

Extraordinary meeting of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council

Date: 18 June 2024
Time: 9.00am
Venue: Council Chamber
Hawke's Bay Regional Council
159 Dalton Street
NAPIER

Attachments excluded from Agenda
[available online only](#)

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Flood Resilience Programme - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on the new Flood Resilience Programme. Some commentary is an excerpt of the submitter's full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

	70%/30% rate split	Specific rate	Other	Total
Wairoa				
Operating & Maintenance	132 (71%)	-	54 (29%)	186
Heretaunga extension				
Capital	128 (67%)	-	64 (33%)	192
Operating & Maintenance	132 (69%)	-	58 (31%)	190
Whirinaki Industrial				
Capital	124 (70%)	-	53 (30%)	187
Operating & Maintenance	124 (72%)	-	49 (28%)	173
Whirinaki Other				
Capital	105 (59%)	22 (12%)	51 (29%)	178
Operating & Maintenance	125 (73%)	-	47 (27%)	169
Pōrangahau				
Capital	97 (56%)	25 (14%)	51 (30%)	173
Operating & Maintenance	96 (56%)	28 (16%)	47 (28%)	171

Submissions with commentary (133)

Entry Id	Name	Please tell us more below
5	Sam Hartree	85 targeted 15 general as they are the people receiving the majority of the benefit
48	Carina Chambers	I believe there is NOT enough communication between land owners/farmers and councils to work together on waterways, plantings, infrastructure and many more issues that contributed to our latest disaster. I So many stuff ups/ shocking management by people/councillors who have NO idea about the land they are issuing orders about, on and to! We need less people in the office driving round in big utes inspecting and critiquing things they have no experience in! Young mid 20's telling 50 to 60 year old farmers how to farm their land! Less bureaucrats and more hands on would be more helpful! Halve the councils both of them and the remaining ones should be accountable for their decisions good and bad. Stop the unnecessary expenditure until we have the necessary infrastructure in place!
91	William Roberts	All of the schemes - should be looking at managed retreat
96	Madison Pullen	Cancel the four way highway and use the money for rebuilding.

116	E deB0Order	Where is Clive/Haumoana/Te Awanga in the plan? Nor Puketapu???? Where is there a contribution (Excessively large) from Forestry the creators of the forestry slash that was a major contribution to the storm?
121	Jeremy Smith	for each of the areas Initial Capital and Operating and Maintenance rating model: 70/30 split
122	Peter Alexander	Do not change the basis for calculating rates. There is no justifiable reasoning to do so. Rather, stage/ stagger/ defer parts and/ or all pipelined projects to reflect affordability based on the current rates structure. The HBRC needs to cut its cloth to afford what is affordable here and now. Not expand ratepayer contributions through taking a different calculation methodology approach. Especially at a time when the HB region is recovering from both physical and economic cyclone damage and a central government that paid nil attention to the economic drivers of our economy during the past 6 years. Implement HBRC projects incrementally yet still progressively within bounds of current affordability.
128	I Fraser Clark	Proceed with the proposed rating for Category 2 flood protection schemes. It is unrealistic to expect commenters to assess and comment on the 17 page statement of proposal.
153	Central Hawke's Bay District Council	<p>Pōrangahau Flood Resilience</p> <p>21. We would like to acknowledge Hawke's Bay Regional Council for their ongoing leadership in supporting this important kaupapa for the Pōrangahau community, including proactively considering the affordability issues when investing in flood infrastructure options for this severely impacted area of Central Hawke's Bay.</p> <p>22. In particular, Council welcomes the proposal for a bespoke arrangement for the new Category 2 flood scheme in Pōrangahau. As presented in the discussion document both the 70/30 split (as per the Revenue and Financing Policy) and 50/50 split options would present an unaffordable burden on the majority of the Pōrangahau community given the small footprint and low-socio economic status of the area. A 100% bespoke general rate to fund both the initial capital investment and ongoing operation/maintenance of the scheme presents a far more affordable way of funding this capital investment – at relatively small additional cost to the general rate payer.</p> <p>23. We wish to reaffirm our support for developing and finalising flood mitigation designs and gaining community support to move the affected properties in Pōrangahau from category 2A to 2C and eventually to 1. In particular we wish to ensure that the final design and solutions that will enable Pōrangahau to move through the categories have been considered holistically across the range of assets owned by both Hawke's Bay Regional Council (e.g., stopbanks, stormwater drains) and Central Hawke's Bay District Council (stormwater, roads, bridges etc).</p> <p>24. This is particularly important to ensure that any perverse outcomes from investment in flood mitigation options (for example on stormwater drains or on roads) are minimised or preferably avoided. The community of Pōrangahau (and across our district) expects both councils to work 'hand in hand' on these issues, and we stand prepared to support Hawke's Bay Regional Council in this important work.</p>
163	Andrew Knox	I would have thought that the HBRC, along with the Hastings DC, would have had an emergency/ disaster fund to protect rate payers from these type of huge rates increases. Let's face it, a huge earthquake, which will hit us once day, will cause far more damage than the cyclone. Is like to think that over the years you've been putting money aside. No matter what we say, a rates increase is on its way.
182	John Kavanagh	Capital investments should follow Existing policy or consider a 50/50. Beyond that the risk of an area is being absorbed by less risky properties. These costs should be reflected in the risk of the applicable property rates. This relates to all schemes
189	Margaret Symons	Heretaunga. You are on the right track by putting more money into this. You've missed out the Tutaekuri though. Some of us pay rates to Hastings as well as the Regionl Council. Springfield Rd is a mess. The Turirau Stream needs to be parallel to the Tutaekuri at the Springfield Rd entry point so that in the next flood the Turirau doesn't turn back and flood the valley like it did in Gabrielle. Additionally the Mission 800 house subdivision needs its stormwater diverted to the sea not the Tutaekuri. Next time the additional load could flood much of Taradale.
204	Brian webby	Gabrielle proved that the current ratings system is unfair, the Paeroa B scheme did not do the serious damage. THE WAIROA RIVER DID IT. The current rating system is unfair as it targets but a few, and some of those do not benefit. Everyone on flat land from frawsertown to the coast should pay a fair share. They either benefit or potentially benefit. The Paeroa B scheme cannot work properly because of the issues with the wairoa river. Remove the

		railway line to its preconstruction elevations and stop building houses where they have repeatedly flooded. the wairoa river is to blame for all the issues around here, so think big and long term, a breakwater wall out sea to keep the river moving around create other benefits also removing the railway line to pre construction elevations lowering Carroll St at least 600mm and maybe at several other places between the wairoa river rail bridge and northe clyde you would hardly notice that do not build stop banks as they cause worse disasters
210	CLIFF King Mahia ratepayers assn	Would the Regional Council please remove the massive piles of log chips it has deposited on the Public beachfront Reserve at Mahia Beach. The piles are obstructing locals [ratepayers] and visitors access to the foreshore, exacerbated by the aggressive attitude of the on site contractor.
215	Henderson Sissiel	Across the whole of Hawkes Bay I would like to know how you are working with those areas. My main worry is the Wairoa district. My whenua is in Mohaka which has the Mohaka River as one boundary.
216	Neil Eagles	As I am not a resident of Hastings unable to comment on their plans.
217	John Kwon	Flooding occurs consistently during heavy rain at the junction of Avon Terrace and Neeve Road when the Taipo Stream overflows. This severely affects residents of this area, with flooding of houses and destroying property. We are proud Taradale residents, some having resided in this area for near 30 years. During this time I have seen this area be affected by heavy rain over and over again with flooded garages and ruined cars. A large contributor to the problem stems from an insufficient drainage system in comparison to upstream and downstream areas. While the upstream section between Church Road and Ngarimu Crescent (marked 1) has three pipes, and downstream near Church Road Winery features a large bridge (marked 3), the Avon Terrace and Neeve Road intersection only has two smaller drain pipes (marked 2). We request that you please improve drainage in this region to mitigate future flooding incidents either by installing three pipes under the Neeve Road intersection (marked 2) or installing a large bridge such as in Knightsbridge (marked 4 & 5). See my submission attached for pictures and diagrams
219	Malcolm Blair	Use the shingle from the river bed to build concrete roads. This will help flood water flow and make stronger concrete roads. Make a good strong steel mould that can be moved along, a bit like laying a rail line. The slabs could be linked together with a dovetail type joint. This is a simple version that i am sure your expert engineers could enhance to make it work
245	Gina Prosser	I don't fall under any of these categories, therefore why should I have to contribute!
246	Denese Lovich	Why should home owners be paying for something that was not their choice, had no say where and who the money went to. There was a lack of restriction on where and who the money/food went to. Some people were milking the system when they weren't even affected by the flood. While there are some home owners who are in a financial position to pay the high increase of rates (maybe they own multiple homes/rentals) but some of us are struggling to pay our mortgages, insurances etc. mean while you guys are giving our money away and it's the home owners that have to pay. It's bullshit.
248	Jody Hamilton	Porangahau - 100% GR for both
259	Kayla Knibb	It is not okay to expect families and middle class earners to front up the huge increase in rates. Council need to suck it up and spread the money over years. And carry the debt. I've worked too hard to be carrying the costs of everybody living in flood prone areas
268	John Paton	My observation since Cyclone is that there has been a lot of hard work put in by so many but the wasted money by double handling and over the top amount of safety cones etc on sites. The best work was the initial teams that went out and used common sense and got the job done. Focus needs to be on permanent repairs to withstand massive environmental issues like floods and earthquakes.

271	Greg porcer	All flood schemes for national disaster should be funded by central government for which we pay significant income tax. No district is big enough to even scrap the surface without putting them and its population under for years to come.
292	Martyn Gyde	Only do the essential work, once cuts in expenditure has occurred and freed up funds for this work
298	Edward Smith	raise stopbanks. keep supporting suburban busses. thanks ed.
305	Stephen Esposito Awatoto Industry Action Group (AIAG)	<p>The Awatoto Industry Action Group (AIAG) was formed to improve the resiliency of Awatoto to rain and flood events. We have been working closely with HBRC in both upgrading the level of service of the stormwater drainage and pumping infrastructure, as well as the flood protection from severe flooding of the Tutaekuri/Ngaruroro Rivers. We have reviewed the HBRC Three-Year Plan 2024-2027 and the associated Infrastructure Strategy, and we offer the following feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support additional funding directed toward civil defence and the upgrade of the telemetry network. These efforts will improve the region's ability to manage flood risks. • We support including the upgrades to the Mission/Brookfields/Pakowhai pumpstations and associated infrastructure including drains and culverts in the financial commitment for the period. In order to increase the level of service, we emphasise the need to upgrade the pumping capacity of the Mission pumping station, provide reliable backup generation, and ensure the drainage system performs adequately to direct water to the pump station. We encourage HBRC to submit the business case to Crown Infrastructure Partners as a high priority and to establish a completion timeframe with the community. • We support the review of the Heretaunga Plains Flood Control Scheme and await the results. We encourage HBRC to increase the Level of Service of this scheme to 1:500 return period and at the same time evaluate how to effectively mitigate the effects of an over-design storm. We note that no financial commitment to these necessary improvements has been identified in the 3 year plan. Future plans will need to include these commitments. • We note there is no mention of the proposed Awatoto secondary containment scheme in the three-year plan. AIAG is working with HBRC to design and consent a system that would protect Awatoto from future inundation in the event of another over-design flood such as what occurred with Cyclone Gabrielle. We request that HBRC includes this project in the three-year plan as our goal is to construct the scheme in the 2024/25 summer period. This scheme is important to the businesses in Awatoto, and their insurers, including the Napier City Council wastewater treatment plant- a key piece of infrastructure which is not currently adequately protected from severe flooding (i.e., a storm over a 1:100 return period). • We support your goal to build up staff capacity, and encourage staff to be able to engage with us in a timely fashion and make timely decisions. We support the application of the Order-In-Council process to the Awatoto projects to speed up decision-making.
325	Wendy Rapaea	I don't think rates should go up to support this 3 year proposal, we already pay too much on our Council Rates, you are being greedy with this increase. You receive millions from the government for Cyclone Gabrielle and didn't us that money appropriately so I have no confidence that this increase will benefit me and my area.
330	Bevan Jenkins	For Wairoa, I think the targeted rates are probably too much for the small town, and subsidising it with a split biased more towards general rates would help support wairoa. I'd be happy to do that.
341	Greg Donnison	In principle I believe there is a shared responsibility across the entire region to provide the CAPITAL EXPENDITURE required to build/rebuild all flood protection systems under HBRC's watch. However, the MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE for each flood protection system should be weighted towards ratepayers in each catchment where each flood protection system resides. They benefit directly from these protections systems and they should bear the primary burden for financing the maintenance of these systems.
357	Kannitha Sok	The RV is very compare with the market value. So, I think RV should be decreased. Thanks

366	Phil Lascelles	Long term investment, should be funded by long term loans that are repaid in line with investment benefit realisation. The costs of these therefore become multi-generational.
374	Simon Beale	All the above areas need help to protect them, but some areas should not be rebuilt as they have properties that should not be in those locations. We need to make sure the infrastructure is built fit for purpose, reading may need re-aligning (Napier - Wairoa & Napier Taupo through Eskdale) Use the port sale investments to fund these and a minor rate increase.
426	Leonie Bennett	I bought in an area that does not flood on purpose 39yrs ago . My rates were \$525 a year. They are now \$310 a month. (\$3720 a year now)Regional rates didn't exist then & came in about 15 years ago at \$120 a year . Now going up to \$70 approx a month. I got 1 puddle in Cyclone Gabrielle. . I don't go to Napier now because of the ruined roads and cutter pipes (cheeses graters). Had an ambulance up the back of my car but couldn't pull over for it to pass as roads have been narrowed so much (Someone could have been dying in it). Worked hard all my life to pay mortgage off now rates etc sky rocketed so I can help subsidise those that rebuilt in flood areas after last few floods . Those Areas should have had rebuilding stopped . Oh and my insurances have gone up too to help pay for others rebuilding . How is this fair. User pays ?!!!! Now retired and have to try and pay these bills as earning half as much as I was when working. No wonder my son and his family moved to Brisbane (that's one less physio and nurse for NZ). Hope my daughter and son in law don't move or that's a teacher and builder gone. I was a teacher and gave my all for 42 yrs so I could sit at home and hardly afford to live now even though I worked and saved hard and made all the right decisions just to get penalised for not owing anyone anything. No Dont want to pay more. I have paid my share made the right decisions didn't get flooded so why should I pay for others who rebuilt in flood areas
436	Anon	HBRC manages flood schemes, you didn't manage the cyclone flooding at all. The schemes you started and experts did not foresee the issues eg slash from forestry? or other man made neglect on infrastructure that you did not handle resulting in having to pay higher rates due to your mismanagement not climate change. You should be disbanded.
437	Anon	Stopbanks are designed by engineers and carefully constructed in layers to withstand flood water. Hawkes Bay Regional Council manages multiple flood control and drainage schemes. Engineers monitor the level of protection by these schemes to ensure that homes and property will stay safe and dry in the future!
457	Kate Parker	we should be investing in flood resilience and maintaining our rivers. we need to minimise damage from natural disasters
504	Ruth Holmes	This is obviously a very contentious area my own personal opinion, since Hastings DC has behaved so poorly over maintenance is the that the Regional Council should set the standard by doing the Capital build and then put stringent processes in place for the local DC's to do required maintenance. This comment covers all the areas mentioned above Wairoa, Whirinaki, Heretaunga and Pōrongahau.
516	Tania Luscombe	Whirinaki Industrial to bear majority of the costs directly
522	Alan Passchier	Interesting that a lot of funding seem to go towards rebuilding a flood prone areas not to mention tsunami risk , hence no point answering any of the questions related to this, I believe it should stay unoccupied land or for recreational purposes e.g walking mountain biking. High risk zones eg flooding /tsunami zones should pay a premium ,
529	Darren Cooper	The new stop banks needs to be targeted at the residents and landowners who live there. People make informed decisions on where they live and that includes risk and protection costs from those risks.
535	George Spiers	Capital works should be borrowed to spread the financial load across the generations who will ultimately be benefiting from these works. Annual maintenance work should come from rates
541	Rachel Munro	General rates increase for everyone - related to Porangahau
563	Lauren Jones	For all flood schemes the capital cost should be 100% targeted rate with maintenance per the standard R& F policy split,

571	Brendon Rope	Relates to all of the above: Apply the 50/50 TR/GR option. Rationale is that while we have all been impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle in some way those that lost property and had their livelihoods severely impacted deserve additional support from the wider constituency.
574	Greg Reynolds	My catchment area is not in this section so my comment is that rate payers in these areas above need to pay for the increased investment in their area as they receive the benefit from it.
579	Penny Reynolds	Rates should all paid by those who benefit. eg if stopbanks prevent Hastings city from flooding; then Hastings city residents should be paying for it.
592	Miriam Jardine	To all flood schemes if Region la Council borrowing money wait until interest rates drop.
629	Peter Culloty	Not to sure of rates for new flood mitigation schemes
643	Ken Rowe	The rating model has been decided by sensible people so I don't question their decision. I am surprised with year 3 dropping to 9% increase?
647	Andrew Pearce Kaiangaroa Residents Association	Rating models for Flood Control Schemes We support 100% General Rates for both Initial Capital and Operating and Maintenance for Wairoa, Heretaunga, Whirinaki (Industrial), Whirinaki (Other), and Porangahau. Council's Preferred option of 70% Targeted and 30% General Rates will add \$12.53/year (\$0.24c/week) to average rates. Taken all together, full General Rate funding will amount to a modest \$33.52/year increase (\$0.65c/week) to average rates (\$21/year more than the Preferred option). We think it is appropriate for all ratepayers to fully fund these schemes which will provide protection and support to communities who have suffered greatly from Cyclone Gabrielle. We are surprised that the rating requirements for these are only in the order of \$30/year per property (even though there may be more to come in future years) when compared with the rates increases of several hundred dollars we see for our individual properties. We address the obvious questions arising from this discrepancy in the section headed Financial Strategy.
653	Robert Gardiner	My comments are regarding all flood areas. Individuals and businesses and all others that build their homes, businesses and livelihoods on flood plains, river courses, erosion prone areas, beach fronts etc should have to finance their own recovery through insurance or other self-finance options. This is not the responsibility of other rate payers who have already been raped by Regional and City Councils with annual rate rises. Regional and City Councils and Councillors who pass or have passed permits for building houses in these areas should be able to be sued and if death occurs, criminally charged. Flood resilience cost should be to the land owners this is protecting and not passed on to rate payers already raped by Regional and City Councils. Flood control will only happen if the land is put back to the way nature made it. Man has abused the land for more than a 150years and it will take another 150 years to recover if we leave the planet. Good luck with that one.
671	Linda Crabtree	Heretaunga extension - both 100% general
677	Marcel van Hooijdonk	Happy with a general increase across the board BUT only if in Haumoana the replenishment of the Groyne is done the replenishment of the sea crest is done The Haumoana pump station is made resilient (generator) and pumping capacity to suit.
679	Harataki Manihiera	I want to see more evidence of tangata whenua actually having a voice in all of these suggestions above and then applying what they are saying. I only know after 63 years that capital build, operating etc, etc is the usual go to.
696	Peter Williamson	A property at Onepoto needs road access with SH 35 maintained, ideally fully sealed , and culverts kept clear, but little else from HBRC.
697	Bob Alkema	Support the reasons set o it for the higher proportion of general rate
702	Faye Te Nahu	Listen to the rangatira of the area to gage and understanding of the whenua, the changes to the climate and how this effects us

