

Extraordinary Meeting of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council

Date: 19 July 2023
Time: 10.00am
Venue: Council Chamber
Hawke's Bay Regional Council
159 Dalton Street
NAPIER

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Annual Plan 2023-2024 Submissions, July 2023

Submission (by order of entry)

(note: if no answer has been given, the question has been deleted from the response. This has been done to keep the report as concise as possible)

Submitter ID: #2		Constituency: Māui ki te Raki (Māori Constituency)
Name/(Organisation): Lisa Robson		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	By helping the people more that have been affected.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Interesting how it is always past onto consumers. What was wrong with your existing vehicle's that weren't affected by Gabrielle? Did they really need the latest Ford Ranger? Was this used from the Government funding? So now we have to suck up the increase.	
Submitter ID: #3		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Mercia Paaymans		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Firstly thank you for repairing the breaches in the stopbanks so quickly- it is reassuring to see this work being done. We need to be safe where we live, so 100% effort should be going into planning and being prepared for future events. Dredging the rivers is critical and having a plan for where excess water can flow to. Secondary stop banks using land that is only used for horticulture could have prevented so much property damage and business impact. And also the mental stress we are enduring. People safety should be front and centre of all decisions.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Train the Civil defence people as initial responses received were inadequate. However as disaster unfolded days and weeks later it improved. It is pleasing to see you putting a range of initiatives on hold. And in that regard I feel maybe this agency is spread too wide- cycleways are nice but lets stick to our knitting- look after the region and keep us safe. A refocus on what is critical please.	
Submitter ID: #4		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Brydie Crisp		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Everything	
Submitter ID: #5		Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier
Name/(Organisation): Kirin Harrison		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Places that have dual function e.g bike & horse ride. Bridges to connect the cities. Extra considerations for power and cell connections.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Good	
Submitter ID: #6		Constituency: Not sure
Name/(Organisation): Julie Wake		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	We have an opportunity to create more green space for recreation, in particular horseriding. There are lots of people in hb who ride but it is harder and harder to find places to ride as the roads are no longer safe and cyclists get more resources and attention.	
Submitter ID: #7		Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier
Name/(Organisation): Jayne Ferguson		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Supporting land owners that were affected by the cyclone Reestablish our bridle paths and provide a number of safe areas for equestrian community to ride and enjoy hawkesbay.	
Submitter ID: #8		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Sinead Gage		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Looking at establishing safe bridle ways for equestrians which are free of rabbit holes, dangerous cyclists, vehicles and loose dogs. Bridle ways which will be well maintained and which we can be proud to show people from our of the region.	

Submitter ID: #9		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Sonya Kilmister		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Having safe places we can ride horses or bikes around Puketapu	
Submitter ID: #10		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Cathy Barclay		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	To implement more horse riding trails like they do in the USA and other forward thinking countries so that we can ride safely.	
Submitter ID: #11		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Leigh O'Connor		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Horse riding trails that are accessible are safe to use.	
Submitter ID: #12		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Bernadette Armstrong		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	That the horse trails are amongst other things are fixed so horse riders can have a safe place to ride	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	It's ok.	
Submitter ID: #13		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Kate Rawstron		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Please include in your rebuild some specific planning for accessible horse riding trails that are not also for motor bikes and if possible aren't stony surfaces This needs to include good safe parking for horse floats and trucks. Loop trails are best where possible.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Horse riding trails	
Submitter ID: #14		Constituency: Ngaruroro
Name/(Organisation): Ang Hope		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	That access to river riding sections can be available even if a bull dozer just goes through like up river from fernhill so we can ride away from people and bikes that pose risks to horses. We done require lime sand tracks. Safe parking and unloading horses is essential. Enquiring with forestry blocks of these can be avail to horses and riders. Areas where pines are not been harvested . Access to some of the ranges and doc areas would be good also . The tracks are there just needs better parking. Kaweka and ruahines . Better access to get your horse into ocean beach as at present this is narrow and down past the surf club. Better it be near the caravan association area so horses are not having to deal with risks around unpredictable people behaviour. Safety signs being installed.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	See above. Rural people on lifestyle blocks also have limited riding so opening up areas further from the two cities could help this group.	
Submitter ID: #15		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Lisa Jones		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Horse riding trails that are safe	
Submitter ID: #16		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Yvonne Steers		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Whilst its important to try and get back to some kind of normality, we need to make changes that will ensure the safety of everyone in the event of another cyclone, major flood event, etc.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	I love that you have added a community summary. I was wading through the annual plan but then read the summary which is excellent. Climate change is going to be a huge driver for every council plan going forward. What we need to see is action that is going to make a real difference. If we are going to rebuild the	

	horse trails that were destroyed by Cyclone Gabrielle, then please can we make access easier. Safe and easy parking for floats and trucks. Easy to open gates are important for the safety of users.
Submitter ID: #17 Name/(Organisation): Zoe Herzog	Constituency: Out of region Hawke's Bay ratepayer? No
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	It's important that there are places to ride our horses! It's such a shame so much damage has occurred but when the fixing is being done if horse riders' needs could be considered it would be much appreciated. Loads of riders travel around for places to take our horses. There are so few public places we are allowed to ride on now, without going onto private land (which is getting harder to do as well!) The HB has so much to offer and horse riders are a thirsty, hungry bunch that will support local businesses.
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Local businesses, farmers and families all need looking after. Hopefully there are enough resources to accomplish that.
Submitter ID: #18 Name/(Organisation): Fiona Scott	Constituency: Out of region Hawke's Bay ratepayer? No
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Please repair, maintain and create new safe trails for horse riding. Horse riding for enjoyment is an important part of life for many people. It's a healthy outdoor activity. Many casual horse riders travel NZ looking for places to ride safely. It could add to the tourism of the region to bring more people and money into the area.
Submitter ID: #19 Name/(Organisation): Darlene Bibby	Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	An improvement in the state of our roads. The restoration and access to the Scenic Reserves in the Ashley Clinton area. Cyclists have been catered to a fair amount in recent years which is great, but would love to see more areas/trails for horse riders to go. Would be amazing to see the Waipuk racecourse turned into an equestrian hub since it is now only a training track and A & P grounds quite limited in their size and use.
Submitter ID: #20 Name/(Organisation): Christina Struthers	Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	I would like to see more available places to ride horses. Many places in the world have parks and reserves that are dual purpose. Would like to see our region acknowledge this and implement some forward thinking plans for our future generations.
Submitter ID: #21 Name/(Organisation): Jeanine Fowler	Constituency: Out of region Hawke's Bay ratepayer? No
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Access. Rooding, parking,
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	In your plan you have the perfect opportunity to consider, walkers, pushbike riders and horse riderd. All 3 modalities actually go together very nicely as proven by us riding from cape reinga to bluff. Could we please ask you to give the horse riders a meter width of dirt to any of your planned paths and access for horsetrucks /float parking. One has to incorporate us as even in olden days, the horse was there 1st and made the roads and build the tracks, only to be cast aside by Mamils (middle aged man in lycra). A meter is not much to ask for and will actually already be there by the time a sml digger goes in n builds the foot/cycle path. It will be used by elderly and the super young riders and everyone inbetween of which HawkesBay has ample of. Please do not exclude us. The alternative is having us on roads, which is legal but very dangerous now a days. Thank you very much for keeping us in mind
Submitter ID: #22 Name/(Organisation): Kerry Marshall	Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Horse riding tracks reinstated and added to - we need more horse riding tracks as cycle paths have displaced riding areas - or make cycle paths shared

2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Too much focus on cyclists not enough on horse trails
Submitter ID: #23 Name/(Organisation): josien reinalda	Constituency: Out of region Hawke's Bay ratepayer? No
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	It might be low on the priority list, but when you are going to repair paths and trails please include provisions for horse riders and carriage drivers. For horse riders a 1m wide strip on the side with suitable surface like grass or sand will suffice. For carriage drivers 2m wide will do.
Submitter ID: #24 Name/(Organisation): Gillian Wells	Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Building adequate protection with stop banks. Particularly around the Awatoto area where there is a large amount of industrial infrastructure. Access to the stop banks via Mc Leod Road Awatoto would be a sensible strategy. This would allow bikes and horses to avoid the busy traffic along the main road.
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Good
Submitter ID: #25 Name/(Organisation): Jacqui Lane New Zealand Equestrian Advocacy Network	Constituency: Out of region Hawke's Bay ratepayer? No
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	I'm aware that there are much more important matters to consider in the region's recovery, but it is a perfect opportunity to incorporate a network of horse friendly access routes. Walkers and cyclists are considered, but horses are often forgotten. We need enjoyable and safe routes and recreation spaces too. Horses are a big part of the community and play a significant economic role. It's high time we were part of the considerations. The New Zealand Equestrian Advocacy Network has members with a wealth of knowledge to assist and is always willing to provide any information and examples required. There are also groups in the Hawkes Bay willing to work with you to improve the access Network for horses. Thank you!
Submitter ID: #26 Name/(Organisation): Wendy Yang	Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	<p>1. We need a good warning system for disasters eg flooding. With the climate change, flooding will be frequent and severe. We need an effective warning system for residents and businesses in the region: from orange to red, watching to evacuation. The warning system should be based on science and probability, from best to worst scenario, and how people should be prepared for these scenarios. There also should be annual exercise and practices for such events.</p> <p>2. There needs to be a coordinated action plan for disaster recovery, which sees central government departments, local governments and authorities, as well as volunteering organisations well coordinated and take care of all needs arising from a disaster. Volunteers should be well supported, equipped, and organized, rather than left completely on their own device. Many of them don't get funding for the basics: equipment, food and water, personal protection etc... These should have been considered as part of the disaster recovery plan. Resources and donations should be organized and ready for dispatch before a disaster happens, when the alarm goes.</p> <p>3. Get on with the strengthening and repairs of high risk roads, slips, bridges and storm/river banks, ASAP.</p> <p>4. Clearly mark and communicate with the public about the flooding zones, in the same way as tsunami zones. This knowledge must be made public so that people are all prepared for the worst. The above should keep you busy for the next 3 years? Can't think of anything else that should take priority over these.</p>
Submitter ID: #27 Name/(Organisation): Kate Hinton Hawkes Bay Horse Trails Access Advocacy Group	Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	We would like the regional recovery to include the repair of existing Horse trails and development of new horse trails. We would like to advocate for Multi use trails for Horses/bikes and walkers. This allows everyone in the community to have safe areas for everyone to enjoy.
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	We think the focus of the recovery is really positive. Our concern is that there are no future plans for horse trails. This is a nationwide issue and other councils are

	addressing this problem. We urge that Hawkes Bay Regional Council does the same. We welcome the opportunity to speak about this submission.
Submitter ID: #28 Name/(Organisation): Jude Roberts	Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	As a horse rider, I see the rebuild as an opportunity to incorporate more much needed horse trails in the region. Many of our historic riding places are no longer accessible to us.
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Alot in there ...
Submitter ID: #29 Name/(Organisation): Leanne Matthews	Constituency: Out of region Hawke's Bay ratepayer? No
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Well being of everyone to help this happen make tracks and trails accessible to push bikes, walkers and horses. This will bring in more money to the area. I travel with my horse and spend money in areas I travel to, especially local. I was at Hastings races recently and stopped at the local orchards and bought products to support local
Submitter ID: #31 Name/(Organisation): Caroline Feast	Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Would really love to see horse trails put in and around Hawke's Bay, somewhere safe for horse a rider to go that is free of motorcycles and vehicles, push bikes and unleashed dogs.
Submitter ID: #32 Name/(Organisation): Stacey Trotter	Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	We have the funds available to support returning to our new normal. That the flood protection systems are improved in order to feel safe. Communication is better. We are better resourced as a community. That the consultation process is fair and takes all parties thoughts and ideas into consideration and robust discussions are held. That democracy is used to ensure that everyone has a fair say on how we move forward. That the rivers and drains are maintained to a higher standard as they were such an issue, particularly in our circumstances. (We have been asking for help over the last 9 years to improve the Raupare drain that is our property boundary, it has had severe slumping and we are losing our property into it and our driveway...)
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	It needs to allow for robust discussions with all entities and not let one voice drown the others. It needs to be fair for all.
	
Submitter ID: #33 Name/(Organisation): Wendy Mitchell	Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	People futures including the restoration of our beautiful land. My friends and I ride horses for our enjoyment and mental health. The majority of our lovely river tracks have been wiped out. I would love to see our trails returned to a safe, horse friendly zone. This would benefit not only Hawkes bay people, but also visitors to our region.

Submitter ID: #34		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Ann Tod		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Look at ways to improve our region. Providing trails that are multi use . Another market to encourage to boost visitor numbers Hawkes Bay. Very limited open space riding in this region . A number of people I have talked with are actively exploring horse trails in other areas and using accommodation provided for horse and rider. We need that happening in Hawkes Bay.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	The work ahead is huge. Let's take the time to explore more ways to include equestrians. In the trail rebuilds . Look at multiuse trails and code of etiquette	
Submitter ID: #35		Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier
Name/(Organisation): Emma Patel		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Repaired cycle tracks and horse riding trails. Better warning systems regarding flood risk. Better communication from Council	
Submitter ID: #36		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Kitty Turner		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Access to safe horse riding trails in my own backyard Hawkes Bay. This is a popular recreational passtime and my chosen activity for exercise and socialising. Access will enhance my wellbeing and allow my horse to be out in the local environment safely.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Needs to be inclusive	
Submitter ID: #37		Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier
Name/(Organisation): Susan Fraser		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	We would love safe places to ride our horses. At the moment there isn't a lot of places to ride	
Submitter ID: #38		Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay
Name/(Organisation): Angela Payne		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	To establish trails and parking areas where horse riders can enjoy the rivers and parks alongside but without inconvenience to cyclists walkers and dog walkers. We don't need much in the way of trail preparation, just need to know that trails are safe from cyclists and grumpy non horse people and free of locked gates. In Hanmer Springs there are wonderful trails and parks for horses and the access points are sufficient to keep motorbikes and vehicles out, worth a look. I have a good contact there if you want to copy what they did.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	To be honest haven't had time to find it or read it	
Submitter ID: #39		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Hayley Davis		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	It is important for the mental health of all that there are safe green spaces available for everyone, walkers, horse riders, cyclists, dog walkers. Hawkes Bay green space options are embarrassing limited, especially for horse riders	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Making HB green. Lots of outdoor options to enjoy our usually beautiful weather.	
Submitter ID: #40		Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay
Name/(Organisation): Christine Buchanan		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Yes would love for safe trails to be established for all levels of horse riders	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Great	
Submitter ID: #41		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Annette Benedito		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	That you take into account horse riders, we need safe places to ride.	

