings, loss of productivity, the loss of physical health and for some, the loss of life, and for all, an increased emotional stress do much to diminish the heart of our community. Despite these cancers being preventable, they are serious public health problems, and we all have a role to play in finding a solution.

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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

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

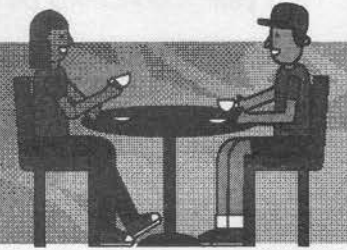
Terry Hemmingsen

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@xtra.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:¹

¹ 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 30th 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.² 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'³ and the 2019 'Report of the Productivity Commission'⁴ recognise that relief needs to be provided for low to middle income households.

² See Appendix No.3

³ 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>

⁴ 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

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.⁵ Local government funding policy has therefore contributed largely to a Deprivation Index⁶ 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

⁵ Rates breach affordability threshold, see Appendix No. 1

⁶ 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)

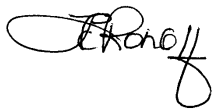
“That Council honour its obligation to the requirement for open and transparent consultation by hearing submitters and deliberating adoption of its 2020-2021 Annual Plan in session(s) open to the public. and

“that Council utilise every power at its disposal to curtail new project and non-urgent renewals during the year ending 30th 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	?

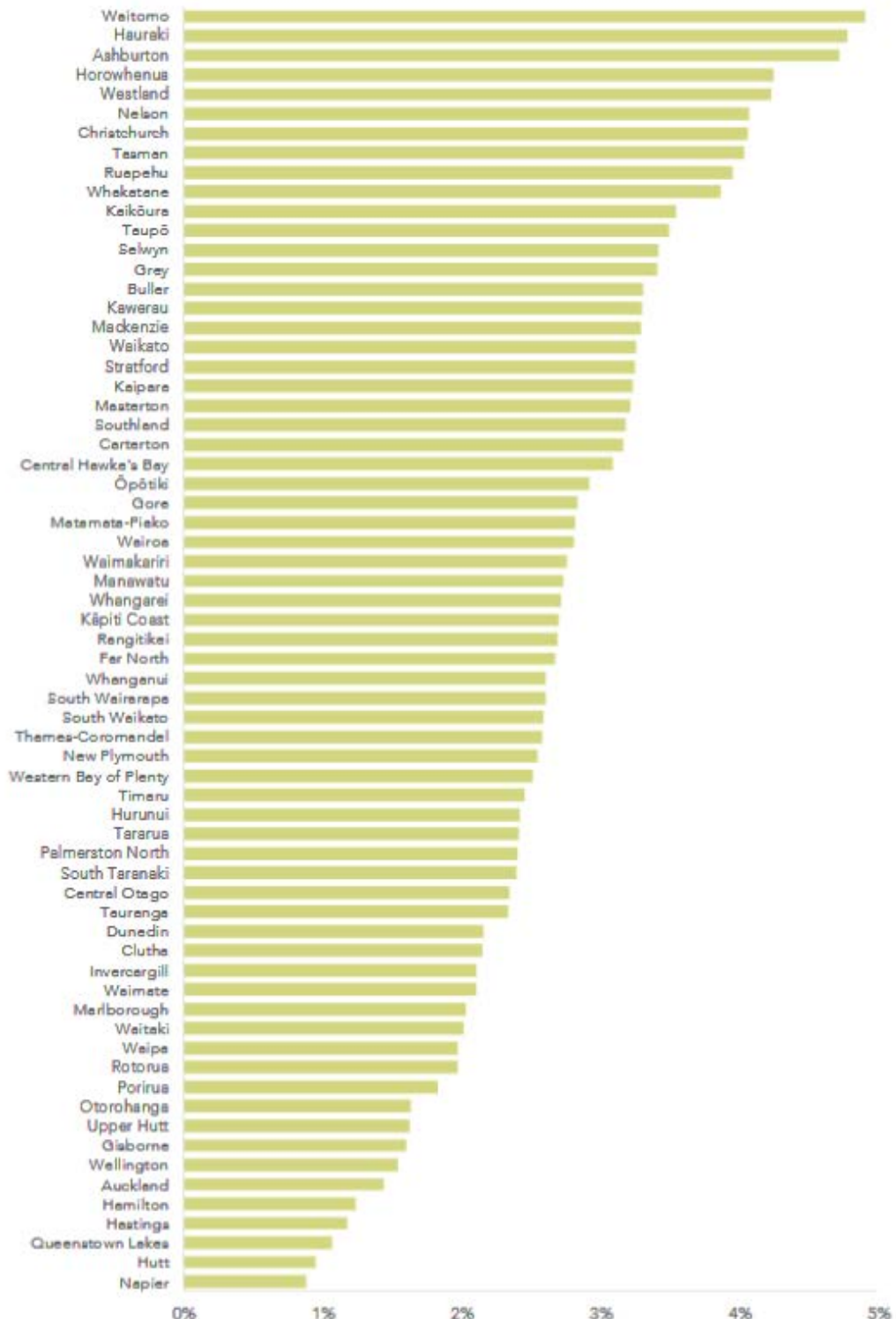
Note:

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.

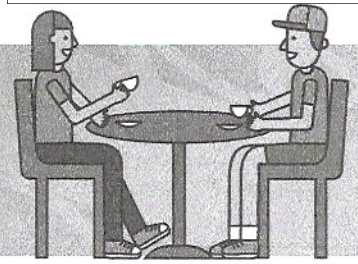
Regards

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
- 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: 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

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**

Foxton Beach Progressive Association Inc**2020/2021 ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION****INTRODUCTION**

- Contains both Annual Plan 20/21 recommendations, and LTP issues;
- Recognises that LTP year3 and the Draft Annual Plan impose limitations;
- Also recognises that Covid-19 may complicate possibilities;
- We ask to present this Submission.

GROWTH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**ANNUAL PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS****Install traffic calming, and safe drop-off & crossing near Pump Track**

- Need observed by school children, citizens, neighbours & Police)
- Part of needed precinct development for Holben Reserve
- Step 1 of a wider FB traffic calming programme
- Part of addressing dangerous speeding & hooning

Incorporate community feedback into MASTER PLAN for FB growth area

- To achieve variety, liveability, lifestyle balance, and complement FB character
- To be sustainable, environmentally sound, and community friendly
- Provide safe & calm roading, shared-pathways, and open-spaces that are usable & attractive
- With infrastructure & amenities keeping up with growth.

LONGTERM PLAN ISSUES**FB Community Plan becoming an important carrier of citizen expectations:**

- Carrying themes, initiatives and projects prioritised by citizens
- To be finalised & adopted prior to LTP review 2021
- Will request priorities are included in LTP for at least 10 years ahead.

Growth revenues could be prudently projected in LTP:

- To enable planning of needed social & other infrastructure to meet growth
- Freeholding Acct expenditure capability increased through asset investments
- Project rates and revenue increases from predictable growth & developments
- Reinstitute Development Contributions (Productivity Commission recommendation).

Reviewed FB Freehold Fund Strategy & Policy:

- Maximise returns through aggressive/entrepreneurial asset developments & investments
- Policy should allow expenditures to support growth-related projects within Community Plan

Destination, Transportation and Economic Development Strategies are vital:

- Economic development (like hard & social infrastructure) must match growth
- Foxton Futures, Proudly Foxton, River Loop flow restoration, & Ramsar Enhancement projects are significant economic opportunities
- Incorporate Branding and Signage strategy as vital components
- Incorporate Freedom Camping policy as important contributor.

COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING

ANNUAL PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

FB CCTV camera coverage:

- Assn's CCTV Annual Plan Submission is attached.
- Benefits Foxton Beach and Foxton (as with Community Patrols)
- Comprehensive future-proof coverage to achieve prevention and security
- Seeking 100% FBFF funding up to \$115k.

LONGTERM PLAN ISSUES

Move to 3-yearly Contract Funding of:-

- Community Halls maintenance (not projects)
- Community Patrols operations
- Community CCTV Systems maintenance
- Consultation processes (not projects) expected of area Progressive Assns.

ENVIRONMENT

ANNUAL PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Ramsar Estuary care:

- Keep increasing good care and protection
- Strengthen coordination of Statutory Manager and community group contributions
- Vital first step in Ramsar Care & Enhancement Project (joint FBPA/MET via MEMT).

LONGTERM PLAN ISSUES

Manawatu River System central to local identity, & environmental /economic future:

- **Foxton Futures** has vital value for district, Foxton, & FBeach

- **Ramsar Care & Enhancement (projects)** should unfold alongside FF developments

Growth Area Developments (via Master Plan):

- Must minimise stress on Manawatu River & Estuary, and freshwater supply.

RESERVES, OPENSOURCE & RECREATION

ANNUAL PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Progress completion of Holben Reserve:

- Finalise & action whole-precinct plan (with community involvement)
- Wetland development critically important (& needs flow)
- Traffic calming, safe drop-off, & safe crossing needed near Pumptrack
- Perhaps upgrade Tennis Courts & Skatepark (at modest cost) in 2020/2021.

Complete FB Shared-Pathway Loop:

Install Foredune WALL at Beach carpark promenade:

- To enable cost-effective maintenance of wind blown sand.

LONGTERM PLAN ISSUES

Complete Holben Reserve and its precinct, including roading:

- Implementing the whole-precinct Concept Plan over 2/3 years
- Needs user & pedestrian safety, traffic calming & layout, and smart car-parking options
- Completing Wetland and other priority developments
- Complete a manageable Reserve Management Plan.

Update FB Reserves Investment Plan:

- Review existing & new options/priorities in light of Holben completion & other achievements
- Consider refinancing of Investment Plan, recognising growth needs
- Integrate completion of full Shared Pathway network
- Integrate a Volunteer Open Space Beautification Programme
- Progress other Reserves in line with updated priorities.

Ted Melton

Chairperson – Foxton Beach Progressive Association – April 24 2020.

Foxton Beach Progressive Association Inc - April 2020 Attachment to ANNUAL PLAN Submission:

Foxton Beach CCTV Camera Project

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE:

- Summarises the background, rationale and system proposed to provide appropriate CCTV coverage for Foxton Beach.
- Recommends the CCTV system be fully funded from FB Freeholding Fund through Annual Plan 2020/2021.

During 2018 Foxton Beach community people strongly urged the newly-formed FB Progressive Association to install CCTV camera coverage to help make our community safer. During 2019, our investigation of options & feasibility determined that surveillance of all exit & entry points was the most suitable and cost-effective approach. As at 23/4/20, the cost to provide & install is \$115k, including signage, contract assurance, & contingencies. Unanticipated need for solar-power, frangible camera & signage mountings, & alternative camera mountings have delayed finalising full costs. Lockdown and evaluating new technologies are other reasons. We originally hoped to provide the system at lower cost.

The Association seeks 100% funding from the FB Freehold Fund, outside the current 50% policy limit. Given community support, & with policy review imminent, we hope the Council will favourably consider this request. Our enquiries indicate the Association is extremely unlikely to find other sources of funding, and the Association itself cannot contribute as it is young, does not trade, and has no assets.

At its unofficial Zoom Workshop on 20/4/20, FCB agreed to recommend 100% FBFF funding of up to \$60K, for which we express our gratitude. However, 3 days later, we learn it will cost almost twice that, unless we prune important features. Staging is not recommended, and will increase costs further.

We intend bringing the new pricing to the Annual Plan hearings 13/14 May, and to Foxton Community Board's 25 May meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the Foxton Beach CCTV initiative, and agree to 100% project funding, outside of current policy, of up to \$115,000 from the FB Freeholding Fund, through Annual Plan 2020/2021.

BACKGROUND:

In mid-2018, inaugural Association members tasked the Management Committee to prioritise **Community Safety**. Strategy included Community Patrols, CCTV camera coverage, expanding Neighbourhood Support, and citizen reporting. These were seen as complementing effective policing.

Foxton & Beach **Community Patrols** became fully operational by late 2019, supported by the Association, NZ Community Patrol Trust, nearby Community Patrols & Beach wardens, NZ Police, & Foxton Community Board. HDC provided substantial support & assistance. Foxton Beach Wardens are integrating with the Community Patrol.

Member Patrick Doyle led the **CCTV investigation** and project development. This incorporated public surveying & engagement, dialogue with Foxton Community Board, studying & comparing CCTV systems in nearby & similar communities, Police and expert consultation, evaluating bids from potential suppliers, engagement with multiple HDC personnel, and exploring other funding prospects.

By April 2020, with assistance from HDC personnel, the Association had substantially finalised system specification, optimum camera locations, preferred provider, ownership & maintenance, street & site signage, and operational protocols. Preferred provider selection was based on criteria including product & system quality, credibility & reputation, local & regional presence, and cost-effectiveness. Complexities such as camera type, power, locations - and recently pricing & lockdown - have delayed final specification and cost at time of submission on 24/4/20.