711	William Gray	My comments are general, with specific knowledge and focus on Heretaunga and Wairoa. Capital builds should be funded directly by the beneficiaries, these being industrial, commercial and residential land owners, Councils (to reduce future shocks) and Central Government (to reduce future shocks). With Tier 2 land, I recommend you first step back and take what I call a "satellite look". With the increasing impacts of climate change can you ever now fully protect Tier 2 land? Will insurance companies accept anything but? Or should HBRC and other Councils face the bitter pill that Tier 2 and 3 land cannot be fully protected and consider carefully what reduced levels of service from flood protection schemes would look like? This in turn will drive better land use changes and better community understanding of what resilience means.
716	Maurice Field	Use the over \$500 million dollars government gave you first
717	Gabriela + Ralf Spindler	For the Heretaunga flood scheme the 70/30 split makes the most sense to me.
729	Kim van Hooijdonk	Agreeable to an increase in rates, if it includes a more proactive implementation of flood protection measures for Haumoana Pump Station and Locals. The flood victims have requested the Cyclone Damaged Sea Crest be rebuilt. To achieve this Consents need to be re-worded and shingle needs to be supplied as part of the Cyclone Recovery Fund. The works group needs to re-use the shingle from opening the river mouth for rebuilding the Sea Crest as agreed with locals. The Water Retention Stock Bank in Haumoana Domain needs the Height raised to prevent flooding of infrastructure and overloading the Pump Station. The drains and estuaries feeding the Pump Station need Cyclone debris removed, maintaining and widening. The Pump Station needs a permanent generator, instead of relying on staff to transport a generator from the hub. The pump station need a one way valve to prevent storm water returning to residence. The stock bank by the Tuki Tuki River estuary needs repairing, where the sea took a chunk out of it.
730	Don Ryder	Of these, only Heretaunga falls within areas that concern my location but my general submission for all of these programmes is that TIMES are TOUGH out there! Pensioners, superannuants and families simply cannot afford the council's unacceptable proposal for a 19% rate increase. Only those items that are absolutely essential should be implemented at this time. Defer everything else and wait for things to get a bit better.
753	Karena Sutherland	The proposed increase in rates is going to push a lot of families who are already struggling in this financial climate over the edge. This will flow onto people's health and children's education. Some families are not financially stable at the moment or are just managing and this extravagant increase will tip the balance. Stop all extras like art around the region and just do the bare minimum and leave the rates the same.
772	Jeanette Darwen	Should be shared amongst all rate payers as the roading etc is used by all Pakowhai Waiohiki
794	Christine Hay	How can we afford 200% increases on these rates? You need to think of options (not ask us for them). That's what you get paid for
795	Garth Eyles	Flood control schemes The only rationale presented for flood mitigation schemes is that they will protect category two areas. The decision seems to have been made that these areas will get a flood control scheme whereas I doubt this is a valid approach. Wairoa. In the 1990s the Regional Council looked into a flood control scheme for Wairoa and decided against it. What has changed now other than a major flood event? Would it not be better to shift residences from the flood prone areas to the higher land areas - say behind hospital? Whirinaki flood scheme. Flood protection is appropriate for the industrial areas as it would protect the biggest industry in Hawkes Bay. It needs to be done as soon as possible. However, for Whirinaki [other] the scheme appears to protect either a dispersed group of houses or the new settlement down on the coast. I question whether just because people have been allowed to build new residences in an unsafe area ratepayers should be required to provide flood protection. That they are there proves bad planning decisions have been made and we are paying for the consequences. So I do not support a flood control scheme for this group. Porangahau flood scheme. The "Have your say document" says a return interval for the size of cyclone Gabrielle is around 80 years. Surely then there is no rush to do this project now - could be deferred for a decade or more. Or more logically time taken to look at whether, with climate change, sea level rise etc, etc houses should be there at all! And whether the village should be shifted to a more resilient environment. This could be done over

		time. Parts of Heretaunga. The Heretaunga plains is one of the food baskets of New Zealand and as such the flood control schemes must be designed to provide long term protection. However, does this need to include all the plains? Do the category 2 areas need the same level protection as the other areas? This was the first flood event in this area in the scheme's history's 60 years and so maybe, if these areas are not large, they could be protected by a less costly protection process such as not allowing residences.
798	Jenny Elliott	My comments relate to the capital build on each of the schemes. Some ratepayers are unable to afford the enormous rates increases proposed by our 5 councils. This will widen the inequities of our society. And rates increases are expected to continue to rise. HBRC has a \$500m investment portfolio, including \$25m of property in Wellington. The sale of some assets could fund essential work to improve the resilience of our communities. The council has said it would not do this because of 'intergenerational equity'. (LTP 1921-31, pg 8) But surely improving the future resilience of our communities from the impacts of climate change is intergenerational equity. The option of some asset sales should be put to ratepayers.
808	Brian Martin	I agree with the starting point of the existing provisions 70% Targeted 30% General. However, as I am not directly affected with a targeted rate and not a position to have view, I would like the Council to consider the specific input of those directly affected in its final decision
819	Sam McLennan	You are doubling my regional rate bill (yes 100%) increase. This is completely unacceptable and I won't have it. You quite simply will have to reduce projects, staff and out puts and make do with the current amount I pay. Time to tighten cut the fat
822	Helen Pearce	I support the submission sent by Andrew Pearce and all the recommendations and suggestions that he has made and I have asked him to speak on my behalf ..
825	Joanna Donovan	Where the stopbanks are currently I believe you need to find the money within what you currently have. For your new builds (Whirinaki) I am at a loss to find that you haven't made a plan for this. After the flood of 2018 I believe you (council) said must build a stopbank on the Esk River, whilst this would have no affect for Gabrielle it does show a level of either arrogance or stupidity on behalf of the council that you did not follow this through
827	Sera	Whatever will be the lowest cost to all ratepayers and that will not disadvantage the property owners in these areas. Please look into obtaining more central government funding to cover costs where possible to alleviate the burden to Hawke's Bay Regional Council ratepayers.
853	Elaine Plesner	I think that it's the right decision to ask the whole community to fund the bulk of the cost rather than just those directly affected. This is for all the flood schemes and especially where the community is socio economically disadvantaged.
856	Paul Baker	In each case of rebuilding (capita builds) the costs should be borne entirely by the beneficiaries of the scheme in the specific locality to which it applies, and to all such ratepayers with no exemption under any other Act by virtue of other status. Capital works should be amortised over the life of resource constructed. In other words, capital works should be paid off by straight line loans that terminate when the economic life of the stop bank / drain / culvert / bridge / or monitoring device ends. This may be between 10 and 100 years depending on the item. This gives intergenerational equity in the resource and debt. Operating and maintenance costs should also be apportioned 100% to the beneficiaries of that resource - i.e. the local ratepayers, not ratepayers in another valley system or another town or District. The idea of a 70 /30 % split of costs (or other percentage proportion) over a wide range of HBRC projects is misguided, and borders on misappropriation of ratepayers funds. The above comments relate to all flood schemes - no cross subsidisation.
857	Michael Dalzell	We live in Pakowhai in a property categorised as 2c. We do not support splitting flood protection costs 70/30 . We agree ratepayers who benefit should pay more but the split should be 20/80 in with the 20% being the targeted rate. 3 principal reasons. 1) All ratepayers benefit from Pakowhai being productive. 2)All ratepayers benefit from the arterial route that passes through Pakowhai. 3)Pakowhai community has become severely disjointed by the flood and reactions to it. Many people have moved out. Many have suffered financially. Some have suffered health problems. To place a disproportionately heavy rate burden on Pakowhai residents at this time would hinder the communities ability to rebuild itself and regain its heart.
862	Sarah Wilson	If the prices are to go up any higher I am worried I will have to sell up, I am on my own and struggling as it is.

863	Anna Lorck	Open the war chest and support a regional capital contribution to protect all of HB as all of HB will benefit. Open the war chest and provide a plan to help fund and prioritise flood protection while reducing debt burden on ratepayers. Council is making out in its consultation report that it is spending \$250 million on flood protection - it is not - this includes \$203m of Government money. The council has made a chilling confession that it is working blind (with three reviews about to be released) and yet has taken it upon themselves that it knows better when managing our ratepayer investments and increasing rates accordingly to borrow and increase debt. Please release the financial strategy and advice that demonstrates how will this will happen - and the modelling behind it along with the full risk analysis and increased rate burden from borrowing and paying back capital.
864	Peter Montaperto	The dredging of the Clive river bed. As far as I know we as rate payers have been paying a Levi in our rates toward this being done for many years now and the river bed is at the worst high it's ever been why is this not being addressed and where are the funds the rate payers have already contributed toward this project which was meant to happen years back but keeps being put off the silt processing plants are already in place since cyclone Gabriel so there should be no reason for this not to be carried out with it not being done it puts Clive area at high risk for future flood events please address this
868	Helen Bennett	Putting our regional rates up because of flooding is ridiculous and unreasonable. Between CHBDC rate rises we are going to see more domestic violence more people choosing suicide as an option and then as we already have a housing shortage which was more prevalent since the floods you are making owning a home unrealistic for low income families. Waipawa was flooded but was not counted in the above. Because as a community we sorted it. If you did the work on our rivers like we pay for then we wouldn't have flooded.
870	Bruce Mactaggart	Ratepayers in non-affected areas should NOT be required to share or contribute to these costs. Property owners knew [or ought to have known] the risks associated with the areas they chose to purchase and the cost of works for their exclusive geographic benefit should be met exclusively by them with a targeted rate (and not be part of the general rates burden on property owners outside these affected areas).
882	John Waterson	Keep river mouth open. Put money aside for events. This last one was a 1-in-32 years not 1-in-100 years. Do not put after flood event essential services back in same place. Next event will get removed again. Start thinking about 15 yrs ahead. Clean out wetlands. Pipe or replace. Keep Esk mouth open our River outlet up River By Bridge get rid of polar trees
896	Robyn Christiansen	We should not be charged for flood mitigation as nothing happens in our area Blackhead beach area
907	Andrew Common	I strongly oppose HBRC's proposal to increase rates on the basis of flood recovery. HBRC's promotion of flood recover as a justification for rate increases has been completely disingenuous. It is understood that of the \$250M proposed spend, as little as \$2M will be contributed via the proposed rate increase. This has not been made clear to rate payers! Furthermore, decisions relating to infrastructure and capital build in response to Gabrielle should be deferred until the report into mitigation and resilience requirements for the wider Heretaunga plains have been completed. This will allow HBRC and rate payers to better understand the potential overall cost to the region and to ensure capex can be appropriately prioritised.
917	Robert Tomlinson	Spread costs of flood mitigation equally over all rate payers
926	Paul Atkins	Related to Pakowhai/ Waiohiki - all really. I'm not sure why this section is included in this submission paper as there is only 0.7% allocated to the cyclone flood prevention increasing to 4.6% within this 3 year plan! All this information is confusing and designed to mislead people I feel. No design or consultation has even been seen yet and your asking us to comment! On what?
929	Oliver Ryan	Keep The rates purely on land value I took a massive beating and massive financial loss in the cyclone and this is out of control Cut costs and remove some of your staff that do sweet f all We should not be treated as an endless supply of revenue

930	Scott Lawson Hawkes Bay Vegetable Growers Assoc	More Community Consultation is required regarding flood protection across the wider rohe of HB. this discussion document does not cover off the future works required to increase existing flood control schemes to an acceptable level post Cyclone Gabrielle. Pg 16 and 17 does not give enough detail , re Govt and HBRC cost breakdowns for me to make an informed decision
932	Tracey Brookes	All flood scheme areas should be charged at 100% GR.
935	Gareth Holder	Pakowhai - The aim of re-establishing a stopbank along the Waimate stream is to allow category 2 properties to move to cat 1, which is great. It does not however allow cat 3 properties to return to residential purpose, or will this scheme provide any protection from future flood events that exceed 1:100 year events. It was clearly evident post-flooding that Pakowhai Rd was a key arterial route to support both Hastings and Napier residents repatriate and restock with necessities. If a flood was to occur that is restrained by the new stopbank system, it is likely that the state highway connection across Chesterhope Station will be inundated and therefore Pakowhai Rd will become the vital link again. I therefore strongly believe that the costs of building this stopbank benefits all HB residents and we all should equally pay our share.
938	Carolina van Seventer	As the HBRC has funding for this by central government it is something that needs to be done.
945	Stuart Kilmister Kilhaven Orchards	Need to ensure the stop bank is still has structural integrity, dig the gravel out of the river, modernise the stop bank to protect the towns or the insurance companies will go broke. Work out a plan for a spill way through Pakowhai, be prepared to blow the stop bank. When you are in a better financial position build them higher
950	Jonathan Brookes	All flood schemes should be covered by 100% general rates. Everyone gains everyone should pay
957	Tim Averill	Any monies applied to this need to be practical development and spent directly on scheme that their rate is targeted for...not more bureaucratic/ political wastage. Targeted achievable outcomes need to be achieved. In the Pakowhai area when the scheme relating to the Tutaekuri/Waimate reinstated stopbanks, then there needs to be a re-evaluation of Cat 3 land that was categorized in indecent haste without being able to consider Civil Defence and Regional council contributions to the situation that evolved as was pending review and the reviews are now out so .. Operating and maintenance has been sadly lacking little and often would have reduced the suggested costs of clearing the mouth of the 2 rivers. Also lacking from this plan is looking to a plan for mitigation at Clive/Waitangi rivermouths. The need for problem solving rather than "shooting down " suggestions .
972	David Mackie	Rating for new improvement/stop banks on Heretaunga Plains should be across all rate payers in HB. All people in HB benefit from the roading systems (Pakowhai Rd, Highway 50, and Expressway), they are used by people travelling to work and are essential for getting to Hospital etc. Heretaunga plains side floods as it is lower level scheme to protect Taradale, Napier and Hastings. Also farmers and forestry should pay a more representative share as the slash and debris from the upper parts of the systems cause huge damage and clean up costs. The change to Capital Value (which 90% of people opposed) unfairly has increased rates on some rate payers (horticulture) and has reduced the forestry/farm rates where the silt and tree debris came from.
981	Chris Hope	Does not affect me
982	Hans Doevendans	Improve long-term planning and execution. Heretaunga Plains
984	Denise Bavidge	Whirinaki

994	Angie Rawlinson	You are proposing to increase our HBRC rates in the Whirinaki area by over double - with promises of maintenance work and constant river monitoring
999	Ross Webb East Coast Rowing	Action and meet the commitments made. When a Plan is in place and ratepayers are charged to achieve the result there needs to be every effort made to do the work. Specifically the Clive River Dredging scheduled for 2021 as yet not achieved and now proposed to be addressed 2030
1005	Kathryn Bayliss	Whirinaki (Industrial) Flood Schemes: I think the rating model for this scheme should be a greater targeted component to reflect the more direct benefit - 90% Targeted Rate and 10% General Rate split. Where the rating impact for flood control work could be unaffordable for a community within a targeted rate footprint, stopbanks and expensive infrastructure should not be built. Houses should move to a safer location. HBRC should stop building stopbanks. For flood mitigation costs I agree with the HBRC's preferred option to spread the costs over 20 years. Nature-based solutions, Making room for rivers. We need to work with nature as the top priority. We need to restore, protect and care for our indigenous environments, habitats, flora and fauna. Our rivers should be given room to move, flow and flood naturally. HBRC should stop building stopbanks. Damming waterways should be opposed. Wetlands should be restored. Increasing numbers of river scientists, environmental groups and people are advocating for allowing rivers to flow naturally.
1009	Alastair Chalmers	Heretaunga current stop bank levels need to be increased and dredging of the river beds needs to be increased neither of which are expensive options. if this was backed up by a main drainage channel through Pakowhai Road area direct to the sea allowing water to flow freely and not back up as happened then the flooding risk would be greatly reduced
1023	Glenn Riddell	Sell down existing assets to expand and improve the stop banks, no priority is greater than the protection of the Heretaunga plains or it's residents.
1034	Richard Marshall	Rates should be 100% paid by a general rate across the whole community properties in category 3 have enough to deal with. Horticultural land production is essential to the greater community and has a significant effect on the local economy . category 3. Pakowhai Road
1038	Sharleen baird	Totally unable to assess as your "average" system makes it impossible for anyone to know even close to what the actual costs may be for those communities. This relates to all. Agree Bespoke. Agree Whirinaki split industry/community.
1043	Simon Bowker	The significant changes to rating you are proposing and the massive increase in valuations are crippling to business especially when coupled with wasteful spending. QV are proposing a 233% increase to our rating value which is Ludacris given the property has not changed in 4 years except being devastated in the flood
1044	Andrew Van Workum, Mr Apple NZ Ltd	We strongly believe that instead of holding property/assets outside of the region, these assets should be sold and invested into building/ maintaining our own infrastructure. Not relying on an already struggling community.
1050	Andrew Torrens	For Whirinaki flood resilience, should this cost not be on those who will materially benefit - ie the industry.
1055	Jennifer Carty	Wairoa 50/50 split Whirinaki (other) 50/50 split Heretaunga 50/50 split Porangahau 50/50 split
1076	Nicholas Aiken	I do not support any improvements for river and flood management where these exceed the level of protection given to residents and property owners in Esk Valley and Bay View areas as this is inequitable and unjust. I oppose inequity in river and flood management based on geographic location or any socio-economic or demographic basis.
1080	Dean Astill	How have the current policies around funding have come about given that there were circa 500 submissions made to HBRC about the changing for rating off land value to capital value with 90% of those submissions against the change? why would such a strong message be ignored

1091	Colin Maunder Timberlands Limited	Options for Funding Flood Control Schemes 7. We note the huge task Council is required to undertake over the next three to four years to build flood protection schemes in areas considered unsafe without improved protection. While we don't have a view on individual schemes, in terms of rating for both the capital and ongoing operating and maintenance for flood control we believe that Council's existing policy settings are the right settings. To this end we wish record our support for the 70/30 split as per the current Revenue and Financing Policy for all flood protection schemes. 8. We are mindful that communities are struggling and that affordability is an issue. However, property rates are not the right mechanism for rectifying these issues. These are matters for government to address.
1101	Johnny Milmine	Flood schemes should be funded from general rates and use some the HBRC "rainy day" capital. It is not up to the council to be in the business of creating wealth from investments.
1102	Kevin Bayley, Bayley Produce Ltd / Bayley Family Trust	Trim back HBRC office expenses - employ less staff etc. Use large savings pool owned by HBRC - these are perfect times to be using to repair infrastructure
1103	Bob Solomon Whakakī Marae	Whakakī Marae would like to be included in the scope of work for flood resilience activities that will be undertaken within the Wairoa area. In response to the marae being used as our community resilience hub during and after Cyclone Gabrielle, we have been undertaking a feasibility study to upgrade our wharekai facilities. This has included a detailed flood risk assessment, and the results of that point to the need to increase the height of the existing stopbank to meet long-term flood projections. This will allow the marae to maintain existing building heights for our planned upgrade. Attached is a copy of the detailed flood risk assessment and recommendations. The marae trustees have met with HBRC engineering staff to discuss the work and effort involved in increasing the height of the stopbank. Council staff have estimated costs of \$300,000.00, and we seek councillors' support in progressing this initiative. As proven during and after Cyclone Gabrielle, the marae played a key part in ensuring that our local community of Whakakī was able to look after itself, and then be able to reach out to others who needed assistance. We would like to see this continue well into the future.
1105	Rose Stobie	Wairoa - 50/50 Heretaunga O&M - 50/50 Whirinaki (industrial) capital and O&M - 50/50 Whirinaki (other) capital - 50/50
1109	Gerard Pain	Living with rivers (p13) emphasis needs to be on giving rivers more room than raising stopbanks (except where that is the only option) Porangahau capital build - 50/50 split
1120	Eoin Carty	I think the 50/50 split is ok for us - even though we didnt suffer any damage from the flood as we are located higher than most properties . 70/30 is appropriate for the big corporates - they dont need to be subsidised by the general rate payer.
1122	Karen Eivers	My property in Pakawhai has a CV of over \$2m. My property is no longer worth this amount of money, I have bulldozed my main dwelling because it was not fixable, I live in a modest 2bed cottage now on my land. I want my land re valued to what it is now worth, as I'm not paying regional rates on a property that is now worth less than half the CV. QV will not accept a late response, as this closed in Aug 2023. My land value has more than halved due to Cyclone Gabrielle, and my cottage is worth less than \$500,000. I have my own water and septic tank.
1127	Hastings District Council	Havelock North Streams Category 2 Risk Mitigation project 1. The 2024-27 Consultation document references that in August 2023 HBRC along with the 4 Territorial Councils in Hawkes Bay negotiated an agreement with the Crown where HBRC agreed to fund \$44.15m of the nearly \$250m flood mitigation programme. Within that agreement \$10m was allocated to Category 2 Risk Mitigation works in Havelock North for stream enhancements for those Category 2C affected properties in Joll Road. The funding split for that \$10m was 75.15% from the Crown and 24.85% from HBRC. 2. Council is concerned to read in Part 3 of the Consultation Document that HBRC has only budgeted \$230m of planned activity in the flood resilience programme and that Havelock North had been excluded from the budget as "Funding for implementing solutions for Joll Road is under discussion".