2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Other areas take account of equine needs now Hawkes Bay needs to do the same, it would bring riders from other areas hence help with the rural economy.
Submitter ID: #42 Name/(Organisation): Jo Bonner	Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Keep it simple
Submitter ID: #43 Name/(Organisation): Kate Luff	Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Building resilience (infrastructure, preparedness, people), using recovery and rebuild as an opportunity to engage and include diverse user groups of council assets. In particular, the equestrian community needs to be included to create a regional approach (with other TAs and equestrian facilities e.g. Equestrian Park) to riding a range of riding opportunities in safe and enjoyable environments. Many riders lack access to this at present.
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	I struggled to find any information on the annual plan on your website, and the link in the April fb post did not work. I also note that submissions closed in May.
Submitter ID: #44 Name/(Organisation): Kim Grant	Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Rebuilding and providing new trails for horse riding, so we can be safe and keep off roads
Submitter ID: #45 Name/(Organisation): Sarah Collins	Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	The restoration of the cycle tracks beside the rivers and the trails suitable for riding horses. We used to ride a lot beside the Tutaekuri River down Dartmoor Rd and along Omaranui Rd on pushbikes or horseback in the long grass beside the trails. These were great spots because motorbike riders or buggy drivers tended not to come joining along. We would often meet a lot of people running or walking dogs also. Fantastic way to get out and appreciate the serenity of nature with animals
Submitter ID: #46 Name/(Organisation): Rachael Hartree	Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	I would love to see the possibility of including horse riding access alongside cycle trails in the region. The lack of foresight on the original tracks meant that sometimes these areas were hard to share. If they are to be repaired and replaced, maybe they can be designed with multiple users in mind? I would like to see restrictions on 4wd access to our smaller rivers, in particular, the Tutaekuri. The pressure these vehicles put on the ecosystem is extremely detrimental to the recovery of the flora and fauna. I don't understand how you consider jetboating to be more of an environmental issue than hordes of diesel 4wd trucks, tearing up the riverbed and surrounds?
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	I am yet to read this.
Submitter ID: #47 Name/(Organisation): Lynda Fouhy	Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	There needs to be safe areas set aside along the rivers and on the stop banks for recreational riding. As you noticed the water did far more damage to the tracks than horses do. I believe that everyone should be able to respect others. Good bridle trails not on top of the stop banks do need to be in place. Mist countries have wonderful riding trails for horses. NZ is sadly lacking. Hopefully there wbe some excellent areas designated for riders. Thank you for taking the time to read this.
Submitter ID: #48 Name/(Organisation): Deidre Parkinson	Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	To try and get some normality for people

Submitter ID: #49		Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay
Name/(Organisation): Kirsty Tilyard		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Firstly the safety of people as my elderly father in law was rescued off the roof of his house in Pakawhai. One consideration I would like to see is consideration for horse riders with bridal trails. It is a legitimate sport and pass time just as biking and foot traffic is. They have been given all the consideration while horse riders have been consistently shut out and not considered.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Mostly good	
Submitter ID: #50		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Caroline Kirk		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Repair of the horse riding trails so that we have a safe place to ride away from traffic and cyclists. Developing new trails for local and visiting riders to see our lovely countryside.	
Submitter ID: #51		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Megan Williams		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Rebuilding access to safe areas to exercise for dogs walkers horse riders and cyclists along our waterways rivers and parks	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	It needs fixing to allow us to continue what we were able to enjoy before the cyclone and prolonged wet weather	
Submitter ID: #52		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Tanya Koens		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Safe places to horse ride would be great. The roads are unsafe, with verges getting narrower, and drivers going faster and being less considerate. The bridle trails are important.	
Submitter ID: #53		Constituency: Ngaruroro
Name/(Organisation): Joseph Wurts		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	To provide appropriate replacement to the infrastructure that has been adversely affected by the cyclone.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	This is a good question. The focus is difficult to discern as based on the documents provided. I would strongly recommend that you actually provide concrete information as to what the most recent and updated Annual Plan entails. Pretty pictures and platitudes are not sufficient information. Until this is provided, I am rather negative in regards to the Regional Councils opinion and desired direction.	
Submitter ID: #54		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Karyn Craft		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Repairing the horse riding trails for locals and out of town riders to enjoy. We have many lovely riversides that could attract riders to come to Hawke's Bay as a horse trail riding destination. Updates to the council riding trails website page with as many trails, maps and details as possible	
Submitter ID: #55		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Sarah Gregory-Hunt		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Clearing out the rivers - start digging out the gravel and silt to reduce the likelihood of them becoming clogged and overflowing like they have in the cyclone and subsequent rain events since. You could also donate this gravel to properties needing gravel or fill that were impacted by the rivers/stop banks causing flood damage to their properties.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Focus on helping impacted people/households clear their properties. Focus on providing more horse riding areas and trails in the region not just for walkers and bikes.	
Submitter ID: #56		Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay
Name/(Organisation): Jo Bonner		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	To provide horse riding trails	

Submitter ID: #57		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Shirley Chamberlin		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Horse tracks	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Accessibility of horse trails to keep our rides safe and enjoy our country side	
Submitter ID: #58		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Michele Radovancich		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	I would like to see more horse riding trails established to keep riders safe and off our roads (and now broken roads) bike riders get so much consideration and I feel with the huge amount of equestrians in Hawkes Bay that horse trails would be an asset. Thanks.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	It's as expected given we are post cyclone.	
Submitter ID: #59		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Debbie Morgan Hawke's bay trekker		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Getting back to our new 'normal'	
Submitter ID: #60		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Bronwyn Verry		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	It is very important to me and a great many in our community that you continue to provide access for horse riders to new and existing recreational pathways and trails (including planning for those yet to be developed) throughout Hawkes Bay (and nationally). Horse riders have long been part of the road code along with other stock which are moved or grazed along public accessways. Ensuring we cater for the Equestrian community is in the best interests of the wider public - the more 'suitable' land available to ride on, the safer our riding community will be. There has been much effort and money spent on providing Cycle trails both locally and nationwide, I would like to see similar impetus given to the equine community. Much of the existing cycle infrastructure could easily be extended to cater for horses as well. NZ has always had a strong Equestrian community whose skill is well respected, nationally and internationally, it would be a shame to lose that due to lack of access to trails, public land, beaches, rivers etc which help riders hone the skills required to be top of their sport. Not all riders have access or ownership of large tracts of land. Being able to utilise public land again adds to the tools of a wider cross-section of riders, allowing them the experience that many take for granted.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	It's great to see there is around 20% of Operating Expenditure funds directed towards Asset Management in the 2022/23 year. Obviously recovery efforts from Cyclone Gabrielle will take precedence, however any remedial or improvement work undertaken could easily help shape new and existing trails suitable for the equine community as a byproduct. I would like Council to consider and plan for this simple side benefit as the recovery efforts continue.	
Submitter ID: #61		Constituency: Ngaruroro
Name/(Organisation): Jane Macintyre		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Drainage, clean water , & access for riders on horses	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Good ,as long as horse riding access is kept during repairs & renewal work	
Submitter ID: #62		Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier
Name/(Organisation): Janet Campbell		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	I acknowledge the huge burden of recovery and repair impacting on the work of HBRC following Cyclone Gabriell In Council's Plan for the region's recovery I am advocating strongly for Council to include budget for the repair and maintenance of current Horse Trails, and budget and planning for establishing new horse trails.	

	<p>Along with many other horse riders in the region value the existing trails, as safe places to ride have become increasingly limited. Roadside verges are generally narrower and traffic speed and volume have increased in the last decades. Farm and forest access can be limited for many of us. The established Horse Trails - Awatoto to Puketapu, Clive to Black Bridge, Black Bridge to River Road, and along TukiTuki river near Waipukurau - have been very much appreciated. I am one of a small group of volunteers who have been working with support of HBRC staff on repairs and maintenance of current trails since September last year. Obviously repairing trail from Awatoto to Puketapu following Cyclone damage is a massive job, but we have been working on the Clive to Black Bridge and to River Road using our own resources.</p> <p>We need budget provision in the next financial year for repair and maintenance of all existing horse trails, including in CHB. Looking forward it is important planning and budget to establish new Horse Trails is included in HBRC's Regional Recovery Plan. There are a significant number of riders of all ages both here and around NZ who enjoy recreational riding in the countryside, especially near urban areas where many of us live but choices for safe riding places are very limited. There are some excellent examples around the country where Councils have established Horse Trails, many successful shared/multi use trails for horse riders, bikers and walkers - Kapiti Coast, Rotorua, Lake Mangamahoe (Stratford), Waikato, Waipa, Tauranga, and Woodhill (Auckland).</p> <p>There has been a significant focus on establishing a network of cycle trails in Hawkes Bay. Adding Horse Trails to some existing and to new trails would not involve major cost or work. A 2m strip of ground occasionally mowed and somewhere safe and suitable to park horsefloats is all that's required, along with respect, cooperation and communication between all trail users (good etiquette). I have quite a lot of experience of sharing trails having ridden my horse from Tikokino to Slope Point (southern most point of South Island) on the Great NZ Trek successfully sharing the route with bikers, walkers and fellow horse riders.</p>
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	I am happy with the focus of the Annual Plan, but urge you to include budget and planning for Horse trails both in recovery work and planning for the future.
Submitter ID: #63	
Name/(Organisation): Sarah McKinlay	
Constituency: Out of region Hawke's Bay ratepayer? No	
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Being the region that hosts Horse of the Year annually, and having a climate and landscape that benefits from outdoor recreation, and having three towns so close to one another in a rural area I ask that when trails are being rebuilt, and when land is being set aside for new development, parks and green spaces that including horses and horse riding on those public access paths, and areas are considered. Including and accommodating horses on public accessways does not need to be costly or increase the budget at all. All horses need is Councils permission to access these spaces, and in many places a 2m wide grassed path to the side of existing walking and cycling pavements is satisfactory. Signage on who has right of way and a user code of conduct would be beneficial.
Submitter ID: #64	
Name/(Organisation): Daphne Gregory	
Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes	
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Stop bank repairs . Horse tracks improved .
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	I would like to see horse tracks . More off them, . Multi use as in other areas ,
Submitter ID: #65	
Name/(Organisation): Julie Slattery	
Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes	
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Help people get back on their feet and to provide suitable horse trails alongside biking trails so we can get back out and enjoy our leisure time

Submitter ID: #66		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Sylvia Chambers		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Safe horse riding trails away from roads where dogs are not allowed. Ideally a loop that track that can start and finish at the same point, between 2-10km in length, where there is a car park large enough for horse floats.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Still thinking...	
Submitter ID: #67		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Shona Brown		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Having safe access to horse riding trails, beaches, rivers and ensuring we have "equal rights" to safe road riding in rural areas	
Submitter ID: #68		Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Kelly Shaw		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Being able to move back home	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Let contractors take shingle from rivers. Dredging. Increase stockbanks	
Submitter ID: #69		Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier
Name/(Organisation): Kristin Baylis		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	River dredging and allow contractors to take shingle like they used to. Remove all heavy logs and debris from the rivers.	
Submitter ID: #70		Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay
Name/(Organisation): Jessica Caulfield		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	All Trails along river Horse, bike and walking I live close to the Tukituki river and use the trails almost daily with riding my horse and walking my dog. The horse trails have mostly gone and and basically unsafe to ride on. Also the entrance to the horse trail at the Lindsay bush end is so muddy and full of water it's unsafe to ride a horse thru there it has been like pre cyclone as 4wds have been going thru there and getting stuck making a complete mess of the entrance. There needs to be a gate to stop vehicles going through.	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	I'm not sure what your annual plan is sorry	
Submitter ID: #71		Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier
Name/(Organisation): Vanessa Price		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Dredge the rivers like the old days Sell shingle to make money Widen the mouth of the river to the sea Burn or chip slash	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Keep rivers deep, so they don't put stress on the stop banks It's a no brainer to me Sell shingle to help councils We are in a shortage	
Submitter ID: #72		Constituency: Wairoa
Name/(Organisation): Rex Thompson		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Do make recovery affordable, consideration be given to cost-benefit analysis of gvt ordered expenditure on non-key works passed on to local councils to employ extra staff and back up for little gain. For example fencing & planting of drains that require clearing periodically	
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Pleased to see main emphasis is on recovery, which will require major expense and build resilience as a priority over other fluffy stuff to keep rates affordable over time	
Submitter ID: #73		Constituency: Wairoa
Name/(Organisation): Michael & Roz Thomas		Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
General feedback (submitted by email)	1. We support the continued funds from HBRC into the Land for Life programme, having directly benefitted from the expertise from Principal Farm planners [names redacted] with our Wairoa hill country farm. With their guidance we are progressing our Environmental plan and making good decisions to the betterment of the local district biodiversity and water catchment.	

2. We support the continued partnership with the QEII National Trust (QEII), and the intentions to deer fence and undertake pest control within six high biodiversity areas across Hawke’s Bay and would love to see the hectare’s increased. Our farm has become part of this mix and we are in the process of retiring 80 ha native bush and 2-3 ha wetland area’s in to QE11, which we would not been able to do without the financial support from this initiative.

3. We would like to see the commitment honoured from HBRC to work with Wairoa District Council, the Matangairau Reserves Board and Tatau Tatau o Te Wairoa to start the process and implement of a regional park in Wairoa township, along the Wairoa River. This should include developing the North Clyde side of town to take in both sides of the Wairoa River. The damage from Cyclone Gabrielle has exposed a huge lack of care along the Wairoa River and the implementation of this river restoration plan will improve the biodiversity, river ecology and stabilisation of the riverbanks as well as improve the well being of the community through beautification and amenities.

4. We support the flood recovery \$75 levy in the hope this will provide the Wairoa district with strong advocacy and support from HBRC to help provide a worthy flood protection plan in place to protect the Wairoa township and outlying valuable farming area’s.

5. We would like to see the Wairoa district included in the regional cycling construction plans that HBRC have set funding aside for. The Wairoa district would benefit hugely from cycleways and would also benefit from any expertise planning the HBRC may be able to offer into installing cycleways in this district.

6. We appreciate and thank our local councillors and the staff based in the Wairoa District for the work they have done in the past year who we believe are a valuable assets and crucial contributor’s to our district.

Submitter ID: #74 **Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay**
Name/(Organisation): Susan Grace Rowlands **Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes**

1. What is important to you in the region’s recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle? Stockbanks, bridges and spillways for the Makaretu River East of the Takapau sewerage outlet which is still not of a fully compliant stage and has thrice significantly flooded 70 percent of our cropping and stock property in the the past 18 months causing significant financial hardship and now an ingrained fear.

2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan Your job is to control the river’s flow. I feel you have lost sight of significant engineering skills to do that and that this fresh water thing is just a money extraction exercise because government has taken away your powers to actually employ people with knowledge to truly provide protection for us as paying rate payers. The route rivers take needs to be deepened, contained by stop banks and maintained with an understanding that in places where it is narrow spillways need to be constructed and diversions to allow flow to re-enter. Local knowledge is imperative. We cannot cope or produce crops with our farm like a rice paddy because rivers are allowed to fill up with gravel, fill up with trees that break bridges, fill up with sewerage, divert where they like at bends because there is no stop bank or planned containment for overflow. We cannot survive unless you do your basic tasks. BASIC TASKS HAVE BEEN LEFT TO MOTHER NATURE AND THIS IS THE RESULT. We have been asking for many years, 30 at least and we have been nearly wiped out six times and no communication, feedback, personal recognition, acknowledgement or changes have been evident through our discussions. Quite frankly it is like being locked out on a cold winter’s night whilst your banging on a door that never answers.