RATIONALE FOR CCTV COVERAGE:

1. **High growth context:** FB community faces opportunities & pressures of at least two decades of substantial growth, gaining hundreds of new dwellings & many more visitors. Increased stress is inevitable on environmentally sensitive Manawatu River, the Ramsar-accredited Estuary and dunes, and Foxton Beach. Roads, footpaths, and cycleways – as well as parks, reserves, open spaces, and community facilities - will be even busier. In this context, the high proportion of elderly and fixed-income residents - indeed all residents - need to be safe and to feel secure.
2. **Problem behaviours:** Increasing vehicle offending and dangerous misbehaviours, minor & major crime, threatening behaviours, and public nuisance incidents are already concerning residents, and will increase with development. As will environmental vandalism and misconduct.
3. **Planned safety:** A safer community and improved sense of security are known to follow from:- (a) Sound community planning and well-designed amenities including traffic calming; (b) Positive & participative community; (c) Sufficient police to provide effective policing, (d) Watchful citizenry, and (e) Community-based programmes. These programmes include Community Patrols, Neighbourhood Support, Emergency Plans, and citizen reporting. In our

case, CCTV will complement effective policing & community patrolling, with other projects following in future years.

4. **Preventive value:** Alongside other initiatives, CCTV installations have demonstrated preventive value in many communities, where it has heightened community awareness and reduced misconduct through publicity, detections, educative follow-up, and enforcement.
5. **Community support:** Anecdotal, questionnaire, and forum feedback indicates substantial approval of this initiative. Unanimous support was voted by all 45 attendees at the Association's July 2019 AGM. Foxtton Community Board members have assisted, consistently voiced support, and expressed appreciation that Foxtton township cameras are able to be inexpensively added to this system.

FEATURES OF FB CCTV SYSTEM:

- Initially, up to 15 modern, fit-for-purpose cameras will record vehicle movements in & out of Foxtton Beach (covering all entry & exit points including north along the beach) in real time 24/7. 60 days of data will be available.
- Foxtton & Levin Police can access live & recorded data for specified reasons, governed by a public MOU and protocols similar to those in other communities such as Waitarere Beach. In special circumstances, trained & approved community patrollers may assist Police review of footage. Installation should occur this year.
- Camera locations are: -
 - Corner of FB & Palmer Roads (entry/exit);
 - Corner of Palmer & Wylie Roads (entry/exit);
 - Mid-Seabury Avenue (vehicle movements);
 - Pinewood Road (estuary, dune & river access)
 - Foxtton Surf Lifesaving Club (south & north exits, beach entry/exit, & carpark vehicle movements).
- The system has expansion capacity. Further cameras at the beach and at Foxtton township can be readily and inexpensively added.
- A Crime Prevention Camera Trust may own and maintain the CCTV system. The Association recommends that HDC contract-funds maintenance of community CCTV systems through the Long Term Plan from 2021.

Ted Melton

Chairperson – Foxtton Beach Progressive Association Incorporated – 24 April 2020.

What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #138



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 2:04PM

Receipt number: 95

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
Contact Details	
Full Name:	Mike Lepper
Name of Organisation:	N/A
Postal Address:	72 Rugby Street, Levin
Postcode:	5510
Telephone:	(06) 3684 555
Email:	lorrlepp@gmail.com
Hearing of Submissions	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	Yes
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	Thursday 14 May
Sign language interpretation required?	No
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
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?	Splash Pad compliments what is in the park and great for youngsters. However, this should be placed on hold for the next 12 months along with all other non essential work - this could be staged, remove the paddling pool now, build splash pad later.
Long Term Plan 2021-2041	
What are the major issues you think Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan?	Continued growth impacts on things such as infrastructure and encouragement of transportation to, from and within the District. Affordability - alternative ways of funding needs other than reliance on rates, eg Development or Financial Contributions.
What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?	Development of facilities that can meet the growth requirements.
Your Comments	

Please provide any further comments:	The 2020/21 year is unlike any of recent times - during this AP process Council must not add any projects for the year that segments of the community propose and in fact must seriously consider removing non essential expenditure from what has been consulted on to reduce the 2020/21 rates to either a NIL increase or that of the annual level of inflation only. This may mean some hard decisions such as looking internally of the organisation to reduce costs. During the recent election process some Councillors indicated that raising rate levels were of concern to them - now is an opportunity to stand beside those remarks. In respect of fees and charges these also need to be held at current levels.
Attach any other comments:	

What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #130



Submission date: 24 April 2020, 4:53PM

Receipt number: 103

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
Contact Details	
Full Name:	Sharon Williams
Name of Organisation:	Mrs
Postal Address:	47 Otauru Road, Shannon
Postcode:	4821
Telephone:	0273930414
Email:	sharonhumphrey@hotmail.com
Hearing of Submissions	
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
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
Please select your preference:	
Why did you choose this option?	I do not choose any of the above options, at this time I consider this expenditure to be non-essential and under the Covid-19 pandemic and immediate recovery period believe all non-essential activity should be carefully assessed as to if it can be deleted altogether, revised or deferred. I think the project looks fabulous and understand the many benefits but currently believe this should be deferred. Also, I note it is not in the Long Term Plan and not budgeted for.
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>Currently, with the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery, I think the absolute major issue Council needs to consider for the next Long Term Plan is the extent of the impact of this pandemic and it's associated implications on the district, plus a comprehensive recovery package for all in the communities being served, taking advantage of the opportunity presented to 'reimagine, redevelop and recast' what our society looks like.</p>
<p>What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?</p>	<p>The key challenge we face is this current pandemic and the associated implications across the district. A crisis 'like no other', from which we anticipate global economic activity to decline on a scale not seen since the Great Depression (IMF) with both complex and uncertain outcomes requires a response 'like no other', one which is also complex, flexible and considers that as a district can not take social cohesion for granted; Council have the related key challenge of ensuring policies and resources are directed towards reducing inequality, protecting vulnerable residents and promoting access to opportunities for all. Rising to meet this key challenge aligns well with Council's six Community Outcomes and current vision of 'our district focuses on growing neighbourhoods and building stronger communities together'. These challenges are also our key opportunities: the chance to 'reimagine, redevelop and recast'.</p>
<p>Your Comments</p>	
<p>Please provide any further comments:</p>	<p>I note that I have prepared my submission with reference to a variety of Council documents and other sources on information obtained online and have referenced them as such. Please see attached. Kind Regards, Sharon Williams</p>
<p>Attach any other comments:</p>	<p>HTH_HDC_Submission to Draft Annual Plan 2020.docx</p>

Submission to Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021: Sharon Williams 24.04.2020

In preparing for this submission, alongside personal communication with Council staff, an elected member and community members, I have read and referenced with quotation marks the following:

Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021 (DAP)

What's Our Plan 2020/2021 Annual Plan (WOP)

Annual Plan 2019-2020 (AP19-20)

Long Term Plan 2018-2038 (LTP)

Nine Month Report 1 July 2019 – 31 March 2020 (9MR)

Horowhenua Mayor Facebook video 2 (BWF/b)

Salvation Army Social Impact Dashboard 24.04.2020 (SA)

Submission to LTP – Sharon Williams page number 806 and Council response (SWLPT)

I thank the Council for the opportunity to submit to the Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021 (DAP) and would firstly like to take this opportunity to also thank those staff and members who have been working creatively, both all year to enhance the lives of those in our community and especially at this time of Covid-19 pandemic.

Preamble:

The current global Covid-19 pandemic and implications, both in terms of health and economic functioning are still unknown. There is huge scientific uncertainty about the future pathway of the pandemic and a resurgence of its spread. However, it is stated by the IMF that we are being pushed into a recession worse than the global financial crisis, this is a 'crisis like no other', expected economic activity is likely to decline on a scale not seen since the Great Depression, this crisis is complex, uncertain and global. I consider that the Council have a duty to the district to review the Draft Annual Plan with this crisis as the 'lens' and primary decision-making influence at this time. I respectfully request that all activity be very carefully analysed and categorised as to if it is essential or not; if not, can it be deleted altogether, revised or deferred. If essential, can it be revised or modified to better meet the needs of Council budget restrictions that this pandemic brings. I accept there are essential activities and even non-essential but highly desired activities in terms of recovery and resilience for communities and again, respectfully request that Council do not consider increasing the debt burden on the district with further associated interest payments.

Regarding the Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021, I respectfully request that Council consider the following issues and recommendations:

1. **Splash Pad (WOP):** Council defer this until a later date, as per reasoning in preamble. Plus, I note that this is not in the LTP and not already budgeted for.
2. **Footpaths (c.r.LPT, p242):** Council consider footpaths and the health and safety of the pedestrians using them as essential, they are an important part of infrastructure and in locations, such as Stout Street, Shannon, where there are no complete footpaths, consideration be given to the health, safety and well-being of residents; having people walk down the street because there are no footpaths or the footpaths need repair and are dangerous, is far from ideal. Council consider undertaking an audit of all the footpaths in the district, to enable them to prioritise the upgrades and new footpaths needed.
3. **Financial Strategy: LTP wider goal of managing growth while living within its means:** Council have an extremely different set of financial circumstances now and yet to discover what central government assistance will be given. Council consider their goal and strategies aligned with this goal and be as prudent and frugal as possible to keep these goals achievable, as per the reasoning in the above preamble.
4. **Community Facilities and Services: Key projects 2020-2021, DAP p45.** Council consider if any of these are essential, as per reasoning in preamble above, in particular I think of the lovely Domain at Waitārere Beach and why on earth would we be spending money on such a well-developed and enjoyed resource.
5. **Staff remuneration:** I understand that Council are proposing a \$1.5 million budget for this purpose. Whilst I agree that experienced and high-quality staff deserve fair remuneration I believe Council should consider the reasoning in preamble above and that many residents have lost their jobs, surviving on wage subsidy, taken remuneration cuts to retain employment and are struggling with their new reality of poverty. The Prime Minister has told the nation that herself, government ministers and public service chiefs are taking a 20% pay cut for the next six months and that they feel acutely about the struggles many New Zealanders were facing. I hope the Council too feel acutely about the struggles of residents in our district and act accordingly.
6. **Expenditure:** I note may items that appear to be non-essential, such as the Shannon Library refurbishment and shelving (\$26 / \$26) but accept that some contracts have already been processed and now have to occur legally. However, Council could check which contracts, services, activities and projects that are deemed non-essential and do not have to be legally provided and rewrite budgets accordingly. I especially highlight items such as library books (\$235,000), dvds (\$16,000, in an era of rapidly increasing streaming), redevelopment of Te Takaretanga o Kura-hau-pō Te Ao Māori space ((\$22,000), RFID equipment replacement (\$154,000), Foxton Aquatic shower upgrade (\$26,000), Shannon Memorial Hall accessibility upgrade (\$52,000), Waitārere Domain Improvement Plan (\$53,000), Driscoll Reserve Improvement Plan (\$52,000), Playford Park Improvements (\$342,000), self-issue machine at libraries (\$10,000 plus \$20,000) and so on. Some other items, such as the Levin Depot pole shed roof replacement (\$84,000) and vehicles replacement JIL288 (\$37,000), Council

could consider rescheduling the expenditure to another period. Also querying expenditure over budget, such as outlined in the Nine Month report, although as spent now can not alter this but it would be good for Council to learn the lessons of this.

- 7. Rates:** a complex issue with this being the main mechanism of raising revenue that we will so desperately need to reimagine, redevelop and recast communities. However, if I lived in Hokio Beach I would not have been at all happy with the percentage rate rise indicated, even prior to the pandemic and its implications. Other areas of the district may also be unhappy about their projected rises either. As per the reasoning in the preamble above, I request that Council carefully consider their response to communities, groups and individuals about rates increases. Council should create an immediate task group (if have not already) to problem-solve this complex issue of rate increases and potentially seek a variable response; so that those who have on-going employment and are able to absorb rates increases are able to do so, those that require rebates, as per current process or those who now find themselves in poverty, when previously not, including businesses going bankrupt and similar have mechanisms whereby they are not put under any further financial stress whatsoever.
- 8. Housing:** This is such a huge issue nationally, district wide and in the Miranui Ward. Homelessness is rife and Shannon township has experience a 12.83% population growth between 2013-2018 (this is following a 9.6% decrease from the 2006-2013 census, so highlights a 22.43% increase since 2006, without the associated infrastructure to accommodate this) and we know that it has increased substantially since then, with recent infill housing on subdivisions and occupancy rates increasing with families and whanau groups taking in homeless members. What Shannon needs going forward, and I consider essential with the property values increasing significantly in the recent few years and the rental also increasing at a similar rate, is an investment in social housing, affordable housing, home ownership projects for those that can afford them plus long-term rental housing owned and supported by community providers and Council supporting all the above occurring, such as infrastructure requirements. I appreciate other areas in the district, specifically Waitārere Beach at 47.73% increase is a more urgent need but ask that the Council consider the population increases not from the last census but from 2006, as this gives a longer-term trend and highlights how Shannon fits potential criteria for infrastructure development in the future LTP and Annual Plan 2021-2022, as Ōhau-Manakau with a similar 20.67% in last census period.
- 9. 'Shannon Community Centre Feasibility Study:** Council will (my emphasis) be undertaking a feasibility study for the potential development of a Shannon Community Centre. Key aspects of the feasibility study will include: Community demand, Potential use, Consideration of whether Shannon Memorial Hall could be an appropriate building/site, Further engagement with the Shannon community, including Iwi and Hapu to understand its needs and aspirations.' (AP19-20, pp.3-4)

‘Shannon Community Centre – Analysis: ‘it appears that there is a level of support to justify Council further investigating the potential development of a Community Centre in Shannon, which could include repurposing an existing building (such as Shannon Memorial Hall), or constructing a new purpose-built community facility.