		<p>3. HBRC has categorised the Joll Road properties as Category 2C and as such funding was committed through the agreement signed in August to resolve the issues that ultimately saw those affected properties categorised as 2C properties. HBRC through that agreement made a commitment to make the necessary investments required to get these properties back to Category 1.</p> <p>4. Hastings District Council is committed to resolving the issues in the catchment and have commenced that work on the basis that there was a committed funding stream via the Crown agreement and through the Crown and HBRC. For this to not be included in the budget is unfathomable.</p> <p>5. We request resolution of the funding commitments made by HBRC for the Category 2C properties in Havelock North.</p>
1130	William Agnew	My view on this is that it should be 100% funded by the general rate to build the flood protection schemes for all areas.
1133	Michael Davis, Davis Orchards Ltd	I have read your consultation documents and have not found enough information corresponding to the options given above to make an informed decision, I could not determine in the document if the existing policy was actually the proposed policy, I could not find a clear breakdown of the individual rating policies for the Heretaunga scheme, it is confusing, and I think a lot of people wanting to make a submission will not proceed past this point because it all will go into the too hard basket when you're tired and will not be a true reflection on how many submissions could be submitted. However, I do believe the rate charges should be spread across all rate payers, land area relevant not capital value and this maintenance on catchment should have been done long ago with hbrc funds and not wasted on unnecessary spending
1135	Stephen Brookes	Should be on our General rate as as a community paid for this- All
1139	Roger Mogford	Those who benefit the most should pay more to the flood schemes.
1141	Richard Pentreath Ngai Tukairangi Trust	The calculation of rates for rural land owner's should not include the value of any licence attached to fruit production. A licence purchased to grow a plant variety does not guarantee a higher revenue and does not mean the growers' use of public services will be any greater than a neighbour that has no PVR licence's. The grower with PVR licence is exposed to all the same risks as a grower without a PVR licence and should not be penalised for investing in PVR licence that ultimately adds value to the local economy.
1143	Andrew Mason	Pan Pac needs to pay for the Whirinaki industrial flood mitigation scheme not rate payers. Other targeted rates for parongahau to areas downstream that benefit from flood protection.
1154	Sheryl Mackie	Rates for this need to be levied over Hastings, Taradale and Napier. Roads, hospitals and jobs transcend the heretaunga plains so everyone benefits from stopbanks
1180	Troy Duncan	This comment relates only to Pakowhai scheme, with the Waiohiki work integral in that proposed flood protection work. The benefits for resilience and economics for the wider Hawkes Bay community by flood scheme works protecting Pakowhai are under valued. This became even more evident post Cyclone Gabrielle. With the massive amount of traffic using Pakowhai road post cyclone, the importance of keeping this open is indisputable. The destruction of orchards which have been removed or have had large amounts of government and personal money spent removing silt and the cost of that to the local economy. The removal of orchards has negative effects on employment, meaning income to some families is reduced, adding to their personal burden and possibly reliance on welfare system or other taxpayer funded assistance. The cycling of money through the system for the province is reduced through less gross inflow of money due to reduced apple production and associated costs of production like trucking, picking (employment), reduction of lease rates for non grower landowners who now lease bare land instead of established orchard, income filtered through the Pakowhai store and fuels station (read commercial business) from workers etc purchasing from the store. These points all benefit the wider community and the economy of the province. To lump 70% of the cost onto landowners, half of which are no longer residents is unfair and a misunderstanding of the reality of the situation. The cost of the flood scheme works for Pakowhai should be rated fully by General Rate, as is Wairoa and Porangahau, who's economic contribution to the province is much less than Pakowhai if that is guide to be used. Funding the project accordingly

		<p>fits with the principals of the Revenue and Financing Policy Guiding principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and fair – so ratepayers can understand how the source of funding was chosen and who it applies to. YES • Simple – for a rates invoice that is easy for ratepayers to understand as well as administratively efficient for Council staff to implement. This saves costs for the community and reduces the risk of errors. YES • Consistent – a policy that treats like for like to give the community confidence they are being treated fairly. YES. IT COULD BE DEEMED UNFAIR IF PORANGAHAU AND WAIROA ARE FULLY FUNDED BUT PAKOWHAI AND WAIHOKI ARE NOT DUE TO SOME ASSUMPTIONS. • Flexible – a fit for purpose policy that is robust enough to avoid regular amendment but flexible enough to adapt to future changes. YES, THIS IS FOR THE BUILD, FUNDING FOR MAINTENANCE IS ANOTHER SUBJECT. • Overall impact – the council considers the overall impact on the current and future social, economic, Like the "Initial costs for Category 2 General Works" is rightly 100% GR the capital build should also be. <p>As witnessed in Cyclone Gabrielle the Heretaunga plains are a continuum of alluvial plain. When the water broke through stop banks in another rating area there was a domino effect that spread far and wide and breached other areas. If the bank had of gone on the true right of the Ngaruroro river at Roy's Hill, which it very nearly did, relieving the system and (in another event) may mean breaches on the true left are avoided, not flooding Pakowhai, Omahu, Korokipo etc. This scenario would have a significant impact on Flaxmere, Hastings and surrounds, who share a lesser personal burden than a smaller number of landowners in an area like Pakowhai do. To protect their homes and livelihoods. A case for spreading the maintenance cost wider across the region is something that should be looked at.</p>
1181	Vanessa Moon	<p>1. Rating models for the Category 2 Flood Protection Schemes.</p> <p>I support :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "working with impacted communities to identify and deliver feasible solutions". • Adopting the approach that the ability of a community to pay for a flood scheme should be taken into consideration when setting the rating level for that scheme. <p>This is "empowerment" and "compassion in action" – both much needed as we live into the difficult times ahead.</p> <p>2. Investing in Resilient Communities.</p> <p>I support the recognition that all "four levels" (national, regional, local and community) are "needed to function independently and to co-ordinate for the best outcomes in an event".</p> <p>It is important that communities are supported to develop their own action plans for emergencies – an existing community organisation could be one mechanism for this, with funding from HBRC.</p> <p>This approach then needs to be expanded to apply to the larger "Event" that we are living through now and into the future, including climate breakdown, ecosystem destruction, biodiversity decline and increasing polarisation within and between communities.</p>
1187	Paul Cornille	As much as possible should be targeted rates. People should not be supported to live in flood prone or sea level rise risk area
1191	Carmen Morrell	<p>To be perfectly honest, I have no confidence in Wairoa District Council, Tatau Tatau and sincerely hope HBRC are managing funds for Te Wairoa to mitigate CDEM profiteers. I have grave concerns of any build to flood protection schemes in Wairoa managed by Wairoa District Council and Tatau Tatau O Te Wairoa. If these parties were capable of building anything, then why are flood-affected whanau still living in pods and creating "stakeholder groups" supposedly representing marae, hapu and iwi who don't have the authority to do so are allowed to continue? I implore HBRC to manage all flood protection rebuild funding allocated to Wairoa with those who live in the affected areas - not failed groups.</p>
1194	Hana and Alex	<p>Our Say.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haumoana has not been noted in flood resilience. PG 2 Have your say. How was a flooded area left off your, Have your say submission form? • Our flood protection is not fit for purpose and 23 homes including the Fire Station were flooded and subsequently yellow placarded because of cyclone Gabrielle.

		<p>We were going to flood regardless with that deluge, however in this instance and scenario we flooded so severely because of infrastructure failure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We require a fit for purpose pump station, a one way return valve and a generator up high in situ in case of power failure as well as replenished sea crests. <p>We understand that this was an unprecedented event and that we could have been far far worse off if banks had not burst where they did up the line or not at all....we are grateful and lucky.</p> <p>However I would rather take a proactive approach in protection or resilience, which the pump station and one way return valve and repaired crest would make us resilient as a community.</p> <p>Other wise we are status quo with no lessons learnt and be set to flood again.</p> <p>For rational and understanding my husband is the Head Winemaker at Linden Estate and we have our company plant and blood sweat and tears out there. We understand what you are dealing with in other areas hurting far far more than Haumoana. We know Haumoana were the lucky ones.</p>
1195	Stu	<p>the stop banks on the city sides of the Ngaruroro and Tutaekuri be raised in height along with the height of pakowhai rd. the pakowhai side of the stop banks could stay the same height but have flood gates so in major floods pakowhai becomes a flood plain to relieve the city stop banks.</p>

-ENDS-

Step One							Step Two
Activity (sub-activity)	Community outcome	Distribution of benefits	Period of benefit	Whose acts create a need	Costs and benefits of funding activity distinctly	Overall rationale for funding (Noting percentages are indicative)	What was further refined
Asset Management							
Flood Protection & Control Works	Resilient Community	Property owners and residents in flood schemes are the primary beneficiaries from maintaining flood schemes to agreed levels of protection. The community as a whole benefits to a lesser degree from economic and social resilience from protected arterial transport routes and utilities. Districts are interwoven so regardless of where flooding occurs it has a regional economic and social impact.	There are intergenerational benefits due to significant infrastructure.	No specific, separately identifiable, group causes a need.	There are benefits from funding this activity separately to target those who benefit. Separate funding also supports accountability and transparency to the ratepayers who fund the activity.	Council considers that those who benefit should contribute to the costs via Targeted Rates on the flood scheme area with the balance of costs met via the General Rate scaled between 10-30% nuanced based on public assets within the scheme. <i>30% general rate and 70% targeted rate for all schemes, except for Pōrangahau at 50% general rate and 50% targeted rate (subject to the outcome of consultation)</i>	Differential targeted rates on capital value using the following rating factors: Upper Tukituki – 3 Heretaunga Plains – 2 Makara FCS – 3 <u>Wairoa – 2</u> <u>Whirinaki (Other) – 2</u> <u>Whirinaki (Industrial) has no differentials</u> <u>Pōrangahau – 2</u>
Initial capital to build Category 2 Flood Schemes	Resilient Community	Property owners and residents in Category 2 flood schemes are the primary beneficiaries from the construction of flood mitigation agreed as part of the cost-share agreement with the Crown to support recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle. <u>All ratepayers in the region benefit from the co-funded flood mitigation which enables affected property owners to rebuild rather than funding Category 3 property rights purchase.</u>	There are intergenerational benefits due to significant infrastructure.	Natural disaster exacerbated by climate change that everyone has contributed to.	There are benefits from funding the initial capital to build Category 2 flood schemes separately to target those who benefit.	<i>30-100% general rate and 0-70% targeted rate (subject to outcome of consultation):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>Whirinaki (Other)</u><u>Whirinaki (Industrial)</u><u>Heretaunga Plains (Ohiti Rd/Omahu, Waiohiki and Pūkōwhai)</u><u>Pōrangahau</u>	Differential targeted rates on capital value using the following rating factors: <u>Whirinaki (Other) – 2</u> <u>Whirinaki (Industrial) has no differentials</u> <u>Heretaunga Plains – 2</u> <u>Pōrangahau – 2</u>
Initial costs for Category 2 General Works	Resilient Community	The community as a whole benefit from the agreed infrastructure repairs, upgrades and planning across a range of assets, area, and schemes.	There are intergenerational benefits.	Natural disaster exacerbated by climate change that everyone has contributed to.	There is no particular need to fund this activity separately.	As there are regionwide and whole community benefits the general rate is considered the most appropriate funding source. <i>100% general rate.</i> <u>Future operational and capital expenditure will be funded through the rating for the particular activity.</u>	No change from step one.
Drainage and pumping schemes	Prosperous Community	Property owners within the drainage scheme areas are the primary beneficiaries. These property owners benefit as the scheme allows land to be used	There are intergenerational benefits.	No specific, separately identifiable, group causes a need.	There are benefits from funding this activity separately to target those who benefit. Separate funding also supports accountability and	Council considers that those who benefit should contribute to the costs via targeted rates on the drainage scheme area with the balance of costs met via the general rate. <i>Capital value reflects intensification.</i>	Differential targeted rates on capital value except Raupare Enhancement Scheme (by Area), and Opoho Scheme (fixed charge).

Civil Defence Emergency Management - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on Resilient Communities and Civil Defence Emergency Management. Some commentary is an exert of the submitter's full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

Submissions (14)

Id	Name	Feedback
153	Central Hawke's Bay District Council	<p>CDEM Funding – Investing in Resilient Communities</p> <p>Following the impacts from Cyclone Gabrielle and the subsequent Independent External Review Council supports the increased funding allocation to CDEM activities to bolster capability and capacity. Council also acknowledges that further support is going to be required from all councils as well as central government to ensure our communities are best placed to support and stand-up for future events.</p> <p>A focussed work programme has been implemented in Central Hawke's Bay in developing community resilience plans in council rural halls. These have been well received by the communities.</p> <p>Council also supports a strong focus on the implementation of the recommendations in the independent review and requests that these are worked through at pace.</p> <p>We are committed to working with you, the other local councils and mana whenua on how we rebuild the vision and confidence in Emergency Management leadership and coordination systems both locally and regionally. It is vital that we transform with communities at the heart of the system and the decisions.</p> <p>It is also vital that we commit to improving the communication, technology, monitoring, modelling and warning systems across our key hazard areas and our key response agencies.</p>
343	Susan Garner	Coastal defense needs to be continued. Funding needs to be required for updating Civil Defense plans in the future, after Cyclone Gabrielle. More warnings, sirens, evacuation notices, etc, etc.
436	Anon	What role you play you fall short! The cyclone warnings none etc... Do your job and look after infrastructure both events no one did anything. Don't need a regional council.
515	Yvone Steers	My feelings are that everyone needs to make resilience happen for them . Local government has a role to play in awareness of impending danger but we need to learn to be strong ourselves. The vulnerable sections of society, like the elderly must be recognised and assisted where possible. The forestry industry must clean up the mess that has been a result of their activity. In other countries slash is turned into pellets for burning and producing power. The technology is there already.
522	Alan Passchier	I think HBRC does a great job , but since Gabrielle things have changed and you guys have to partly to pay the price , personally I think there should be an awareness program that outlines' buying in a flood/tsunami prone zone. All the risks but also what to expect from the regional council and district council in case it happens again . This way people can make an informed choice and charge rates accordingly , higher risks , higher rates . Often land and dwellings are cheaper in these areas
574	Greg Reynolds	Your (including HBCDEM) management of the cyclone was dismal at first (your preparedness for the cyclone was deficient and not up to your own standards, your initial response was similarly deficient) but improved drastically as you awoke from your slumber. The two most recent reports into the cyclone response were damning on you, yet your main response is – get more money from the rate payers. How about acknowledging your failures instead of saying "we accept the recommendations". How about, dare I say it, firing the incompetent and getting some experts in. This might

		<p>give us rate payers some confidence that you may know what you are doing so when the next disaster hits we can rely on you. My impression at the moment is "same people, same structure, same results".</p> <p>Your response to the cyclone (including HBCDEM) and changes since then do not instil me with any confidence you will not stuff up next time as well. Plans have to be flexible as the next disaster may well not be a weather event. You have not even done what you should have done in recent years prior to the cyclone (particularly with water management in Havelock North), where is the catch-up plan for all this work or are you going to keep kicking this can down the road. Joll Rd is mentioned but it states "the solution is still under discussion".</p> <p>We were fortunate enough to have our property in a location that did not flood, though the wind damaged a lot. Yet we are getting gouged with increases in rates to cover other areas of the region. What happened to user pays, you get the increased service (e.g. flood protection and public transport) then you also pay for it.</p>
827	Sera	<p>It's very clear from the Inquiry's findings and recommendations that the existing Bill does not go far enough or elicit the system-wide change to deliver the robust, fit-for-purpose emergency management framework that New Zealand needs," Minister Mitchell says. "It is my intention to introduce a new Bill this term, alongside making system improvements that do not require legislative change. Central Government's new Bill will be introduced and will help to confirm local government requirements and funding options. Also refer to the Report of Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events which mentions increased funding from Central Government and having national systems in place. Please ensure Council look into obtaining more central government funding to cover costs where possible to alleviate the burden to Hawke's Bay Regional Council ratepayers.</p>
882	John Waterson	<p>After event Whirinaki was not visited by civil defence or councils. We even had helicopters come over, not 1 landed to offer help see if all ok even had helicopter pad ready nothing. As a lot of communities cut off no body came all councillors etc flew over noone bothered stop peoples places & other chattles lost & now we have to pay for other people. stuff us not on thats what we pay rates for. As for wetlands pipe no body wants to know about if was open would have let water go to sea. need fixing.</p>
957	Tim Averill	<p>We are also proposing to bolster funding for Civil Defence, as together with all the councils in the region we work on implementation of the review of the Civil Defence Emergency Management response to Cyclone Gabrielle. We know what happened it doesnt take another review at additional cost. Work on implementing a change so there can a functioning response team as you assure us events will occur and they will then be needed in the future as part of your resilience plan.</p>
1076	Nicholas Aiken	<p>I am concerned at the lack of response from Civil Defense to Cycloine Gabrielle and strongly object to my rates being used to support Civil Defense (or similar) where this provides such minimal benefit or value to my community and to my property.</p>
1091	Colin Maunder Timberlands Limited	<p>Bolstering Civil Defence</p> <p>Timberlands is pleased to see the inclusion of an additional \$1.3M in the three year plan for bolstering capability and capacity in the CDEM Group and repaying the disaster reserve deficit. We support this additional funding providing the intended speedy and tangible change in the delivery of CDEM is the outcome achieved.</p>
1166	Stu Burden	<p>Council Structure</p> <p>In the last Ten Year Plan I submitted about the cost of having five councils in Hawkes Bay for such a small population base. I believe issues arising out of the Cyclone Gabrielle, and the response, highlight problems in the existing system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusion amongst the public about who runs Civil Defence and how to find services and from whom during an emergency.
1194	Hana and Alex	<p>We also ask please</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That you hastily implement a robust monitoring alarm and alert system. This needs to be in situ NOW. <p>Robust fit for purpose river monitoring alarm systems, I imagine that they would be, set at pump stations or critical points in rivers – they go off (like a frost alarm in vineyards) and send an alert to everyone's cell phone (like the pandemic alerts) This is to fire before it gets too high these would be proactive alert.</p>

		<p>Complemented with Clear Immediate Communication streams from those at the top and on the front-line Emergency services (with an unmistakable hierarchy of control) fed directly to the communities with fit for purpose radios and cell phone apps.</p> <p>If we have learnt anything from February 14 we need these to roll out now.</p> <p>Again hindsight is marvelous.</p> <p>We do thank you for aid you gave us in the initial recovery stage of our flooded whare and for what you have done for many post cyclone.</p>
1199	Sally Davenport	<p>Number 1. I'm sorry Ms Ormsby BUT collectively you need to take responsibility for what has happened. AND Mr McDonald needs to be fired. He knew the weather event was on its' way, he chose to go on holiday instead and at the very time he should have been here, he was nowhere to be seen. That's called a DERELICTION OF DUTY. Were he in the armed forces, he would be facing a Court Martial and were he employed by a corporate, he would have been FIRED! End of matter. It's not up to me to keep him in the manner to which he has become accustomed.</p> <p>In the words of a current TV advert – he and you all had ONE JOB!! Just one job and he and you failed.</p> <p>Stop banks. What, if any, guarantees can you give me that your new stop banks, higher, wider, etc. will hold in another event? NONE AT ALL! There are no guarantees that the work you intend will prevent another episode. For crying out loud, you recommended planting pine trees – how well did that go?</p> <p>Guess what, rivers will run where rivers will run and please, don't tell me that CG was a 1 in 150 occurrence. I just don't believe you. Have none of you watched An Inconvenient Truth, or read Al Gores book of the same title. Have you ALL been asleep at the wheel whilst the eccentric Friedensreich Hundertwasser predicted what has happened along with many scientists and environmentalists over the last 50 odd years.</p>

-ENDS-

Public Transport/Transport - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on Public Transport/Transport. Some commentary is an excerpt of the submitter's full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

Submissions (26)

Id	Name	Feedback
153	Central Hawke's Bay District Council	Public Transport Council is supportive of the plans included in the Regional Public Transport Plan and in the Three Year Plan to support a commuter express public transport trial between Central Hawke's Bay to Hastings, to provide commuters to and from Central Hawke's Bay an alternative, more sustainable option to travel. Central Hawke's Bay has seen over 20% in population growth over the last decade and over 50% of our total communities income is generated from employment outside of the district. These statistics only further support the need for Central Hawke's Bay to be recognised as a growth community, where public transport networks are essential for our further growth and prosperity.
168	Chris Green	You need to stop funding for public transport and look at staffing levels within the HBRC
215	Henderson Sissiel	Open the Railway service from Gisborne to Napier. The roads are absolutely dreadful and unpredictable and dangerous travelling at night. I am sick of the stop/ go travel, one encounters on all our roads regardless. Maintenance is prioritised because of the usage by the many big trucks. Take the trucks off the roads and put the freight they carry back on the Railways. Wallah faster travel for motorists, less road works and safer roads for everyone.
260	Benjamin VAN'T SANT	On a positive note, we are pleased to see improvements to public transport being proposed. Unsure what they are exactly, it would be good to get more information on this please.
315	Mark Scofield	Public transport. I live in Meeanee We have no access to public transport so why do we get charged this rate. The trial of the on demand system appears to be a total waste of money. Stop this obvious waste of money running around an empty van.
353	Ronald Wilkins	We badly need a bus service to our napier airport. Not just dropping people off at the old entrance by the buses that service bay view i see that service 15 is for 5 in the morning and 6 in the afternoon but can the bus drop passengers off at the airport terminal.
418	Paul Callister, The Future is Rail	I am part of the organising committee of the group The Future is Rail. We are a national group, but work across many regions of New Zealand to support the revival of regional passenger rail services. As part of this, we have held community meetings in the Hawkes Bay including in Napier and Hastings. While we have members of our group who live in the Hawkes Bay, other members have reasons to visit your region whether it be for work, tourism or to connect with friends and family. As it states in the Hawkes Bay Three-Year Plan 2024-2027 "Public transport is important because it connects people to jobs, education, healthcare, and social activities while reducing traffic congestion and pollution." The plan focuses primarily on local public transport. We urge the council to add support for the revival of passenger rail services to and from the Hawkes Bay. We set out the reasons for this in an article published in Bay Buzz. https://baybuzz.co.nz/bringing-back-the-bay-express/ The reasons include the ageing of the Hawkes Bay population, so less people being able to drive, the need to reduce emissions and an ability to generate further tourism opportunities, including people from the Manawatu and Wellington regions being able to bring their bikes on a train. Through a partnership by Greater Wellington Regional Council and Horizons, new trains are being ordered to replace the ageing Capital Connection and the Wairarapa trains. Being tri-mode trains, potentially this type of train could go all the way from Wellington to Napier. We urge the council to explore whether a revival of passenger rail could piggy back on the planned train purchases.