Submitter ID: #75 **Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings**
Name/(Organisation): Sue Franklin **Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes**

1. What is important to you in the region’s recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle? Restoration and development of existing and new areas one can ride ones horse is very important to me. Riding beside roads has become far to dangerous as the generation of drivers that understood horses has gone and there is no consideration given by drivers to horses any more. In addition the lovely wide grass verges that we were once able to ride on have been take up by limestone cycle and walking paths forcing horses onto a tiny narrow strip between the path and road which to put it mildly is life threatening even on a quiet horse. The former access we used to be able to use to get onto beaches is now in many

	places behind locked gates. Please consider safe places we can ride our horses in your plans
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Too much money wasted on cycle trails, beautification and lumps bumps and wiggles in roads. None of these investments lead to a more productive economy. Unnesesary speed reductions and lack of road maintenance are both extremely inefficient and are leading to huge economic costs to both individuals and business.
Submitter ID: #76	Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Melanie Neville	Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	That we can protect and make people safe from future events, can we please have the horse trails back and if you don't want us on the lime track can you find us access to other parts of the river, river riding is very important as we don't have many places to ride and rely on this space
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Great, I think you are doing your best and are focusing on the right things and thanks for doing your best with the costs
Submitter ID: #78	Constituency: Wairoa
Name/(Organisation): Wairoa District Council	Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
Please see attached submission on drainage – p20	
Submitter ID: #79	Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Deirdre Lee	Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Support to the people in every way possible
Submitter ID: #80	Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier
Name/(Organisation): Jenny Carter	Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Building back stronger and preparing our storm protection systems for larger events. Ie bigger than 1:100
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	I agree with it but would like to see better access to the horse trails in Awatoto. Access with horses in the industrial area of Awatoto can be hazardous can access be formed down McLeod road? Especially as they area is so damaged at the moment it might be the perfect opportunity to make this a reality.
Submitter ID: #81	Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier
Name/(Organisation): Mark Wells	Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Stock banks built to withstand 1 in 500 year events.
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	Would love to see horse trail access improved by adding access from McLeod road and the paper road to the stock bank. Could be made into a fantastic feature for the area.
Submitter ID: #82	Constituency: Wairoa
Name/(Organisation): Wairoa District Council	Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
Please see attached submission on the regional park – p23	
Submitter ID: #83	Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Stuart MacIntyre Turamoe Trust / Esthers Trust / Zoomac Trust	Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Learning from the increasing regularity of above average weather events - dry and wet depending on weather cycle. Investing to manage for these. Using data to inform decisions - progress being made on this with the LiDAR water measure and telemetry water use data. Ensuring pragmatic regulation is applied equitably.
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	I think the reductions/deferrals are in the right areas. We have a particular concern with the Iona development and what it achieves from a stormwater management perspective. We have suffered first hand from the installation of the cycle path on middle road - where we were informed drainage would be as good / or better than before - since installation is has seen hindering of stormwater removal from the subdivisions existing up the hill from us in Endsleigh. The 400 house density of the Iona subdivision will exacerbate - how do we get confidence the stormwater management plan covers the hard scraping there and will generate no incremental run off impacting drainage from our catchments. We all

	flow into the Louisa / karamu catchment. Our interest in Waimarama is the protection of the dunes. Our interest on farm is catchment improvement programmes and support of catchment groups. These should still be funded as these are a slow burn improvement to the catchment environments.
Submitter ID: #84	Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay
Name/(Organisation): Gerard Pain	Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	To quote our mayor, " It does not make sense to keep on doing the same thing and then expect a different result ". I would like to see you not just leave the repaired stop banks where they are but rather to shift them further away from the rivers (to give them more room) and to allow for more flood plains.
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	To a certain extent, we have to trust you on this one. I am not so sure about the decision to put the Animal Pest Strategy on the back burner though as we are already well behind on this one. I do note however that with regards our property, the proposed Animal Pest rate is about 25% greater than last year's. How does this compute? In fact it is only the General Rate and the UAG where there is any reduction worth calculating but even then not that significant.
Submitter ID: #85	Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): Greg Donnison	Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	I understand the need to reprioritise work in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle. However the report is lacking in terms of a stated timeframe for reinstating/accelerating deferred work programmes. Environmental programmes in particular should be reinstated as soon as possible to provide the resilience needed to future proof against further such events. Furthermore, there should be an acknowledgement that the \$75 cyclone recovery charge is likely to be a long term charge that will not only help with the immediate recovery but to also reinstate/accelerate deferred programmes. Thank you for your consideration.
Submitter ID: #86	Constituency: Heretaunga-Hastings
Name/(Organisation): C & J Mintoft Mathers	Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Flood protection, and removal of silt, supporting people affected by the floods. We support all things mentioned on page 9. We would like the council to consider the redeveloping of bridle tracks along the river for all people to share. Horse riders have very little in comparison to other groups, like mountain bikers. Equestrian events and horse riding are very popular in Hawkes Bay and contributes a considerable amount of money to the area, this is not just HOY. Therefore, they should have the same access to rivers and waterways as other interest groups. Over Xmas at the Maraekakaho stream (behind the ponyclub/huntclub) myself and a several kids and other groups were approached by an overly pushy local mountain biker who had carved his own tracks and then was attempting to stop horse riders using the public land by saying he made the tracks and didn't want us using them. He had also put up a sign on one part saying for dirt bikes only and accosting people as you were entering the public area. This is the sort of troubling behaviour that should be stopped. Public access to rivers and waterways needs to be maintained for all locals. All groups of interest need to be catered for with the regeneration of the local riverbanks. Dual use tracks can work when consideration is given to the layout of the tracks and signage placed.
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	We think the things related to the floods are good. We think a focus on preventing this happening again is important as is supporting people through it. As HBRC is the entity that monitors and has compliance powers to prosecute those who pollute the air and the environment and part of your review is Keeping our communities safe we still feel a focus should be on pollution. We are disappointed that no mention is made specifically of monitoring and reducing of air pollution and what may contribute to it, specifically industry related pollution. It seems like limiting your focus to only uncompliant house fires and burning of green wood and those activities that produce particles of less than 10 micrometers(Jerf Van Bee 2022)is going to miss some pollution contributors. Can you please inform me of what monitoring and restrictions are in place from the Regional Council relating to say Frost fan use. We wonder if the council is aware of how many frost fans/windmills are installed in Hawkes Bay and how much, if any pollution they would add on an average frost night. Given that they burn on average 20L of fuel

	per fan per hour, in mainly inversion like conditions. Does this fall under the regional council's responsibilities and is any thought given to preventative measures and changing what you currently view as compliant?
Submitter ID: #87 Name/(Organisation): Chris Wilson	Constituency: Wairoa Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	Wairoa township needs to have some protection from severe flooding such as happened with Cyclone Gabrielle. The main risk is the river 'shortcutting' from behind the showgrounds, across Ruataniwha Road and back to join the river again. On this occasion, surges (caused by log jams behind bridges suddenly releasing?) caused the floodwater to come right into built up areas, unlike previous similar floods in 1948 and 1988. I believe that ways to mitigate this happening in the next major weather event are being explored, which I fully support. In my opinion as a lay-person, a single stopbank from the showgrounds to near Takitimu Marae needs to be constructed. The other major difference to those two previous events was the contribution of forestry slash. The HBRC's own commissioned report into the part played by slash was seriously flawed, especially when considering Northern Hawke's Bay, a distinctly different landscape to that south of Napier. My misgivings about this report are as follows: firstly, there was a narrow definition of 'slash', so that the forestry industry could use the statistics to defend their practices; secondly, those conducting the survey on the ground didn't actually physically inspect important Northern HB sites (Waikare River mouth, Wairoa River mouth, Opoiti Bridge/ Mangapoike River - areas most affected by slash), so that quantitative data from these sites was not included in the overall data as it was averaged out, thereby skewing the conclusions away from pine forestry as a contributing factor to the cyclone damage in Nth HB; and thirdly, there was a conflict of interest regarding the author of the report, who, only six months earlier, had been employed by the forestry industry for a five year period. Siltation of the Wairoa River is a major concern. Changing land use has repercussions which are only manifest some years later. The lower reaches of the Wairoa river are becoming shallower at an alarming rate, putting the town of Wairoa at risk of flooding. I would like to see HBRC monitoring of rivered topography in the Wairoa River. This would provide information pertinent to flood risk in the Wairoa area, and suggest possible causes when correlated to other data. My submission is that the HBRC should make a scientific study of the Wairoa River in regard to changing land use and the consequent effects/risks to the Wairoa River and Wairoa township.
2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan	I support HBRC annual plan being revised to accommodate unplanned events such as Cyclone Gabrielle.
Submitter ID: #88 Name/(Organisation): Kathryn Bayliss	Constituency: Tamatea-Central Hawke's Bay Hawke's Bay ratepayer? Yes
1. What is important to you in the region's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?	We need to work with nature as the top priority. We need to protect and care for our indigenous habitats. Our rivers should be given room to move. Damming waterways should be prohibited. Follow and act on the "Recommendations for creating climate-resilient communities in Hawke's Bay after Cyclone Gabrielle." signed by five groups including Forest and Bird, Ngati Kahungunu Iwi, EnvironmentCentre HB, Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga, and Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui-a-Orotu. Pause the CHB Managed Aquifer Recharge Trial and dam projects. Try natural solutions for the freshwater aquifer recharge, based on the latest science had been put forward to the HBRC Cyclone Recovery Committee in June 2023. (E.g. Give rivers room to move, restore the flood plains and wetlands. Wait for the Lincoln Agritech Braided Rivers Recharge Research project to finish and consider the recommendations from it.) Instead of the artificial aquifer recharge proposal it would be less costly to restore the natural aquifer recharge. HBRC should review and reallocate all large water consents in a fairer more equitable way. HBRC should plant more native plants instead of the Willow and Poplar poles. A dam and large scale storage on the Makaroro River, across an active fault line and in a flood prone area is too risky. We have just experienced big floods and should not have to live with the threat of more caused by the risky water

storage scheme. The Makaroro Dam and reservoir would increase the risks of floods. It is in an area vulnerable to extreme winds and rainfall, landslides and earthquakes. In a booklet I have on the Ruahine Ranges, printed in 1979, it said: "Climate can be severe with westerly winds predominating. Wind gusts have reached 144 km an hour in districts surrounding the Ruahine Forest Park, and much higher on exposed areas within the park. Cyclonic rainstorms have caused much damage to river catchments especially in the central eastern section... landslides and erosion have often broken continuity...(of plant and forest cover). ...It is essential that the forest, shrub-land and grassland within the park are maintained to protect the terrain and thereby safeguard the inhabited and cultivated flood plains of Ruataniwha from devastating floods. The maintenance of a good forest cover also ensures the continuance of supplies of fresh water for communities in the region." Other descriptions of the Ruahine Ranges describe the many slips, landslides and scars line on the steep-sided rivers and streams of the Mid Eastern Ruahine Forest Park. The natural erosion has been accelerated by deer and possum browsing. There are also increasing examples of dams failures during floods. On Waitangi Day, 6 February, 1997 the partially completed Opuha Dam near Fairlie in South Canterbury failed at about 1.00 am that morning, releasing about 13 million cubic metres of water into the Opuha Riverbed. Fortunately no lives were lost although in the days that followed there were stories of a number of very close escapes. Another example is the Vajont Dam in Italy. On 9 October 1963, during initial filling, a landslide caused a mega-tsunami in the Vajont Dam lake in which 50,000,000 cubic metres of water overtopped the dam in a wave of 250 metres, which brought massive flooding and destruction to the Piave Valley below, leading to the destruction of several villages and towns, causing between 1,900 and 2,500 estimated deaths. The Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme / Tukituki Water Security Project / Makaroro Storage Scheme will cause much destruction of our indigenous environment, our rivers, and especially the Makaroro River and surroundings. People need to live within the limits of sustainability and put the care of our natural and indigenous environment first. Increasing number of river scientists, environmental groups and people are advocating for allowing rivers to flow naturally and have "room to move" and not being dammed. NZ based river scientists include Gary Brierley, James Brasington and Jon Tunnicliffe. The Ruataniwha Plains would be a good area to allow the our rivers and streams "Room to Move," restore wetlands and nature based solutions. I hope everyone in the HBRC has read the article by Pippa McKelvie-Sebileau in Hawkes Bay Today 16 Mar, 2023 "Hawke's Bay walks feet first into a new climate change reality". I agree with her advocating for "Re-wilding and nature-based solutions for rural and urban areas". The "green-washed" Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme / Tukituki Water Security Project / Makaroro Storage Scheme is a high risk, divisive and environmentally destructive. It needs to be terminated so we can focus on recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle. We need to put the natural and indigenous environment first. We should become adaptable and resilient to an unknown future. The Tukituki Water Storage Scheme / Tukituki Water Security Project / Makaroro Storage Scheme does not put the environment first and Te Mana o te Wai at its core. The Makaroro Storage Scheme will destroy the Makaroro River and some of the surrounding public Ruahine Conservation Forest Park, natural ecosystems and habitats, flora and fauna. The rivers will be controlled, not allowed to flow naturally and "speak for themselves". The affected rivers and natural, native environments will have their mauri and their mana destroyed by having people destroy them or rule over and control them. Rivers in their natural state are increasing rare in NZ and less than 1% of the world's rivers remain in their natural state. Wild and scenic rivers are valued for many reasons and their ecosystems are crucial for many of our threatened native species. The Makaroro and Dutch Creek are probably CHB's most natural, pristine, highest quality rivers. They will be ruin by the dam. In the CHBDC's new District Plan : Mākāroro River, Identification: Significant Amenity Feature Mākāroro Gorge, Identification: Outstanding Natural Feature (1 of 11). The dam will cause an environmental catastrophe: Deforestation and use of fossil

fuels in construction and running of water storage scheme will cause a greenhouse gas explosion, adding to climate change, environment destruction, loss of biodiversity, natural and indigenous ecosystems. Some of the flora and fauna including birds, bats, native fish, (including whitebait), eels are endangered already will be put in further risk. More wetlands, braided river ecosystems will be destroyed. These also have an important part in absorbing flood waters, without them there will be an increased risk of more severe flooding. Felling of about 193 hectares of trees and shrubs which absorb greenhouse gases and release them when removed and decaying. Forests also have an important role in absorbing rain and preventing flooding. Fossil fuels used for dam machinery and vehicles, increased electricity to run pumps etc will add to green house gases which contribute to climate change. Increase in fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides, animals used in agricultural intensification will also add to green house gases. NZ signed the commitments at the 2022 climate summit and promised to stop deforestation by 2030. With consumers more environmentally aware there is a chance they will boycott produce grown in environmentally destructive ways. Water for irrigation can act as a maladaptation where it allows unsustainable farming intensification in areas threatened by lower rainfall, drought, and other climate disruptions. From the Tukituki Catchment Proposal BOI Volume-1-of-3 Report 2014 (excerpts):

Terrestrial Ecology. Reports listed the potential ecological effects of the construction and operation of the RWSS on terrestrial indigenous fauna and flora: "A permanent loss of a variety of indigenous vegetation communities and braided river within the reservoir, dam and spillway footprint area; A permanent loss of a variety of feeding, roosting and breeding habitats (both exotic and indigenous) for birds, lizards, bats and invertebrates; Alteration of habitats for indigenous flora and fauna within and adjacent to braided river ecosystems downstream of the dam and upstream water intake structure associated with changes in sediment deposition rates, river flow patterns and changes in land use; and A change of habitat types on the margins of the reservoir due to changes in hydrology and effects of seasonal and irrigation drawdown causing inundation and ebbing of the 'lake' edge; and Disturbance of remaining indigenous flora and fauna adjacent to the reservoir due to potential increases in the recreational use of the reservoir and its margin." It was also recorded in the report that the total area affected by the dam, reservoir, and spoil disposal would be approximately 450.18ha. A total of 185.18ha of ecologically significant indigenous vegetation and habitats would be flooded by the proposed reservoir (or covered over by associated infrastructure, including the dam structure, new access tracks and spoil disposal sites). This comprises: 80.71ha of mature and secondary indigenous forest (including a number of trees which would be in excess of 300 years old); 2.69ha of treelands; 22.70ha of secondary indigenous scrub; 73.97ha of gravel river bed; and 5.11ha of wetland or seep zones. One 'at risk' plant species was found — the red mistletoe. During field surveys by Kessels and Associates in the vicinity of the reservoir a total of 38 bird species (11 endemic) were identified. Of all individual birds formally observed, 55% were native and 45% introduced. Threatened or at risk species made up 2.5% of all observations (23 birds). These included a pair of nesting New Zealand bush falcon, and an adult banded dotterel with a chick. Nationally 'at risk' species on site were pied stilt, New Zealand pipit, black shag and North Island fernbird. Tui was the most common of the threatened species that were observed. Surveys by Kessels & Associates for long-tailed bats suggested that there was a population throughout the proposed reservoir footprint. Eleven lizard species are known to exist in the southern Hawke's Bay region or neighbouring areas of the southern North Island. Targeted rapid surveys for terrestrial invertebrates were undertaken by Kessels & Associates. Results showed a rich diversity of insects and land snails. Two individual 'at risk' Hawke's Bay tree wetas (*Hemideina trewicki*) were also discovered within the study area.....

Aquatic Ecology. The effects that need to be considered are conveniently listed in the Cawthron Report prepared by Dr Young and others in 2013: "Disturbance of the riverbed during construction and associated mobilisation of sediment that could influence water clarity and have effects on periphyton, invertebrates and

fish (both native and introduced species) • effects of changes in bed geomorphology downstream of the dam on periphyton, invertebrates and fish; • effects on water quality associated with water storage within the proposed reservoir Blockage/interruption of upstream and downstream fish passage by the dam; • permanent loss of riverine habitat resulting from inundation by the proposed reservoir; reductions in the quantity and quality of spawning habitat for rainbow trout; • changes in water quality associated with changes in the flow regime downstream of the dam; • changes in periphyton abundance and distribution as a result of changes in the flow regime; • effects of changes in the flow regime downstream of the dam (including short-term fluctuating flows associated with changes in irrigation demand and hydro-peaking) on habitat availability for invertebrates and fish; • effects of flow changes on fish stranding; • diversion of fish into the water distribution network at the irrigation intake; • instream and riparian habitat disturbance associated with changes in land use on the Ruataniwha Plains associated with the Scheme; • changes in water quality and effects on periphyton, invertebrates and fish associated with changes in land use.”