Recommendation: That Council completes a feasibility study by the end of year 2 of the Long Term Plan 2018-2038, including as a first step, an investigation of community demand to assess the need for, and anticipated use of, a Community Centre. That Council undertakes further engagement with the Shannon community as part of the feasibility study, including with the local iwi and hapu, to fully understand their needs and aspirations regarding the potential development of a Community Centre in Shannon. Recommendation made by: Sharon Grant, Group Manager People and Community’. **(SWLTP)**

Submission recommendation:

That this planned activity, which has in part been started with a Shannon Progressive Association Hui regarding the use of and management of the Shannon Memorial Hall and tasking to Cr Robert Ketu to liaise with the Council about the clear outcomes and proposed management of the hall, be deferred until the Annual Plan 2021-2022. Not only because there is the Shannon Memorial Hall management process to complete but also because of the pandemic implications mentioned in the preamble.

Council are responsible for maintaining essential services and the Mayor has asked us residents to ‘rest assured Council is doing everything in its powers to make sure that those plans and strategies will help, enable and facilitate the community to be strong and recover as best we can. Cr Robert Ketu has also assured me that elected members are working hard to manage this extraordinary process too. I hope more than anything Council will consider this opportunity to reimagine, redevelop and recast and that community consultation and partnership will be integral to that process.

Thank you.

Sharon Williams

24.04.2020

Vivienne Bold – Chair- Horowhenua Progressive Association.

April 23rd.2020

Submission #121

We have been told **Hokio** Rates will be going up possibly 28%.

It seems a very HIGH INCREASE to pay - FOR WHAT.

Our people have the lowest incomes; majority on benefits. With 5 weeks of Lockdown, this year because of Covid-19. Council made a statement in Nov 2019, saying Rates wouldn't increase!!! From a statement flyer but out by HDC

We have the overflow of toxins from Lake Horowhenua, the Landfill and the Pot!

Leachate and other Poisons leaving the Landfill boundaries.

Under the old Council agreement 10a (I believe) No poisonous substances (leachate); neither liquid, gas nor other substances should not be allowed to pass out of the boundary.

2009 – Council; unbeknown to ratepayers, started pumping Leachate to Wastewater station and then out to the unlined Pot, then down the Waiwiri, Out to the Sea. . .

Why in 2019-2020 has is Council changing the ground rules; not for Maori or anyone living in the area. But to suit itself. There seems to be NO Plan B in place either.

The Lessee (HDC) is changing the Rules for another term of 35 years. Maori, Community and the NZ Health Dept. (Submitter no 5) object to the renewal of lease at the Pot. Why isn't the Leaser and the committee being listened too? Fish, shellfish and sea birds are dying.

The people have asked repeatedly, what the monitoring reports show. Mr Clapperton CEO, keeps refusing to show publically, what the results of the tests taken from the Landfill, the outlet of the Hokio Stream, the Pot and the Outlet of the Waiwiri are. Nov 2019-he said there was no need to report the results as they were waiting on an Environmental Court hearing, before showing about the results.

The Easterly Wind Blowing on Hokio in the Lockdown, April 2020, seem to have a different foul smell – The Dump site is getting MORE rancid. . .This gas that blows, makes Hokio residents feel nausea, sick and have very bad headaches.

The Water Table is also rising - too much Liquid going out from Town?? More to come with Growth explosion from Developments. Developers' should be paying their contribution to this. Not Hokio.

Horowhenua Trust companies are being sold cheap land and developing for the sake of increasing the city. No respect for the next generation or their needs.

Growth won't give Horowhenua MORE money; just more expenses. In the Chronicle Feb-Council told us about the increase in size of water pipes, over double to what we have now. This should be developers costs, not Ratepayers Costs.

Why- Build Gladstone Green. . .We need that land the Water storage and food. Future planning **FOR** Resources **NOT** Buildings.

Splash Pad – I vote For- Option 1

We haven't got the money for this badly designed slash pad.

Water Restrictions will be in place, PLUS no cover.????

If the Council tendered out the Option 1- Job could be done cheaper. – Horowhenua Alliance - don't need yet another job. This middle company- HDC have created, seem to have very high costings.

Just like Asbestos- which needs special care taken and a special Dumping place.

Surely – Foxton Wastewater SLUDGE with its TOXIC waste, should go to a Special dumpsite – NOT Hokio Landfill with all its leakage problems. The Landfill is on Porous Sand- 3 Km from Pacific Ocean.

The Spring and King Tides are coming in higher and higher. The Land fill should close.

Very dangerous for the contamination of the Moana(Sea). Our Eels need a healthy sea and Hokio stream to come home to multiply.

We need to do more replanting and caring.

I wish to speak to my submission –

Save our Wetlands.

Vivienne Bold

0274315181 R.D.1, 155 Hokio Beach Rd, Levin.

What's Our Plan 2020/2021 - Submission Form

Submission #73



Submission date: 22 April 2020, 10:52AM

Receipt number: 70

Related form version: 1

Question	Response
Contact Details	
Full Name:	Melissa Steedman
Name of Organisation:	Rate Payer, Employee Horowhenua District Council
Postal Address:	[REDACTED]
Postcode:	[REDACTED]
Telephone:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
	Please tick this box if you want to keep your contact details private.
Hearing of Submissions	
Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a hearing?	Yes
If YES then would you prefer to speak on:	Thursday 14 May
Sign language interpretation required?	No
Levin Splash Pad (Jubilee / Donald Duck Park)	
Please select your preference:	Option 2: Remove the paddling pool and Council build a splash pad. (Estimated cost \$450,000)

<p>Why did you choose this option?</p>	<p>I think the paddling pool would have more cost attributed to cleaning and maintenance, and possibly a greater health and safety hazard to the wider community, even though it is only a paddling pool.</p> <p>I think the splash pad will be a fantastic edition, with an easier cleaning and maintenance programme that can be implemented. Perhaps use a bucket type of apparatus to release a deluge of water over the participants and the splash pad instead of a 'pool'</p> <p>I also think in terms of Horowhenua and attractions the money spent will instantly create a fantastic attraction and activity for families, a place to gather during the summer to get wet and have a picnic. This will be a great social attribute to the region, and one that maybe called on to be replicated in other parts of the region.</p>
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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>Tourism and Event Community Facilities, Strategies and Plans.</p> <p>In terms of attracting larger and/or more sophisticated events we are very limited what we can do and who we can attract. Whilst we have great community hubs, they are community centres. Set up as a multifaceted centre that cannot be fitted out for bigger events. The centres are appropriate for small to medium events, with strict sound controls and activity requirements, and what can be safely done in these areas, with the myriad of risks associated with the venues themselves (ie bookshelves, public access to toilets, other general users and functions of the community centre).</p> <p>Parks and recreation areas - the designs in terms or power access and power point usage, the facilities that can be accessed on site, what grassed areas can be used for and what they can't, etc, etc also presents challenges in terms of attracting and hosting events.</p> <p>The elements - the region has no viable options for wet weather alternatives, the ability to put on medium to larger events, or for booking and hosting third parties. We also live in a hot and cold environment, but do not have facilities that cater to the elements, or can</p>
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attract and/or host festivals and events all year round.

If left for investors to build and managed, the community and the Council itself will be left paying market prices which will affect budgets and bottoms lines of business, community and government.

With the growth of the housing within the region and rising house prices, this generally encourages consumers to spend and leads to higher economic growth – due to the wealth effect. With this redistribution of wealth within the region and the economy, this will also have a flow on effect with respect to the appetite, participation in and type of events and festivals in the region.

Festivals and special events play important roles in destination development, image makers, animators of static attractions, and catalysts for other developments.

They provide opportunities for participation, skills development, volunteering and social, cultural economic and environmental developments. Community events and festivals can attract tourists and visitors at regional, national and international level. Events help to capture attention and promote attractions and infrastructures. They make it possible to maximize and rationalize the use of certain spaces and venues. They can make a significant contribution to the region and the community through the injection of cash into the economy and assist the tourism businesses of the region.

<p>What are the key challenges or opportunities facing this district?</p>	<p>Well-defined goals, local level partnerships Well defined strategic plan and operational planning for Events and Venues Funding - local, regional and national government, private funding/sponsorship/investment Revenue - ensuring the facility/ies will have a well defined business development strategy that identifies and implements and sound revenue base.</p> <p>Ensuring the facility/ies are designed specifically with events and multipurpose events centre in mind in ensure maximum use. A single minded designed facility (ie a performance theatre) will lend itself to a very specific design, layout, and facility).</p> <p>Ensuing opportunities that will include and involve local people and suppliers are in terms of provision of services, food, beverages, and attractions, to compliment the festival and events. That is ensuring a strategy that will include the sharing of economic benefits to local vendors, artisans, craftspeople, restaurateurs, hoteliers and other associated businesses are able to contribute to their annual income during the course of an event and a calendar full of events.</p>
<p>Your Comments</p>	
<p>Please provide any further comments:</p>	<p>Rates for the rural ratepayer. As a rural rate payer we pay extra for services, for example rubbish collection, sewerage removal. Whilst I understand and I am happy to contribute to paying rates, I think the council could specifically give those rural ratepayers something. Whether a scheme to pay for extra water tanks for their property through rates with a discount, or being able to secure discount for upgraded sewerage tank system, or some environmental incentive to help with respect to land management. I think there is opportunity to recognise and give to this section of the community who can also contribute to the region as a whole, and may not receive all the advantages that someone living in the populated areas has access to.</p>
<p>Attach any other comments:</p>	

Submission for the Annual Plan 2020-2021.

The Committee for Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association present their submission via email requesting to be heard in person.

The Committee are very concerned about the economic fallout that will occur as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. We are concerned that Horowhenua District Council plan on pursuing the process without giving due consideration to the fact that families will be focused on their financial survival and therefore an Annual Plan will not be on their radar. It means the Council will not be getting a sound voice from the Community.

All the plans would have been made prior to the lockdown and as such need to be suspended, so the Council can rework the Plan to see what adjustments need to be made to lessen the financial impact on the community.

In particular the proposed 6.9% rate rise needs to be postponed. Development contributions should be reintroduced, operational costs revisited and unessential plans like building a splash pad postponed. What planned projects are no longer essential?

Another suggestion would be to follow the example of the leadership in Central Government and take a paycut, from The Chief Executive Officer, the executive team, down to staff and all councillors.

Many people in this district do not have access to a computer and as such their voice is unable to be heard during the current lockdown. The Council cannot claim it heard from a good cross section of the Community and would be remiss of the Council to proceed with the process under the circumstances of a State of National Emergency.

You State in the pamphlet the Council is legally required to adopt an Annual plan. We are sure no government would sue a local body for abandoning their current plan in order to revisit it to make it fiscally appealing to the Community.

Council needs to take heed that 66% of the population were living below the poverty line before the Covid 19 pandemic (DHB Statistics). That number is going to increase as the economic fallout becomes obvious.

Thank you
Leone Brown (Secretary)
p.p. The Committee for
Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association

**Addendum to the initial Submission (16/4/2020)
Horowhenua District Council Annual Plan 2020**

**Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents
Association Inc**

This document contains LGOIMA questions asked by HDRRA.