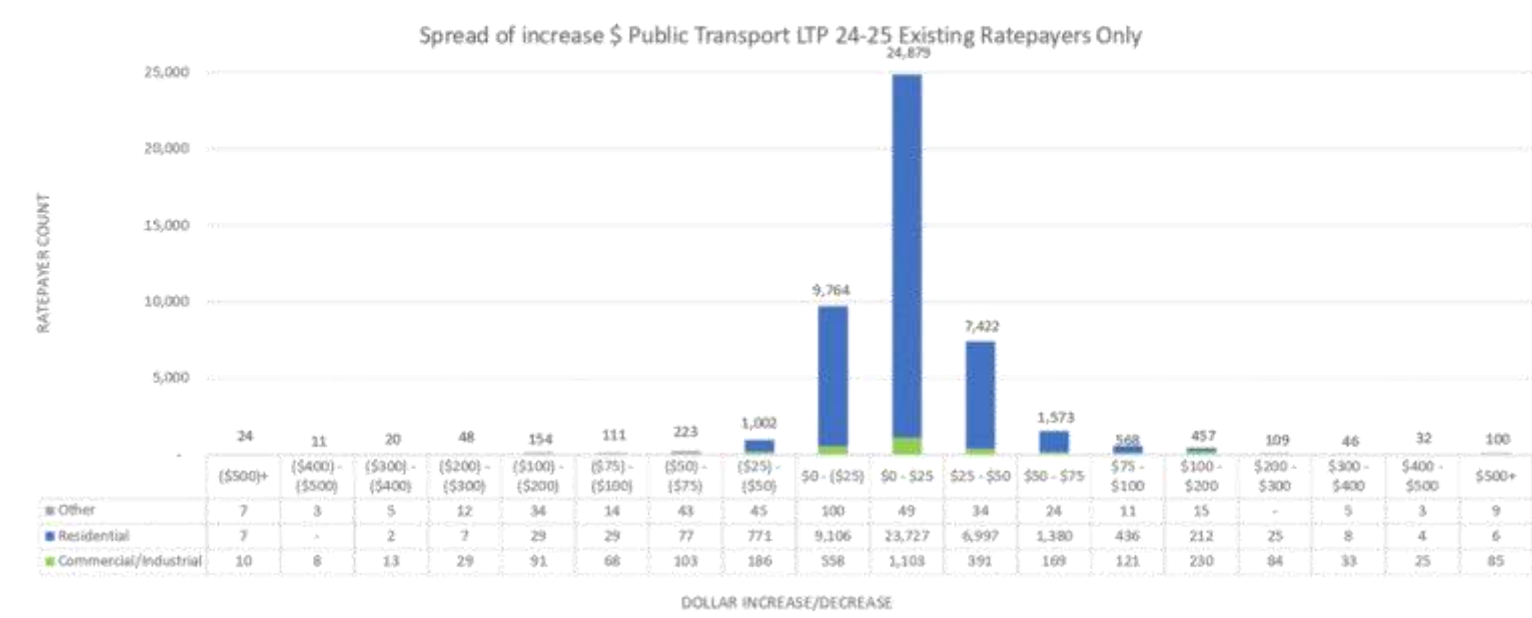
574	Greg Reynolds	Public Transport: Never used it, does not come past our place but I get that some people do. As the service is not provided at our address why are we being rated over \$700 for it? To put this in perspective its more than twice the total rates we paid HBRC when we purchased our property 7 years ago. Rates as supposed to be levied where the service is provided.
583	Susan Strong	Please introduce a bus which stops at Airport
647	Andrew Pearce, Kaiangaroa Residents Association	Rating for public transport is on a capital value basis and adds \$200+ to the rates for each of our properties. We submit that this is an inappropriate basis for rating for public transport on Residential property. Public transport should be rated on a unit basis per property (similar to the UAGC) for residential properties, as the occupants of each property are provided (theoretically) with the same or similar services. It may be appropriate to rate commercial properties on a capital value basis for public transport, on the basis that businesses are beneficiaries of the delivery of customers and employees to their premises by public transport. We submit that the rating basis for public transport in the three-year plan should be changed to a unit charge per residential property
671	Linda Crabtree	MyWay doesn't work!! Really hard to get a booking when you want it.
827	Sera	The Hawke's Bay region has the fourth highest rate of premature death (30+ years) due to transport related air pollution. In 2016, 157 premature deaths were attributed to air pollution but HBAL is proposing to increase passenger flights and have a freight network. 3.2.2 Connecting our region by air 640,000 passengers in 2023 1,000,000 passengers by 2030 Air pollution, noise, environmental and other health and safety impacts must be consulted on as a matter of public interest especially with affected residents premised on the enjoyment of property rights by affected adjoining landowners as a guiding principle. Who will be paying for any mitigation impacts to affected residents - the Crown, Council, ratepayers, Mana Ahuriri? Has this been considered as part of the risks to the health of Our People? Refer Wellington Planesense as an example of not consulting with affected residents. SH 2 Napier to Hastings dual carriageway and rail corridor study realignment on the same corridor - public consultation of all affected parties must be considered within the wider area including all existing residents of the proposed area as well as the "Ahuriri Triangle". and Development of the Napier Airport Freight Hub including a freight density study - must include consultation with all affected residents, flight plans, times of flights, air pollution, noise including all residents who live within and outside of the Ahuriri Triangle that may be affected as per Land - (a) includes land covered by water and the airspace above land, in the public interest their voices should be heard, considered and where required, mitigation provided by the adjoining landowner (HBAL). The potential future impacts for air is unexplained. Proposed bus routes and times - have these been consulted on with affected residents (e.g. increased road noise up to 12am, social issues, location of bus stops) and have the routes been decided on e.g. Route 2. Where will smart stops be located? Who will pay for charging of scooters, bikes and phones? Need to review proposed 2025 bus use - if it is not used remove to alleviate the burden to Hawke's Bay Regional Council ratepayers.
926	Paul Atkins	I'm dead against this level of funding increase for the transport service. (buses) The ideology doesn't work in HB obviously. Funding by all for a few. I rather my money fund the resilience of the stopbanks to protect both people and property.
932	Tracey Brookes	Your new Transport subsidy, why is this going from 3.1 million to 7.1 million in three years. Surely this is not efficient use of this money. Are busses driving round empty? Why is Twyford now paying a Transport Subsidy when we DO NOT have ANY public transport in our area. Public Transport is not an option for this area so i'm not sure why we are paying for this. General rates have gone up 977% in 10 years. While costs have gone up who is checking that money is not being wasted in this area.
939	Maree Spackman	According to your rates calculator I will now be charged \$129.96 this coming year for public transport. There is no public transport provided in my rural area. I would also not choose to take public transport as I would need to drive anywhere to get it. This alone makes up a third of my increase which is double this years rates.
972	David Mackie	We object to rural rate payers being levied for transport. Rural people tend to have their own transport and do no use bus systems the same as city people. The bus system should be user pays more - bus users should pay. Looking at the cost blow out and the occupancy of buses the system you

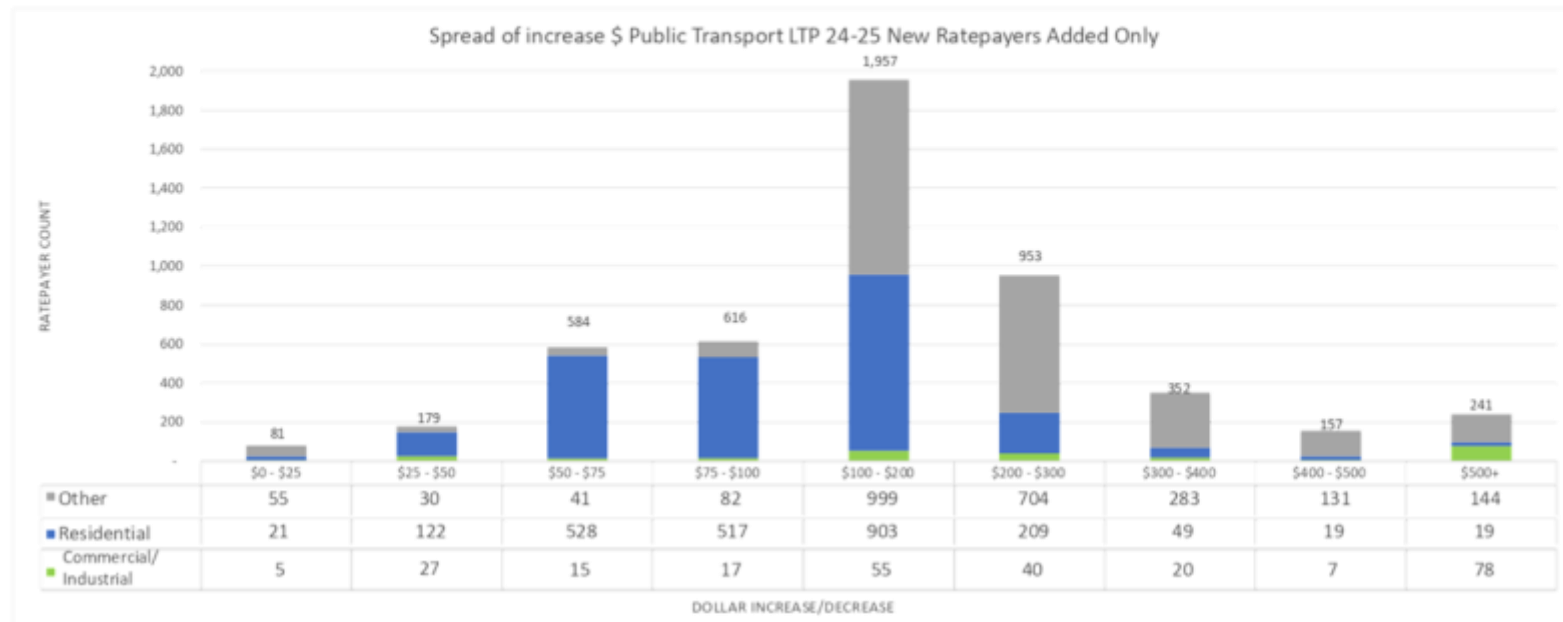
		operate should be review, It seems totally inefficient, ineffective . I totally object to the new charge of over \$500 for this in my rates. A service we do not use and do not get any benefit from.
981	Chris Hope	Public transport rate is proposed to be included and for our rural property is going to be \$676.00 annually. We and our staff never have or will use public transport. This I see is just a rate take for the sake of collecting revenue. As council you have changed your rating take from user pay to who can afford to pay the rates which believe is not inline with the type of activity you undertake.
983	Graeme Sunnex	I do not agree with the level of funding increase for the transport service (buses). Buses are not utilised in HB. Rates Funding has been changed to capital value, as apparently this is more fair (I don't agree with this policy). and don't see why I am subsidising a under utilised service that I will never use.
1007	Christine Scott	The wisdom of the current funding model for public transport. The biggest single item I pay rates for is public transport. It was 25% of my last rates bill and is currently over 20% of the proposed rates bill. I have no easy access to public transport as the nearest stop is 2 kms away. I have tried using it to get to a hospital admission in Hastings. It took 1 ½ hours (1 hour by bus and ½ hour walking) to get there- and for much of the trip I was the only passenger. For my next trip I biked there-much quicker- and more convenient. I do support the concept of public transport both from an environmental perspective and from supporting those without access to independent travel. But there has to be a better model than all ratepayers paying such a huge subsidy for such an underutilised resource. Perhaps better use of St John's (donation only) shuttle to hospital, GP, pharmacy, physio, chiropractic and every sort of medical care facilities would help and for those needing public transport a schools bus and a taxi subsidy would reduce the unreasonable burden on the ratepayer for questionable environmental outcomes and very limited public good. It is not my place to find the answer!
1014	Rowan Manhire-Heath, Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora	Health NZ shares Council's vision outlined in the Regional Public Transport Plan of a public transport system that is "safe, accessible, and supports the shift to reduce driving and emissions in Hawke's Bay, while improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the people of Hawke's Bay". The realisation of this vision will significantly improve health and equity outcomes for the most transport-vulnerable members in the community.
1050	Andrew Torrens	The Herald quoted a HBRC spokesperson as saying "while the scale of change between years is a consideration, so is fairness and equity of who pays for what," and "rates vary according to the distribution of services and how the rates are apportioned. For example, if you benefit from flood control scheme or are within an area covered by passenger transport." You mention fairness and equity as well as distribution of services for who pays for what, can I ask you to then clarify the \$300+ public transport targeted rate, yet we need to travel 5km on rural roads to get to the first bus stop, which has a bus that is not a viable commuting option due to the limited hours. I would welcome your figures on the number of people who use the bus from Bay View township and the cost to operate this service. Why are we being asked to subsidising a service which one can only assume is not financially viable, as well as propping up all other bus services that aren't even available for my use. I also request clarification on why Hastings District Council property owners that live in closer proximity to the bus stop, do not pay the targeted Public Transport Rate, once again in direct contradiction to your spokesperson.
1065	Jim Galloway, Federated Farmers	Federated Farmers' opinion on public transport depends on how it is funded. We prefer user-pays and rates targeted at areas where the service is available. It also looks like the private sector is providing a lot of the service already. We oppose the general rates/UAGC portion of the funding pool for Public Transport. Rural ratepayers shouldn't be subsidising a service that they don't benefit from, especially if they are charged on their property value. Passenger transport is lumped into the umbrella Transport category, which is going through an alarming increase. It is difficult to determine if general rates are being used to subsidise passenger transport services.

		<h2>Transport</h2> <h3>Funding impact statement</h3> <table><tr><th>Annual Plan</th><th>Budget</th><th>Budget</th><th>Budget</th></tr><tr><th>23/24</th><th>24/25</th><th>25/26</th><th>26/27</th></tr><tr><th>\$000</th><th>\$000</th><th>\$000</th><th>\$000</th></tr></table> <p>Total operating funding 7,405 10,988 15,136 16,321</p> <p>Regional Council public transport only provides benefit to few people, in urban areas. School buses are mainly operated by the Ministry for Education or by the school, most health services operate their own pick-up van, and uber and taxis provide a lot of service that costs the ratepayer nothing. Is the Council on-demand My Way trail still operating? What patronage has that enjoyed, or do people prefer private services like uber? Federated Farmers is sceptical that passenger transport is providing much value.</p> <p>Submission:</p> <p>1. Federated Farmers opposes any general or UAGC rates being used to prop up passenger transport, because most of these ratepayers will not be within the serviced areas.</p>	Annual Plan	Budget	Budget	Budget	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Annual Plan	Budget	Budget	Budget											
23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27											
\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000											
1138	Stewart Horn	I also make the point the property appears to fall within a rather arbitrary boundary for urban transport levy which we are unlikely to use , why ? The change to capital value in the face of much opposition and the belief that those with a high capital value can afford to pay more does not sit well with me. I simply do not believe that Council understands the duress they are placing on their ratepayers .												
1166	Stu Burden	<p>I was aware of the Revenue and Financing Policy consultation that took place in January and made a web form objection to the Public Transport targeted rate being expanded to rural people living around Hastings. I was not aware, though, of the amount it would be set at and was surprise to see \$187 for Public Transport on my proposed rates bill. Some properties in my area will pay \$600 for public transport. The only horticultural property on the examples page didn't include a public transport fee.</p> <p>As I understand it, there will be no public transport offered to those rural people included in the map. Nor is it anticipated in the Long Term Transport Plan. The only way of using public transport would be for them to travel to an urban area and use the public transport there which is hardly practical.</p> <p>I have heard various reasons for this extension of the targeted rate:</p> <p>1 Orchard workers use public transport: I would challenge if this is true to any degree. Orchards provide mini-vans to ferry their workers around and any RSE workers using public transport are likely to be urban based.</p> <p>2 The HBRC subsidises the School buses: I have been advised by the Rates Lead at Council that this is not the case. The Council provides subsidised transport to school children on Council buses but this is likely to be used only by urban based children.</p> <p>3 It's a Driving Miss Daisy/mobility tax: The amounts seem excessive for this and mobility services are available to anyone in the Hawkes Bay area with practical access to a mobility provider so those areas should be included too. There are Driving Miss Daisy vans based at Haumoana and Te Awanga so those areas are likely to use the service just as much as any.</p> <p>4 The Council is required to reduce climate change: As these rural areas will not have access to public transport it will not help to reduce climate change. In fact, it punishes people living closer to the city and rewards those who live further out.</p> <p>I believe the targeted rate is for a service that is not practically available to the included rural areas. While it appears to be legal, a targeted rate should not be arbitrary.</p>												

		I believe consideration of this rate extension got lost in the debate over Capital Value Tax and the Council should stop this targeted rate for the rural properties affected.
1169	Wise Water Use HB	Wise Water Use HB agree with Council's statement that public transport is important because it connects people to jobs, education, healthcare and social activities while reducing traffic congestion and pollution. However, the more than doubling of the targeted rate from \$3.1 million to \$7.1 million over the next 3 years is a huge impost on ratepayers. We believe that this cost should be fully funded by Waka Kotahi, and urge Council to lobby central government to change the funding model.
1187	Paul Cornille	I am a pensioner with no car. I bike, bus and walk everywhere. My daughter & grandkids are in Havelock North. To bus directly through Clive, there are 2 buses am and 2 pm. This costs me full fare as they are before 9am and after 3pm. To go through Hastings between 9am and 3pm takes 3hr return. Can you please look at not charging gold card users after 3pm as does Auckland. We need more bike stands that are easy to lock bikes to. Similar to the ones at NRC, bus stop and Library. Many supermarkets & large shops have very poor or no bike stands which does not encourage bike riding.

-ENDS-





Hawke's Bay Tourism - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on Hawke's Bay Tourism funding. Some commentary is an excerpt of the submitter's full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

	With comments	Without comments	Total
Option A (preferred) – Phase out over 2 years	58	91	149
Option B - Maintain year 1 then reduce	172	82	253
Other – 'support reduction' sentiment	12	-	12
Other – 'support continuance' sentiment	126	-	126
Other	8	-	8
TOTAL	375	173	548

Of the 822 submissions, around 100 gave feedback only on HB Tourism

Verbal submissions – 33 out of the 60 submitters addressed funding for HB Tourism at the Hearings on 29 and 30 May 2024

Option A - Phase out over 2 years

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
5	Sam Hartree	Stick to your core services
8	Shanon Tait	Phase out. Focus on flood protection.
37	David Trubridge	Tourism is a luxury and should not be funded by Council
96	Madison Pullen	We should be concentrating on keeping cost down to improve the wellbeing of our children and familys.
134	Matthew Harman	All cost cutting options need to be adopted to reset the organisation's cost base to a more realistic and sustainable level.
148	Alana Sayers	Phase out funding for this as soon as possible.
174	John Reilly	Need to cut spending on non essentials
189	Margaret Symons	The flood management needs to take priority over tourism. Much of HB is a mess. Then once rebuilt, parks, wineries etc will take tourists again. Napier and Hastings are beautiful as they are. But the rural areas have suffered.
216	Neil Eagles	Should be funded by tourists through rates on motels etc. Some touring shows etc should not be subsidised by the majority who do not attend
258	Andrea Baikie	Money is tight and it's more important we invest in infrastructure especially as bridges have been destroyed, culverts, drainage need to be installed and local roads need either resurfacing or restructuring.
259	Kayla Knibb	Pull the money and put it where it's needed. We do not need rates hikes. We need support. We can increase funding again in 5 years time.

271	Greg porcer	tourists are important, however the money they bring only fall into some group pockets. huge amount wasted on new logo, WTF. Tourist will come regardless of budget allocated
288	Julia Butler	Every business is capable of advertising online globally. There are numerous global online sites for visitors planning to come to the area.
292	Martyn Gyde	Stop paying immediately. Tourism industry can pay for its own promotion.
295	Tony Fulton	Good on you for knocking this on the head - that's not what we pay rates for. We want infrastructure - not subsidizing private businesses. Yes I know it's 'tourism' but ultimately it's a bunch of private businesses. I read about the business owners in HB Today moaning about the change, they can blab all they like, they just want free taxpayer money to prop up their business. If their business can't be self-sufficient on it's own then perhaps they need to find a new business.
303	David Urieli	Tourism is a way to get poorer as a country according to Sir Paul Callaghan. My reasons for de-funding tourism were because Sir Paul Callaghan, government adviser in NZ, economist and scientist said that the more that New Zealand puts its economic efforts into Tourism and Primary Industries the poorer it would get. This is because of large use for small return. Tourism involves a huge number of people making a small per capita contribution to the economy. Also even though NZ tries to boast some of the most efficient farming in the world actually that is only because the industry is so mechanised and on a vast scale with only a tiny number of farmers and farm staff running it. Actually if it is looked on as profit per hectare rather than profit per farmer it does very poorly e.g. in contrast to France where very many farms are tiny but where they support a large cheese industry which is world famed and adds a great deal of value making the product per hectare or per cow far more than the much vaunted NZ milk solids. See Callaghan's book 'Wool to Weta'. Or contrast NZ to Denmark with almost equal population although land area is about a sixth of NZ. There even though Denmark is seen as basically an agricultural and perhaps tourism economy Denmark has a GDP about twice the size of NZ which is due to high tech and design. Or contrast NZ with Sweden which has a very advanced wood industry adding much value to its wood products in contrast to NZ producing wood pulp for making paper in China.
325	Wendy Rapaea	Yes get rid of this extra cost
366	Phil Lascelles	As a key economic development investment, HBRC needs to provide leadership in implementing replacement funding strategies for this economically critical aspect. As an alternative to funding, cost savings or other incentives such as reduced landing fees at Napier Airport (discounts for flights where average fare paid is say less than \$200) or reduced wharf fees for cruise ships
480	George Roberts	remove now
516	Tania Luscombe	Little tangible difference/evidence since 2020 or their activity/outcomes
529	Darren Cooper	2 years gives ample time for them to find alternative options to maintain their presence.
532	Dean Hyde	I support Option A, Hawkes Bay Tourism primarily benefits private business interests and whilst one could argue the flow on collective benefits; the reality is that beyond the hyperbole there is very little meaningful evidence of the direct benefits to Hawkes Bay households. Now whilst a number of local notables are actively lobbying for the continuation of this form of corporate welfare, I am afraid for our household we are not in a financial position to be able to support this highly questionable subsidy. Should however Council determine that this is to continue, then I would suggest that the commercial sector be responsible for funding Hawkes Bay Tourism not private households.
535	George Spiers	A seperate infrastructure should be developed so tourism can stand on its own. Only a small percentage if ratepayers benefit from tourism.
583	Susan Strong	Not affordable for ratepayers, organisations should be able to self fund by now like other businesses have to

594	David Cormack	I think this is a commercial problem not a Council one and the visitors we already get promote the area sufficiently.
682	Johannes Ehlers	After so many years of funding its time for the beneficiaries of tourism to fund themselves. Art deco generate millions for the business sector.
691	Patrick Ryan	Just please do not cut regional flights from Napier because that is a large part of civilians needing to get around the country.
696	Peter Williamson	The Tourism Industry needs to stand up and handle the promotional costs inherent in marketing their businesses rather than expect coverage by ratepayers. A ratepayer at Onepoto does not see any value from tourism.
697	Bob Alkema	Need to focus on the basics first. Reducing operational costs as a result will have a slight positive impact for ratepayers
711	William Gray	This should be paid for by industry.
717	Gabriela + Ralf Spindler	During tough financial times this is a nice to have investment and should be reviewed after one year, if a reduced funding really has a huge impact on tourism. Businesses and cities need to understand to find other ways of attracting visitors and one year gives them good time to do so.
740	Stuart MacIntyre	I agree the HBRC remit is about managing natural resources - tourism sits outside of that.
769	Kirsty Dinsdale	This should actually be immediately stopped and HB Tourism given no money at all, tourists will always come to HB.
777	Kerry Marshall	The economic benefits of tourism are marginal at best and in my opinion overstated with significant negative impact on the region's infrastructure. In my view council should not be funding HB Tourism. The industry should support this organisation. If tourism can't survive without local authority funding then it needs to look for alternative ways of operating. A major factor is the climate and environmental impact of tourism. The airline industry is one of the major contributors to emissions and no amount of offset tree planting can rectify that. The tourism buses and other transport are also polluting activities.
787	Glenda Mawson	This is a luxury that the region cannot afford.
811	Glenn Marshall	Tough economic times & challenges call for tough decisions. I note that Tourism industry bodies contributed an abysmally low 6% to HBT's revenue in 2023. HB has many other industry sectors that contribute to our growth yet don't receive this level of ratepayer subsidisation. There has been a lot of hyperbole used by vested interest groups including HBT themselves suggesting that if ratepayer funding is no longer used to prop up HBT that our entire HB tourism sector is in doubt. Google Scottish Tourist information centres and hit the news tab and you will see that Scottish Tourism is shutting all Visitor Information Centres over the next two years. In the age of the internet we do not need HBT in order to have tourists visiting HB. It is time for this ratepayer subsidy to finish.
827	Sera	Napier is a well-known destination. We want visitors, but we want them to visit for what makes us unique and need to ensure that decisions made for Hawke's Bay are premised on the enjoyment of property rights by affected adjoining landowners as a guiding principle, who live in and contribute to the city. This includes Airways and Hawke's Bay Airport Limited (HBAL) installing new flight paths over Napier in 2023 and 2024 without consultation with affected property owners, resulting in up to 23+ flights a day at under 1000m flying over affected properties. They choose not to own up to their error and mitigate the issue for affected residents. Has this been considered as part of the risks to the health of Our People? Refer Wellington Planesense as an example of not consulting with affected residents on flight path changes. Council could consider that in the current climate, some of the proposals considered by Council may not be seen as a priority to their community and ratepayers. Although Council will only consider formal submissions on this process as per legal requirements, Council could also consider informal feedback from their community when making decisions on the Three Year Plan, which would help the Council understand varied points of view. This in turn enables the Council to make better decisions, and deliver better services for Napier, by reflecting the aspirations of residents, ratepayers, community groups and business.