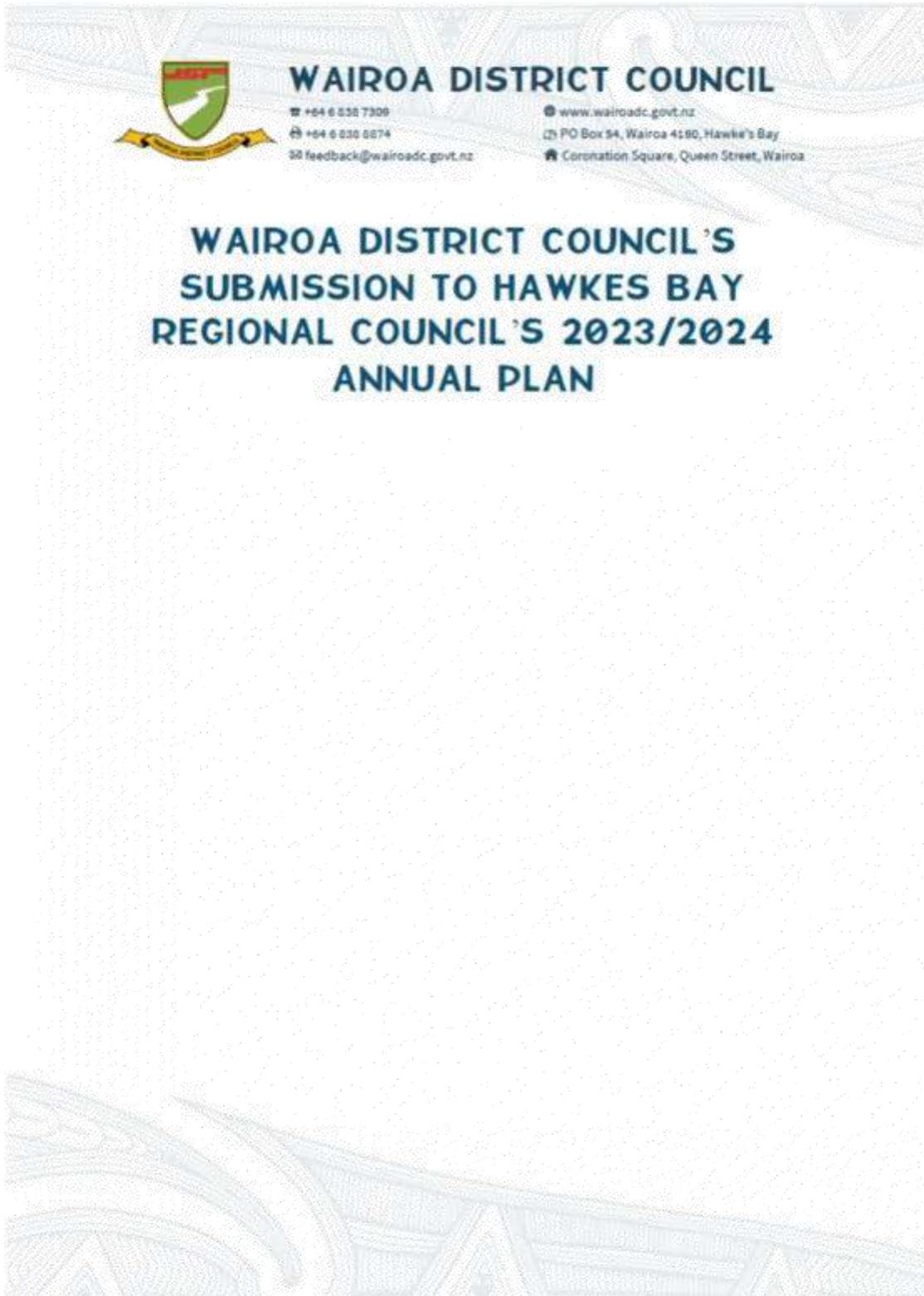
• Currently there are at least seven migratory native fish species in the vicinity of the dam. 68% of New Zealand’s native fish are currently listed as threatened, and loss of habitat and water quality impacts are a major cause of their heightened threat status. All witnesses raised the issue of fish passage, and many questioned the effectiveness of the proposed trap and transfer system. Other concerns included the effects of construction on aquatic ecology, interruption to the natural flow of the Makaroro River, fish screening at the upper irrigation intake, effects from land use changes on downstream water quality, and the effectiveness of proposed flushing flows. Many of the concerns expressed by Ms McArthur reflected matters that were worrying other parties involved in the inquiry. She reminded the Board that the Makaroro River sub-catchment has some of the best water quality and ecological health of any waterway in the Tukituki catchment. She is concerned about the effects of the construction of the dam on aquatic macro-invertebrates and fish in the vicinity of the dam site and downstream. The barrier to the migration of native fish created by the dam is a major concern. Ms McArthur anticipates that this will cause local fish populations to decline. She also believes that the reservoir will not provide a positive environment for native fish which will be deprived of their upstream riverine environment. Interference with natural river flows will have an adverse effect on aquatic life and reduce the availability of quality habitat. There will also be a cumulative, immediate and long term impact on the spawning and recruitment of trout in the Makaroro and Waipawa catchments. Concerns expressed by Dr Joy included the removal or reduction of riverine habitat for riverine specialist species including eels; movement of trout into previously uninhabited areas; creation of suitable habitat for pest fish; increasing transit time for fish larvae to travel downstream, thereby increasing their chances of starvation or predation; potential death of a significant percentage of downstream migrating larvae when going through or over the dam; and the potential for death of downstream migrating eels. The creation of a 372ha reservoir will result in the loss of up to 7km of flowing water habitats, although the Board accepts that some of the native fish species currently found in that habitat will be able to use the newly formed reservoir. On the other hand, other species such as torrent fish, bluegill bully, redfin bully, Cran’s bully, and dwarf galaxias are unlikely to survive in the reservoir and will be lost....”

More reasons why large dams are unacceptable:

1. Because they contribute to climate change and make adaptation more difficult Construction and operation of large dams causes emission of CO2 and methane from the large amounts of flooded and retained organic matter in reservoirs. Dams also destroy large areas of surrounding lands needed to build them. Dams are not flexible enough to endure climate change. On the contrary, they are inefficient in droughts and unsafe in floods, which aggravates the risk of disasters. Moreover, they threaten communities’ entire hydrologic system, destroying key ecosystems and compromising communities’ ability to adapt to climate change.

	<p>2. Because of the cost overruns, delays and economic damage that they entail World Data show that the final cost of the majority of dams that have been built is 96% greater than their initial budgets. (eg cost overrun for Waimea Community Dam)</p> <p>3. Because they take a long time to become operational, making them an inefficient solution to the urgent crisis that they are intended to tackle They operate on average only 50 years. Experts have documented that eight out of every ten dams exceed their initial construction-time estimates by more than 44%. Many overseas dams are being removed to allow rivers to flow naturally again.</p> <p>4. Because they may cause great and irreparable environmental damage Large dams cause environmental damages to rivers, hydrologic basins and surrounding ecosystems, including: worsening water quality in rivers; degradation of aquatic ecosystems and disappearance of many riparian ecosystems; and serious harms to biodiversity, including the extinction of species.</p> <p>5. Because environmental damage may violate human rights and impoverish communities.</p>
<p>2. Tell us what you think of the focus of our Annual Plan</p>	<p>I am against the part of the recovery charge of \$75, the \$12, referring to rates and fee remissions. Most people are affected by the cyclone and/or cost of living pressures. If we all apply for remissions then councils will be in a state of collapse! Everyone should pay their share. Water Holdings Hawke’s Bay should also have to pay all its outstanding unpaid section 36 charges. They took on the consents knowing of these charges. The consents to the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme should be withdrawn and cancelled. If consents are for illegal activities then they should be cancelled.</p>
<p>Submitter ID: #89 Constituency: Out of region</p>	
<p>Name/(Organisation): Chantel Pagel, Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ Inc. Hawke’s Bay ratepayer? No</p>	
<p>1. What is important to you in the region’s recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?</p>	<p>see attached – p28</p>
<p>Submitter ID: #90 Constituency: Ahuriri-Napier</p>	
<p>Name/(Organisation): Bonnie Hughes Hawke’s Bay ratepayer? Yes</p>	
<p>1. What is important to you in the region’s recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle?</p>	<p>Fixing our horse riding areas and building more for the equestrian community to have a safe places to take their horses</p>

#78 Wairoa District Council (#82)



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Wairoa District Council (WDC), as part of its 2023/24 Annual Plan engagement, undertook 25 face-to-face community-based meetings, throughout the district. This provided Council with a great opportunity to get an understanding of what matters to individual communities and the district at large.
- 1.2 The WDC 2023/24 Annual Plan is focused on a Recovery to Resilience theme and strongly signals that we cannot do this on our own and external funding, partnerships and support is needed.
- 1.3 They provided feedback on the district's key challenges, how the proposed rate increase will affect them, what cost reduction ideas they have and what their thoughts were on the key projects we are proposing to undertake in 2023/24.
- 1.4 We received strong feedback that WDC needs to increase its frequency of roadside drain cleaning to ensure water flows freely to avoid road and property flooding. This has become even more important in this period of extreme weather events that we are experiencing.
- 1.5 Several consistent themes were clearly shared that relate to the service delivery of Hawkes Bay Regional Council (HBRC) in the Wairoa District. These being:
 - A lack of presence of HBRC staff in areas affected by river flooding.
 - A major reduction in the amount of maintenance work undertaken in the river, stream and drainage network that is the responsibility of HBRC.
 - Confusion of what HBRC and WDC are responsible for.
 - WDC can maintain their drainage network, but if HBRC don't maintain their network where will the water flow to.
- 1.6 The areas in our District that expressed the most concern were Wairoa township and the communities of Frasertown, Opoutama, Māhanga, Iwitea Marae and Nuhaka.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

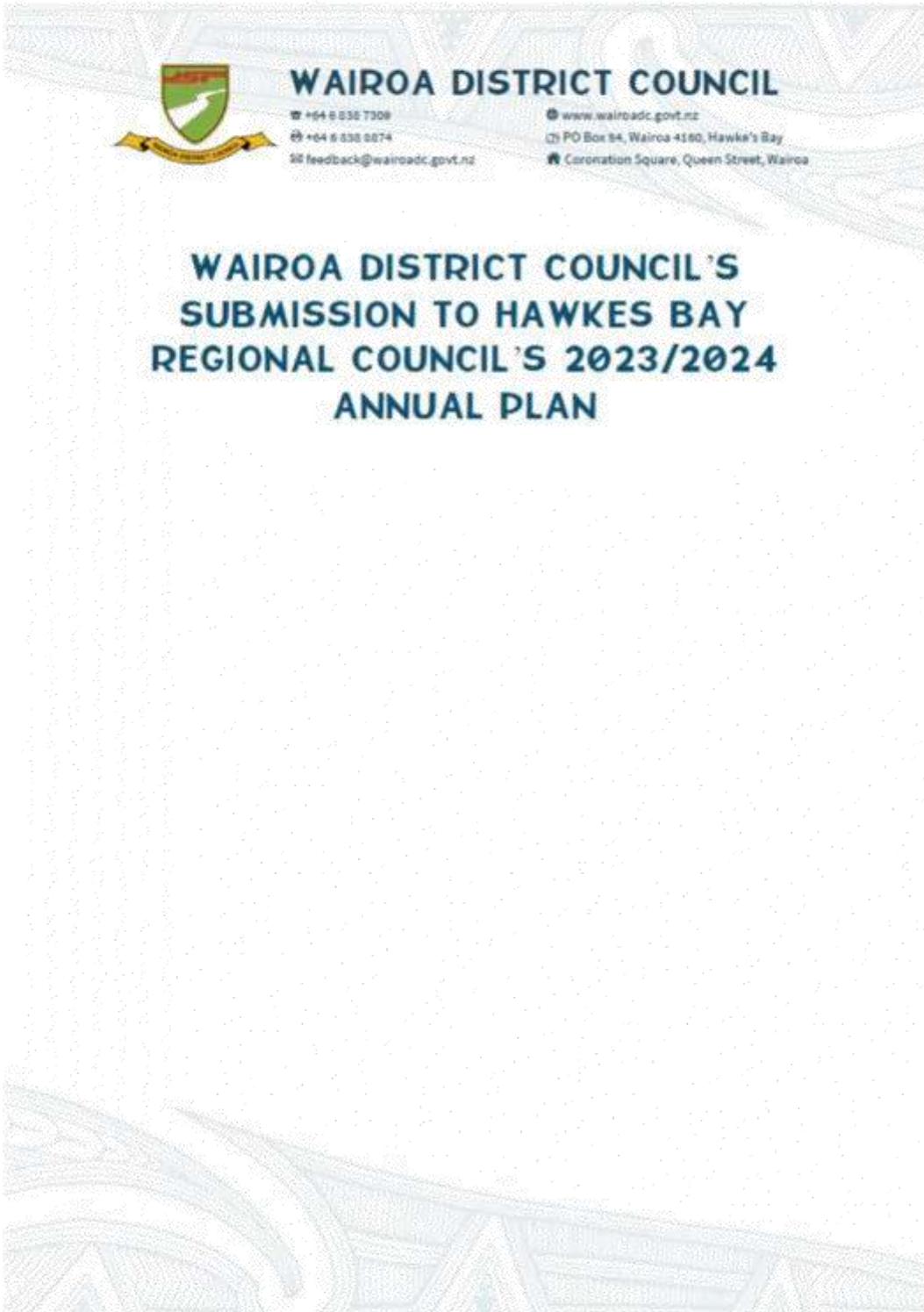
- 2.1 WDC recognise that we must increase our levels of service in the roadside drain cleaning activity and are planning to add additional budget in the 2023/24 Annual Plan for these works.
- 2.2 Regarding the concerns about the service delivery of Hawkes Bay Regional Council in the Wairoa District we have the following recommendations.
- 2.3 *A lack of presence of HBRC staff in areas affected by river flooding - We ask that you ensure that your staff treat WDC as a priority and increase inspections and follow up works in areas effected by river flooding, now and in times of future extreme weather events.*

- 2.4 A major reduction in the amount of maintenance work undertaken in the river, stream and drainage network that is the responsibility of HBRC - *We ask that you ensure that the river, stream, and drainage network that you are responsible for is well maintained to ensure good flow of water and a reduction in risk to people and property and that adequate funding is allowed for in your 2023/24 Annual Plan for this to occur. This should include all works that will ensure that all historically unmaintained drains, waterways and tributaries are brought up to a standard where no more harm will be incurred by ratepayers. Several key community assets and facilities border the Wairoa River, and these are at risk due to riverbank erosion. A lack of upstream maintenance is resulting in loss of riverbank and loss of community recreation opportunities.*
- 2.5 Confusion of what HBRC and WDC are responsible for - *A joint approach to this issue is needed, through good communication and community engagement by both WDC and HBRC. Both entities need to work together to get an understanding of the issues and to also identify any areas where it is not clear which entity is responsible.*
- 2.6 WDC can maintain their drainage network, but if HBRC don't maintain their network where will the water flow to - *The solution to this, is better communication between WDC and HBRC staff to plan work programmes together to maximise the availability of funds and resources to get the best outcome for our communities. WDC are committed to working with HBRC on this joint approach.*
- 2.7 Significant Wairoa District rivers need to be recognised as key rivers in the Hawkes Bay Region, with adequate HBRC funding budgeted for their maintenance to protect people and property.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 In conclusion we at WDC are committed to working more closely with HBRC regarding the matters raised in our submission and other projects that will benefit our communities.
- 3.2 We acknowledge tough times ahead for both entities, but strength will come with a close and transparent relationship.
- 3.3 We wish to appear before a committee and/or panel to speak to this submission.
- 3.4 Thank you for considering our submission.