Executive Summary

This summary will provide an overview of the contents of this submission. The main points:

- It is fiscally and morally irresponsible of the Horowhenua District Council to be considering future development plans which include a 6.9% rate increase, whilst the district's residents are grappling with major disruptions to their lives on an as yet undetermined economic scale.
- The presentation looks at a projection of how the country will grind to an economic halt. It will use reference points from Shamubeel Equb, an experienced economist to highlight examples.
- It will ask Horowhenua District Council to look at new ways of processing its workings. It will require Council to work within a framework of business principles, using a bottom-up approach instead of the current top-down model. It will ask the Council to hold to the 4 well-beings - economic, social, cultural, and environmental in their deliberations with strong governance overarching.
- It will question if councillors have the skills to guide management, and question if management have the skills to be guided by the councillors.
- It will question Council's business model and how that is decided. What are the borrowing agendas? What are the methods are in place for mitigation of the accumulated debt?
- It will question how Council consider liabilities as assets and how are these shown in the accounts part of the Annual Plan?
- Finally, it will ask how Council's debt level can be sustained in the current climate so it lessens this huge burden on the ratepayer and asks what other ways this can be better managed.

Preface

Our top-down style of development has left households, workers, local business owners, and others here without the financial stability to weather months, or longer, of reduced or eliminated incomes. It has left them vulnerable not just to the virus, but to the economic downturn it has heralded.

The primary emotion driving many people is fear. Fear of losing their job. Fear of losing their business. Fear of losing all they have worked for. Fear of their very fragile existence. Fear of being impoverished. Fear of needing to ask for help.

We have all been amazed at how New Zealanders responded to quarantine orders to contain the spread of the virus. For families that save 20%, 30%, 40% or more of their income, how much less fearful is such a lockdown than it is for a family with no savings, huge debts, and an insecure job?

How ludicrous is it then for Horowhenua District Council to address infrastructure growth going forward by engineering a path on everyone taking on higher levels of debt?

This is just one of the many ways our top-down, centralized economic approach has cost us our stability.

Everything is about to change. The Economy will slow, businesses will go bust.

We will not go back to normal. Normal never was.

Our pre-Covid19 existence was not normal other than we normalised greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, and lack. We should not long to return to that.

We should be given the opportunities to stitch a new garment. One that fits nature, and all humanity.

Covid-19: key challenges

1. Do not raise rates or charges this year, nor sell assets

HDRRA states that no rate increases, nor charges for services are proceeded with this year. Further, if house prices fall over the next few years, which is expected, then the property valuations will not be a true reflection of property values on which rates are determined.

Similarly, we state that HDC not sell property assets during the next three years as commercial property values will decrease as businesses go bust and the economy downturns.

2. HDC – will Council transition to a new way of working?
<https://economicdevelopment.org.nz/free-covid-19-related-webinars/>

Bring down expectations, the economy will slow, businesses will go bust.

Get rid of pet projects, target projects that get local economy back running.

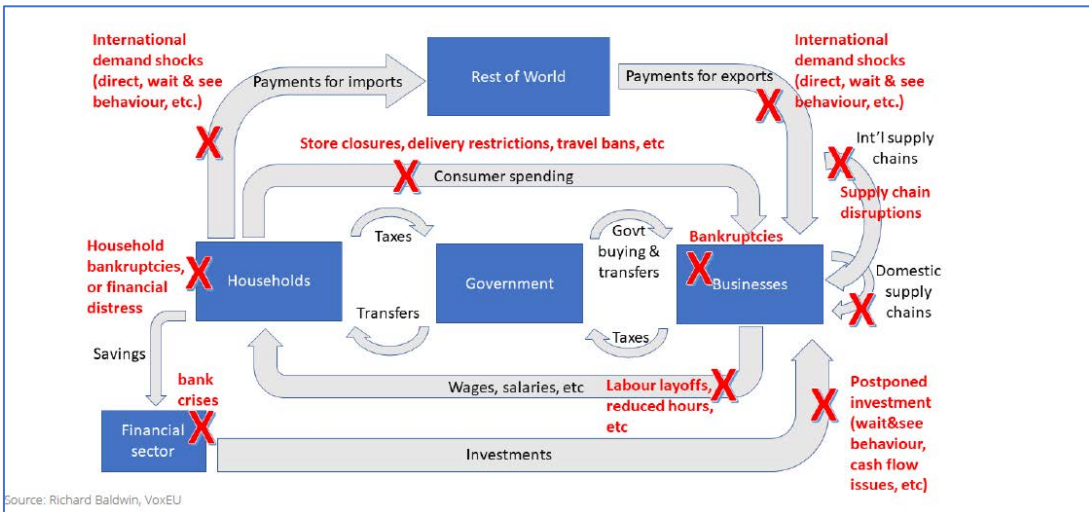
Take a bottom up approach, any investments should bring profit to council, not private investors.

With Govt borrowing \$70 - \$100 billion, council will be unable to borrow in about 12 months

Economic shock will be so big, so don't raise rates... council will lose the social license to increase them later.

Restricted borders – people and products – overseas markets, shortage of imports

3. All the economic plumbing is clogged up



4. Local government needs to carefully assess actions

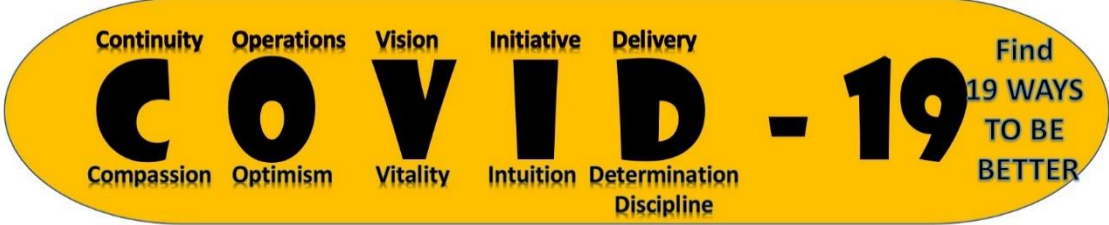
- Austerity in crisis is bad
- Rates relief politically necessary, but:
 - \$1m of rates relief supports 8.5 jobs
 - \$1m of interest payments for investment supports 155 jobs
 - Run ruler over costs, reduce executive pay in solidarity
- Leverage existing tools/operations
 - Don't invent new channels
 - Use and co-ordinate central welfare mechanisms
 - Use and fund existing economic development operations

5. So, what do you do?

- Understand your region and businesses
- Triage:
 - Use flow diagrams and checklists
 - based on industry and financial position and need
 - Don't be afraid of insolvency
 - Proactively identify suppliers & customers of affected industries
- Plan for the recovery
 - It may be long
 - Be cautious & encourage good cashflows
 - New normal may be very different.
- Role of council
 - Essential services
 - Rates relief
 - Spatial planning
 - Infrastructure (prioritised projects)
 - ED funding & support
- Role of ED
 - Co-ordinate & communicate
 - Ruthlessly prioritise what works
 - Don't lose sight of strategic priorities.

“The economic shock will be so big on many people, losing jobs, losing businesses, so don't raise rates. Councils will lose the social license to increase them later” - Shamubeel Eaquab, Sense Partners

6. HDRRA asks: Will Council heed the advice from Shamubeel Eaquab and not raise rates? If not, why not? Should any fees be raised this financial year?



How can Horowhenua District Council transition to a new way of working within the 4 well-beings: Economic, Social, Cultural, Environmental?

Effective Governance is an appropriate and necessary requirement.

Do the Councillors have the skills to guide management?

Does the management team have the skills to be managed, and to be effectively guided by Councillors?

7. HDRRA's Post Covid-19 recommendations

House prices and purchases of houses are reducing: the future is uncertain. Foreign travel will be restricted for some time. There may be restrictions on imports and exports. Businesses will go bust. More people will be unemployed and for the next few years people face an uncertain future.

Governance

HDRRA seeks that there is no increase in rates, nor and charges for services of the foreseeable future.

Establish equity in rates, remove differentials.

HDRRA seeks that the role of governance be strengthened, so that guidance goes from elected Council members to management, not the other way round.

HDRRA seeks greater governance control of spending, not authorising major, up to one million-dollar expenditure, without oversight and authorisation.

HDRRA seeks that business practices, and business principles are applied to the decision-making processes.

HDRRA seeks that all projects initiated by HDC have an ROI provision, that local businesses, not multinational be preferred to ensure the net wealth stays within the community, not just the debt.

HDRRA seeks a different mode of operation, i.e. bottom-up with greater consultation and disclosure among the community that live in the Horowhenua District

Bottom-up processes are to be developed, true consultation from the prospect of a clean sheet, not already prescribed and agreed to. Real open discussion, involving community, not just HDC personal.

Common sense, driven by the big picture, not previously unidentified "PET PROJECTS"

Ground up development of ideas, supporting the councillors to make evidence-based decisions.

It has been suggested that borrowing may be untenable within 12 months.

Council may investigate funding local businesses for their procurements.

HDRRA seeks better management of the assets, be that through information technology, or other to ensure maintenance of infrastructure is performed on time, not before.

Economic

On page 102 of the draft annual report is increase of \$1.93 million to "Employee Benefit Expenses". What does this mean? Does it mean HDC is going to pay staff more salary or it does it mean employing more staff?

Annual plan/long-term plans are to provide more data on proposals for capital expenditure, including what, when, how much, and the ROI benefit to the community

Reduce expectations, reduce HDC spending, fewer staff, doing more.

Checking staff productivity....

Focus on people, not things, ensuring a return on investment.

Local procurement, multinationals where possible. Financial support to start-ups

Net profits to stay in the community, not go offshore to entities (Horowhenua Alliance)

Inventory of Assets, so that renewals are performed in a timely frame, not just because funding must be spent.

Horowhenua district can't just have growth; it needs productive growth.

Environmental

Sea level change. According to the insurance Council possibly two pay-outs for floods will make insurance unaffordable for the homeowner. It is expected that the long-term plans will provide information starting to address this issue.

Rainfall and water availability. Increased perturbations in the atmosphere may necessitate relocation of infrastructure

Earthquake. HDC does not intend to earthquake strengthen public buildings. There may be opportunity for these to be repurposed into accommodation and/or retail.

Lake Horowhenua ... Damages perceptions of the area. A priority, among others, is to sort this out.

Water quality. Many parts of the district rely on subterranean water supplies. Environmental degradation through leachate from animal farms and horticultural businesses must be controlled to ensure human health.

Food source. Many of the horticultural products we consume are based on first-generation hybridisation. Horowhenua could be an ideal place to grow heirloom seeds for export, and to process into high-value, exportable consumable products.

Social

With O2NL we risk becoming a dormitory suburb of Wellington, old people waiting to die, gardeners for Wellington, carers for the elderly.

The notion that Levin will grow because a bypass is constructed needs to be tempered with reality. What evidence can be produced that shows that there is an increase in the commercial GDP of a town that has been bypassed by traffic. Travellers will come to Levin for the "strip shopping" in the main street, they get their main supplies in their own hometown.

Cultural

Be inclusive of all residents in the district.

8. Business Practice-Income/Expenditure/ROI

Mr Pickwick (Charles Dickens David Copperfield)

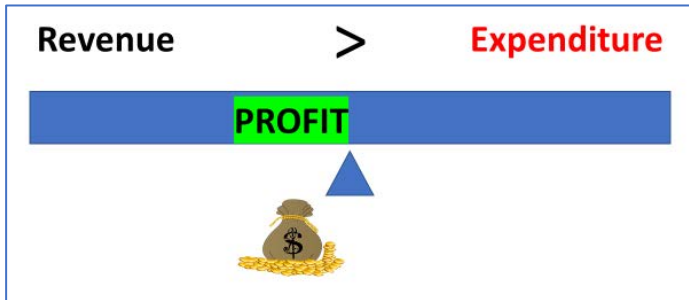
Annual income - £20.0.0
Annual expenditure - £19.19.6 – result happiness
Annual expenditure - £20.0.6 – result misery

HDRRA asks: Does Council apply this adage to their finances? If not, why not?

HDRRA believes Councillors do so in their private lives and businesses, and the adage is not reflected in their Council decisions.

9. Usual business model:

a) REVENUE > EXPENDITURE outcome is profit = happiness

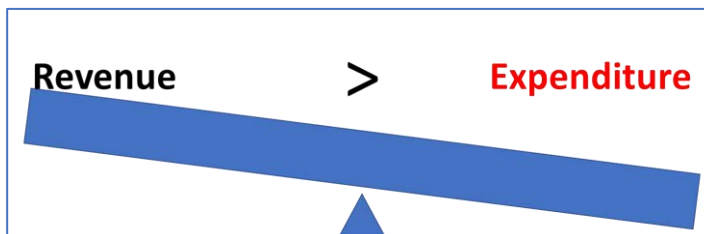


Profit = continued activity: Debt and deficit = bankruptcy

- Businesses come and go and are replaced as new players come into the market, trying their luck to succeed and make profit.

10. HDC’s business model isn’t balance!

b) REVENUE < EXPENDITURE outcome is debt = misery



- Towns and cities are perpetual, they are not replaced as new players come into the market. Town and cities can be therefore be running as insolvent or bankrupt.