853	Elaine Plesner	I think HB tourism could fund itself. There is also alot of information online that will promote HB when people google it.
856	Paul Baker	HBRC needs to stick to its core business and this was never promoting tourism. Phase out misguided tourism funding over 2 years at the rates specified below would be agreeable to me: 2024 - cut by 95%, 2025 cut by remaining 5%. I would really prefer a 100% cut as of right now but this is probably unreasonable to the affected parties.
857	Michael Dalzell	Tourism should not be a priority for HBRC. Best left to commercial entities.
867	Lynne Anderson	I realise cuts need to be made and I'd prefer cuts to tourism than to the environment and our natural biodiversity.
882	John Waterson	Keep airport alive as that was open after cyclone only way in & out. If highways close to get supplies out to [??] Topdressing planes taking supplies to farmers airstrips etc
897	Byron Mabbett	Combine with other HB councils.
907	Andrew Common	Why would the council wait two years? Funding should be discontinued immediately. Prioritisation of spending to essential requirements only should no longer allows HBRC to fund HB Tourism. This activity could be returned to at a later time once HBRC has its books back in order.
918	Johanna Rodgers	Hawkes Bay Tourism doesn't seem to do much. Its annual report for FY23 has very little substantial information. Some seems to have come from other government departments. I think their discussion about the distribution of Equivalent Advertising Value is fanciful. I note that the media releases from the Chairman and Chief Exec of HB Tourism have concentrated on the need for funding. They didn't say why they want the money, but just implied that tourism in Hawkes Bay would decline without the money. This just reminds me of old school funding for inputs.
967	Ingrid Perols	HB has many events that will continue to attract visitors without the assistance of HB Tourism.
1005	Kathryn Bayliss	Funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism should be stopped completely now. HBRC ratepayers have subsidised them for years and this needs to stop. They should be treated as most other HB businesses.
1051	Stephen Domino	Should not have to spend precious HBRC funds on tourism promotion.
1081	Lindsay Tallman	Hawke's Bay Tourism is a 'nice to have': it's great work, but it needs to be reduced in order to fund 'must have' programmes like flood resilience, infrastructure and biodiversity conservation.
1086	Trent Mabbett	Private businesses who benefit from tourism should pay for this- not citizens.
1105	Rose Stobie	It would have been helpful to know why you didn't go ahead to step back funding from 2018-28 Long Term Plan
1119	Ian Jones	The business that benefit from tourism should any for any promotion. If a tourism business can not afford to pay for promotion then it should close. This is not an activity that the Regional Council should be involved in, as it has no benefit to the majority of ratepayers.
1136	Kerry Brannigan	It is with some disappointment I see the proposed HB Tourism funding cut. Holding funding at the current level for the coming year is encouraging but the dramatic reduction over the next years is disturbing. These rates as pointed out are collected regardless by, currently, HBRC while previously collected by individual District Councils. The value of the rate collected doesn't differ whether collected Regionally or by District. HB Tourism is a very small organisation who punch well above their weight. We have seen increased tourism figures the last 12 months, which after Gabrielle has been a life saver for the HB Community. The money spent has supported all Hawkes Bay, both Rural and Urban. It is the Rural picture that Hawkes Bay presents, that attracts visitors. Indeed the Napier Port is a direct beneficiary and has seen the largest number of visitors by ship this summer. The promotion of Hawkes Bay provides direct revenue to Hawkes Bay which is unique. There a very few activities undertaken by the Regional Council that can measure the financial return on the investment. To have the organisation of Tourism in Hawkes Bay sidelined to those who have time and an

		<p>interest and to see the lack of cohesion and delivery will play out in measurable and obvious decline in promotion of this area. The financial impact to businesses will be significant as disjointed programs will not provide a strong clear message to the visitor market. Like it or not, tourism is a strong provider to the Hawkes Bay economy. A coordinated delivery is the most efficient use of time and funds. The current District Councils are massively loaded with debt that has been passed to them by the government and are not in a place to provide funding. I am sure in the future this will improve but now is not the time. The HBRC are well funded by government. Like all businesses affected by Gabrielle, it is a time to look at costs and trim those to create greater efficiency and value. The number of staff and internal spend at HBRC has ballooned dramatically over the last 9-10 years. I suggest HBRC consider their own spend and restrain (or trim) costs so those areas that provide good input and return are cared for and retained. HB Tourism is an absolute necessity for the ongoing promotion and therefore, well being of this community. The interest and activity it generates brings Holiday makers, tourists, cruise ships, weddings, functions, conferences and many many more activities. Our business benefits in a small way directly from Tour Group visits but mostly from people who are visiting the Bay. Whether a concert (Mission, Show Grounds, McLean Park) or holidays, we see the immediate result of these visits. I urge the continuation of the rate collection and for dialogue with District Councils in preparation for the following year(s) so this very successful tourism promotion model continues.</p>
1139	Roger Mogford	We cant keep funding Hawke's Bay Tourism. Maybe those in Tourism should pay more.
1169	Trevor Le Lievre Wise Water Use Hawkes Bay	Wise Water Use HB supports the preferred option to phase out funding for Hawkes Bay Tourism. This is non-core business. It is incumbent upon a local industry that is reportedly worth \$1.3 billion to the region to self-fund \$1.52 million p.a. of its marketing budget, representing approximately 1/10 of a percentage point. ⁴ Moreover, the pollution which the cruise ship component of local tourism generates contributes to environmental degradation with over 70% of ship emissions, including nitrogen oxide, sulphur oxide and particulate matter, occurring within 400 km of land. ⁵
1180	Troy Duncan	There is a case that this is not HBRC core business. This may have changed over the years and or be interpreted by different people to reflect what their opinion is. The notion that HBRC came out of the Catchment Board is still a thing. And that their core business predominantly, is for the environment, river and drainage oversight and management. The current raft of apparent responsibilities of HBRC has watered down that intent and taken focus away to other things and sometimes at the cost of the "core business". This subject of tourism is one that is seen as probably not core business and although needs funding, should be via other avenues. As described in the blurb that back in 2018 moves to remove this responsibility were mooted. And that it was thought the additional investment had paid off and there should be momentum to sustain visitor numbers.
1181	Vanessa Moon	<p>I support "Option A" because, although I recognise that this will be tough for people working in tourism initially, I question the sustainability of the current focus on tourism as such a large part of Hawke's Bay's "economy", and the sustainability of tourism itself.</p> <p>This is a wider conversation that needs to be had by us all, not just about tourism but also about the wider "economy" in our region. By this I mean how we as people create "livelihoods" that don't damage the Earth's capacity to support Life, and also ensure that we can provide for our own needs locally - which creates both sustainable and resilient communities.</p>
1191	Carmen Morrell	<p>Review the HBRC 2015-2025 LTP to repeal the Hawkes Bay Tourism, its funding to enable the associated councils retain the targeted rates in their own districts for tourism activities.</p> <p>Each district council should be able to manage their respective tourism initiatives with existing organisations, iwi and social groups and communities. The \$1.52m being collected, could best serve and utilised more effectively.</p>

Option B - Maintain year 1, then reduce

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
3	Karryn Baudet	I don't think there should be ANY reduction. in the funding at all. Its vital for the regions economy and shortsighted to reduced it.
6	Lucinda Perry Hastings City Business Association	Dear Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Tourism is pivotal for the sustainability and growth of our region. It not only drives our economy but also generates job opportunities and bolsters various sectors, including hospitality and retail. The huge impacts of Covid, significant weather events, and the rising cost of living have seen Hastings businesses faced with declining patronage. It's paramount for tourism support to keep Hastings and the wider Hawkes Bay region on the map for visitors to shop, dine and discover all that we have to offer. As the Board of the Hastings City Business Association, we represent over 500 businesses in Hastings CBD. We are in favour of the HB Tourism counter proposal to the proposed funding cuts from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (Option B). This would see funding for Hawkes Bay Tourism maintained at \$1.52 million for 2024-25, and then reduce to \$441,000 per annum from 2025-26. This option gives Hawke's Bay Tourism more time to secure funding from other sources. We are collectively committed to working together for the long-term benefit of the Hawke's Bay tourism sector. Kind regards, Craig Riddiford (BWR), John Van Den Berk (John's Bakery), Leah Bernie (Bramwell Bate Lawyers), Angus Thomson (Thomson's Suits), Ross Hill-Rennie (The Tile Shed), Lucinda Perry (GM – HCBA)
21	Emma McRobbie	Funding should not be reduced or phased out. Tourism is vital for our region and Hawke's bay tourism should be supported by our regional council.
24	Warwick Thomson	Don't!! For goodness sake, it's our lifeblood.
33	Penny Joll	Maintain as is. We have a wonderful region and it needs to be showcased to gain more tourists. It brings money and jobs to the area.
42	Tanja Klumpers	Tourism is important to bring revenue into the region.
55	Aileen Campbell	Think should maintain at current rate. HB tourism is important to economy and region, and tourism already struggling post cyclone to attract people to HB
69	Julia Stevens	HB Tourism delivers essential economic benefits to Hawke's Bay.
98	Thursday Ibbetson	Facilitate new ways to source funding.
115	Vince Labat	Good afternoon I would like to make a submission to the HBRC 3 year plan and select option B for the Hawke's Bay Tourism funding. Tourism is key to many businesses and jobs in our region. Thank you
116	E deB00rder	Gives tourism time to stand on their own as any other business
121	Jeremy Smith	I disagree with both options; and would have preferred to be consulted on an additional option for HBRC to continue to fund Hawke's Bay permanently, with annual increases with Local government increases applied. If cuts go ahead and Hawke's Bay Tourism is defunded, the effect on Hawke's Bay's visitor economy will be catastrophic. The visitor economy would contract by at least 20 percent – or \$260 million – over the next three years; a disastrous impact for the 1 in 10 locals employed in the industry. The HawkesBayNZ.com website would cease, lights would go out on many iconic events, it would be the end of Hawke's Bay's national and off-shore profile, and there would be a significant flow-on hit to many local businesses and workers – not just in tourism. The \$1.3 billion of direct and indirect benefit to our regional economy spreads far and wide; with 80 percent going to non-tourism businesses across our communities and helping fund local lifestyles. For the economic and social prosperity of Hawke's Bay, and for the future of local businesses and jobs, this cannot be allowed to happen. If Hawke's Bay Regional Council must reduce funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism Option B is really the only option. If Council opts for Option A - I suspect Hawke's Bay Tourism will close before Yr2. DEFUNDING Hawke's Bay Tourism is irresponsible. With no replacement funding mechanism in place from 1 July

		2024 to fund a Regional Tourism Organisation and the regions tourism ecosystem/economy - the organisation will be effectively kneecapped and commence the disestablishment of Hawke's Bay Tourism, which I suspect will be wound up by 30 June 2025.
130	Janet Neesham	Now more than ever (after Cyclone Gabrielle), Hawkes Bay NEEDS its tourism team to be out there telling the public and trade about what is available in the region. Without a tourism office, HB will slowly start to be left off itineraries - it's just the way things go - out of sight out of mind - it is CRUCIAL that Hawkes Bay Tourism is kept on, at least in some shape. Without it, the region stands to lose 100s of millions of dollars in visitor revenue, for YEARS TO COME!
149	Roslyn Thomas	Tourism Hawkes Bay have been a huge support in the Wairoa District that provides a vital resource, expertise, and link for us to the wider Hawkes Bay region. Without their input we would loose so much - FAWC events, Art Deco support & promotion etc and without this entity the region would loose that vital tourist spark as there is no other entity in Hawkes Bay doing this work. I support a continuation of their funding.
153	Central Hawke's Bay District Council	<p>The work of Hawke's Bay Tourism plays an important part in attracting visitors to the Hawke's Bay Region and providing collaboration. Central Hawke's Bay District Council has maintained a strong working relationship throughout the years with Hawke's Bay Tourism especially when it comes to the promotion of the district, networking and supporting activities that attract tourists such as the Spring Fling.</p> <p>Central Hawke's Bay District Council has been consistent in its view, and its submissions, to Hawke's Bay Regional Council through 2015, 2018 and 2021 Long Term Plan consultations on this topic. Promoting "Brand Hawke's Bay" to visitors - loudly, consistently, persistently and professionally is vital to the economy of our region.</p> <p>The regional funding model, via Hawke's Bay Regional Council rating, is in our view the most efficient way to collect and contribute to the building of our regional brand for visitors.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism is the regional body that allows collective collaboration and not funding this overarching strategic body would mean there is a risk that each district will begin working in isolation which will impact our tourism providers and the tourism market.</p> <p>Our first preference is for the status quo funding strategy to remain in place. We are disappointed that this was not presented as an option in the Three Year Plan.</p> <p>Time is needed for all Councils to work together, with the tourism industry and HB Tourism to determine the best way to progress through this important issue. If Hawke's Bay Regional Council maintained the full funding in Year 1 it would give time for all to come together to put a new funding model together. In our view, this will need to include other key businesses and tourism providers as part of the model to complement any public funding via councils.</p> <p>In light of all these factors, we support option B.</p>
184	Nicky Solomon	Hawke's Bay Tourism does a great job of marketing the region, and with tough economic times upon us it would be counter-productive to diminish their capacity abruptly. We will need a strong tourism marketing presence and Option B allows HBT time to develop their own longer term plan. Cutting funding too abruptly would be short-sighted and not in the region's best interests.
203	Adele Fitzgerald	For the economic and social prosperity of Hawke's Bay, and for the future of local businesses and jobs, I support the option - to maintain for 1 year, then reduce funding, to give the organisation a chance to seek financial support from elsewhere. HBRC's support for HB Tourism has enabled them to highlight the region through iconic events that showcase the region's bounty & beauty & this association will be a great loss to HBRC.
204	Brian webby	reduce immediately- nobody benefits in this district and never have
215	Henderson Sissiel	Would like to hold on to tourism as is. Need more cash coming in with the huge damage done during Gabrielle.
224	Peter Tran Trung	To whom it may concern, I am General Manager for the Art Deco Masonic Hotel, Expressotel and The Rose Irish Pub in the Napier Central Business District. Tourism is very important to our businesses and to Hawkes bay in general; we would like to express our support for Hawke's

		Bay Tourism to maintain its funding to bolster tourism and the visitor market to Hawke's Bay. We would like to submit our support in favour of OPTION B.
227	Jessie Smith	I disagree with both these options - funding should be maintained at the current level. Tourism brings huge money to our economy, and things like the cycle trails are a great thing both for visitors and residents. Reducing this funding would be short sighted.
252	Chris McLean No9 & Printing.com Napier	Submission against the Proposal to Phase Out Funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism To whom it may concern, I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposal to phase out funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. While I understand the need to carefully consider budget allocations, I believe that cutting funding for tourism promotion could have negative consequences for the region's economy and community. Hawke's Bay relies heavily on tourism as a key driver of economic growth. The \$1.52 million in funding currently provided to Hawke's Bay Tourism plays a crucial role in promoting the region, attracting visitors, and supporting local businesses. Cutting this funding will result in a decline in visitor numbers and spend, negatively impacting businesses that directly and indirectly rely on tourism for their livelihoods. Furthermore, the proposal to phase out funding over the next two years and stop funding altogether from 2026-27 onwards will lead to a sudden and significant reduction in resources for Hawke's Bay Tourism. This will hinder their ability exist let alone effectively promote the region and develop sustainable tourism initiatives. I urge you to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative solutions to address budgetary constraints. Maintaining funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism is essential for supporting economic development, creating jobs, and enhancing the quality of life for residents in the region. Thank you for considering my comments. Yours sincerely Chris McLean 0274457860
254	Hilton Taylor Te Mata Peak Mountain bike trail rebuilders	Maybe just reduce the mainstream advertising
276	Andrea Stevenson	While the preferred option may reduce costs in the immediate future, from a long term perspective for the region, maintaining this investment will have a ROI in the long run. It needs a shared perspective across the multiple councils of this small region and the entity is instrumental in attracting tourism spend and investment. The region needs this. I am also less clear on what your alternatives funders are.
302	Hannah Coltart Coastal Wine Cycles	I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed funding cuts outlined in the HBRC 2024 – 2027 Three-Year Plan. As a small tourism operator in Hawke's Bay, I urge you to reconsider these cuts, as they pose a significant threat to our community's well-being and economic stability. As someone who worked for Tourism Hawke's Bay for well over a decade, I can attest to the incredible work they do. They are a hard-working team that operates effectively within a tight budget, and losing their already comparatively small budget to other competing regions would be incredibly detrimental to the industry and wider region here. The potential closure of Hawke's Bay Tourism would have devastating consequences for local businesses and workers, exacerbating the challenges we already face in recovering from recent disruptions. Our industry needs support now more than ever to rebuild and thrive again. I am in full support of Option B and ask you to prioritise the preservation of Hawke's Bay Tourism and its vital role in our community's economic and social fabric. Please consider the far-reaching impact of these proposed cuts and work towards a solution that supports the resilience and recovery of our tourism industry. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.
304	Viv Smith	Surely supporting Tourism is going to help rebuild Hawkes Bay after Cyclone Gabrielle. It does not make sense to withdraw funding completely.
307	Joanne Mckay	The beautiful Hawkes Bay Needs an effective / targeted/ accountable Marketing plan to promote internationally as a fabulous option inline with the predictable Rotorua, queenstown etc especially for financial Babyboomers with the time & money to travel now. I run a Bed & Breakfast in Napier \$280 per night and have mostly international visitors via Booking.com in rental cars travelling the North island so lots of feedback to the frustrations of booking from so far away. Most bookings are one night which needs to change to at least x 3 to really see whats on offer here.