#82 Wairoa District Council



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Wairoa District Council (WDC) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback and submit on Hawkes Bay Regional Council's (HBRC) Annual Plan Engagement Document.
- 1.2 WDC does not support deferring the construction expenditure for the Wairoa River Regional Park to the following financial year.
- 1.3 WDC understands the desire to lessen a rates impact, however notes that excluding key activities that have garnered public support across our district is not an appropriate way to do this. Furthermore, given that the Wairoa River Regional Park was deferred in 2021 to year 5 and beyond of Hawkes Bay Regional Council's long term plan, it evokes concern that it may not be implemented at all.
- 1.4 The devastating impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on the Wairoa District has left the community feeling defeated. The psychosocial impact is now exacerbated with any mention of rain warnings, knowing also that winter is here and there is a significantly high percentage of the population without a warm safe home to live in.
- 1.5 The consequences are felt by everyone and every community in our rohe. The proposed Wairoa River Regional Park is a great opportunity for Wairoa to "bounce back" from after the Cyclone and will assist in lifting community spirits.
- 1.6 In a time where our community need security and activities to look forward to, deferring the regional park is a decision that needs to be thought of holistically and through the lens of the four community wellbeings, rather than just as a project to be deferred for cost savings.
- 1.7 WDC believes it is a positive outcome for the community to look forward to following Cyclone Gabrielle, as it is now about building back better from recovery to resilience. It will be inviting and attracting to visitors in the district and therefore should remain a priority of work for the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding the Wairoa River Regional Park WDC has the following recommendations:

- 2.1 **THAT** Hawkes Bay Regional Council partner with Wairoa District Council and take a staged approach in implementing this project – *we ask that HBRC take a joint approach with WDC and work closely in implementing the project through good communication and carrying out meaningful engagement with the community and iwi partners.*
- 2.2 **THAT** the Hawkes Bay Regional Council set the Wairoa River Regional Park as a priority of work and not defer it to the following financial year – *we ask that HBRC set this as a priority and move ahead with it. This is something that our community can look forward to following the devastating impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle and will enhance the connection to businesses along the main street. This includes financial contributions from HBRC to get the project underway.*

2.3 THAT alongside meaningful engagement with the Wairoa community, we need a Wairoa community based approach to the project. Not a "Hawke's Bay" model but one that is fit for Wairoa specifically – *as you already know, there are many factors that make Wairoa distinct from Napier, Hastings and others in Hawke's Bay. We ask that the model designs be fit and cater to the needs of the Wairoa district, the community and the people while giving due consideration to the democratic engagement responsibilities afforded to our elected members, as well as our diverse community.*

2.4 THAT although we do not speak for iwi partners HBRC need to carry out due diligence in including and considering Tatau Tatau o Te Wairoa (TToTW) as part of the process.

Given they are a signatory to the Tripartite agreement and the purpose of that agreement is to acknowledge and provide for the traditional, cultural, spiritual and historical relationships of the iwi and hapū of Te Rohe o Te Wairoa with the area of interest, particularly the lands and waterways.

This is provided for in the Tatau Tatau o Te Wairoa Deed of Settlement and further relates to the statutory reserves board – Matangirau which was established in 2018 to initially manage five reserves and forms part of the treaty settlement that has been negotiated with the Crown.

WDC wants to ensure that TToTW is included and considered in the projects development and all due diligence in this regard has been carried out by HBRC.

3. CONTEXT

3.1 *"Kī te ora te wai, ka ora ai te katoa – if the waterway is healthy, then everything will survive".*

3.2 This is highly poignant for Wairoa district as a whole and the river system in particular. The Wairoa catchment is one of the largest catchments in Hawke's Bay.

3.3 At a time where our community has been greatly affected by the impacts of having a river flow through the centre of town, it is even more significant to the community to celebrate Wairoa Hopupupu Honengenenge Matangirau.

3.4 Focussing attention on the regional park, in addition to improved and enhanced catchment works, is a visible reminder to the people of Wairoa of the beauty of the awa and be symbolic of HBRC's commitment to the Wairoa District.

3.5 The Wairoa community needs something positive to look forward to following Cyclone Gabrielle and WDC strongly believes that getting the Wairoa River Regional Park underway and implemented will do this.

3.6 WDC identified the regeneration of the Central Business District (CBD) as a top priority for investment in the district for 2023/2024. Naming it "Te Wairoa E Whanake" in 2017/2018, the project was developed to stimulate economic development and regenerate the town centre of Wairoa. The Wairoa River Regional Park will complement the efforts and work done to the Te Wairoa E Whanake project, with each project bringing significant benefits to the immediate space and the wider community.

- 3.7 We believe that the development positively influences the social, health and community wellbeing through providing a communal green space design which is critical to support thriving sustainable communities locally, regionally and nationally. It will also connect Wairoa's CBD with its surrounding environment and will have major economic and social benefits for the Wairoa community, now and into the future.
- 3.8 Furthermore, this supports the *Whakatipu – Regenerate* objective identified in Wairoa's Locality/Recovery Plan. Through this objective WDC aims to ensure sustainable business activity is re-established and where possible enhanced. The Wairoa River Regional Park development will assist Wairoa's economic growth and provides the massive potential for the areas identified in the concept designs and all along our riverbanks to be enhanced.
- 3.9 Culturally, the regional park is a great opportunity to recognise and showcase Wairoa's rich cultural heritage and history including historic pā sites and other significant sites along the river. This can be done through signage, sculptures and artworks in the key activity areas by making those physical features that connect us back with the river and giving mana to those acknowledged and to the descendants today.
- 3.10 Cyclone Gabrielle has shown that we have vulnerable riverbanks susceptible to flooding. HBRC need to restore and enhance the riverbank by stabilising and protecting banks with structural stabilisation measures, as part of the development process. We need safe, stable and protected riverbanks to ensure a reduction in risk to people and property as river access can be difficult and hazardous due to the erosion of some of the riverbank.
- 3.11 The psychosocial impact of Cyclone Gabrielle has left whanau feeling anxiety around flooding and raised river levels with minimal riverbank remaining in some parts. Through the *Whakahou – Restore* objective identified in Wairoa's Locality/Recovery Plan WDC aims to restore and enhance the natural environment. The Wairoa River Regional Park development provides the massive potential for HBRC to enhance Wairoa's river and riverbanks through the key activity areas identified in the objective plans.
- 3.12 Through this objective WDC want to ensure that the impact of the flood and its recovery does not leave lasting negative environment effects on our land and in our water and HBRC can support this.
- 3.13 Wairoa Hopupu Honengenenge Matangirau is one of Hawke's Bay's greatest natural assets, yet our community and visitors to the town are missing out on a unique opportunity to connect and experience Te Wairoa as a thriving urban centre which incorporates the beauty of the river environment. The Wairoa river provides huge potential and has accommodated local recreational activities over decades such as white-baiting, fishing and recreational water activities.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 In conclusion WDC recommends that the Wairoa River Regional Park needs to be a priority of work for HBRC. We are committed to working with HBRC in a staged approach to the project, to ensure it is fit and caters to the needs of the Wairoa district and community.

- 4.2 We acknowledge the current trying times for our Councils, specifically in being impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle, but where we can work together for the betterment of our communities is desired.
- 4.3 We wish to appear before a committee and/or panel to speak to this submission to further reiterate and impart on the committee, the significance of the project and the importance of not deferring it to the following financial year.
- 4.4 Thank you for considering our submission.

Submitter #89 Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ Inc



30 June 2023

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Feedback on the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) Annual Plan 2023/24

Summary

- We highlight that climate change adaptation through nature-based solutions is crucial to build resilience of local communities in the rohe, particularly for flood protection
- We emphasise a requirement of continuous funding for invasive animal and plant pest control to ensure stable and resilient ecosystems that are able to cope with the impacts of climate change
- We suggest considerations around the \$75 cyclone recovery charge to accelerate important conservation programmes that were impacted by the weather events to support environmental resilience

Introduction

1. The Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society Inc. of New Zealand (Forest & Bird) is Aotearoa New Zealand's leading independent conservation organisation. Forest & Bird has played an important role in protecting and preserving New Zealand's environment and native species for a century. Forest & Bird is independently funded by private subscription, donations, and bequests. The Society's mission is to protect and preserve New Zealand's unique ecological values, flora and fauna, and natural habitats in a climate crisis and to continue that mission into the next century.
2. Forest & Bird has three dedicated volunteer branches in Hawke's Bay region, whose multigenerational members and supporters play an important and active role in protecting and restoring the region's native species and habitats, in biosecurity, as well as in education and advocacy for nature in a climate crisis. Within Forest & Bird there is a wealth of knowledge and expertise on protecting and restoring Aotearoa New Zealand's native ecosystems and species.

1

3. Forest & Bird is grateful for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Hawke's Bay Regional Council Annual Plan for the term 2023/24. Forest & Bird acknowledges the work that Councillors and staff are doing to improve the region in those challenging times through the annual and long-term plan processes, to assess what changes are needed to reflect current circumstances and community needs.
4. Considering the increased likelihood of climate change driven extreme weather events, without urgent action, commitment, and investment now, there is a risk of compounding costs on people and the environment and piling additional costs on to an already overburdened future generation.
5. It is important to recognise that Aotearoa New Zealand is facing both a biodiversity crisis and a climate crisis, and instruments like Council annual plans must appropriately reflect and fund these.
6. Forest & Bird wishes to be heard in support of this feedback.

Planning for the future through Nature Based Solutions

New Zealanders received a wakeup call about the impacts of climate change with the immense devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and the Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland floods. As we look to recover from these disasters and reduce the impact of future extreme weather events, nature has a key role in helping us to adapt. By protecting nature, we can protect ourselves and our communities.

One key lesson from the years since Cyclone Bola in 1988, is that action which should have been taken to build resilience has been neglected, and where action was taken, it was not properly thought through, which has resulted in the damage from forestry slash. We cannot afford to repeat these mistakes. There are limits to adaptation and some of our own communities lack the resources needed to adapt. We must step up action to reduce emissions and minimise the impacts of unavoidable climate change.

Critical actions in the light of Cyclone Gabrielle include:

- Doubling the extent of wetlands
- Creating room for rivers to flood safely and function more naturally
- Restoring and expanding native forest and shrublands
- Improving land use
- Adapting in ways that protect and enhance nature
- Keeping emission reductions at the core of climate change policy

2

a) Every wetland counts

Forest & Bird have mapped the areas of historic wetland on public land that are now grass, i.e., those wetlands that have been lost but which remain in public ownership and could be readily restored. These maps are available to the public online.¹ We would like to see Council investigate whether it has any areas of historic wetland in its ownership that could be restored and invest in that restoration.

Wetlands are vital to help us slow and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Every drained or destroyed wetland has a negative impact on the climate. To date, only 10% of Aotearoa's historic wetlands remain.

Wetlands help buffer communities from extreme weather – for example, absorbing heavy rain during storms, slowly releasing water during floods, and buffering the coast from storm surges. They are a nature-based solution to the impacts of climate change and are more resilient than engineering. They can be used in urban settings to increase resilience of communities by managing sediment run off as well as holding and cleansing stormwater. Wetlands also provide crucial habitat for coastal birds who are facing increased pressure and disturbance from development and activities in their coastal habitats.

Furthermore, wetlands are taonga for tangata whenua as they were often sources of culturally significant plants, including harakeke and raupō used for weaving; and plants and trees that were used for carving and making tools. Wetlands are also identified as ripe picking grounds for rongoā Māori.² It is time to acknowledge the role of mana whenua as kaitiaki of the places everyone cares about.

b) Making Room for Rivers

The Room for Rivers concept – allowing rivers to reclaim parts of their natural flood plains in strategic places while not overly relying on stopbanks for flood protection – is a nature-based climate solution that will protect communities from devastating floods while increasing biodiversity and local recreation opportunities that is already successfully implemented overseas.

Following consultation with flood management experts and practitioners, Forest & Bird proposes three steps in our 'Making Room for Rivers'³ plan to kickstart improved river

¹ <https://koordinates.com/layer/113000-areas-of-historic-wetland-that-are-now-grass-but-still-in-public-ownership-sept-2022/>

² Harmsworth, G.R. (2002). Coordinated monitoring of New Zealand wetlands. Phase 2, Goal 2. Maori environmental performance indicators for wetland condition and trend. A Ministry for the Environment SMF project – 5105. Landcare Research Contract Report LC 0102/099. 65 p. <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/social/maoriindicators.asp>

³ https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/sites/default/files/2022-11/F%26B_Room-For-Rivers_Report_online_0.pdf

management in Aotearoa and better protect communities and wildlife. At a local level, this can be implemented by HBRC by:

- developing a Room for Rivers plan, including considering strategic managed retreat from high-risk flood plains. This modern approach to flood management should be embedded in regional and district plans and bylaws (on issues like stormwater management).
- Prioritise investment in nature-based solutions and 'green infrastructure' as a way to mitigate flood risk, rather than investing in hard-engineered "solutions" (which are often not long-term solutions)

More than 100 towns and cities across New Zealand have families and communities living alongside rivers or on flood plains protected by flood mitigation schemes, highlighting the urgency for flood protection schemes to build our resilience.⁴ Many marae and urupā are located near rivers and flood prone areas. Hence, they are increasingly vulnerable to erosion caused by climate change induced extreme weather impacts.³

Looking after our wai and restoring it back to its natural state will also benefit its biodiversity. In te ao Māori, different water bodies are home to different taonga species and kaitiaki, protecting the mauri of the wai.⁵ Similarly, there is a link between health and wellbeing of wai and those of local communities (for many Māori, the freshwater environment is central to tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori, and mahinga kai.⁷

Forest & Bird are imploring council to use nature-based solutions to protect horticulture, farmland, and communities from the potentially devastating effects of downstream flooding and drought in extreme weather events like we have seen recently and will only happen more frequently. This is also the best outcome for native species and the environment.

c) Prioritising the extension of native forests and their protection through holistic pest-control

Native forests have been recognised by the Climate Change Commission as nationally significant carbon sinks that are vital to climate protection efforts. The Commission has called for a massive

⁴ [Tukua Ngā Awa Kia Rere | Making Room for Rivers](#)

³ Awatere S, King DN, Reid J, Williams L, Masters-Awatere B, Harris P, Tasseil-Matamua N, Jones R, Eastwood K, Pirker J, & Jackson A-M. (2021). He huringa āhuarangi, he huringa ao: a changing climate, a changing world. <https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/assets/researchpubs/He-huringa-ahuarangi-hehuringa-ao-a-changing-climate-a-changing-world.pdf>

⁵ Stewart-Harawira, M. W. (2020). Troubled waters: Maori values and ethics for freshwater management and New Zealand's fresh water crisis. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Water*, 7(5). <https://doi.org/10.1002/wat2.1464>

⁷ Ministry for the Environment & Stats NZ (2023). New Zealand's Environmental Reporting Series: Our freshwater 2023. Retrieved from environment.govt.nz.

forest restoration programme alongside a ramped-up browsing pest and weed control programme to protect all existing native forests.

Introduced browsers such as deer, pigs, goats and wallabies have been eating their way through native forests, shrubland, and tussock lands. The combined impact of these animals consuming seedlings, leaf litter, leaves, buds, bark, and branches and killing trees has significantly reduced the natural ability of native habitats to lock in carbon, to hold the whenua together, and to absorb and slow the movement of water.

When native forests collapse, huge volumes of carbon dioxide are released as trees die and rot. Our largest forest type, kāmahī-podocarp forest, is presently bleeding 3.4 million tonnes of CO₂ every year – three times the equivalent to the country's 2018 domestic air travel emissions.⁸

The issue of feral deer and their land-destabilizing impacts are within scope of the inquiry and a key outcome needs to be solutions to feral browsing pest animal numbers. Recent soil conservation concerns – preceding Cyclone Gabrielle – have been highlighted across the broad Kaweka catchment because of intergenerational deer impacts:

*"Herds of 30-40 deer can be found around Rissington, and groups of farmers have been forced to get together to shoot deer destroying their crops. ...All that is needed is a cyclone hitting the ranges and waves of gravel will once again come down the rivers because the vegetative cover has been destroyed... The effects of deer in the [Kaweka] ranges are long term and insidious. It took many years to get deer numbers under control and forest regeneration to happen. It will take many years to return the forests to their former state"*⁹

In the Government Budget 2022 there was \$30 million allocated over three years to start tackling the explosion of deer and goats nationally. The aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle calls for a ring-fenced and targeted budget beyond this to knock down deer, goats and pigs in the inquiry area and Forest & Bird would suggest broader culling nationally in upper catchments.