11. HDRRA asks the question “Should council run as a profitable business model with business values?” If not, why not?”

Councillors governance roles are at odds with their professional life

Counsellors have cognitive dissonance and authority bias, as they run their own businesses based on revenue expenditure making a profit while allowing Council to continually run at a loss and mounting debt.

Cognitive dissonance - the state of having inconsistent thoughts, beliefs, or attitudes, especially as relating to behavioural decisions and attitude change

Authority bias - trusting and being influenced by the opinions of authority figures

Who sets the agenda? Governance, or those who manage?

Top-Down?

The top-down, master-plan approach to build is seductive. But it is also fragile. It depends heavily on the vision of a very small number of individuals and their ability to anticipate how the market and people’s preferences will respond to what they have built over 10, 20, 30 years or more.



or Bottom-Up?

Bottom-up development uses the expertise and work of the people who live in the community to build financial resilience and prosperity. We believe that one of the best ways to do this is by making small bets—low-cost, easily implemented experiments that can be repeated throughout a place if they prove successful, but won't cause ruin if they aren't.



The advice received from Shamubeel Equb to councils is to use a bottom-up approach. Investments should bring profits to Council, not private investors (see 1 above).

Proper effective governance. HDRRA seeks that Councillors fully engaged with the community (who elected them into their positions) in the bottom-up process, from early development, to ensure an open process, not just presenting a “we’ll show and tell you what we’ve decided on your behalf and ask for your agreement.”

12. Stop Consumptive Spending and Start Creating Wealth

We, the ratepayers, through HDC are making a huge investment, \$74.5 million next year in our community, what's the return on that investment?
 We are spending millions of dollars on roads and pipes and drainage systems, splash pools, alfresco dining, green streets.
 Is that value for money for the community, or does a huge net profit transfer out of the country?
 Whose job is it to track the spending, comparing actual costs with the dollars cited in a tender?
 Does a project we are funding even make sense?

 How is it that we can find millions of dollars for a big infrastructure product, yet we can't maintain the foot paths, yet we will patch holes multiple times in the likes of Cambridge Street rather than doing the job once, perfectly?
 Who tracks that, who make sure these things actually happen the way they say they're going to happen?
 Why do we keep reducing the number of books in the libraries?
 Are these the hallmarks of a prosperous place?
 For every dollar of rates collected Council will borrow another 41 cents. Is that how your household runs?
 Should local government try to make a profit?
 We are not about trying to make a profit from us, the citizens, rather ask that management ensure its revenue exceeds expenses.
 So, do these "pet projects" splash pool, al fresco dining, Queen Street-Green Street, Foxton i-Site, make a profitable return on investment? Are they financial assets or public liabilities?



HDRRA asks, “How probable are the economic benefits?” A pitfall of retail, dining and entertainment districts is that much of the activity they attract is not new spending, but rather local dollars that would otherwise have been spent in another part of the city. Economic impact analyses are easily inflated by failing to fully anticipate this displacement effect.

What is the cost of doing nothing?

Where do these “for public benefit” items register on their income side of the financial ledger?

13. HDRRA asks What Asset-management information technology processes are in place that help decide the value of HDC’s expenditure?



The repair work, estimated to cost more than \$400,000, is expected to extend the life of the hydroslide for another 20 to 30 years, estimated to cost ratepayers an extra 77 cents each year.

Who estimates the cost as \$400,000?

That’s more than a 200 square meter house build... Does it look like it’s as much as a house would cost?



Work is underway on a \$150,000 safety upgrade on the Bath St and Cambridge St roundabout.

Less concrete than in a house foundation. Does it look 3 times the size of a house?



This involves the water being treated using chlorine disinfection, coarse sand filter, carbon filters, cartridge filtration and UV disinfection. The compact full-scale treatment plant was installed within a shipping container and the relatively modest project cost of just \$350,000 – less than a sixth of the original estimate – meant there was a minimal impact on rates.



The tanks cost \$US1100 each... a container \$8000, pumps, pipes, computer and controls, UV light source.

Who checked the costings to see whether HDC got value for our \$350,000?

HDRRA asks, “What information technology processes does HDC have in place, right now, to assess a project management and ROI?”

Are IT processes being effectively used? Show us the evidence.

14. Current Asset Growth: Top-Down Economics

A developer invests in production of suburban growth, gets a return \$ on his investment (ROI)

INVESTMENT → **RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

The developer bankrolls the cost of infrastructure into the cost of the homes.

INVESTMENT COSTS

Soft Costs	Hard Costs
Permits	Land costs
Architect	Buildings/roads
Engineering	Storm water
Legal fees	Water
Marketing	Wastewater

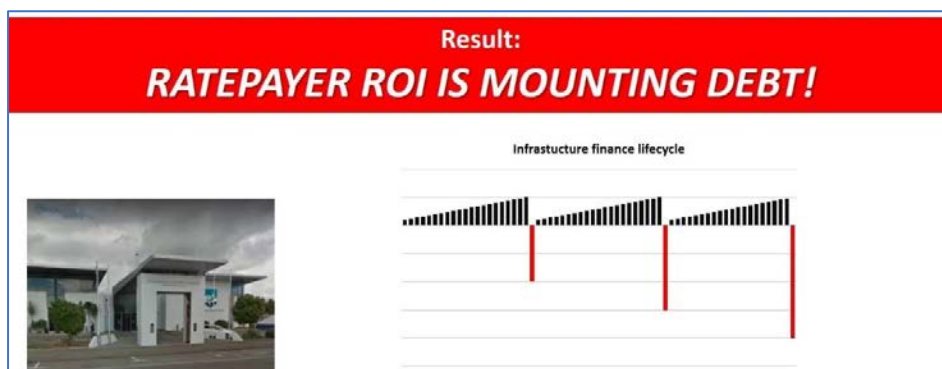
Infrastructure is Invested to Council at Zero Cost

Private Investor has NO FURTHER LIABILITIES

Hard Costs of Maintenance

Roads
Storm water
Water
Wastewater, etc.

No Ongoing Hard Costs



You can't allocate the cost of new piping to current property owners because the pipe is upsized for growth elsewhere. Those persons undertaking a development should pay fair, equitable, and proportionate portion of the total cost of capital expenditure necessary to service growth over the long term.

How much rate base do we need when infrastructure gets to the end of its lifecycle?
Who gets the profits in this process?

HDRRA asks: How much Return on Investment is achieved by Council?

Is this question even asked during the planning process?

HDRRA suggests that you stop outsourcing and paying consultants. Achieve planning and processing inhouse.

Use the expertise and work of the people who live in the community to build financial resilience and prosperity. Making low-cost, easily implemented experiments that can be repeated throughout a place if they prove successful but won't cause ruin if they aren't.

Change to a bottom up approach, any investments should bring profit to council, not private investors. – Shamubeel Eaquab

15. Horowhenua District Council is caught in the Growth Ponzi Scheme.

We experience a modest, short term bump in cash flow from the new growth, an illusion of wealth, while the community takes on an even greater amount of long-term liabilities.

We deprive our communities of prosperity, overload our families with debt and become trapped in a spiral of decline.

We bring in more people, so that revenue from new entrants is used to pay off past obligations.

This is a Ponzi scheme: it cannot continue.

HDC, like all local authorities have experienced growth using three primary financial mechanisms:

1. **Transfer payments between governments:** central government makes a direct investment in growth at the local level, such as funding a water or sewer system expansion.

- 2. **Transportation spending:** where transportation infrastructure is used to improve access to a site that can then be developed.
- 3. **Public and private-sector debt:** where cities, developers, companies, and individuals take on debt as part of the development process, whether during construction or through the assumption of a mortgage, and then pass on the liabilities to the district.

In very simple terms, infrastructure is a platform for expanding wealth. The reason to build infrastructure is that it builds wealth in a place beyond what would happen without infrastructure. Period. That’s it.

If infrastructure doesn’t build enough wealth to justify its construction, it’s not a productive investment. It’s merely a form of consumptive spending.

<https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2019/12/17/best-of-2019-my-journey-from-free-market-ideologue-to-strong-towns-advocate>

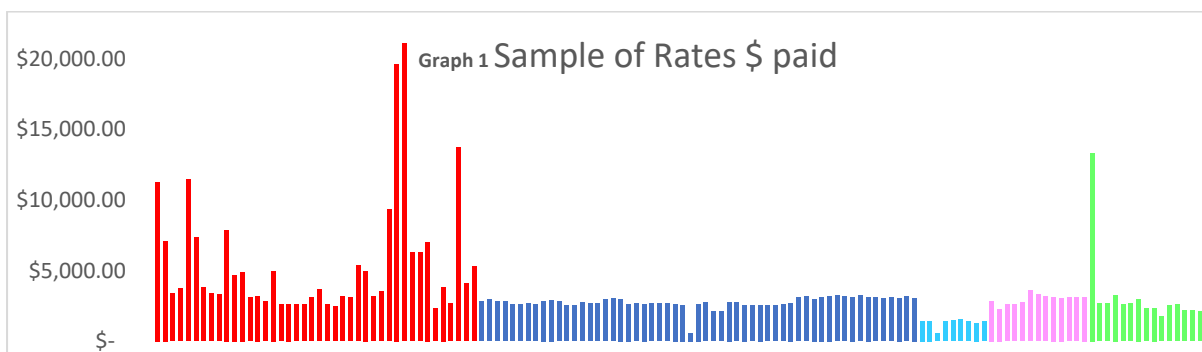
16. Rates are disproportionate for some ratepayer: how are they assessed

Differentials exist “rural/business” pay 25-30% less than “district other” i.e. residential ratepayers. Businesses get a subsidy from the rest. That’s not a fair playing field.

- 1. Businesses claim their rates as expenses and set that against income and take the resulting funds as profits.
- 2. Normal residents have no such avenue to offset rates against an income.
- 3. Graphs below are a sample of rates derived from Council’s rating information database.

Important insights can be made comparing the graphs (over) correctly: using **rates/area**, not raw rates data.

Where does council derive most value from the rates charges?

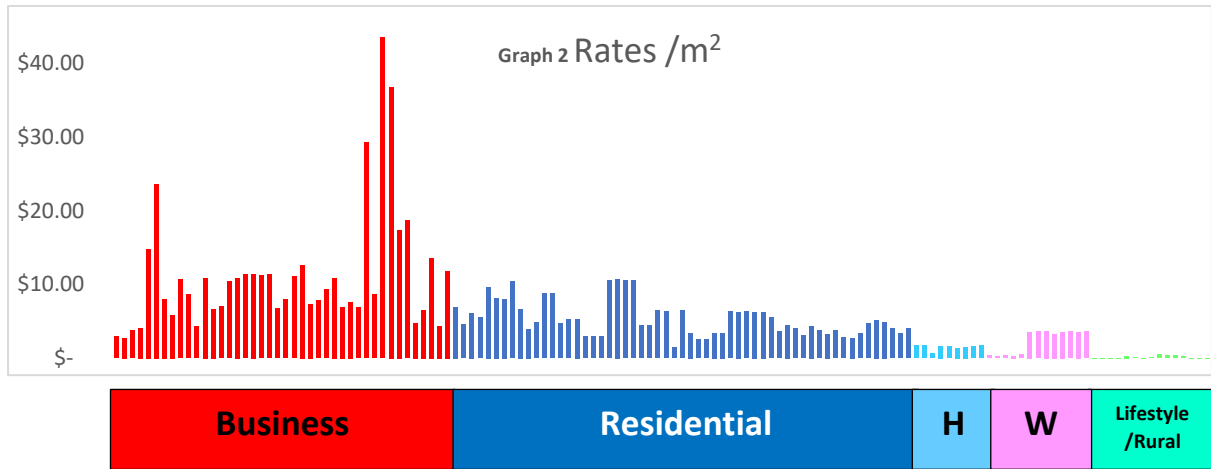


Graph 1 is a sample of rates paid by a sample of properties obtained from the HDC rates evaluation website. Examples were selected in Levin, Hokio Beach, Waitarere and lifestyle blocks. The graph indicates that some businesses and the only farm found on the sample pay large amounts of money compared to others.

The highest amount of rates paid is \$21,075.47, while the lowest amount is \$557.13, the average is \$3601.74, and the mean is \$2832.80.

By standardising the information to rates paid per square metre occupied, the information shown in the graph changes, and can be accurately assessed side by side in a way most people understand.