313	John Loughlin	<p>I am the joint founder and owner of Askerne Estate Winery Limited.</p> <p>This submission supports Option B. The Tourism Sector is a very significant contributor to the Hawke's Bay economy. There are many direct beneficiaries of tourism including accommodation providers, activities / venues providers, wineries, cafés, restaurants, Napier Port, retailers, etc. These beneficiaries individually have quite different levels of benefit ranging from very large to quite small. There are also many indirect beneficiaries as employees, etc and through the economic activity multiplier effect. Some of the beneficiaries probably contribute more than they receive in benefit. I think examples of this would likely be Te Mata Estate and Craggy Range wineries who probably pull many tourists into the region and take less benefit from those who come for other reasons. The varied nature of benefits (and contributions) makes Tourism unsuited to "user pays" type approaches to funding. The magnitude of regional benefit makes Tourism better suited to community funding which is supported by voluntary levies. Contributions to HB Tourism should be regarded as an investment in community economic success rather than as everyday operating expenditure.</p> <p>Decisions by tourists and those who facilitate tourism, to visit a region are based on awareness and excitement, and the package of activities and experiences that are on offer. There can be an accumulating destruction of the regional attractiveness and a cascade effect from a reduction in marketing and the closure of businesses that are part of a package. I recognise the difficult choices that the Councils in the region are facing which have been massively accentuated by Cyclone Gabrielle. However, the Councils have a responsibility to facilitate the long-term economic health of the region and its ongoing competitiveness. I believe that any reduction in the level of contribution by the Councils would be extremely detrimental to the region in the long term with the first signs of this emerging quite quickly.</p> <p>Regional and International Tourism exist in a competitive environment where marketing and promotion is required to avoid failure and wider catastrophic outcomes. Other regions, onshore and offshore, will continue to market themselves aggressively and will capitalise on any weakness in the efforts from Hawke's Bay. I believe that the past and present success of HB Tourism in this competitive environment justifies ongoing Councils' support at the levels that are outlined in Option B.</p> <p>I believe that the current funding model where HB Regional Council funds HB Tourism is administratively convenient, rather than logically sound. Napier City and Hastings District are clearly major beneficiaries of the success of regional tourism activities and should be contributing directly. HB Regional Council also benefits significantly as a majority shareholder through the marine and berth charges that Napier Port levies on cruise ships. These contribute significantly to the Port (particularly as marginal income on existing assets and capability) and thus the Council through dividends and share value. The Regional Council also benefits indirectly through regional activity provided through tourism. Thus, there is logic to ongoing contribution to tourism by HB Regional Council, although at a reduced rate. This fits with the Option B proposal.</p> <p>I believe a model of diverse Councils' funding supported by voluntary levies provides a mechanism to leverage Central Government funding as has been demonstrated in by HB Tourism. This leverage amplifies the effectiveness of tourism investment spend.</p> <p>Disclosure: I am a member of the HB Regional Recovery Agency, am Chair of Rockit Global Limited and am a member of Hawke's Bay Winegrowers. Askerne Estate Winery is a member of HB Tourism. I am a past director of Port of Napier Limited and HB Inc.</p>
315	Mark Scofield	<p>Maintain funding as Tourism brings in money from outside of the Hawkes Bay area and more important from overseas. This is very important to have money being spent in the Bay by tourists to boost our economy. This year cruise ships also made a big contribution and some passengers choose a cruise that has a visit to Napier. HB Tourism is integral to boosting our visitor economy to the benefit of our whole region. It would be unwise to reduce this now the momentum is increasing and all locals benefit. This appears a poor decision with not much warning to HBT. TOURISM INCOME IS CRITICAL TO THE HAWKES BAY REGION ECONOMY. HBT should be supported for the term of this plan and give notice that will cease after that. Totally irresponsible to just chop without warning. Notwithstanding they have been fortunate to have this funding over previous years.</p>
330	Bevan Jenkins	<p>Tourism provides a great economic benefit to the region, and this funding should continue to help support and grow tourism.</p>

337	Dianne Cameron	We need tourism to support many local businesses
341	Greg Donnison	I do believe it is important to keep funding this organisation. However, this is squarely a situation where the beneficiaries are businesses, with very little benefit (direct or indirect) to general ratepayers. In that context, I believe the rate or fees required to fund this organisation should be levied on business solely. I do see a role for HBRC as the collection agency with a HBT "fee" charged to commercial ratepayers included as a separate line on their rates notice.
343	Susan Garner	Funding is essential to maintain Hawke's Bay Tourism, especially the cruise season, wine industry and hospitality. After Covid 19 and the cyclone needs more time to flourish.
369	Jacqui Lloyd New Zealand Cruise Association	<p>I am writing on behalf of the New Zealand Cruise Association to advocate for the funding Option B for Hawke's Bay Tourism, particularly in the context of cruise tourism, for the upcoming year. The importance of Hawke's Bay Tourism in coordinating and enhancing the cruise experience in Hawke's Bay cannot be overstated, and we believe continued support is crucial for the region's economic growth and sustainability.</p> <p>Economic impact</p> <p>Cruise tourism contributes significantly to Hawke's Bay's economy. The 19/20 season saw \$27,445,000 passenger, crew, and vessel expenditure in region (STATS NZ) - 19% of total regional international visitor spend for that year. This expenditure benefits the entire region, supporting Napier Port, and local tourism, hospitality, and retail providers within a two-hour radius of Napier Port. 2023/2024 season expenditure will be available in September 2024.</p> <p>Management of regional priorities and coordination</p> <p>With multiple ports across diverse regions in New Zealand, there exists a mix of priorities, processes, and operational standards for cruise tourism, leading to uneven visitor experiences and severe impacts for communities and stakeholders. Cruise line executives continually commend the coordination of stakeholders in Hawke's Bay, where Hawke's Bay Tourism plays a pivotal role. Serving as the linchpin in coordinating multiple stakeholders, Hawke's Bay Tourism ensure the success of the cruise season. From liaising with council departments, Napier Port, business associations, isite, tourism and hospitality providers and local communities, Hawke's Bay Tourism ensures a seamless experience for visitors and stakeholders alike, encouraging collaboration and enhancing the overall cruise tourism ecosystem.</p> <p>Product development and logistics</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism is the lead in product development for cruise in the region as it is the only organisation with direct connection to cruise lines and ground handlers. Hawke's Bay Tourism helps develop shore excursions and new products that promote better regional spread and maximise the benefits of cruise passenger spending. Additionally, they provide day-to-day logistics and support to ensure that cruise days run seamlessly.</p> <p>Passenger satisfaction and future travel</p> <p>Passenger ratings for Hawke's Bay consistently rank high compared to other ports in New Zealand. This achievement underscores the vital role of continued support from Hawke's Bay Tourism in both coordination and advocacy for the region. High ratings not only lead to increased port visits but also encourage repeat visitation. Ensuring high levels of passenger satisfaction is crucial for future travel intentions, with 60% of cruise passengers expressing a desire to return for land-based holidays (CLIA 2024 State of the Industry). The positive ratings garnered by Hawke's Bay with passengers and cruise lines have directly contributed to increased port visits, highlighting the importance of ongoing support from Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>Emergency Management and post-cyclone support</p> <p>The work Hawke's Bay Tourism undertook post-cyclone supporting the economy and visitors should not be underestimated. Their connection with cruise lines and Napier Port, and ability to coordinate with tourism and hospitality providers was key to the return of cruise to the region in early March, reinstating much-needed international expenditure in the region with limited road access.</p> <p>Long-term consequences</p>

		<p>Without strong support and coordination from an RTO like Hawke's Bay Tourism, there is a very real risk of declining ratings and potential withdrawal of cruise lines in the region. Once lost, it can be challenging to regain cruise visits, with ramifications that could be felt across the region for years to come resulting in a reduction in income and employment to Napier Port and businesses across the region.</p> <p>Considering these points, NZCA strongly support Option B. This transitional support is vital to ensure the continued success and sustainability of cruise tourism in Hawke's Bay.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this proposal. I urge the council to prioritise funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism, recognising its indispensable role in supporting the region's tourism industry and economy.</p>
370	Rachel Haydon	<p>If we invest in tourism, we benefit from tourism. HBT's visitor destination promotions have proven effective, even in the post-covid tourism world proven by their 2023 'Baycation' campaign. If we do not invest in tourism, there are 29 other Regional Tourism Organisations in NZ that will cannibalise our tourism market - and result in the failure of more businesses in HB. It is IMPERATIVE that we continually communicate Hawke's Bay is 'open for business' in the post-Covid and post-cyclone world. HBRC risks facilitating the failure of multiple independent and other tourism business in HB by butting this funding.</p>
384	Karla Lee Hawke's Bay Chamber of Commerce Inc	<p>Tourism is vital to the Hawke's Bay economy and HB Tourism actively promote Hawke's Bay as a tourism destination. The more Hawke's Bay is promoted, the more people will come. This industry doesn't thrive on word of mouth advertising, it needs a dedicated entity to push the many attractions on offer. Tourism extends to conferences and events, therefore bringing people and money to the region that benefit our economy. If this drops, so will our regional economy. I am supporting option B to maintain funding for a year then reduce this funding. This will give HB Tourism the time needed to create and introduce another funding model.</p>
392	David Perks Regional Tourism New Zealand	<p>Regional Tourism New Zealand (RTNZ) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft three-year Long-Term Plan 2024-2027 for Hawke's Bay Regional Council.</p> <p>RTNZ is the peak body for the Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) across New Zealand of which Hawkes Bay Tourism (HBT) is a member. RTOs are each the representative of their Local Governments' (LG) investment in tourism in respect to their community. 90% of funding to RTOs comes from LG with \$40 million invested across 31 RTOs that make up the network.</p> <p>Tourism is a significant contributor to economic and social wellbeing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2019, prior to COVID-19 New Zealand's tourism industry generated \$41b of visitor expenditure, contributed 10% of GDP and employed 340,000 people. It was the second largest export sector behind dairy. With borders once again open and people travelling, New Zealand's tourism sector has rebounded strongly, and visitation is 80% back to pre-COVID levels. By 2025 both visitation and expenditure are predicted to exceed 2019 levels. 2. The tourism industry creates value, employment, prosperity and vibrancy to New Zealand's cities, regions, and communities. \$115m per day in 'additional' spend is generated by people moving around and visiting different places and communities across the country. Visitor spending flows far and wide, well beyond the visitor attraction, activity, accommodation, café/restaurant retail, gas stations and supermarkets. Approximately 20% of tourism spend is direct to tourism specific activities, with 80% in broader goods and services. Refer appendix A. 3. Tourism makes a substantive contribution to the Hawke's Bay region's economy, is worth \$1.3b, 7% of regional GDP, and is the third largest regional earner. Tourism generates \$775m of new revenue and equates to 1 in every 10 jobs. 4. When tourism grows, communities benefit. A vibrant tourism industry enhances the quality of life for residents by supporting amenities, services, and recreational opportunities that cater to both visitors and locals. <p>Destination promotion is a public good for the benefit and wellbeing of all.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Destination promotion and stewardship is an important investment that no region/district can afford not to make without damaging the future economic and social well-being of communities. Due to collective benefits that extend beyond individual businesses or organisations,

tourism promotion is considered a public good that requires collaboration and support from governments, communities, and stakeholders to maximise its positive impact.

6. Effective tourism promotion enhances a destination's image and reputation nationally and globally. A positive perception of a place not only attracts more visitors, but also leads to attracting more residents, enhancing business opportunities and more investment, therefore contributing to the long-term growth and prosperity for residents. These potential flow on benefits all start with a visit.

1. Visit

If you built a place where people want to visit, then you have built a place where people want to live.

4. Invest

And if you built a place where business and residents will invest, then you have built a place where people will want to visit.



2. Live

And if you built a place where people want to live, then you have built a place where people want to work.

3. Work

And if you built a place where people want to work, then you have built a place where business and residents want to invest.

RTOs play an important role within the destination and tourism system.

7. RTOs play a crucial role in the destination by serving as key facilitators and coordinators of tourism activities across the destination's ecosystem. HBT is the one organisation that has oversight of how the destination functions. They are the glue that connects businesses to potential visitors so that businesses can prosper, jobs can be created, and communities can thrive.
8. Businesses are key to the economic health and vibrancy of the city and region. HBT also provides valuable support and capability building to enable local businesses to grow, adapt and become more resilient to changing environments. Tourism businesses bring significant cashflow and investment through attracting both international and domestic visitors. HBT works very closely with tourism businesses, bringing private sector investment to the table to further leverage council's investment, and in doing so, creating greater impact.

International promotion requires national and regional cooperation.

9. New Zealand's RTOs' international promotional work is carried out alongside Tourism New Zealand (TNZ) so that regions can attract their share of these higher spending visitors. Competition for international visitors is strong, and all 31 RTOs are competing to secure their region's market share. HBT works alongside TNZ to coordinate tourism trade activity so that the Hawke's Bay region is factored into international tourism distribution channels and 'sold' to prospective visitors. They also pitch and secure international media coverage across vast audiences spanning various countries and cultures. TNZ relies on HBT on the 'ground' to support their international attraction efforts. If HBT is unable to do this, TNZ efforts will 'by-pass' the region.

Developing a sustainable tourism industry which contributes to the quality of life of residents.

	<p>10. The destination's eco-system is complex with many interrelated and interdependent parts that need to work in together to ensure tourism benefit communities. Over the past five years all regions have developed a Destination Management Plan (DMP). The DMPs provide the blueprint for the sustainable growth of tourism across New Zealand's regions. RTNZ acknowledges the work done by HBT in the development of the region's DMP.</p> <p>11. The Hawke's Bay region's DMP is a demonstration of the importance of stewardship, and HBT performs a leadership, coordination, and facilitation role so that tourism actors can come together and collaborate and continue to grow sustainably. It is important that the DMP is supported, and the regional community's goals and aspirations are honoured and delivered upon.</p> <p>Local government has been a critical partner in New Zealand's tourism success.</p> <p>12. Tourism takes place in local communities and provides jobs, regional economic opportunities, and vibrancy, and local governments across NZ play a key role in supporting /enabling the tourism system. This includes managing and providing local tourism experiences through place-making, events and community facilities, amenities and services which are a key part of the visitor's experience within the destination.</p> <p>13. RTOs across New Zealand rely on partnership funding from local government to support their activities. It is critical that Councils remain strong partners of RTOs to ensure tourism continues to contribute benefits to their communities. RTNZ also recognises councils invest in many visitor attractions that add to the appeal of a place e.g. museums, galleries, gardens, event/conference facilities, airports and events etc. The RTO supports these visitor assets and works closely with their respective teams to optimise the value and return that they create for ratepayers through out-of-town visitation.</p> <p>14. Tourism businesses bring significant cashflow and investment through attracting both international and domestic visitors. HBT works very closely with tourism businesses, bringing private sector investment to the table to further leverage council's investment, and in doing so, creating greater impact. Any risk to HBT's funding also puts at risk, investment from the private sector.</p> <p>15. RTNZ acknowledges the significant financial challenges facing councils at a time when there needs to be ongoing investment to maintain and enhance community amenities and services, place making, and mixed-use infrastructure used by both locals and visitors.</p> <p>Now is not the time to be de-investing in tourism</p> <p>16. Hawke's Bay Regional Council is currently proposing to defund HBT – reducing the current funding level of \$1.52m pa (a grant unchanged over the last 6 financial years) to \$500k in the 24/25 FY, \$250k in the 25/26 FY, and \$0 in the 26/27 FY. This proposal is simply not a viable option and will force the closure of HBT. This will have a negative impact on businesses, jobs and the overall economic and social prosperity of the region. Any decrease or cessation of funding will lead to a contraction of activities, the region being less competitive, resulting in a loss of market share to other regions as regions actively compete for their respective share of voice, visitors and visitor spend. This will have a erode the value tourism contributes to communities and the quality of life residents enjoy.</p> <p>17. Now is not the time to be withdrawing or reducing funding to the RTO, particularly while the region is rebuilding after Cyclone Gabrielle, also putting at risk the government's cyclone support for tourism. This is also not the time to be withdrawing support, as tourism grows again and the competition between regions for market share of visitors and spend increases. Defunding puts at risk the regional brand, additional revenue to the region, employment and business profitability, established tourism networks, current and future air services, events delivery and support and Hawke's Bay's networks and partnerships nationally and internationally. For all these reasons, now is not the time to risk the contribution of the visitor economy to the Hawke's Bay economy, particularly as New Zealand's economy faces strong headwinds, inflationary pressures and potential rises in unemployment.</p> <p>18. Funding of HBT should be seen as an investment and not a cost. HBT is proposing that the status quo is retained while an alternative model and partnerships with the region's local authorities is developed. RTNZ strongly supports this solution. Each of the region's local authorities has committed to working together to develop a more sustainable rate-payer funded operating model. This commitment to collaborate on</p>
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		<p>a solution, and collectively invest, needs to be supported. Whilst this is taking place, any reduction in support by HBRC will have a material impact on HBT, its effectiveness, and the confidence of the tourism industry and stakeholders, therefore also compromising the ensuing discussions, process and outcome.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>RTNZ recommends HBRC maintains its commitment to HBT and retains its \$1.52m investment for the 2024-2025 year. This is a sensible and pragmatic approach and will ensure HBT's activities and the regional benefits from tourism are not compromised or eroded whilst a longer-term partnership with the regions local councils is finalised, and a sustainable funding model is agreed and implemented.</p> <p>It is critical that the region's councils collectively work in good faith to find a solution to the situation and provide certainty to the RTO so that they can continue to effectively support the sustainable growth and development of the region and tourism sector over the longer term.</p>
399	Kathryn Young	Give them time to reorganise, reprioritise and seek alternative funding
400	Tony Bish Bish Wines Ltd	<p>Having read the Regional Councils 'Tough Choices' document pertaining to Tourism Funding Proposals, either Option B or maintaining the current Status Quo are the only viable options. Option A would be reckless and result in the decimation of HB Tourism, with catastrophic flow on effects to the wider community. Tourism is HB's 3rd largest industry, attracting \$1.3 billion of direct and indirect benefit to our region, and engages 1 in 10 of our working population. Of the \$1.3 billion, only 20% lands in the tills of Tourism operators, with balance filtering through almost every sector of our regional economy. To reduce funding or cease funding of such a critical economic industry sector would be fiscally and morally largely irresponsible, and to be honest, beggars' belief that such a proposal has been tabled. After many years of hard lobbying, HB was last year recognised as one of the Worlds Great Wine Capitals. This is a phenomenal achievement and will significantly increase our potential for greater tourism visitor numbers. This potential will not be maximised without a functional RTO. NZ tourism data shows that wine tourists stay longer and spend more money than any other category of tourism visitors. The clear opportunity for HB to become a global wine tourism destination requires support from our Regional Council. Recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle is a massive challenge we all face in HB, and all are aware that some 'Tough Choices' need to be made. These must be based on rationale analysis of cost/benefit to the region, and on this basis, it is clear that Option B or maintaining the current funding status quo are the only two options that should be considered. It has been tabled that the HBRC is sitting on approx. \$24m of assets in Wellington that were bought as reserves as a kind of 'rainy day' fund. It is abundantly clear that we have had our rainy day, and now face very challenging economic times as the global recession starts to take hold. Therefore, I cannot comprehend a better time to cash in all or part of the 'rainy day' assets to alleviate council funding shortfalls across many sectors from tourism to resilience and infrastructure repair. Please accept this submission and eliminate Option A of the Tourism Funding Proposal.</p>
401	Malcolm Redmond Breckenridge Lodge	<p>If the only option is for option B then this is the one I would be mildly happy with. I would prefer that you keep the same funding that has been approved for over the last 10 years. It is the rate payers money and the proceeds of Tourism is beneficial to a majority of HB, from the petrol stations that sell gas to cafes for coffee and a snacks and all the other services that support these business,s This is not including business like our selves that a wholly dependent on tourism and workers that work in the industry which is their livelihood I have been in operation over 20 years and with the aid of HB Tourism and my own marketing we have been a very successful business. We host international travel agents to showcase what HB is about and give them first hand experience of the amazing attractions so they can recommend then to their clients when booking there holidays My business is a luxury lodge that bring a majority of guests that are international to HB and it is crucial that we keep HB tourism funded the same to enable them to keep bringing people to HB, weather international or New Zealanders Before the Tourism industry in HB staying advertising that HB is a destination to come and visit most travellers used to fly past us or drive through the inland highway via Waiouru and if the funding gets chopped then this will possible what will happen again. When they started advertising it took a few years to divert this traveler so don't let this go back to making the dessert road busy by not approving the funding. So say goodbye to as frequent flights coming into Napier if we don't have the seats of the planes filled because the numbers drop coming to HB. We have just been</p>

		awarded one to the Wine capitals of the World and please think about how beneficial this will be to all the HB and especially the wineries. We have all survived through Covid and the Cyclone with a good financial hits and now we are now ready to keep doing what we do best so DONT BE SHORT SIGHTED AND CHANGE THE FUNDING KEEP IT THE SAME Maybe think about cutting your wages because that is what you are going to do to us if you don't keep funding the industry.
402	JONELLE JARVIS	We own hospitality businesses in the region that were greatly affected by covid. As we were just beginning to recover from covid we were then greatly affected again by the downturn from Cyclone Gabrielle. If you stop tourism funding now it will be the final straw for hospitality operators in the region. We just cant financially handle another quiet summer. I do think there are ways to do alot of promotion on a cheaper scale and cuts could be made slowly as cheaper advertising campaigns are negotiated. There are alot of businesses struggling to keep afloat.
420	Abby Davies	Two years is not enough time to find alternative funding and try to also maintain a presence among other destinations. Allowing for HB Tourism to maintain the funding for the first year will help retain knowledge and experience within its staff. It also gives space for the team to come up with other revenue or funding alternatives to acquire and have in place for the phasing of HBRC funding.
423	Zoe Petterson	This funding is critical for our sector!
424	Jeremy Lawson Mates Travel Tours	I am writing to urge you to please re-consider your options for HBT funding cuts and to instead stick with Option B, which is the most viable option moving forward and less of a shock to our visiting economy of which 1 in 10 local people are employed. My business is a start up and my goal is to showcase the very best of what Hawkes Bay has to offer to guests visiting our beautiful region, we are a proud resilient food producing region with a fantastic climate and lifestyle. This falls in line with my vision for Hawkes Bay to be known as the best food producing and fine wine region in the Southern Hemisphere a bit like how the South of France is known for its culinary experiences and fine wines. This cannot be achieved without the support of HBT and the work they do to promote our region. Mates Travel started in 2019, 3 months later covid hit and it was not viable to pivot to the domestic market, we moth balled our business and received no government support, even though we had tours booked for the summer ahead because we had not been trading and no proof of historical income we didn't receive funding. At the time Hawkes Bay tourism was very supportive and helped my business get back on its feet when international tourism resumed. Similarly when the cyclone occurred we received the same level of support. Dear I say it we may not still be operating if it wasn't for the help and access to resources from HBT. We have just had a very successful busy summer with cruise ship tours and several bookings from travel agents as far away as Australia which were referred to me through Liz Grossman at Hawkes Bay tourism. Proving that my business needs and values the support of Hawkes Bay tourism. My business visits and supports several venues including Tuki Tuki Dairy Goats, Craggy Range Sheep Dairy and The National Gin Distillery in Ahuriri we employ 8 semi retired casual and contract drivers who love what they do. Hawkes Bay Tourism is the only agency promoting Hawkes Bay outside of Hawkes Bay. Research proves in tough economic times it does not make sense to chop off the hand that feeds you now is the time to put our heads together and work out how we can keep Hawkes bay tourism alive so that we do not miss out on the \$775 million dollars which tourism directs to our regional economy* (*annual, year ended 2023) I strongly believe good times are ahead and if we stop promoting our region other regions will benefit while we give ourselves an uppercut from losing market share. To continue to promote our beautiful region option B is the only viable option here, I encourage you to show the visitor economy the same support as you have for other cyclone affected industries.
438	Graeme Woolf	I wish to express my support for Option B in the Hawke's Bay Regional Councils Three Year Plan, which is to retain the current funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism in year 1 before reducing it in year 2. I have had a working relationship with Hawke's Bay Tourism for a number of years now and have seen first hand the hard work they do in promoting our region and bringing business and visitors into our region, both by planning events to simply showcasing our region to potential Travel Buyers and Agents. The work their small team does is vital to the tourism industry in this region and for this industry to remain strong and continue to grow, we need Hawke's Bay Tourism to remain funded. I'm part of the Management team that runs 2 hotels in the Napier CBD. A week would not go by, when I don't have some sort of dealing with a member of the Hawke's Bay Tourism team. They regularly send overseas Agents to us on famils which gives us the opportunity to showcase our hotels,