Forest & Bird is concerned by the council's proposal to reduce funding for crucial pest control activities in the rohe that is essential for the forest to effectively work as 'natural infrastructure' to protect downstream productive land and residential areas from flooding.

⁸ [Protecting our Natural Ecosystems' Carbon Sinks](#)

⁹ <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/hawkes-bay-today/news/talking-point-it-will-take-courage-to-control-feral-deer/OFNQW3W7GFXURYJD5A43IHEOE/>

Forest & Bird is calling for increased funding for invasive animal and plant pest control which are a huge issue in the Hawke's Bay region. Particularly, investment in browser pest control has to be prioritised to safeguard this crucial natural taonga.

The above concepts should underpin Council's decision making within its longer- and shorter-term planning and policy documents, including the activities proposed in the Annual Plan. Forest & Bird therefore submit the following in regard to the activities listed for funding in the Annual Plan for 2023-24:

Forest & Bird

- Acknowledges the challenges of balancing the interests of post-cyclone recovery and long-term environmental objectives, and
- Appreciates the planned collaboration with landowners and mana whenua for whole catchments to get trees into the ground and keep soil out of the water
- Opposes the plan to cut back on funding for biodiversity. Specifically regarding
 - a) reconfiguration of flood protection works. Instead of relying on hard engineering such as stop banks we ask for the council to consider nature-based solutions when planning their flood protection approach. All proposed council policies and funded activities and works including those to address erosion should implement the nature-based solutions approach, including making room for rivers and protecting and enhancing nature as part of our 'natural infrastructure'.
 - b) reduction of funding invested in pest control activities. Restoration of significant ecological areas constitutes a crucial part of increasing the region's resilience for similar weather events. This includes the upkeep of pest control as a mechanism for care and maintenance of the natural environment so it can do the mahi in keeping local communities safe. While it may save costs in the short term, those costs will be deferred out on to future generations, with more intense weather events on the horizon and an environment that struggles to cope with it.
- Highlight the need for inclusions into the Annual Plan deliberations to re-accelerate programmes to support biodiversity back to and beyond current initiatives once the initial recovery phase is completed. As the \$75 cyclone recovery charge is likely to be a long-term charge, it will not only help with the immediate recovery but to also accelerate work programmes that have been impacted by recent weather events.

6

Conclusion

In dealing with the dual crises of climate and biodiversity, no single portfolio can be looked upon in isolation. Integrating ideas, proper resourcing and working effectively with others while being inclusive of those in the community with knowledge and expertise, will help achieve environmental outcomes and climate resilience, faster.

Forest & Bird strongly supports innovative green funding mechanisms to deal with climate change, on the condition that nature-based solutions cut across all portfolios and underpin any climate change action plan for Hawke's Bay.

We wish you all the best in your deliberations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.



Dr Chantal Pagel
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REMITTS

// 2023 Annual General Meeting



Please note that this document is not the full set of papers for this year's AGM. It just includes the remits going forward to the AGM so members can decide how they will vote on them. The full set of AGM papers will be shared no later than 10 working days before the AGM.

// 01

Allocation of risk and liability in the building sector

Remit: *That LGNZ:*

- *Engage directly with the Minister for Building and Construction to advocate for a change to the current joint and several liability framework, including examination of the MBIE policy position statement Risk, Liability and Insurance in the Building Sector.*
- *Make the case for alternatives and changes to joint and several liability through updating policy advice and engaging with industry groups.*

Proposed by: Queenstown-Lakes District Council

Supported by: LGNZ Metro Sector

Why is this remit important?

This remit is important because the current joint and several liability approach to building defects sees councils/Building Consent Authorities (BCAs) often being the only party left to compensate homeowners, known as the 'last party standing'.

Ratepayers are therefore bearing a disproportionate burden, affecting the ability of councils throughout Aotearoa New Zealand to carry out core services. Councils are having to borrow money to pay for significant claims to cover the failures of other parties because they are the last party standing, reducing their ability to invest in other council services (e.g. infrastructure, community services etc). There is a presumption in the current system that ratepayers are able to bear these costs that is not tenable.

Background and Context

What has caused this issue?

When there are claims by property owners relating to weather tightness and other building defects, the existing joint and several liability rule places the risk of insolvency or lack of insurance of one party onto other parties. This arbitrarily increases the liability of remaining parties (defendants) above their proportionate responsibility.

It is Queenstown Lakes District Council's (QLDC) position that requiring ratepayers to pay compensation where defendants are missing is unjust. QLDC is not unsympathetic to the need for losses to be recovered, but risk management is a shared responsibility. It is important that all participants in the system have clear accountabilities and not be able to escape their share of responsibility by ceasing to operate or liquidating.

Weather tightness and other building defect claims are a national problem.

The joint and several liability system has significant impacts including:

1. Rates increases. The settlement of large defective building claims has led to higher borrowing and interest costs for QLDC. The annual cost of the borrowing required to fund the settlements made in the past two years is \$5.3M and the increase in interest costs for

2. 2023-24 is \$4.4M, which has a rates effect of 4.03% for the year. The legal and financial challenges facing councils from these claims are ongoing and more costs can be anticipated in the future; it is not an issue that is diminishing.
3. Reduced ability to invest in community development. The subsequent effects of funding legal claims through the joint and several liability system include a loss in borrowing capacity, that could result in the reduction of investment in community assets such as parks, libraries, performing arts and recreation facilities.
4. A more cautious and demanding building consent function. The risk of being left liable has a negative impact on BCA performance and also creates higher compliance costs for the building sector. It also reduces willingness to consider non-standard solutions which potentially have a higher chance of failure. This negatively affects market performance and innovation that is vital in an era of climate adaptation.

Proposed changes

It is recommended that the liability framework should change to one of proportionate liability. This would reflect the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved and encourage those best placed to manage the risk (building practitioners) to actively manage it. This should be accompanied by a system of compulsory home warranty guarantee (that is effective) and/or insurance products. The homeowner interest would then be protected and there would no longer be an impediment to moving to proportional liability.

In the alternative, if the joint and several approach to liability remains, it is recommended that there should be a cap on BCA liability. A limit of 20% would be proportionate to the supervisory role BCAs perform under the Building Act 2004 and current apportionments underpinned by meaningful warranties and insurance (with a government underwrite if necessary) for residential properties and significant alterations.

What QLDC has already done to address this issue and bring about the proposed change

Alongside a vigorous defense of claims, QLDC is also advocating for a change to the process to address the inequitable outcomes of the current system for rate payers. It is doing this by advocating to central government, partnering with LGNZ in drafting submissions and discussion via the Metro Sector Mayors forum.

MBIE are currently reviewing the building consent process. They have refused to consider or address the impacts of the current liability settings. LGNZ (and QLDC reps in particular) have lobbied to broaden this scope, and the wider industry also seems sympathetic. It is time to escalate the issue with central government beyond officials.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

LGNZ is engaged in the MBIE Review of the Building Consent System through submissions and participation on the Sector Reference Group but does not have a broader advocacy work programme of its own beyond this. And to date, LGNZ's advocacy to political leaders on the issue has been minimal.

Adopting this remit will give LGNZ a stronger and more specific mandate to progress this issue, particularly at the political level, which may assist with achieving greater traction given MBIE officials

have taken the position that the joint and several liability regime is outside the scope of building consent sector reform programmes.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

This is an acute issue for QLDC, but it affects any council that has a BCA function. QLDC is committed to advocating for a change to the current regime, and continuing to work alongside LGNZ, providing policy and strategy support and expertise where needed.

Is the remit relevant to local government as a whole?

Yes. This remit is about the BCA function of councils, which includes all unitary and territorial authorities.

Is the remit of a major policy nature?

Yes. This remit deals with joint and several liability within the building sector.

// 02

Rates Rebate

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate to Central Government to:*

- *Raise the income threshold for rates rebate eligibility to enable more low and fixed income property owners access to the rebate*
- *Adjust the rebate amount in line with inflation and the cost of living*
- *Investigate options to make rates rebates more accessible for residents by implementing an income data sharing process similar to that of Horowhenua District Council and Levin MSD office. This will enable Councils to obtain benefit income on behalf of the ratepayer and make it easier to apply for the rates rebate*
- *Investigate options for data sharing between Councils, Internal Affairs and Ministry of Social Development to proactively identify households that qualify for a rates rebate rather than waiting for people to apply.*

Proposed by: Horowhenua District Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone Three

Why is this remit important?

Rates rebates are an important mechanism to assist low- and fixed-income ratepayers to pay their annual rates. In this cost of living crisis we are experiencing, more low and fixed income people are experiencing poverty and extreme hard times.

To support and assist all eligible ratepayers, the process should not be onerous, it should be streamlined, accessible and able to be carried out in a way where applicants' dignity is upheld.

Background and Context

Available from the Department of Internal Affairs, a rates rebate is a partial rebate for eligible, low-income ratepayers who pay rates on their home to a Council.

The Rates Rebates Scheme provides a rebate for eligible applicants who need to apply each year and:

- Provide the total household income, before tax;
- Complete the rates rebate application form;
- If applicable, complete the retirement village or company-share declaration form; and
- Return their application to the relevant Council by 30 June each year.

To apply for the rebate, applicants must be:

- Living in their own home on 1 July of the current rating year
- Listed as the ratepayer in the Council's Rating Information Database (RID).

Looking to streamline the application process for a rates rebate, in 2022, Horowhenua District Council worked with the Levin Ministry of Social Development (MSD) office to implement a 'Rates Rebate MSD Wavier Form'. This form was designed to provide Council with customer income details to assist with the rates rebate application process. Once the form was signed by the property owner, it was lodged with MSD who then confirmed income details with Council. This removed the need for the applicant to travel to the MSD, as well Council, to provide proof of income, which can be a burden to the process and it made the process smarter and less time consuming.

As this is currently a process unique to the Horowhenua District Council and Levin MSD, it is proposed that this process and any income/data sharing initiatives be implemented into the application process country-wide.

It is also proposed that enhancements to data sharing between Councils, the Department of Internal Affairs and MSD be investigated with the aim of streamlining the process and ensuring that those who are eligible, receive the rebate, through using available incomes and rates information.

Further, it is proposed that the threshold for eligibility is lowered to enable more low- and fixed-income property owners access to the rebate. With high inflation and household costs rising over the past two years, more households are struggling including those on low and fixed incomes. An increase in the eligibility for a rates rebate, by lowering the income threshold would assist those who are potentially most vulnerable in our community.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This remit is aimed at advancing a similar remit passed at the 2020 AGM:

"That LGNZ works with the Government to lift the level of rates rebates available for low- and fixed-income property owners – with yearly increases taking into account the cost for inputs into local government services."

LGNZ is still to make substantial progress on the 2020 remit.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

A member of the Horowhenua District Council Executive Leadership Team and members of the Finance Team with rates rebates expertise are open to working with LGNZ to progress this work for the benefit of New Zealand's low-income ratepayers.

Is the remit relevant to local government as a whole?

Yes.

Is the remit of a major policy nature?

Yes: rates rebates are an important mechanism to assist low- and fixed-income ratepayers to pay their annual rates. Due to the cost-of-living crisis, more low- and fixed-income ratepayers are experiencing financial difficulty.

// 03

Roading/Transport Maintenance Funding

Remit: *That LGNZ:*

- *Publicly lobby all political parties to increase Crown funding for state highway and local road maintenance budgets.*
- *Consider and pursue other avenues including the Office of the Auditor General to seek resolution of the issues facing the country in relation to the systemic rundown of our national roading infrastructure.*

Proposed by: New Plymouth District Council

Supported by: Kāpiti Coast District Council, Whanganui District Council, Palmerston North City Council, Grey District Council, Waipā District Council, Matamata-Piako District Council, Rotorua Lakes Council, Thames-Coromandel District Council, Masterton District Council, Whakātane District Council, Far North District Council, South Taranaki District Council, Rangitikei District Council, Tasman District Council, Wairoa District Council, Waimakariri District Council, South Waikato District Council, Kaikōura District Council, Waikato District Council, Hamilton City Council, Mackenzie District Council, Central Hawke's Bay District Council

Why is this remit important?

The current state of national highways is unacceptable. Sufficient increase in funding is required to achieve a national average for remaining seal life of no less than 3.6 years (pre-2010 levels) across the state highway network. This needs to be done within the next 10 years, in partnership with councils, and with corresponding asset health improvements on local roads, to ensure the safety of all New Zealanders. Other avenues to seek resolution from include the Auditor-General, relevant Ministers and the Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee.

Background and Context

Waka Kotahi's maintenance and renewal programme has clearly been insufficient to maintain asset health measured via the average remaining seal life. There are numerous media reports about the issues being faced across New Zealand.

Graph 1 (attached in Appendix #) shows the average remaining seal life of state highways by region. This information was obtained under the Official Information Act 1982 from Waka Kotahi. It shows the significant decline in the average seal life of state highways. Nationally, the average remaining life in 2010 was 3.6 years. In 2018 this declined to around 1.8 years and remains steady. However, at a regional level there are large discrepancies.

In 2010 every region had an average remaining life of between 2.9 and 4.4 years (a range of 1.5 years difference). By 2023 the range was from -0.6 to 3.3 years (a range of 3.9 years) with four regions having a seal age of less than one year, including Hawke's Bay which recorded its seventh year with an average of less than zero.

The issue nationally is predominantly with chipseal roads rather than asphalt mix, with some exceptions. In 2023, across chipseal roads, five regions have an average remaining life of less than one year, with Hawke's Bay's roads again below zero. Within asphalt roads, Southland set an unfortunate record with an average remaining life of -2.5 years. Graph 2 (attached) shows the average remaining life of different surface types by region today.

Last year LGNZ commissioned Infometrics to undertake a report into trends in road transport funding¹. That report noted that funding for roads per kilometre travelled only increased by 0.8% p/a in the five years to 2021, whilst construction costs increased 1.1% p/a in the same five years. That report ended its analysis in 2021. With considerable cost inflation over the past two years and decreased land transport revenue due to Covid, it is almost certain that the funding gap has grown even further. Inflation for Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction peaked at 15.1% pa in the September 2022 quarter².

That increased funding gap to roads is likely to result in even further pressure on state highway maintenance and lifespans. The national stabilisation of the average remaining life of state highways may falter in the coming years, seeing further downward movement. Such a decrease will see more parts of the state highway network fail.

This year the Government is developing its next Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (the GPS). The GPS sets the funding buckets for Waka Kotahi. Influencing the development of the next GPS is one key way in which to ensure regional state highways do not continue to deteriorate. The Land Transport Management Act specifically states the Minister must regard the views of LGNZ. This remit therefore proposes a position for LGNZ.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

Following the commissioning of the Infometrics report, there is further work to be done to ensure New Zealand's roading infrastructure reaches an acceptable quality level. LGNZ need to have input into the development of the next GPS and undertake a much wider advocacy role by:

- Seeking further investigations from the Auditor-General on state highway maintenance and asset management practices. This will build on the 2020 investigation into the Network Outcomes Contracts³ which highlighted poor performance measures for network performance.
- Meeting with relevant Ministers (including Transport, Infrastructure and Finance) on issues with the funding, renewals and asset management of state highways, to highlight the outlined issues.
- Meeting with the Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee and its members at appropriate times to highlight these issues, such as during the annual review of Waka Kotahi.

Progressing this remit would form part of LGNZ's existing, broader advocacy work on transport.

¹ <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/assets/PDFs/Analysing-trends-in-road-transport-funding-November-2022.pdf?vid=3>

² <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/business-price-indexes-december-2022-quarter/>

³ <https://oag.parliament.nz/2020/nzta-contracts>

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

New Plymouth District Council would be available in an advocacy/committee member capacity to provide input and feedback as LGNZ undertake the tasks outlined in this remit.