[HDRRA seeks the full database and will be analysing the whole Horowhenua district and will publish the data widely.](#)

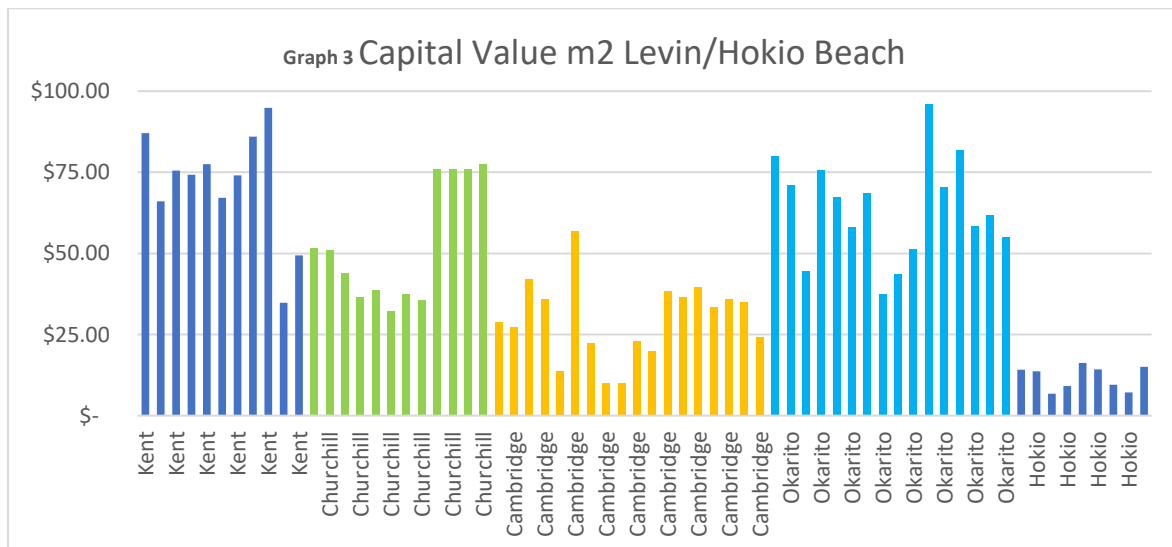


When comparing the raw data as a standardised set some anomalies immediately stand out.

Someone pays \$43.46 per square metre while another pays .076 cents per square metre. Businesses pay on average more (about \$10) than Levin residential (about \$5) and the lowest payment per square metre payment is in rural/lifestyle (5 cents).

Looking more deeply at the sample of residential Levin the data shows how streets have different capital values.

[HDRRA asks “Why are the values per m² not identical on the same side of the street?”](#)

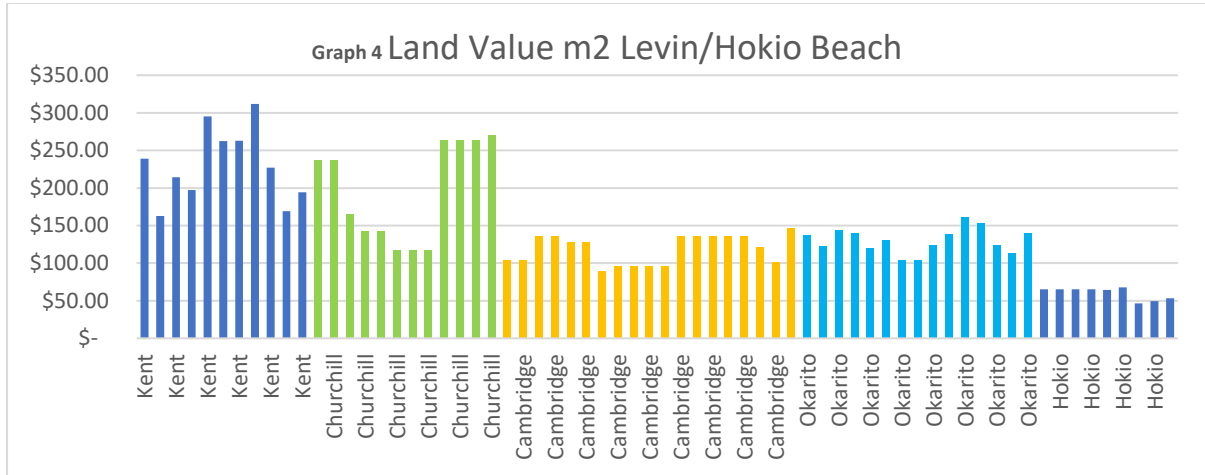


Because that is how they are valued: some build with brick, some wood, some old, some new, so Capital Value varies.

HDRRA asks “Therefore, is capital value a good measure of affordability to pay rates?”

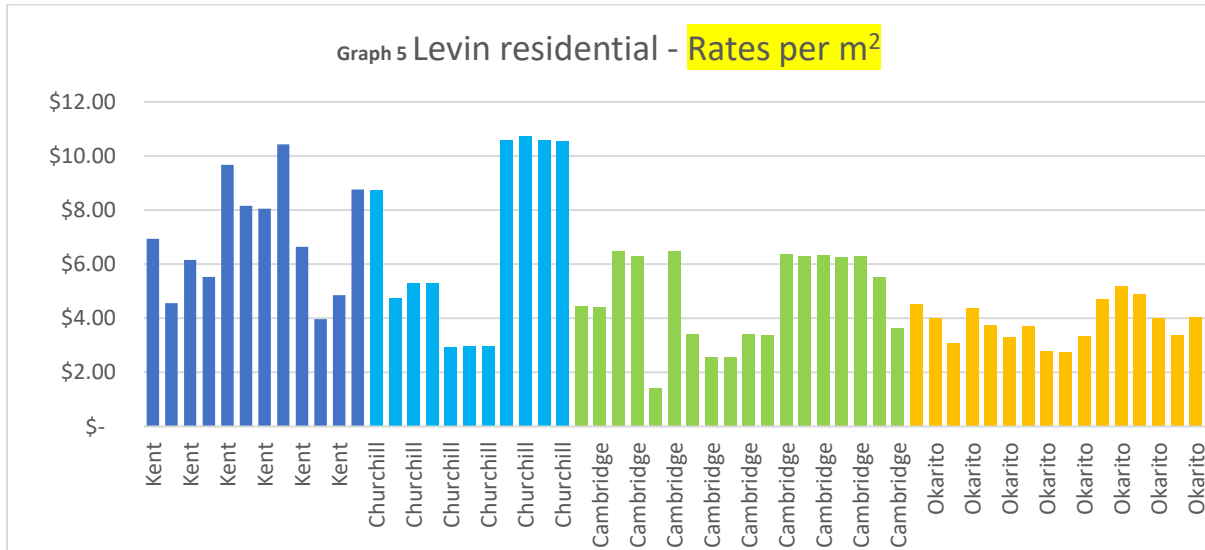
No because some people can afford gold taps, while others choose stainless steel.

HDRRA asks “Is land value a good measure of affordability to pay rates?”

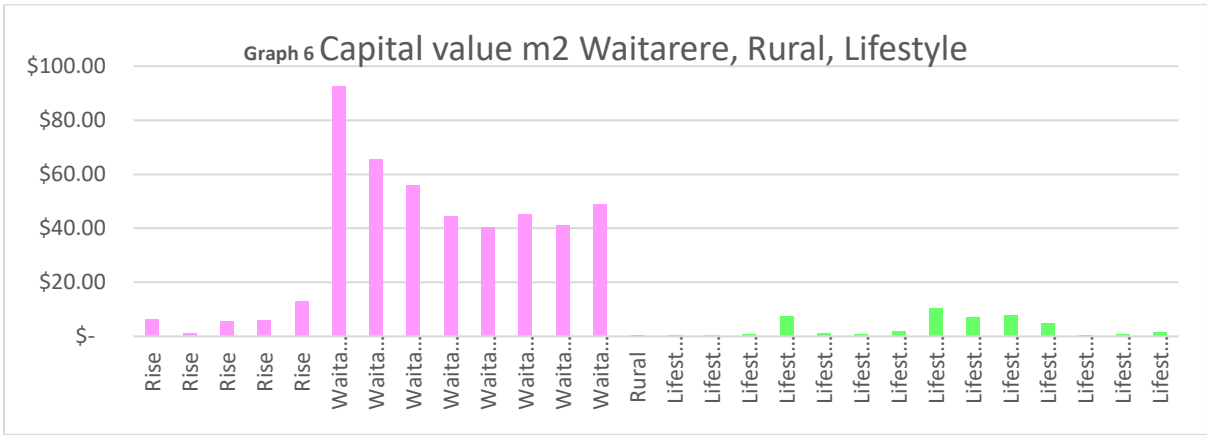


Land value varies between street, and within a street along the same side. So that is not uniform.

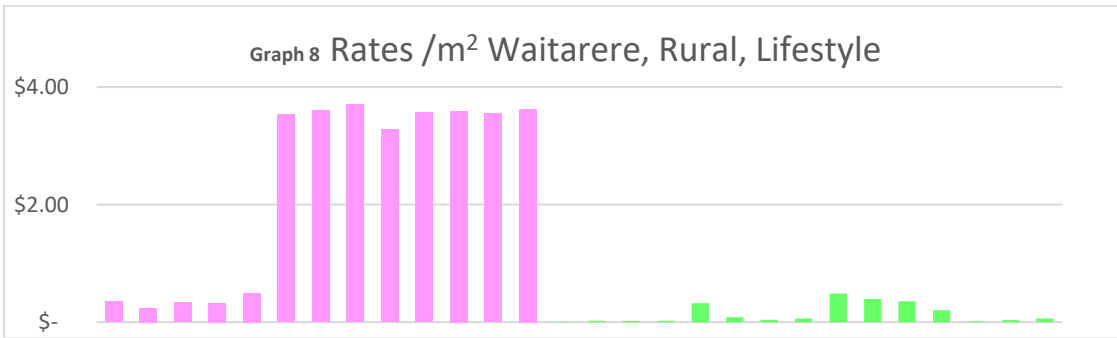
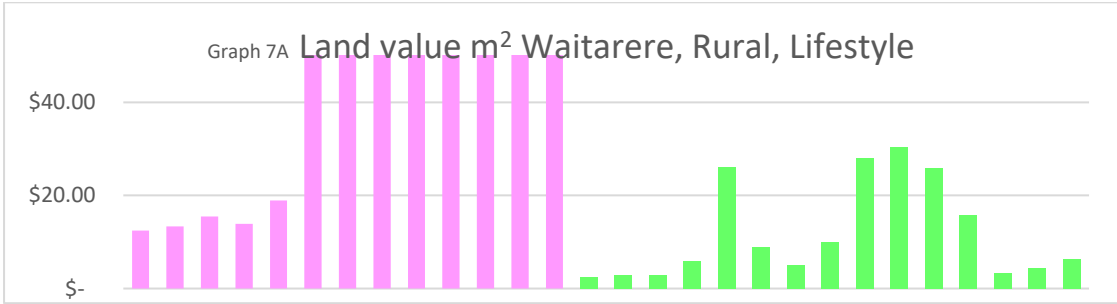
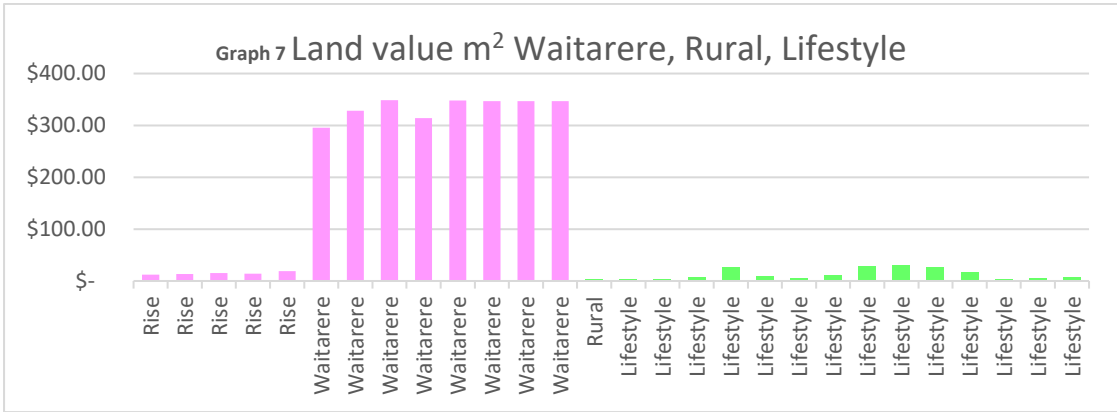
HDRRA asks “are rates per square metre a good measure of affordability to pay rates?”



Clearly not because the \$ value of rates paid along the same side of the street varies, as it does between streets whether in Levin or elsewhere.