		and they also are the first point of contact often, for groups wishing to stay in our region and they then pass that contact on to us for quoting and to continue liaising to gain their business. The work Hawke's Bay Tourism has done to get FAWCI up and running over the years has been phenomenal. Both annual FAWCI events are now renowned nationally and generate a large amount of visitors to the region. Hawke's Bay Tourism also co-ordinate the organisation of delegations to national Trade Shows promoting our region, one which I have just returned from where Liz was instrumental in its success. Without them advocating and assisting it would've been near impossible to attend. Confirming, I am in favour of Option B funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism and urge you to vote for this option. It would be a major error on your part to vote otherwise.
439	Chloe Snyders-Amoretti	I don't think funding should stop at all. Extremely important to the economy of Hawkes bay
449	Barbara Hansen	I think Hawke's Bay Tourism is absolutely vital to ensure that Hawke's Bay continues to grow as a region. It's influence in securing events and tourism for Hawke's Bay is vital. We need to have a dedicated voice nationwide attracting visitors and businesses. The economic benefit to the region far outweighs what is spent by the HBRC. I would be very happy for my rates to increase proportional to the cost of maintaining this invaluable service.
457	Kate Parker	Hawkes Bay tourism is very important. maintain as much funding as possible.
479	Damien Fergus	keep the funding long term
492	Jackie Panckhurst	Neither of these options are acceptable. HBRC MUST continue to fund Hawkes Bay Tourism to at least the current level if you do not then I completely agree with the comments made by Hawkes Bay Tourism chair: If Hawke's Bay Tourism isn't around, who's going to: Curate, keep current and promote the several thousand pages of content on www.hawkesbaynz.com ? Promote Hawke's Bay to potential domestic travellers in markets such as Auckland and Wellington? Work with Air New Zealand and other airlines to promote the region's strengths to support marketing campaigns and sales, and supply content for Kia Ora magazine? Bid for regional events and conferences? Give impartial advice/recommendations to professional conference organisers? Represent Hawke's Bay as a collective at travel trade shows? Give local/international travel companies and Tourism NZ advice on accommodation, activities and new reasons to visit Hawke's Bay? Ensure that Hawke's Bay is adequately represented on the country's official promotion website www.newzealand.com ? Manage, keep current and permit use of the library of images to lure, intrigue, enthuse and entice? Promote Hawke's Bay as a visitor destination to media? Host media familiarisations and develop/manage itineraries? Manage and protect "Food and Wine Country" and "Great Wine Capitals" positioning? Work with the cruise industry in promoting Hawke's Bay and Napier as a must-include port in their itineraries? Make efforts to protect daily visitor numbers that support our hospitality sector? Co-ordinate a response to funding if and when MBIE coordinates a new funding initiative or round? Bring the tourism industry together to invest in a collective marketing campaign? Coordinate a tourism recovery after our next pandemic or natural disaster? The answer to all of these very important questions is NO ONE. All of this work will stop, people who want to go on holiday will go elsewhere, and Hawke's Bay will slowly, but surely, fade from people's consciousness.
494	Chris Jarvis	lose HB voice & presence, you lose tourist consciousness of what's here, absurd statement to remove, the funding then external which means impartial and narrow information
504	Ruth Holmes	Businesses are still recovering from the lockdowns and also the change in tourism "flow" since then. This is now exacerbated by inflation and shown in the rising cost of eating out and visiting tourist destinations. If they then have to cover the loss of earnings caused by funding reduction many businesses will close and jobs will be lost.
511	Andy Dowley	This funds itself by contributing to the local economy. You need to think more strategically about how you recoup this money either directly from tourists or from those that directly benefit

519	Naomi Fergusson	Maintain funding to current level. This was not an HBRC activity but a collection on behalf of the other councils. No consultation was undertaken with those councils in making this change which is a disingenuous way to redirect rates/create a falsely lower rate rise. Tourism is a key driver of the economy which needs to thrive to help fund our regions recovery.
543	Bradley Minton FOLKL Limited	As the Owner and Director of FOLKL, a Napier based research company, I am writing with a deep concern regarding the proposed defunding of Hawke's Bay Tourism, an entity that is crucial not just for attracting visitors but for the overall vitality of our regional economy. In our region, tourism underpins the viability of local businesses and directly sustains thousands of jobs. Currently, our vibrant community welcomes approximately 18,000 daily visitors, with every tenth local job linked to this sector. The economic repercussions of withdrawing funding from Hawke's Bay Tourism are far-reaching. The sector's stability is crucial, especially as we continue to navigate the challenges left by the pandemic and recent natural disasters. A cut in funding at this critical juncture would not only jeopardise the recovery process but could also lead to a significant reduction in these visitor numbers, impacting local businesses and employment severely. Such a scenario will see our residents facing reduced services, like fewer restaurants open during the week, or witnessing the closure of beloved local cafes or stores. Flight schedules in and out of Napier would also be impacted by lower demand, which in turn will hurt the local business traveler. 75% of the work conducted by FOLKL is out of the region and we rely on the existing frequency and volume of service to facilitate this. I am submitting in favor of 'Option B' funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism, which I believe is the only viable option to ensure the continued prosperity of our region. The proposed \$1.52 million cut might seem like a budgetary saving but could lead to greater economic and social losses. Maintaining or increasing this funding is not merely an expenditure but a crucial investment in Hawke's Bay's future. We urge the Council to reevaluate this decision, considering the broader implications it holds for regional growth and recovery. FOLKL is committed to supporting this dialogue, offering our expertise to ensure decisions are well-informed and beneficial for our community long-term.
552	David Peabody	I am submitting my preference for Option B for the funding of Hawke's Bay tourism - though I believe the funding structure should remain unchanged. As the regional council is just moving one vitally important rate off their books, to another council(s) who will then need to increase rates. A year's worth of funding loss would jeopardise \$1.3 billion in our local economy that is generated by tourism. If Option A were chosen, Hawke's Bay Tourism would need to close its doors. If this only had a 30% impact in the first year, that has the potential to bring \$390 Million in damage to our local economy. From what I can see, the cost of the cyclone to Hawke's Bay was around \$5 Billion. So, in the first year, a conservative estimate, the cessation of funding would cause 7.8% of the damage of Cyclone Gabrielle in the first year. The costs and time to reboot Hawke's Bay Tourism at a later date could see the ratio of economic damage compared to that of the cyclone increase as time goes on. I will also add that the proposed cuts were to cap the rate increase to ratepayers below 20%; by your rates calculator, my rates are going up over 50% for 2024/2025. I have heard a similar scenario from many other ratepayers. My property was largely unaffected by the cyclone, had no capital improvements and did not double in value. The Regional Council's move from calculating rates on capital value rather than land value, which I assume has caused the drastic jump in my rates, would be stinging many homeowners far more than 20%. Therefore, in my eyes, the Regional Council acting like it has earnestly done as much as it can to cap rates when it found another mechanism to increase rates by 50% for many is grossly misleading. With such a large rate increase, I see no logic in your argument that you are cutting funding for tourism to help me save on rates and ease the burden on our household financially when it has found another way to extract much more revenue from me as a ratepayer. If I am being asked to pay so much more, I want a portion of my money to go to Hawke's Bay Tourism. With such increases and the cited inability to fund Hawke's Bay tourism without further increasing my rates by more than the already 50% increase, are you genuinely deploying our funds correctly? My wife owns the retail store Annabelle's in Havelock North. Tourists from Auckland and Wellington are vital for her business. The proposed funding cuts will jeopardise her business, the incomes of those she employs, and our quality of life. This is not just for us, though; the quality of life in Hawke's Bay will noticeably deteriorate for all if you proceed with your preferred option. A community like Hawke's Bay cannot forgo the \$1.3 billion generated by the visitor economy, especially just to save the HBRC \$1.5 million. Our vibrant hospitality, retail and visitor economy is what is at stake. I strongly advocate for Option B; however, the status quo of the Hawke's Bay

		Regional Council funding Hawke's Bay tourism should remain in place. I urge all councillors to do the right thing for all of those who live here by supporting Option B or keeping the current funding in place. Option A is lazy, disingenuous and damaging to the region you are supposed to be advocating for - the move is only shifting the financial burden to another council or directly diminishing the quality of life of those who live in Hawke's Bay.
553	Andrea Johnston-Taylor	Do not reduce this levy - as a house owner/rate payer I am happy to pay approx 41 cents a household per week to keep this funding. The is a cyclone recovery industry too! The Tourism Industry is the third largest revenue in the wider Hawkes Bay regions of Napier, Hastings, Wairoa and Central Hawke's Bay, This will have a ripple effect from the primary tourist operator, wine cellars, tourist attractions to the restaurants, skateparks, retail and 1 in 10 residents who will be affected long term. What investment of just over million brings in 1.5 billion in return??? \$1 million will buy one tractor, 1 pipe. Having one governing body gives focus, action and clarity for our region, rather than four Councils.
568	Peter Allen and Paul Smith Hawthorne House	In fact, we'd prefer that HBRC continue to fund Hawke's Bay Tourism. Long term. Full stop. Our business needs and values the support of Hawke's Bay Tourism as a small business we do not have the funding or capability to promote the region to both domestic and international visitors. Hawke's Bay Tourism does a wonderful job of taking our region to a wide audience and their efforts on projects like securing the region the status as the 12th Wine Capital of the World are unprecedented. We strongly believe our business will suffer as a direct consequence if funding is reduced or ended. So too will many other businesses in the region. Visitors and locals alike will have far fewer events, attractions, retail and hospitality options if this funding is removed or reduced. Hawke's Bay Tourism is the only agency promoting Hawke's Bay out of Hawke's Bay. It provides a series of promotions that small businesses like ours benefit from and can't afford to do on our own. Tourism is a major earner and employer in Hawke's Bay. We understand that over \$1.3Billion of income to the region is at risk - this is the direct and indirect earnings that Hawke's Bay makes from tourism. To save \$1.5m is not only bad maths, it's reckless. [see attached for full submission]
588	Vicki Butteworth	I have concerns about reducing Tourism funding, its a major driver of economic return to our region, across many sectors and needs to be supported by all councils. You need to find a way for it stay or risk our regions future reputation. By reducing funding you run the risk of a raft of unintended consequences rippling though the region and its economy. For example you would no longer have the HB Marathon, in turn reducing economic return in off season to the whole region. People who come spend on local hospitality, supermarkets, retail, petrol, airfares, accommodation, parking. The risk will be more business's having to close, increased unemployment, more social issues, reducing diversity/opportunity, income, reputation and vibrancy to the region. I understand its not easy but there needs to be a way forward that works please.
593	Simon Dunn Wallace Development Company Limited	The Regional Council collects the funds on behalf of the whole of Hawkes Bay who benefit from the promotion of tourism and visitors to the Bay. It makes no sense for each district council to rate separately. We need one voice for Hawkes Bay. The many businesses that rely on tourism would suffer from the withdrawal of funding, this includes cafes, retail stores and even fuel stations throughout the region. You only have to look at the impact of major HB events like the Marathon, Art Deco, wine tours which are all promoted as HB events. The economic impact that HB Tourism has cannot be understated. We advocate for restoring the rating line for tourism in the regional rates. We also think that the status quo should be maintained, but that is not one of the two options presented. Please do not cut the funding, it will have very bad impacts on the local economy which is already struggling.
601	Larisa Kellett	The funding should be maintained. The economic downturn from not supporting tourism would cost much more than the savings of 1.52m. I feel that it is short sighted to not appreciate that! What kind of a message does it send to other regions if we stop funding Hawe's By tourism. A negative one that effects everyone. Other districts will pick up events. Surely Art Deco is a jewel for Hawke's Bay. We must value our tourism!
603	Mardi Thompson	Ensure visitors know we are open for business and it's a great spot to visit. We will be competing with Nelson and New Plymouth, Tauranga.
605	Katie Andrews The Knit Nook	The Bay's small businesses have suffered so much through Covid and then the devastation to the area by the Cyclone. We as small businesses need this chance to find solid footing again and building up a good name again after several years of frustration and low sales.

609	Will Innes	I advocate for maintaining the current levy, supporting a contribution of about 41 cents per household weekly. This funding aids cyclone recovery and tourism in Napier, Hastings, Wairoa, and Central Hawke's Bay, benefiting various sectors and yielding substantial returns totaling 1.5 billion dollars. Centralized governance is vital for our region, making Option B, continuing Hawke's Bay Tourism funding, my choice.
611	Stuart Nash	<p>First of all, I would like to state that I am incredulous that the HBRC is actually considering cutting funding for HB Tourism at all. Even in times of fiscal restraint, such a move shows a rather surprising disregard for one of the major economic drivers of our regional economy and perhaps the only reason that the vast majority of people come to our region.</p> <p>When I was Minister of Tourism during Covid, our government recognised the value of tourism to regional economies. It's the reason why I personally wrote the strategy for, and delivered, a \$200m Tourism recovery plan - of which a proportion went to directly fund Regional Tourism Organisations like Tourism HB. We knew that if regional tourism organisations didn't have the money to promote their region's unique selling points to the rest of the country, then the resilience of our local economies was put at risk.</p> <p>Of course I understand that in an ideal world a 'user-pays' system of tourism funding would exist where those who benefit the most from the economic and social outcomes from tourist activity, pay the most. But it is very hard to quantify in any exact form who the main benefactors are: hotel / motel operators? Perhaps, but there are a number of our beds occupied by social housing tenants and it requires a lot of analysis (let alone time) to differentiate between people travelling for work v tourism. Retail sector? They certainly benefit, but it is incredibly tough being in bricks-and-mortar retail these days, and so a further levy on this particular sector may just be the proverbial straw that breaks the camel's back for many. The hospo sector? Good luck convincing all within this sector that they should pay a targeted levy. While some benefit from tourism activity, there are others who have an almost-total reliance on the local population. Tourist attractions? Seems logical, but as we are well aware, a number of the tourist attractions don't actually make money (eg marineland) and again, to load these businesses up with another levy seems a little unfair.</p> <p>In fact, everyone in our community benefits from a strong, vibrant, and sustainable tourism sector. So perhaps levy a hypothecated rate across the district that goes specifically towards tourism... I do not have the facts in front of me (but I certainly will when I appear to submit on this) but anything other than Option B re funding for HB Tourism is, I believe, simply irresponsible.</p> <p>Due to past Ministerial experience, I, more than almost anyone, have seen what happens to tourist destinations when funding dries up, alternatives can't be found, and tourists go elsewhere. It may be that HB Tourism can find funding from alternative sources – and I have no doubt that they will be working on a strategic fundraising plan, however, not achieving their fundraising targets is a very real scenario – and this puts the health and well-being of our regional economy at a risk of sub-optimization that is possibly higher than almost anything else the HBRC is dealing with right now.</p>
615	Anon	As a retailer in Napier, we benefit hugely from both international and domestic visitors, particularly as we specifically bring in suitable product to appeal to those visitors to benefit from the numbers delivered to our door! The knock-on effect of tourism to our region is enormous - tourists spend everywhere, then so do we. We buy more locally, we employ more staff and so the economic wheel turns faster. It also helps the rest of the country as we buy more from our other NZ suppliers. Winter is incredibly tough for all when we rely on a much much smaller local audience, particularly when there is a major drop in spend due to cost of living. My career background is heavily focussed in the tourism sector, having managed tourism boards both here and overseas, where I have seen the ups and downs of tourism funding coming and going. A decline in if ding is never good for a destination. What is clear, is that the role of a tourism organisation is now more than ever needed to remind potential visitors to come to the Hawkes Bay. More than ever we (here and overseas) have an incredible range of destinations to visit, and the competition continues to spend a lot of money to influence the same pool of potential visitors. Particularly post Covid and post cyclone, we as a local economy need to continue to rebuild our visitor numbers and spend to boost the region. This summer was fantastic for us with the huge number of overseas visitors and the thousands of cruise ship visitors, and we would hate to lose the momentum. It has been incredibly hard for all businesses with Covid, lockdowns and borders closed, plus the cyclone last year and we are just starting to get back on track to late 2019

		<p>/pre Covid 2020 numbers. Tourism is a long term strategy, and the effects of activity can take time to build, and the same happens when funding is pulled. The visitor numbers gently slow down and as it is not a sudden stop, it appears to be OK, until 2-3 years down the track the numbers dwindle away because there is no one to remind them to visit us. Whilst I understand that HBRC funding is finite, and post cyclone difficult decisions need to be made, there has to be a compromise that enables some form of tourism organisation or officers to continue with delivering the message that we are here and ready to welcome visitors. It does not necessarily need to cost \$1.52m per year. Local press this week has been particularly unhelpful, and I believe that the scaremongering mentioned in Hawkes Bay Today of shutting the website down and stopping media activity is naive at best. Media relations, media visits and the website are the best value, cost effective options available and get great results and really do stimulate the consumer to visit. Whilst Option B that the council is presenting is the best initial plan, I do believe there needs to be a different approach to delivering visitors to our region. Would there be an option to create a smaller Business as Usual budget to provide to Hawkes Bay Tourism directly (once parameters have been set as to exactly what is required as Business as Usual - but usually web, newsletters, Media relations/ visits- working with travel trade and presence at trade events. Then create a separate fund that is managed by HBRC on behalf of the three councils that is only handed out on a campaign by campaign approach for larger focussed activity with a set of expected results? And then separately set up an airline/ accommodation/ tour/cruise ship attraction fund - more of an economic development role? This again could be managed by HBRC and target agreed specific companies to come to the region or increase services into the region and leverage off their spend? This does not need to be a huge amount of money, but would need a dedicated resource to work with airlines, hotels, cruise companies once the region's requirements are worked through? In the Australian tourism industry there was always a rule of thumb that every activation or campaign that was created or partnered in had to be funded 50/50 by a non taxpayer partner. I'm not sure if this is part of the existing structure but it spreads taxpayers' money much further as well as making partners much more accountable. So Plan B is my preferred option but with the proviso that a good look at the current structure and see how we can spend taxpayers' money better and get it to go further whilst delivering even better return for the region. Many thanks - it is a very difficult time with so much work to do in the region, but please don't let tourism go completely! The region will die a slow death as retail and hospitality pull out as we simply don't have a big enough local community to thrive.</p>
623	Kathleen Robins Milaster Design Limited t/as OOMA – objects of my affection	<p>I own and operate a successful Napier business called OOMA now in its 21st year of operation. I also own a home in Napier and as such, am a ratepayer locally and have been for over 22 years. I strongly oppose any reduction in funding to Hawke's Bay Tourism. I am very happy with the proposed contribution of approximately 41 cents per household per week to maintain this critical funding, particularly for cyclone recovery and supporting the thriving tourism industry in Napier, Hastings, Wairoa, and Central Hawke's Bay. This funding has far-reaching effects and touches many sectors, from major tourist attractions to local businesses, thus affecting a significant portion of our community in the long term. Money that enters the economy locally circulates and even if the effect on a particular business isn't direct there are definitely indirect positive effects. I believe this is particularly true with the cruise ship spending. My business definitely sees a very positive impact with tourism and events that are held here in the Bay. Each time we have an event Napier retail experiences a huge increase in turnover from out of town (mainly domestic) visitors. International tourists make up a huge portion of our turnover throughout the summer months mainly and international visitors (non-cruise ship passengers) spend more per capita than locals. I track all sales in my Point-of-Sale Software and visitors are broken down into various categories such as: domestic tourist, international tourist, and cruise ship visitors. These make up approximately one third of my yearly turnover and without visitors my business would not survive. To give you some idea of the impact of international visitors to the Bay, the opening of the borders resulted in an increase in turnover of 50% in my business. Without the efforts of a dedicated group to promote the region, many of the events would not be held here. Hawke's Bay is a bit off the beaten track and not one of the well-known regions in New Zealand for international visitors so it is important for our profile to be continued to be lifted by a dedicated organisation. I also believe, that during these unprecedented recent economic times, any cut to the funding of Hawke's Bay Tourism would result in a catastrophic loss of businesses here in the Bay. In order to weather this latest crisis on the back of the cyclone, we need our profile</p>

		increased. Removing this vital group would do untold damage to the region from which recovery would be uncertain. With a rather small investment of just over a million dollars, the returns are exponential, totalling 1.5 billion dollars. This investment highlights the importance of centralized governance, which fosters clarity and concerted action for our region, rather than fragmented efforts across four councils. I support Option B wholeheartedly and I want continued Hawke's Bay Tourism funding. I urge you to vote the same and in doing so, ensure the long-term vitality and prosperity of the region.
624	Karl Luxon Scenic Hotel Group	<p>Scenic Hotel Group owns and operates 17 hotels in New Zealand. Scenic is New Zealand's largest locally owned chain of hotels and has operated in New Zealand for 43 years. We have owned and operated the Scenic Hotel Te Pania in Napier for near on 20 years. Scenic is a committed long-term operator promoting and marketing Napier and the Hawke's Bay Region. We write to give formal written feedback on the Hawkes Bay Regional Council draft Three Year Plan 2024 - 2027, and in particular the proposal to "Phase out funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism". Scenic Hotel Group dis-agrees with the proposal on p.24 of the Consultation Document - Three Year Plan 2024 - 2027. It is too important to the overall success of the region to withdraw funding without fully collaborating with Hawkes Bay Tourism and the sector to investigate a progressive and equitable funding solution. We therefore ask councillors to maintain the current funding or vote for option 'B'. We also request that within the next 12 months HBRC collaborates with Hawkes Bay Tourism and related parties to ensure a reasonable and progressive solution to funding is reached. We support the proposal from Hawkes Bay Tourism to maintain the status quo to allow time to find a better solution. We note in a letter dated 20 March 2024, to Hamish Saxton of HB Tourism, that the mayors, have conditionally supported the notion to maintain the current 2023/24 levels of HB Tourism funding for 2024/25. On the proviso a working group is established across the five HB Councils and HB Tourism to work collaboratively on developing a new funding structure or mechanism for the future within the year. Scenic Hotels is keen to be part of these discussions and would also suggest HCA is included. Scenic Hotel Group is a founding member of Hotel Council Aotearoa (HCA) is the national industry body for New Zealand's hotel sector. Its Board and members have vast experience in hotel development and operations, including considerable cumulative expertise managing hotels and tourist attractions in many local and overseas markets. HCA understands and acknowledges, that not only Hawkes Bay but New Zealand has a "tourism funding problem". Central government collects vast amounts of tax from tourists and tourism businesses, including 15% on top of every \$1 spent by tourists in Hawkes Bay. Communities want change in the way tourism is managed and funded in New Zealand. Industry is investigating models that include collection of new money to increase the funds available for reinvestment in tourism. However, it is important that central government and local authorities are prepared to enter, into genuine dialogue around the problem. To be clear, Scenic Hotel Group and HCA support a national tourism funding model that would result in Hawkes Bay Regional Councils receiving considerably more than the amount allocated towards event attraction and destination marketing historically. Such monies that would not come from ratepayers. HCA needs engagement from Hawkes Bay Regional Council and Mayors to bring this about. George Hickton Chair of HB Tourism has provided great insight to how the funding needs to be considered given the wider benefits and attributes tourism can contribute. George in a recent article made the point "Everyone benefits from tourism, not just accommodation and hospitality businesses. In fact, figures from Tourism Industry Aotearoa show that just 20% of tourism spend is direct to tourism specific activities, with 80% in broader goods and services". At Scenic hotels we know that only 9% of tourism spend is on accommodation/hotels. Our annual marketing spend at Scenic Hotels is in excess of NZD\$4.7 million, this is purely to attend trade shows, advertising across all platforms, and activation of promotions and campaigns. When attending national and international trade shows, 95% of what we do is promote New Zealand, then the region first and foremost, only a very small part of our time and effort is focussed on the actual hotel. About 430k of this annual spend is from our Scenic Te Pania Hotel and includes local sponsorship of events. We take a long term view and we are committed to the success of Hawkes Bay's economic, community and environmental aspirations. Tourism is more about economic enabling and within this banner tourism provides economic enabling infrastructure. At Scenic Te Pania well over half our room nights is from accommodating business, corporate, trades and government people doing business or in the region. Council, need to consider the funding as economic enabling and important for the following reasons. • Major interdependencies exist to the wider region and</p>