Is the remit relevant to local government as a whole?

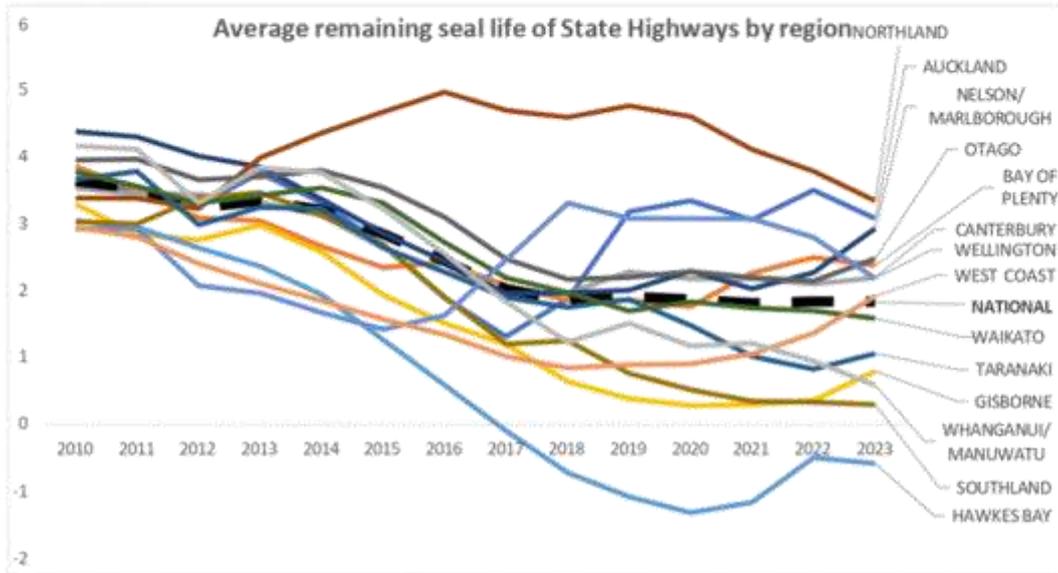
Yes. This remit is about addressing the rundown of our national roading infrastructure and increasing the funding available for the network as a whole. The 23 councils that supported it represent five out of six LGNZ zones, showing it's an issue across local government.

Is the remit of a major policy nature?

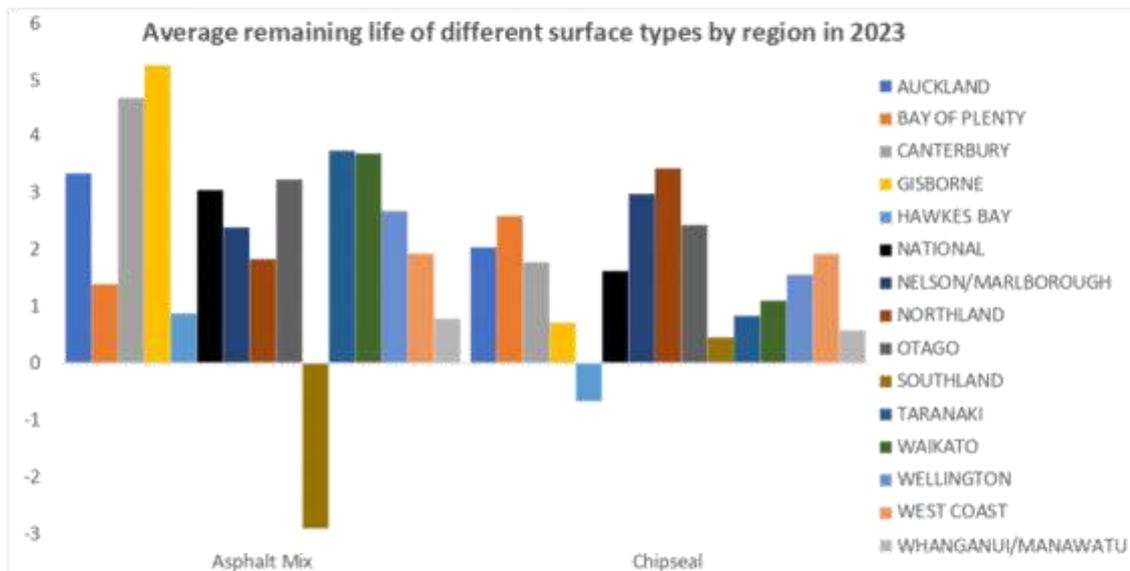
Yes. This remit deals with national funding and a large, system-wide issue that affects the safety of our roads for all New Zealanders.

Supporting Document

Graph 1



Graph 2



// 04**Local election accessibility**

Remit: *That LGNZ ensure Local Government Elections are fully accessible by advocating to central government to make local government candidates eligible for the Election Access Fund.*

Proposed by: Whangārei District Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 1

Why is this remit important?

This remit aims to ensure Local Government Elections are fully accessible to disabled people who decide to stand as a candidate.

This requires action as disabled people make up 25% of New Zealand's population, which makes it the largest minority group. Yet there is almost no representation of people with disabilities in both central and local government.

Background and Context

Local government elections have been inaccessible to candidates with disabilities.

The Election Access Fund (the Fund) currently operates for disabled people who are standing for parliament in the general elections. At present, the Fund does not extend to disabled people standing for local elections.

The disability community tend to have lower disposable incomes than the rest of the population. This makes access to council positions extremely difficult. It is a non-accessible environment, and the general cost of campaigning and other council-associated expenses are prohibitive.

The Fund can be used to pay for disability related costs during selection or campaigning, such as, accessible transport to events or meetings, or New Zealand Sign Language Interpreters.

At the time of the establishment of the Fund, while there was extensive consultation with disability organisations, the disability community expressed deep disappointment that the fund was limited to general elections. The rationale for the exclusion is unclear.

There is no good reason for such exclusion, and it diminishes the principle of enabling disabled people to stand for political roles and undermines New Zealand's commitment to Article 29 of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We know that representation is critical for creating change for any group of people. As the largest minority in New Zealand and in the world, disabled people lack political representation, which leads to poor outcomes.

Having a voice in local government provides a different lens on various issues and has the potential to make a significant difference to disabled people and the wider community.

Whangārei District Council feel that this remit is an obvious extension of a provision that is already in place at central government level.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

LGNZ's vision is to create the most active and inclusive local democracy in the world. Therefore this proposed remit fits squarely in the space of ensuring inclusive participation in local government. Progressing this work could form part of the work LGNZ is already doing to promote greater diversity, equity and inclusion in local government.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Whangārei District Council will support the implementation of the remit to ensure that local accessibility issues are addressed, to enable inclusivity throughout the local government election cycle.

Is the remit relevant to local government as a whole?

Yes.

Is the remit of a major policy nature?

Yes.

Supporting Document



LGNZ Remit – Election Access Fund for Local Elections

Submission: The Disability Advisory Group request that Whangarei District Council (alongside other Northland councils) supports and submits a remit to LGNZ for the Election Access Fund to be extended to local body elections.

Disabled people make up 25% of New Zealand's population, which makes it the largest minority group. Yet there is almost no representation in both central and local government.

It is important that people with lived experience of disability receive the support they need to run in both general and local body elections. Disabled people have a different lens to many issues and lack representation.

There is no reason why this access fund should not be applicable to local government elections. New Zealand ratified the United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD), in 2008. Article 29 of the Convention is Participation in political and public life. The fund is a direct response to that Article.

Background: The Election Access Fund currently operates for disabled people who are standing for parliament in the general elections. At present, this fund excludes disabled people standing for local elections.

"The purpose of the Fund is to reduce cost barriers faced by disabled people by covering disability-related costs which non-disabled candidates do not face. The Fund covers both seeking selection to be a candidate, and campaigning as a candidate. The Fund will enable the Commission to pay for additional costs that candidates incur because of their disability when organising and preparing to stand for Parliamentary elections.

The Fund does not cover local body elections."

Retrieved from the Electoral Commission website: [elections.nz](https://www.elections.nz/)

The disability community tend to have lower disposable incomes than the rest of the population. This makes access to council positions extremely difficult. It is a non-accessible environment, and the general cost of campaigning and other council-associated expenses are prohibitive.

The Fund can be used to pay for disability related costs during selection or campaigning. For example, accessible transport to events or meetings, or New Zealand Sign Language Interpreters.

At the time of the establishment of the fund, while there was extensive consultation with disability organisations, the disability community expressed deep disappointment that the fund was limited to general elections. The rationale for the exclusion is unclear.

There is no good reason for such exclusion, and it diminishes the principle of enabling disabled people to stand for political roles and undermines NZ's commitment to Article 29 of the UNCRPD.

We know that representation is critical for creating change for any group of people. As the largest minority in NZ and in the world, disabled people lack political representation, which leads to poor outcomes. Northland elected members should also note that their region has the second highest rate of disability at 29% according to the 2013 Disability Stats (which is being conducted again this year).

Having a voice in local government provides a different lens on various issues and has the potential to make a significant difference to disabled people and the wider community.

// 05

Ability for co-chairs at formal meetings

Remit: *That LGNZ explores and promotes options that enable councils to make greater use of co-chair arrangements for standing committees, joint committees and sub committees.*

Proposed by: Northland Regional Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 1

Why is this remit important?

There is currently a lack of clarity around what arrangements councils can adopt to enable co-chairs for standing committees, joint committees and sub-committees. This is despite growing emphasis on increasing diversity in our governing arrangements, including by the Future for Local Government Review. Enabling councils to easily appoint co-chairs is one way to increase diversity and inclusion by providing opportunities for under-represented groups, including Māori, to take a more active role in local governance. More clarity is needed for councils on how to adopt effective co-chairing arrangements.

Background and Context

The Northland Regional Council (NRC), like many councils in New Zealand, has been continually looking at the different ways it can work effectively with its Te Tiriti o Waitangi partners. To deliver on that commitment it has established a number of joint committees and working parties, for example a Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee. This committee was established in 2021 by the four Northland councils to ensure an effective, efficient, and equitable response to the impacts of climate change. The joint committee has 50/50 membership with each council appointing an elected member and an iwi/hapu representative. It believes that this committee would benefit from a co-chairing arrangement.

There is currently a lack of clarity around whether joint committees, standing committees and sub-committees can have co-chairs. Making it easier for councils to adopt co-chair arrangements would help to increase diversity and inclusion in local government decision-making.

Co-chair arrangements can also be a helpful way of building knowledge and skills amongst new elected members who may have little experience of local government – especially representatives from sectors of communities who are often under-represented, such as youth and migrant communities. Working alongside existing chairs can help to de-mystify council processes and support councils and communities to develop a more diverse and inclusive group of future leaders.

This remit would give LGNZ scope to explore current barriers to co-chair arrangements, find ways to overcome those barriers, and undertake work to support councils to make greater use of co-chair arrangements, for example providing guidance and/or sharing best practice examples.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

The particular issue the remit raises is not currently part of LGNZ's work programme. However, it aligns with two of LGNZ's goals: that more people value and participate in local government, and stronger Te Tiriti-based partnerships between local government and Māori. The remit also aligns with LGNZ's focus on increasing diversity and inclusion in local government, and the Future for Local Government Review's focus on increasing participation in local government. This remit proposes taking action that would enhance that existing work.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

NRC would be advocates, alongside LGNZ, for any necessary changes in legislation required to provide the ability for Co-Chairs on council standing committees, joint committees and sub committees.

Is the remit relevant to local government as a whole?

Yes

Is the remit of a major policy nature?

Yes: the remit provides an option for increasing diverse and inclusive participation in council decision-making processes. This would also help to ensure local governance practice reflects the content and spirit of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

// 06**Parking infringement penalties**

Remit: *That LGNZ advocate to central government to enable councils to determine penalties for parking infringements.*

Proposed by: Whangārei District Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 1

Why is this remit important?

Currently penalties for parking infringements are set by legislation and are not appropriate for the cost of resourcing the infringements, nor set at a level that is appropriate for the infringement.

Background and Context

Currently the Land Transport (Offences and Penalties) Regulations 1999, Schedule 1B Part 1 sets the amount for parking infringements and the Transport (Towage fees) Notice 20204 sets the towage fees.

Whangārei District Council is currently charging the allowable amounts under this legislation but is unable to recover actual public land towing costs from the vehicle owner.

This remit advocates for penalties to be able to be set at a local level so that they are appropriate to the costs, with particular focus on:

- ensuring that clearway towing fees allow councils to recover full costs associated with towing on clear ways, and
- allowing councils to consider increases to infringement fees for misuse of disability parking spaces.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

LGNZ is not currently working on this particular issue. However, this remit aligns with LGNZ's priority to campaign for greater local decision-making and localism, in that it advocates for councils setting parking infringement penalties at a local level that resonate with the local community - to ensure rate payers are not subsidising these activities and that those misusing services are contributing appropriately.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Whangārei District Council will support any proposed changes to the legislation that will allow for parking infringements to be set at a local level, and will also provide support if the preferred approach is to update legislation to ensure parking infringements are in line with current resourcing costs for these infringements.

Is the remit relevant to local government as a whole?

Yes. This remit calls for legislative change to the Land Transport (Offences and Penalties) Regulations 1999 to allow all councils to determine penalties for parking infringements and towage fees appropriate to their local area.

Is the remit of a major policy nature?

In part. This remit is calling for legislative change, but it is a relatively narrow request and we need to test members' level of interest further.

// 07**Rural and regional public transport**

Remit: *That LGNZ:*

- *Acknowledges the Government stated support for a major uplift in all urban bus networks nationwide under New Zealand's first emission reduction plan.*
- *Calls on the Government and opposition parties to commit to increasing investment in public transport for rural and regional communities to support access to essential services and amenities, vibrant rural communities and just transition to a low emission transport system.*

Proposed by: Waikato Regional Council

Supported by: Zone 2 Meeting May 2023. Remit discussed and received unanimous support.

Why is this remit important?

Improving public transport is both an opportunity to reduce transport emissions and support a just transition to a low emission economy by providing a cheap alternative to increasing costs of owning and running a conventionally fuelled car.

A lack of explicit support for rural and regional public transport services means these communities will be exposed to the wider suite of policy shifts supporting a transition to a low emission transport system, without any meaningful alternative transport options.

Many of New Zealand's rural and regional communities have high proportions of people on low and fixed incomes and for whom the financial or practical barriers to owning an electric vehicle will be too great.

Sustainable funding for these rural and regional public transport solutions will be important to provide rural and regional communities the confidence that they will not be left behind as New Zealand transitions to a low emission transport system.

Background and Context

The Government's emission reduction plan (2022) and subsequent policy and transport funding opportunities including Climate Emission Reduction Fund opportunities, are targeted at optimising investment in terms of carbon emission reductions.

Meanwhile several policies that were specifically intended to support a just transition have been recently abandoned and investment signals for rural and regional public transport have been muted.

Investing in rural and regional public transport is a strategic and sustainable way to improve the quality of life and economic opportunities for people living outside urban areas. Rural and regional public transport can provide multiple benefits, such as:

- Access for people on fixed incomes: Many rural residents, especially the elderly, disabled, and low-income groups, do not have access to private vehicles or cannot afford to use them frequently. Public transport can offer them a more affordable and reliable way to access essential services, such as health care, education, shopping, and social activities. Public transport can also reduce their isolation and enhance their well-being.
- A just transition to a low carbon transport system: Public transport can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution by shifting people away from using private cars. Public transport can also support the development of renewable energy sources, such as biofuels, solar, geothermal, and wind power, by providing the infrastructure and demand for them. Public transport can also contribute to climate change adaptation by improving the resilience of rural communities to extreme weather events and natural disasters.
- Support for local economies: Public transport can link people with essential services such as healthcare. Public transport can also be an important force in supporting local economies by connecting residents (especially non-drivers) with local businesses and job opportunities. Public transport can also attract tourists and visitors to rural areas, creating more income and employment opportunities.