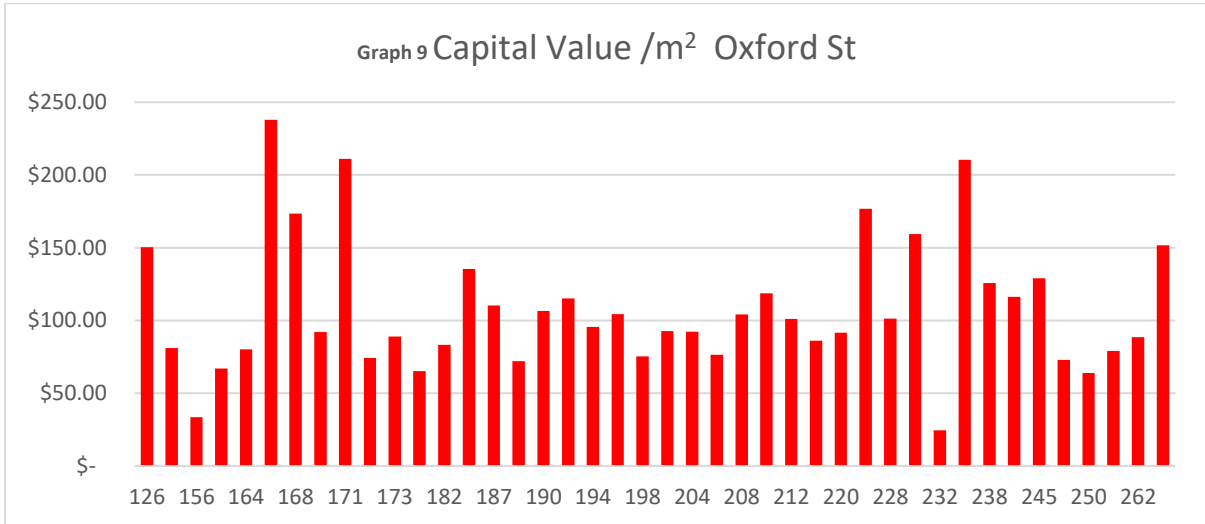


On the capital value per square metre beachfront properties have exceedingly high capital value compared with lifestyle blocks. Some blocks in the sample have water supplied, some do not: no distinction is made for this presentation.

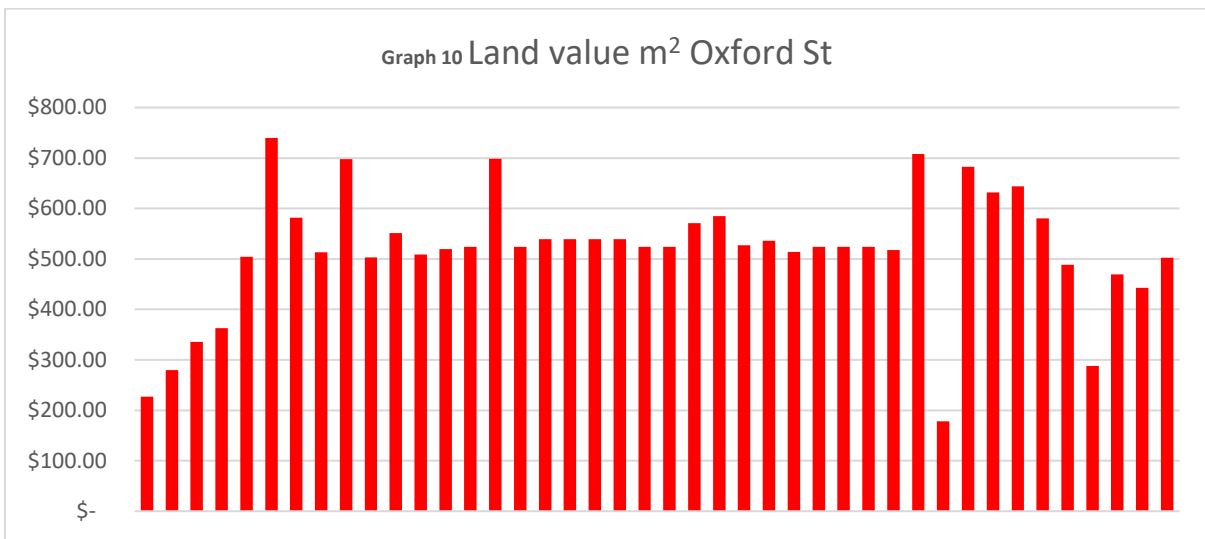


Again, we establish variations in the \$ value for each set of properties. Beach properties are highly values, yet these will be challenged by sea level rise and ocean perturbations. This graph shows that the choice of where you live affects the quantity of rates paid.

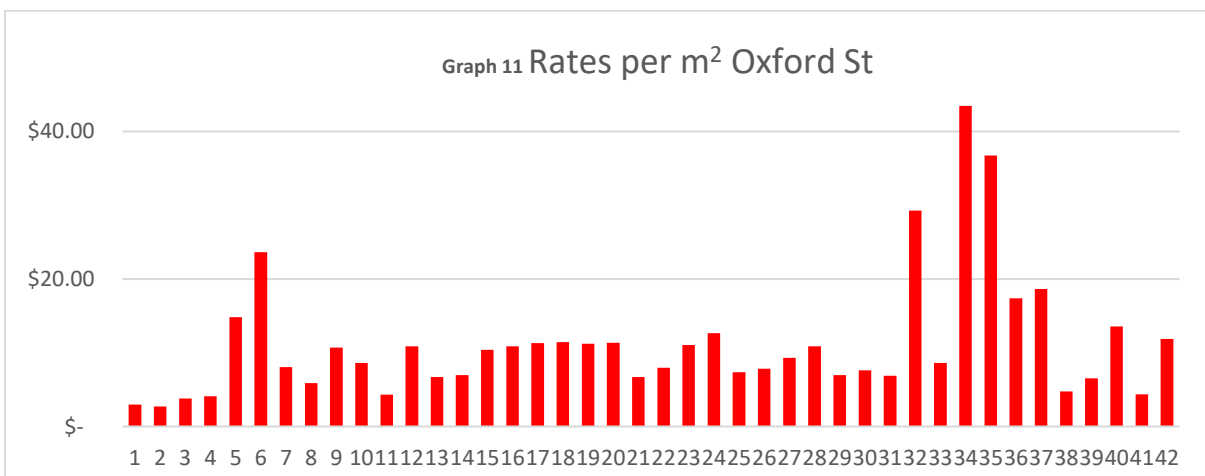
Graph 9 represents some properties in Oxford Street Levin, the business centre of the district.



The graph shows different buildings have different values.

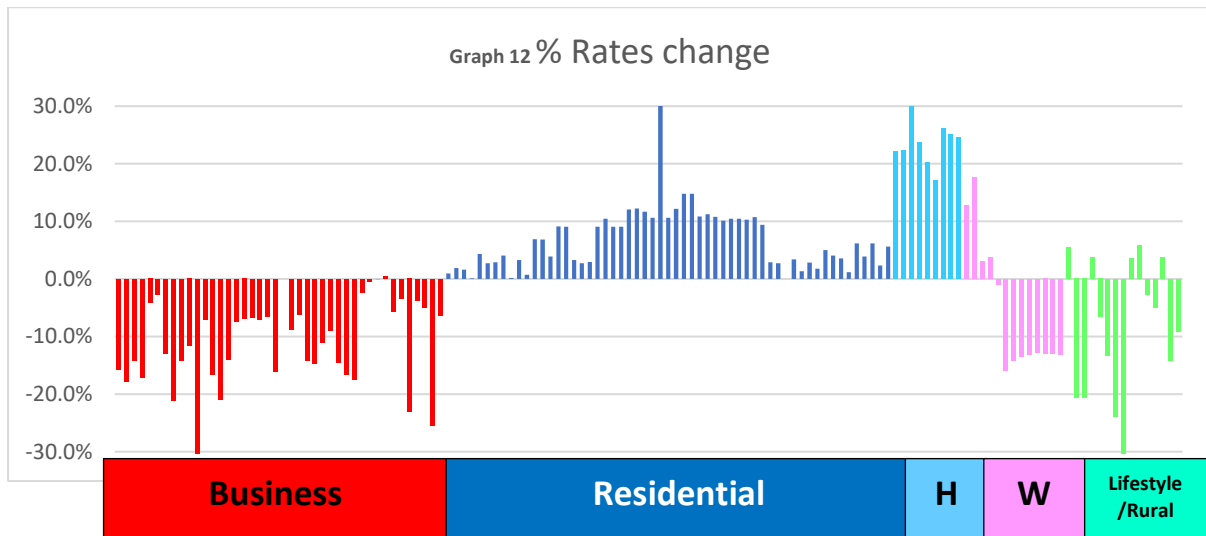


Land values in Oxford Street appear to be uniformly assessed, while other areas in Levin do not (Graph 4). One property seems out of sync. Why?



The Value of rates per m² is disproportionate, with properties around Oxford Street/Queen Street exceedingly high compared to those on Oxford Street.

Graph 12 shows the percentage of rates change for the sample of properties assessed.



The very high percent rates increase at site 64 is a vacant plot. Nobody lives there. No services are used, no water, no sewage, library services (all SUIPs) yet the rates increase. Why should their rates rise, they consume no services! The same applies to any bare section. For what benefit does HDC raise rates on these properties other than as an exercise to extract money!

Hokio Beach rates increases are proportionately higher than for residential Levin. HDC is extracting rates from poor people living there. They have no water supplied and must travel a greater distance to use the amenities and town compared with those residents in Levin.

Oxford Street businesses have variable reductions in their rates. For some very little, for others of the 25% less rates will be paid.

In this sample, businesses, beach front properties and some lifestyle blocks have reduced rates, Levin and Hokio Beach have proportionately large increases.

Significance: Graph 12 shows the disparity between urban Levin residential and Hokio Beach where rate rises are positive, and business and rural lifestyle where their rates rise is negative.



Alarming, no rating information is publicly available for the properties 169-221 Oxford Street.

One of these properties is the business premises of the Mayor, Mr Bernie Wanden.

Surely, it is in his best interests to ensure full transparency of not only his, but all these business premises.

Council could say that the data are commercially sensitive. Be that as it may, what changes of level of service have occurred, that bring the price of rates down? Could it be that services have not

changed, the occupants still use water, flush it away et cetera? The changes decrease in the general rates, land transport and stormwater provisions, even though the capital value in land value have been reassessed at higher levels. So, the differentials (the mathematical numbers used to calculate) have lessened compared to residential properties. Is that fair?

Maybe HDC might suggest that there making the rates more affordable to keep businesses operating in the district. Then the question becomes one of affordability. Is it more affordable for businesses with lower rates as affordability an issue, when the differentials applied to homeowners are not similarly adjusted? Affordability (see 17 below) is an issue for businesses and homeowners, not either, or!

What's going on? Is this a situation where there is one rule for the rich and one rule for the poor?

Maybe is there a conflict of interests on the part of the Mayor? After all, his business may be one of those that has a reduced rate payment. He benefits from the decision he made in Council to apply reduced business rates. For that reason alone, it is important for transparency and that all his property information is made public.

[HDRRA asks if Corporate businesses have national rates levels... the information is hidden; how do we check they are on the same playing field?](#)

[HDRRA seeks the full rates assessment database be made available to us immediately.](#)

Why is there a lifestyle/rural divide? Why is it that ratepayers living in lifestyle blocks have reduced rates get Hokio residence have theirs increased?

How have HDC's services to these properties decreased or increased? Have the costs of services they consume decreased or increased?

No, the changes occur not on the services but in the differentials for land value and capital value that have decreased. So why is it that the choice of a place to reside effects whether the rates increase or decrease?

Essentially what is being shown is that those ratepayers who can afford gold taps will pay less in those who use stainless steel taps. The service is the same, water runs through and is used, and is disposed of whether a ratepayer uses gold or stainless steel. The differential process favours those who use gold. That's unfair.

Business properties also have the differentials for land value and capital value decreased, as well as their stormwater costs. Have these businesses reduced their roof area and therefore the amount of water that flows from them? No, so why this reduction?

These reductions are questionable when the recent revaluation of properties increased land value and capital value for everyone.

Is this a system whereby the rich get richer as the rates are subsidised by the poorer ratepayers?

[HDRRA seeks a full explanation, answering all the questions in this submission](#)

17. Affordability

Businesses pay rates as expenditure against taxable profits.

Surely? ... the questions surrounding the "Affordability" of Council services, must be placed at the top of a list of achievable-feasible financial planning options... to be addressed by all Councils early on in their long-term budgeting-plan cycle.

Of the current population of Horowhenua, 34,066 about 47% are not employed or on fixed benefit or superannuation incomes.

Age Groups (years)	Census March 2018	Forecast 95th Percentile - June 2028	Forecast 95th Percentile - June 2038
<15	5,987	7,262	9,158
15-29	5,322	6,456	8,140
30-64	13,637	16,542	20,860
65+	8,315	10,087	12,719
Total	33,261	40,347	50,877

Horowhenua's rates increases are highly inflated compared to the average income of residents.