It is important to note public transport does not just mean a 30-seater bus. Public transport authorities like the Waikato Regional Council are becoming increasingly innovative with the services they provide and support – be they community transport services or on-demand mini-bus services, the solutions being increasingly tailored to needs of local communities.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ’s current work programme?

Transport affordability and accessibility is already a part of LGNZ’s policy and advocacy work programme, but there’s no current work to gain cross-party support for better public transport for rural and regional communities. Work to progress this remit could be integrated into LGNZ’s broader transport advocacy work programme.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Waikato Regional Council did not specifically outline how it might work with LGNZ on progressing this remit in its application form but noted:

Many public transport authorities such as the Waikato Regional Council are already providing some rural and regional public transport services in the form of Total Mobility (subsidised taxi fares), support for community transport service providers, and some more traditional bus-based public transport.

These have been highly valued by those communities, providing many people with affordable access to essential services and amenities.

Demand for these services is growing, however the ability to afford the council or National Land Transport Fund shares is increasingly constrained.

Is the remit relevant to local government as a whole?

Yes. This remit is most relevant to rural and regional councils but aims to reduce New Zealand's transport emissions overall. Improved regional public transport will also benefit provincial and metropolitan councils.

Is the remit of a major policy nature?

Yes. This remit is dealing with public transport investment and a just transition to a low carbon transport system.

// 08

Establishing resolution service

Remit: *That LGNZ:*

- *Investigates the creation of an LGNZ independent, national process to handle complaints or concerns, ensuring fairness, protection, and accountability in local government.*
- *Works with the Local Government Commission⁴ to implement findings from its September 2021 Report – Local Government Codes of Conduct⁵*

Proposed by: Hutt City Council & YEM

Supported by: Invercargill City Council, Far North District Council, Hauraki District Council, Central Otago District Council, Hutt City Council, Selwyn District Council, Porirua District Council

Why is this remit important?

This remit is critically important as it addresses the pressing issue of a lack of a proportionate, flexible, responsive, and independent process/service for handling complaints and concerns in councils and escalating issues within local government.

Background and Context

The proposing and support councils and the Young Elected Members' Committee acknowledge that issues arise across local government that require a range of interventions – from education, mentoring, support, facilitation, mediation, inquiry, investigation, or review.

The absence of a national, standardised and independent process that triages complaints and concerns provides the right intervention for the issue, and managing escalation for complaints within local government has led to the pressing need for action. Currently, councils oversee their own problems on an ad-hoc basis, leaving many complaints unanswered and individuals hesitant to come forward. This lack of a clear and impartial process undermines transparency, accountability, and public trust in local government. It also fails to provide legal protection for complainants and increases the risk of defamation. The Code of Conduct inquiry is often very expensive and results in sanctions (if approved by a majority of Councillors in some cases) in what can only be called the “wet bus ticket”.

The intense scrutiny placed on local body governance by the community emphasises the need for regular external support to drive positive change. Without such support, unresolved issues can

⁴ Referred to as LCG for the balance of this remit

⁵ *Local Government Codes of Conduct/ Ngā tikanga whanonga Kāwanatanga ā-Rohe, Report to the Minister of Local Government, September 2021, Wellington [report found here](#).*

ultimately lead to the involvement of the DIA and the appointment of a commissioner, representing a worst-case scenario.

Relevant legislation, policy, or practice has not adequately addressed this issue, resulting in gaps and inconsistencies in handling complaints. Code of Conduct process enables the issue to be escalated to the Chief Executive. Informal conduct complaints are to be escalated to the Mayor, however if the Mayor is part of the problem this doesn't provide for a safe environment.

If a councillor is to escalate to a Code of Conduct complaint, often this results in a very public fight which also generally results in a public apology that doesn't really resolve anything.

It appears that where there is no national process or independent forum in which to take these issues, issues have been left to escalate or fester leading to governance breakdowns.

The absence of legal protection for complainants further exacerbates the problem, discouraging individuals from raising legitimate concerns.

We acknowledge that the process of investigation opens local government up to media scrutiny and often fails to protect the complainants coming forward. While this is keenly felt by the communities in which it is occurring, it also does a disservice to local democracy and local government generally.

Given the degree of intense community scrutiny on local body governance, regular and external support is often necessary to shift the dial.

Many terms of reference used to investigate complaints often fail to address the core issues comprehensively. Consequently, the necessary outcomes required to restore confidence in councils or individuals are not adequately addressed, resulting in slow progress and ongoing dissatisfaction.

By establishing a comprehensive framework that includes a complaints/issues/support/mediation forum and a tiered escalation process, this remit aims to promote fairness, protect complainants, restore public confidence, strengthen local democracy, and ensure timely and effective issue resolution as well as being cost effective for councils.

Taking action is crucial to uphold good governance, address grievances, and maintain the integrity of local government institutions.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

While there have been some conversations about the need for a national service for addressing complaints about member conduct (including with central government), and LGNZ does provide support to councils, including on an "as requested" basis and by providing a model Code of Conduct at the start of each triennium, work to develop a national, independent process/service is not one of LGNZ's current work priorities.

Work on this remit would align with LGNZ's vision of New Zealand being the most active and inclusive local democracy in the world, and LGNZ's goal that more people value and participate in local government.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

The proposing and supporting councils and Young Elected Members' Committee have all expressed a willingness to support LGNZ with work to progress this remit, including sharing relevant experience and assisting with engaging with Ministers, officials and the Local Government Commission.

Is the remit relevant to local government as a whole?

Yes.

Is the remit of a major policy nature?

Yes: At some stage, virtually all councils will have faced the issue of member misconduct. The tools currently available for dealing with such issues are widely seen as inadequate. There is a need for a proportionate, flexible, responsive, and independent process/service for handling complaints and concerns in councils and an approach that is consistent across all councils.

// 09

Earthquake prone buildings

Remit: *That LGNZ investigate and report to members on ways to help councils and communities that are struggling with the time frames in the Earthquake Prone Building (EPB) sections of the Building Act and council policies pertaining to Priority Thoroughfares.*

Proposed by: Manawatū District Council

Supported by: LGNZ Zone 3

Why is this remit important?

Timeframes to strengthen or demolish earthquake prone buildings (EPBs) range from 50 years in low earthquake risk zones in New Zealand to 7.5 years in high-risk zones where councils have implemented Priority Thoroughfares. As the clock has been ticking for a while, that 7.5 years is already down to less than 5 years. These building owners have been issued notices under the Building Act to strengthen or demolish by a certain date.

While some strengthening has, and is taking place, it is clear that many EPBs will not be strengthened or redeveloped within the required short timeframes. These communities face the prospect of vacant sites, and worse still, abandoned buildings.

In many cases these EPBs have stood through many earthquakes for 70 – 140 years and they have considerable heritage value, but not necessarily with any real heritage protection, and they add positively to the character and aesthetic quality of towns and cities.

EPB owners have major concerns about what will happen in March 2028 when their 7.5 years is up, and other dates in other communities. In many cases they either can't afford to strengthen in the timeframe, or it is not currently financially viable to do so in the current commercial real estate marketplace. There are many cases where the property value is Land Value only, or Land Value less the cost of demolition. The buildings currently provide no added value to the value of the land.

This remit aims to address the timeframes of Priority Thoroughfares in particular, which were imposed as policy by councils, and which triggered the issuing of Building Act notices to strengthen or demolish by a certain date. The issuing of these notices seems to be more difficult to change than amending Priority Thoroughfare policies.

Manawatū District Council is concerned that town and city centres may be destroyed by legislative and policy decisions, rather than by an actual earthquake.

Background and Context

Some towns and cities with low commercial rents and low commercial property values are struggling with the financial viability and affordability of either earthquake strengthening or redeveloping within the short timeframes. These towns and cities have lower pedestrian counts, and therefore earthquakes are of lower risk to human life than in larger cities with higher rents and values, and where both strengthening and redeveloping is more viable.

The legislation gave no criteria in terms of pedestrian or traffic count for Priority Thoroughfares. It was left for councils to decide, and some councils implemented Priority Thoroughfares and some with similar town centres did not. Communities have building owners who are prepared to make progress with strengthening if a longer timeframe existed but are not prepared to commence strengthening knowing that they can't complete all of the work required within the short timeframe required. This is an unforeseen consequence of the short timeframes of the legislation and Priority Thoroughfare policies. Instead of the buildings becoming safer over time, the short timeframe has meant that no safety improvements are taking place in many cases.

An example of this is a prominent two-storey Hotel in Feilding, being a reasonably large Edwardian building built using unreinforced masonry, as are many of Feilding's EPBs. This is a most attractive building voted by the Manawatū community to be their favourite Feilding town centre building. The rent is circa \$70,000 P/A, and the cost to strengthen is circa \$2,000,000 with likely another \$2,000,000 required for renovation. The current use and rental doesn't justify the investment within 5 years. Another use or uses will be required to justify the investment and this will likely happen in the future, but such changes take time.

This remit hopes that compromise solutions, that remove the risk to human life in a timely manner, but in affordable and viable ways will be explored, such as extending the timeframe for strengthening lower-risk parts of buildings. The proposing council recognises that a range of options may be appropriate – including legislative and policy options – and so is keen that these are looked at.

Manawatū District Council has done a lot to help get EPBs strengthened. It has organised subsidised engineering reports through Heritage Equip, held seminars, sought advice, found a strengthening company that offers a fixed price package deal at a good price and without the need for occupants to vacate the building. Along with a few other councils Manawatū District Council has achieved a change in the regulations that lifted the financial threshold for relatively minor work before the full provisions of the Building Act are triggered. It has advocated to MPs from all political parties.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

LGNZ is not currently actively working on this issue but has done work around EPB legislative and policy settings in the past. LGNZ has access to political parties, central government officials and other national stakeholder organisations that could help local government to make progress on this issue.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Several members of Manawatū District Council will assist in any way possible (including participating in working groups, providing case studies and practical examples and experience when engaging with political parties) and will continue with their own efforts and share any useful information.

Is the remit relevant to local government as a whole?

The problem of EPBs affects many councils and communities throughout New Zealand, and particularly those in high- and medium-risk earthquake zones. With less than five years to go for some councils, there is an urgent need to find a compromise solution.

Is the remit of a major policy nature?

Yes

// 10**KiwiSaver contributions for elected members**

Remit: *That LGNZ ask the Government to amend the law to enable councils to make contributions to an elected members' KiwiSaver scheme.*

Proposed by: Hamilton City Council & promoted by CBEC

Supported by: Queenstown Lakes District Council, Palmerston North City Council, New Plymouth District Council, Kāpiti Coast District Council. Far North District Council

Why is this remit important?

Currently, elected members are treated as independent contractors, with no entitlement to employer KiwiSaver contributions, or KiwiSaver deductions. This could be viewed as a disadvantage and a barrier to people standing for election, as the loss in KiwiSaver employer contributions can be in the tens of thousands by the time someone retires from public politics. This leaves elected members without employer contribution support for their retirements, which is provided to most other New Zealanders.

Background and Context

Currently, elected members are considered independent contractors, rather than employees of Council. As such, they are expected to set aside their own KiwiSaver contributions and do not receive any employer contribution.

Members of Parliament became eligible for KiwiSaver, but local government elected members are not. The Remuneration Authority Report on Members of Parliament Remuneration (July 2021) states 'MPs elected after 1992 are entitled to a superannuation subsidy contribution. The scheme can be KiwiSaver or registered retirement savings...'

Hamilton City Council is advocating for changes to the Employment Relations Act 2002 to allow KiwiSaver deductions to be taken from elected members' remuneration, and for employer contributions to be allocated.

The topic of elected member remuneration has been addressed in the draft report *He mata whāriki, he matawhanui*, prepared as part of the Review into the Future for Local Government, resulting in the key recommendations 17 and 18 as set out below:

- 17 - That central and local government, in conjunction with the Remuneration Authority, review the criteria for setting elected member remuneration to recognise the increasing complexity of the role and enable a more diverse range of people to consider standing for election.
- 18 - That local government develops a mandatory professional development and support programme for elected members; and local and central government develop a

shared executive professional development and secondment programme to achieve greater integration across the two sectors.

Hamilton City Council strongly believe that as a sector we should continue to advocate for changes to remuneration (such as those outlined above) to ensure local governance roles remain attractive.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This proposed remit aligns with LGNZ's strategy and policy priorities, including its vision that New Zealand is the most active and inclusive local democracy in the world, and its goal that more people value and participate in local government.

While the issue of KiwiSaver deductions and employer contributions has been highlighted in various submissions LGNZ has made in the past, there has been no official communication to the Minister of Local Government about the implications of elected members not being eligible for KiwiSaver deductions or employer contributions from councils.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Hamilton City Council will continue to advocate for these changes.

Is the remit relevant to local government as a whole?

Yes.

Is the remit of a major policy nature?

Yes: remuneration is a critical factor that citizens consider when deciding to stand or not for election.

// 11

Audit NZ Fees

Remit: *That LGNZ calls on central government to take action to reduce council audit fees by:*

- *revisiting the scope and requirements of reporting and auditing on councils*
- *conducting a review on the practice of audit in councils and work on best practice guidance to streamline this process*

This review should examine whether the reporting and audit requirements of councils are consistent with the level of reporting and audit that is required of other public entities.

Proposed by: Whanganui District Council

Supported by: New Plymouth District Council, Horizons Regional Council, Palmerston North City Council, Stratford District Council, Selwyn District Council

Why is this remit important?

While reporting and audit requirements are important for transparency and accountability, the scope of them are constantly inflating as council work programmes and rates intakes increase over time. These costs are then passed back to the ratepayer during a cost-of-living crisis and with food and housing insecurity steadily increasing. The scale and content of reporting and auditing needs to be reviewed to ensure that they are being conducted efficiently, relate to information that is relevant to the community and to council fulfilling its statutory duties, and is not overly onerous on under-resourced councils.

Background and Context

Local authorities have significant reporting requirements under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). These include annual reports, which review financial and service performance for the preceding financial year, and Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) reports, and audits of Long-Term Plans and Long-Term Plan amendments. In the interests of transparency and accuracy, these reports are required to be audited under the LGA.

The Auditor General is the auditor of all public entities and they determine who will audit specific organisations. Council audits are conducted by Audit New Zealand. We understand that some councils' CCOs have permission to seek other audit providers, but for the vast majority of councils Audit New Zealand is the only allowable provider.

Councils are legally required to conduct an audit but do not have the ability to choose between multiple organisations to conduct it, which prevents competition on cost. Further, there are barriers to the timing and efficiency of the annual audit due to only being able to use one provider. While Whanganui District Council (Council) agrees that the audit is a critical function that provides assurance on information contained within our reports, it questions whether the financial and staffing costs of audits are now exceeding the benefit provided to our communities.

Reporting and auditing are a key part of local democracy. Reporting is a necessary factor for transparency and accountability both to central government and to the communities that councils

serve. Audits ensure that the information being reported is full, accurate, and meets all its requirements under legislation.

Whanganui District Council is also aware of the technical difficulty of conducting audits. Even when conducted by organisations with extensive experience, auditing council financial reports involves working through a significant amount of financial information and highly technical analysis and close familiarity with the accounting standards financial reports are held to.

The amount of work needed to complete an audit also increases over time in line with the amount and complexity of information going into council reports. Councils have increasing expenditure and increasing workloads over time, both internally as a result of work undertaken on behalf of their communities, and externally as outside pressures such as economic conditions, legislation and pressing issues like housing require more direct local investment and management.

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

This is an issue for the entire sector, with many councils expressing concern over the extent of fees required for obligatory audits of our reporting. It aligns with responsiveness to the needs of local government by taking action on a mandatory cost that local government bodies have no control over.

Advocacy on this issue aligns with LGNZ's commitment to localism and championing local voice on issues that are having significant impact at the local level.

LGNZ is aware of members' concerns about audit fees and has been having a number of conversations with Audit New Zealand, the Minister and central government officials. However, this remit would add further weight to the importance of the issue.

How will the proposing council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Whanganui District Council will submit on consultations run by either central government or LGNZ.

Is the remit relevant to local government as a whole?

Yes: all councils are currently required to pay audit fees.

Is the remit of a major policy nature?

Yes.