Factor	Amount	Rank
Average household income	\$68,000	66 th of 67
Per Capita GDP	\$26,964	66 th of 67
Composite Index	267	66 th of 67
Average annual growth in rates per capita (1996–2017)	4.3%	5 th of 67
Compound average annual inflation rate (1996–2019)	2%	
Decline in purchasing power	37%	

"Comparing rates with income (or GDP) increases is just one way of considering rates affordability that focuses on changes for the average household. Rates affordability may still be an issue for many lower-income households and households on fixed incomes (eg, for people reliant on superannuation).

<https://www.productivity.govt.nz/inquiries/local-government-funding-and-financing/>

As an example, single superannuants will be receiving approximately \$21,380.

2020 rates for Levin will change from \$2658.44 to \$2972.68, **an increase of 11.82%**.

2020 rates for Hokio Beach will change from \$1,180.21 to \$1,478.59, **an increase of 20.18%**.

HDRRA states that the outcome is marginal prosperity to some residents is reduced i.e. decreasing disposable income because rates disproportionately rise for poorer residents.

Is the current rating system fair to all incomes?

18. SUIP – separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit is a brutal way to collect rates

Library and Community Centres	\$257.40
Representation & Community Leadership	\$225.30
Solid Waste Disposal	\$30.70
Aquatic Centres (Swimming Pools)	\$151.30
Wastewater (Sewer) Disposal	\$654.30
Water Supply	\$480.40

A single-person occupancy pays the same SUIP as a household of 6 people.

Lower occupancy number subsidise higher occupancy. We know the central govt legislation is woeful to assisted legislation in this area.

HDRRA seeks that HDC take the lead in changing the central govt legislation for a fairer, proportionate outcome for all ratepayers.

19. Development Contributions: is this the only way to attract funding?

HDRRA seek that HDC apply the principle of the Purpose (LGA 2002 s197AA), fair, equitable, proportionate to exacerbator, not ratepayer debt.

- Processes to reintroduce immediately LGA 2002 s 106(6)
- sort out definition correctly – financial contribution is under RMA, not LGA
 - Put on the table at next council meeting
 - Call for submissions, publicise widely while allowing a short time for submissions
 - Hear submissions within 1 week
 - Take back to next council meeting and apply the result

The purpose of development contributions as set out in the Local Government Act 2002 s197AA reads “the purpose of the development contributions provision in this Act is to enable territorial authorities to recover from those persons undertaking development a fair, equitable, and proportionate portion of the total cost of capital expenditure necessary to service growth over the long-term.”

HDRRA seeks that Council apply the purpose as stated (LGA s197AA) and further asks Council to investigate other ways to leverage finance from growth-related projects.

20. Debt

How is HDC's debt sustained?

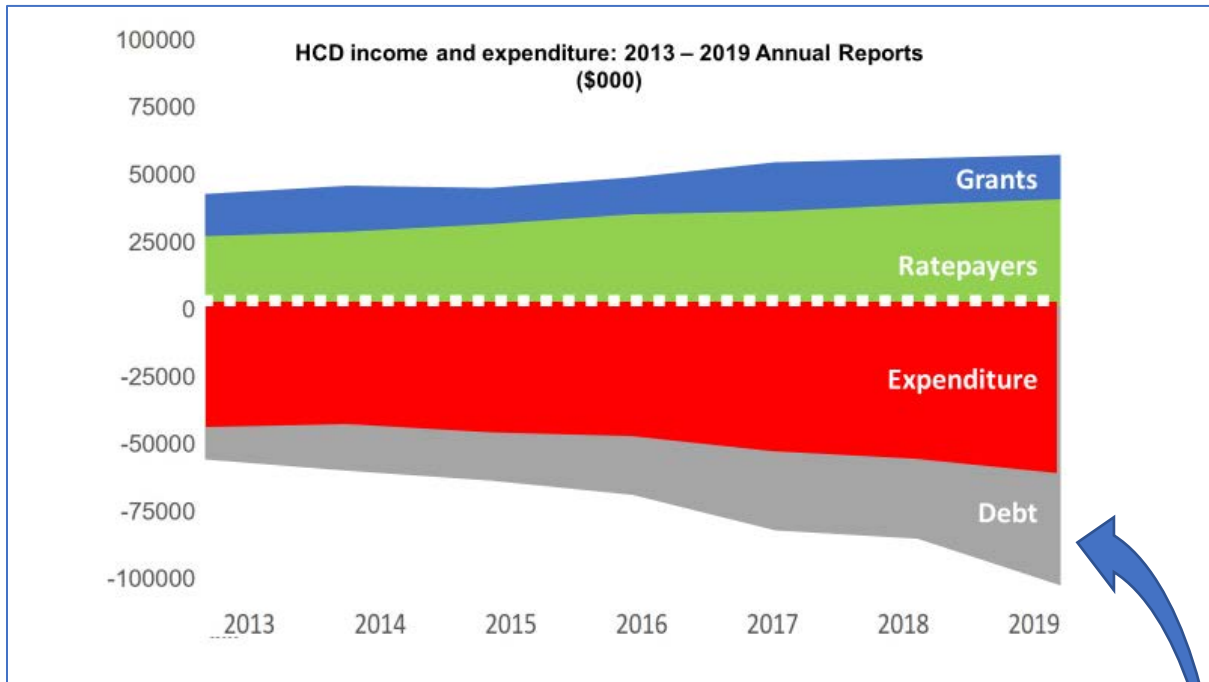
Funding Mechanism	Amount
Subsidies and Grants (8%)	\$5,996,000
Fees and Charges (11%)	\$7,898,000
Debt (23%)	\$17,463,000
Rates (58%)	\$43,000,000
Others (0%)	\$127,000
Total	\$74,557,000

For every \$1.00 raised by the community as rates, HDC continues to borrow \$0.41 year on year.

Only ratepayer repay this debt, it is not funded from subsidies and grants, nor fees and charges.

HDRRA asks if a family budget is unable to operate in that way, is HDC debt sustainable? HDRRA seeks that the council does the right thing and lives with in the funding mechanisms shown above, excluding debt.

21. How are HDC's expenditure is financed



Funding Impact Statement for Whole of Council		Reconciliation between the Funding Impact Statement for the Whole of Council and the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense	
HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2019		HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2019	
	Actual 2019 \$000		Actual 2019 \$000
Resources of operating funding		Revenue	
General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	9,547	Statement of comprehensive revenue and expense	
(Targeted) rates	29,015	Total operating revenue	53,694
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	1,064	Summary funding impact statement	
Fees and charges	5,350	Sources of operating funding	
Interest and dividends from investments	423	Total operating funding	49,040
Local authorities: fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other levies	3,970	Other sources of capital funding	
Total operating funding (A)	49,846	Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	3,039
Applications of operating funding		Development and financial contributions	-
Payments to staff and suppliers	36,119	Gain on derivative financial instruments	96
Finance costs	3,607	Vested assets	453
Other operating funding applications	-	Total revenue	53,694
Total applications of operating funding (B)	40,726	Expenditure	
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding (A-B)	9,120	Statement of comprehensive revenue and expense	
Resources of financial assets		Total operating expenditure	58,006
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	-	Summary funding impact statement	
Development and financial contributions	-	Total application of operating funding	42,725
Increase (decrease) in debt	-	Loss on derivative financial instruments	975
Other proceeds from sale of assets	-	Other losses	227
Lump sum contributions	-	Increase / (decrease) in landfill provision	1,249
Other dedicated capital funding	-	Loss (depreciation and amortisation) expense	14,383
Total sources of capital funding (C)	0	Total expenditure	58,006
Applications of general funding			
Capital expenditure	785		
to meet additional demand	-		
to improve the level of service	9,214		
to replace existing assets	12,667		
Increase (decrease) in reserves	(7,004)		
Increase (decrease) of investments	(2,709)		
Total applications of capital funding (D)	22,962		
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding (C-D)	(22,962)		
Funding balance (A-B+C-D)	14,383		
Depreciation			
Loans			
Loans as at 1/07/2016	80,000		
Raised during year	70,000		
Repaid during year	80,000		
Loans as at 30/06/2019	80,000		
Interest expense	3,957		

\$ millions of debts does not show as revenue...

An accountant might suggest repaying debt, either raise rates, or sell assets. The alternative is to STOP GROWING DEBT by cut consumptive spending.

Do the people at the controls of HDCs economic system have a vested interest in long-term sustainable growth, rather than writing up just one more loan contract?

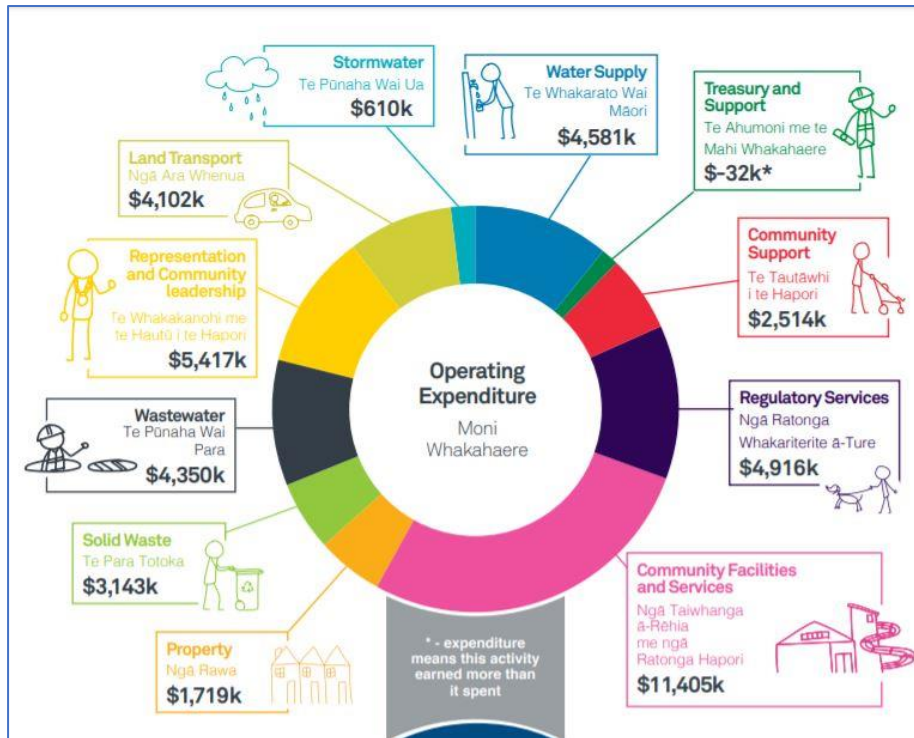
HDC is using the economics of making tomorrow pay for it decisions, but potentially having not realized that when tomorrow comes, probably the current management will not be there, leaving ratepayers.

We need to adapt a system of financially sustainable development that does not grow debt. To walk back from the system that makes debt to pay for debt.

HDRRA asks the Councillors actively explorer this concept with the view to changing management policy on increasing the debt burden on ratepayers.

In determining projects to run, HDRRA seeks that both Councillors and management focus on “RETURN ON INVESTMENT” before other outcomes.

22. HDC’s Expected Operating Expenditure



INCOME	\$74,557,000
EXPENDITURE	\$45,142,000
MISSING	<u>\$29,415,000</u>

- Income, expenditure figures do not show borrowings (debt) in Annual Reports.
- Where is “property rentals” itemised in the accounts?

WHY, SHOULDN’T COUNCIL PRESENT A REAL PICTURE?

Simple answer: legislation allows this type of presentation.

HDRRA seeks full disclosure of all accounts.

23. A query about assets and equity: Pipes and roads are Liabilities, not Assets



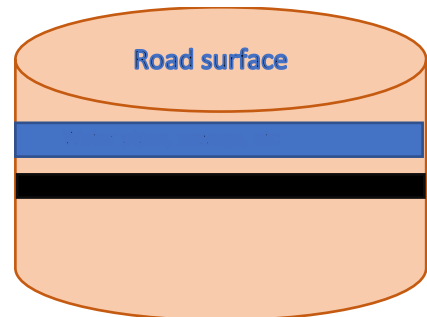
The pipe in this photo is about to be placed underground (to increase capacity). Right now, in this photo the pipe is an asset: it can be sold to another local authority.

It should be noted that the area surrounding the water pipe upgrade will not be using any greater capacity, so the increased capacity is for growth somewhere else. User pays? Certainly not.

Once buried in the roads, these pipes **are not assets, they are liabilities**, they cost money to maintain.

An asset is a product such as a house, or car, or computer, something that can be sold.

Try taking the road surface, the foundations, and the pipes from a location like in the photo below, which is not Horowhenua, and sell the bundle to a neighbouring town, like Otaki. You CAN'T!



[HDRRA asks “How does HDC show the value for assets and liabilities in the accounts of the Annual Report and Plan?”](#)

Christine Moriarty Chair

Leone Brown Secretary



- @ enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz
- www.horowhenua.govt.nz
- f HorowhenuaDC
- 06 366 0999
- Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540
- 126 Oxford St, Levin 5510