		<p>economic drivers. Tourism is a collection of vastly different businesses serving the same customer, but often competing, with each other. Tourism businesses include major infrastructure (airports, hotels, event centres, stadiums) to cottage industries and sole proprietor businesses (tour guides, artisan producers). Together, these businesses along with central and local government create attractive “tourism clusters”, e.g. Hawkes Bay, Queenstown, Las Vegas, Surfers Paradise, Venice, Phuket, Bali, Fiji. Local Council play coordinating role and influence system-wide change by setting priorities. • Funding via Hawkes Bay Tourism is like the “software” that supports council and its rates payer’s assets and investment in amenities/infrastructure (the “hardware”). I.e; Napier War Memorial Events Centre and McLean Park. Central agencies carry out event attraction and destination marketing because it delivers positive ROI for the rate payers. • Tourism transforms communities and creates sustainable jobs. Tourism is the best available response to urbanisation and loss of industry in the provinces. Tourism fills the gap after unfashionable/environmentally damaging industries move out (mining, exotic forestry, etc.). • Tourism is internationally competitive and can be stood up very quickly in these tough economic times. A thriving visitor economy is a key ingredient in economic recovery. • Tourism can have a positive impact on the lives of all Hawkes Bay residents and can be used as the catalyst and springboard change in other areas the council is seeking, like community enrichment and reduced greenhouse emissions. • It’s not just “marketing for hotels”. Hotels typically receive only 9% of visitor spending. In part hotels/accommodation is what makes a thriving economy possible. It’s short-sighted to reduce funding at this point in the cycle. It seems obvious that now is not the time to be eliminating funding when, internationally and domestically destinations are competing for visitation as international travel movements return to normal/pre-COVID levels. A recovery in tourism and visitation is unquestionably going to be a significant contributor to New Zealand’s and Hawkes Bay overall economic stability and recovery after the upheaval of weather events and the pandemic. Scenic Hotel Group along with HCA can meet with Councillors and discuss our views, provide insights and work towards a funding solution.</p>
629	Peter Culloty	Allow a gradual reduction in funding
633	Clare Almeida Ahipara Luxury Travel	<p>I am reaching out on behalf of Ahipara Luxury Travel, a New Zealand-based luxury travel company specializing in bespoke itineraries into New Zealand for high-net-worth individuals and families. Our mission is to deliver exceptional, tailored experiences that showcase the best of New Zealand. In the 2023/2024 season, significant percentage of our clientele visited the Hawkes Bay region, generating substantial pre-booked revenue for local accommodation and activity providers, as well as additional expenditures such as dining and entertainment whilst in country, which significantly contribute to the local economy. The role of Hawkes Bay Tourism has been pivotal in our operations. When I initially joined Ahipara, my familiarity with the region was minimal. However, with the invaluable assistance of Liz Grossman from Hawkes Bay Tourism, I gained profound insights into the area. Liz facilitated a comprehensive visit for me, which not only broadened my understanding but also introduced us to numerous local suppliers previously unknown to us. This interaction has directly increased the volume of business we channel into the region. The ongoing support from Hawkes Bay Tourism—through regular updates, familiarization trips, a robust website, and access to knowledgeable staff like Liz—is crucial for us to effectively promote the region. Without these resources, our capacity to recommend Hawkes Bay to our clients and business partners would be significantly diminished, leading to a gradual decrease in tourist traffic and investment in the area. I strongly advocate for the council to consider Option B - Hawkes Bay Tourism’s counter-proposal. This option is essential for sustaining long-term tourism revenue in the region. While current market knowledge may temporarily sustain interest, without continued investment in marketing and fresh engagement initiatives, Hawkes Bay risks being overlooked in future travel plans—a scenario that, I believe, the council have a responsibility to prevent.</p>
654	Bert van de Steeg	<p>With Hawkes Bay voted in as the 12th Great wine capital in the world this means we need drive this with the help of HB Tourism. This is good for our hospitality industry and other industries that can showcase this to visitors. To keep working on growing our tourism Industrie in HB will be of a great economic benefit to the region.</p>
666	Fiona Simon	<p>I am writing in support of funding Option B for Hawke’s Bay Tourism for the next term period. I have worked within the tourism industry in Hawke’s Bay since our family moved to the region in 2009. We started an accommodation business in the middle of the Global Financial Crisis.</p>

		<p>Back in those early days it was a tough time for tourism operators and at that time representation for the region was known as Venture Hawke's Bay. The birth of Hawke's Bay Tourism was a well researched and co-ordinated plan to bring a united voice for tourism for our region. Industry veterans offered their time free of charge and some (like our business) provided free accommodation and other services to make this co-ordinated tourism team the success it is today. It is easy to look at a funding figure but all along there was the mantra of "skin in the game" and many in the region did provide funding and fees to support the running of the office and promotional initiatives. We also provided time and free content to keep costs to the minimum. Keeping Hawke's Bay in the forefront of overseas agents and tourist's minds is not an easy task and best left to the professional team we have in place. Domestic visitation has also increased in leaps and bounds during this period even with the Covid hiatus. When so much advancement has been made, why turn it back? From Lake Waikaremoana down to Taniwha Daffodils in Waipukurau, this is a tourism body we can all be proud of. The promotional reach that they achieve on a shoestring budget is to be commended not condemned. 41c per household per week is a tiny investment for a big reach. While it is easy to think of some of the big tourism players in the region, the reality is that the vast majority of operators in the area are Mum and Dad teams. Budgets are small and time is limited to spend on social media content. Hawke's Bay tourism is the united voice for the sum of all the small parts. Without this team the smaller players will lose their megaphone. Therefore, I ask that Option B is the only choice to be considered.</p>
676	Todd Dawson Napier Port	<p>I am writing this letter on behalf of Napier Port to express our strong support for Option B funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. As a vital player in the region's economic landscape, Hawke's Bay Tourism plays a crucial role in coordinating and enhancing the cruise experience for visitors to our beautiful region.</p> <p>Economic Significance to Region</p> <p>Cruise tourism plays a pivotal role in bolstering Hawke's Bay's economic landscape. Statistics from the 2019/2020 season reveal that the sector contributes significantly to the local economy, bringing in revenue, creating jobs, and fostering community development. The season's total expenditure of \$27,445,000 from passengers, crew, and vessel activities accounted for 19% of the overall international visitor spend in Hawke's Bay for that year (STATS NZ).</p> <p>Moreover, a thriving tourism sector has a broader impact on the prosperity of our region, encompassing sectors such as hospitality, retail, and transportation. Beyond the cruise industry, it attracts visitors to Hawke's Bay, stimulates economic activity, enhances the region's reputation, and generates employment opportunities. The pivotal role played by Hawke's Bay Tourism in supporting and nurturing these activities underscores its significance in sustaining momentum and fostering growth within the region.</p> <p>Other New Zealand ports, specifically Eastland Port in Gisborne, Port Taranaki, and Port Nelson, are actively working to expand their cruise vessel calls to boost revenue and support their local economies. However, due to the constraints of cruise itineraries, there is a genuine concern that without active promotion by Hawke's Bay Tourism, cruise lines might prioritise other New Zealand ports over Napier. Now is the time for Hawke's Bay Tourism to increase their efforts in maintaining and growing our region's tourism market share. The investment is far outweighed by the return to the region in terms of income, employment and prosperity.</p> <p>Significance to Napier Port</p> <p>In terms of the financial value to Napier Port, cruise in a normal year represents around 5-7% of port revenue. The return of cruise vessels to Napier Port in FY23 after a two-year pandemic induced hiatus made a strong \$5.3 million contribution to the company's revenue. A total of 64 cruise ships visited Napier Port in the 2023 season compared to one visit in the prior year.</p> <p>More recently, there was a total of 89 cruise vessel calls for the 2023-24 season, including 18 double vessel days and two triple days. This represents Napier's biggest cruise season to date, with total visitor numbers just shy of 138,000 passengers. We currently have a similar number of bookings scheduled for the 2024-25 season.</p> <p>Additionally, Napier Port employs a full-time Cruise Coordinator who is in charge of cruise operations on port for the season and leads an 11-member cruise customer service team (fixed term), including an Assistant Cruise Coordinator. The Napier Port team work very closely alongside</p>

		<p>HBRC and other local councils, tourism operators, and retailers to provide a seamless experience for our cruise visitors. Cruise ship passengers will often use their initial visit to a destination to assess the potential of a longer repeat stay in the future.</p> <p>Effective Coordination</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism serves as a linchpin in coordinating the myriad stakeholders involved in cruise tourism, ensuring a seamless and memorable experience for visitors. Their adept management of regional priorities fosters collaboration among council departments, Napier Port, business associations, tourism and hospitality providers, and local communities. This coordination not only enhances the visitor experience but also amplifies the overall cruise tourism ecosystem, earning accolades from both cruise line executives and the local community.</p> <p>Passenger Satisfaction and Future Growth</p> <p>Hawke's Bay consistently receives commendable ratings from cruise passengers, reflecting the indispensable role played by Hawke's Bay Tourism in advocacy and coordination. These positive ratings not only translate into increased port visits but also foster repeat visitation, with 60% of cruise passengers expressing a desire to return for land-based holidays (CLIA 2024 State of the Industry). The sustained satisfaction of passengers and cruise lines underscores the critical importance of continued support for Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>Post-Cyclone Recovery and Resilience</p> <p>Following Cyclone Gabrielle, cruise tourism was able to bring immediate support into our region and in particular to local businesses in Napier struggling during the recovery period. Hawke's Bay Tourism was instrumental in helping to restore normalcy to the region. Their proactive engagement with cruise lines and collaboration with Napier Port, local government and tourism stakeholders helped to facilitate the return of cruise operations and deliver a timely economic boost to the region. In addition, their dedicated efforts to encourage domestic tourism back to Hawke's Bay also contributed to the region's recovery.</p> <p>Napier Port ready to increase cruise capacity</p> <p>Napier Port has built strong expertise and capacity in servicing the cruise industry and has managed the post-pandemic return of the industry seamlessly in partnership with a range of partners, including Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>On port, this current season was our first berthing cruise vessels on our newest wharf – Te Whiti (6 Wharf). Designed as a multi-purpose wharf, Te Whiti is capable of berthing the largest cruise vessels coming to New Zealand, including the Oasis-class liners (such as Icon of the Seas), as well as container and bulk cargo vessels. Napier Port is now able to berth cruise vessels on five of our six wharves – 2, 3, 4, 5 and Te Whiti – providing greater flexibility and availability for cruise lines into the future.</p> <p>Long-term sustainability</p> <p>The absence of robust support and coordination from entities like Hawke's Bay Tourism poses a tangible risk of diminishing ratings and potential withdrawal of cruise lines from the region. The repercussions of such a scenario would reverberate across the region, resulting in diminished income and employment opportunities for Napier Port and businesses alike. Therefore, it is imperative to prioritise funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism to safeguard the long-term sustainability of cruise tourism in our region.</p> <p>In light of the above, Napier Port strongly endorses Option B for the funding of Hawke's Bay Tourism. This transitional support is vital for the continued success and sustainability of cruise tourism in Hawke's Bay.</p> <p>We appreciate your consideration of this proposal and urge the council to prioritise funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism, recognising its indispensable role in supporting the region's tourism industry and economy.</p>
685	Sir Graeme Avery	<p>As the Founder and Executive Member of Hawke's Bay Wine Country Tourism in 2000, then Trustee and Chair Hawke's Bay Tourism from 2000 to 2005, along with being Chair of the New Zealand National Food Wine and Tourism Network from 2005 to 2007 and then an Executive Member from 2007 to 2015, I have had a major involvement in the development of tourism in Hawke's Bay and Nationally in New Zealand. I am making this submission to express my grave concern over the proposal by Council in their LongTerm</p>

Plan 2024-2034, to opt out of funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism.

I am also making this submission in my capacity as founding Chair and now a Trustee of the Hawke's Bay Community Fitness Centre Trust, who host an increasing number of major multi-day National Sports Events at the EIT Institute of Sport & Health, the Hawke's Bay Regional Aquatic Centre and the Accommodation Hostel, which the Trust owns and operates at Mitre 10 Park in Hastings. These Events currently induce an estimated \$4.5m annually in tourism spending to the region and rely on HB Tourism as an important partner for Event promotion and other support.

MY SUPPORT OF POSITION OF HB TOURISM

I fully support and endorse the case and all the points made by HB Tourism in their presentation to Council of 5 April this year, especially in regard to the proven impact of HB Tourism activities on creating added economic value from the tourism levy investment. These arguments were very well summarised in an article by George Hickton in Bay Buzz Online of 4 May 2024.

Economic Impact

Tourism contributes **7% to Regional GDP** of Hawke's Bay and is third largest after manufacturing and agriculture.

The annual contribution (direct and indirect) to the HB economy by tourism is a **hugely significant \$1.3b**, representing some **\$775m direct benefit** to the regional economy annually. Tourism provides **1 in every 10 jobs** in the region or approx. 10,000 vital local jobs.

As the global economy moves away from the manufacturing industry to the services industry (financial, tourism and IT) for greatest economic growth over the next 30 years, tourism becomes increasingly important for the prosperity of New Zealand and the Hawke's Bay region within it. We MUST NOT interfere with the current annual funding for HB Tourism - indeed it needs to increase. (ref 'The World in 2050', Hamish McRae)

The quantum of added economic value that the activities of HB Tourism creates, cannot be ignored. What might replace it if such activities are jeopardised?

HB TOURISM FUNDING NEEDS TO BE COMPETITIVE WITH OTHER NZ REGIONS

In challenging economic times, every region in NZ will have to 'fight' for the visitor and tourism product dollar. Marketing philosophy and proven principles in such times, would be to INCREASE INVESTMENT to induce visitation in order to protect market share and desirably increase it in a likely declining overall NZ tourism spend.

Hawke's Bay Tourism must be competitive and the economy of the region 'humming on all cylinders' in today's difficult economic environment.

Comparison of Council Funding of Competitor Provincial Regions to Hawke's Bay

The publicly available information below is based on latest (FY2022/23) for funding and 30 June 2024 for population of each region.

	Annual Funding	Population	\$/ Head
Rotorua	\$4.79m	78,000	\$61.40
Queenstown	\$4.50m	36,000	\$125.00
Taupo	\$2.09m	42,000	\$49.76
Hawke's Bay	\$1.52m	185,000	\$ 8.22
Wanaka	\$1.28m	17,000	\$75.29

Hawke's Bay is NOT competitive with its main competitor regions in the amount of funding or especially \$ per head of population of funding.

CONCLUSION

Hawke's Bay Councils can simply not afford to interfere with the current level of funding for tourism development. Indeed, it needs to be increased for the regional body to be properly competitive. The tourism businesses of the region will do their part in tough economic times by developing 'special product offers' to help induce visitation. Hawke's Bay Tourism then needs to market that aggressively, along with continuing all its many other functions. Adequate funding of the visitor economy has a crucial relationship to the wellbeing of the local economy (ref Steve Armitage article).

		Given all the above points, I urge Council to ADOPT OPTION B of status quo funding from HBRC for the next fiscal year, while discussions are held with all Councils in the region for their commitment to the needed ongoing sustainable rate-payer funding for the future, in order for HB Tourism to be fully funded to be properly competitive. Thank you for your understanding and serious consideration of this and other submissions supporting Option
687	Tony Alexander	It's about time that the tourism industry paid their own way. It's not as if the general public get anything from all the money they make.
689	Catherine Boyden	In the aftermath of the Cyclone Gabrielle disaster, Napier needs monetary input to increase the level of tourist marketing for our area to assist small businesses to only survive but to thrive. Cutting the budget for tourism is not only short sighted but it impedes the growth of Hawkes Bay as a tourist destination and a desirable place to reside.
694	Carly Hopgood	Bringing tourists into the region is critical for feeding the economy here - without the tourists the niche businesses that have popped up over the last few years will not have the clientele they need. Underinvesting in developing the area is short-sighted because we then there is less money coming into the region to pay for the recovery - we have to go hard at getting more here so we can share the load of the cost of recovery!
698	Ronda Chrystal	Tourism provides many jobs and boosts our economy in our region, it is very shortsighted to to decrease funding.
712	Brent Linn Hawke's Bay Winegrowers Association Incorporated	Hawke's Bay Winegrowers (HBWG) is the industry body representing Hawke's Bay Wineries and Wine grape growers. Hawke's Bay is New Zealand's oldest wine region and second largest after Marlborough. We represent 156 members (levy payers) who collectively operate 221 vineyards and 106 wineries in Hawke's Bay. 4,800 ha is planted to grapes for wine, producing some 40,000 tons per annum with a notional value of circa \$200M. The industry employs circa 1000 FTE directly, with a substantial seasonal work force drawn from local and RSE sources. Tourism and wine are closely linked. 62% of New Zealand travelers associate Hawke's Bay with wine (Angus and Associates Market perceptions report June 2022). The continuation of the promotional activities of HBT in activating that awareness into a visit to the region is vital in supporting the 30 Cellar doors, accommodation and food service offerings of our members. This funding cut threatens the continuation of these activities. THB was instrumental in securing membership of the Great Wine Capitals network that places Hawke's Bay as a wine region alongside other renowned wine regions such as Bordeaux, Napa and Adelaide. Hawke's Bay is, and will be, New Zealand's only Great Wine Capital. This internationally recognised accolade (and the halo affect of association with these other GWC members) supports domestic and international visitation to our region. While we have secured GWC status, the continuing investment by HBT (and the other stakeholders HDC, NCC, HBAL, EIT, RDA and HBWG) into promoting visitation is crucial. The proposed funding cuts threaten retention of this valuable marketing proposition for the region. The HBT website (hawkesbaynz.com) features prominently the wine experiences available for tourists in our region. If HBT funding is cut (as proposed) this important portal for visitors will not be able to be maintained and that would lead directly to a loss of visibility to potential tourists for many of our member's cellar door, accommodation and food offerings. HBWG (and our members individually) work collegially with HBT on hosting media and trade famils in region that take our regions story to a wide audience. We need HBT to be fully resourced so that they can continue as the facilitator in this space, amplifying the individual messages of our members. This funding cut threatens the continuation of these activities. We urge councilors to consider the regional benefits of having a thriving visitor economy. The tourist dollar that gets spent with our member businesses enables them to employ, spend and invest in our region. We believe that a thriving visitor economy can only be secured through having a well funded regional tourism organsation and we urge councilors to only support option B, to provide for the continuation of funding to HBT while future funding options are secured. The continuation of funding is not a subsidy for our member businesses but an investment in our regional economy.
722	Lesley Leech	Hobsons choice! The net cost to HB residents is minimal for this essential service that is integral to the future of our region. Look at the bigger picture!

725	Pam Knight	I am a small fish in the sea of bnb accommodation in Hawkes Bay. After my partner died in 2013 I decided to open part of my historic villa as a bnb. This is my 11th year and my small business has grown in popularity due to the HB environment and opportunities available here. For me this has been a win-win as it allows me to continue to live in my beloved house and area, while sharing parts with guests. Several of my guests have now relocated to HB as residents, bringing their skills and businesses to this region. The GST requirement instigated from 1st April 2024 has absolutely decimated my bookings and comparing April 2023 and onwards with current bookings, the bottom seems to have (hopefully temporarily) dropped out of the accommodation market. This, coupled with the withdrawal of funding, in my opinion, is a double blow and will deplete "new blood" visiting our region. I urge you to consider continuing the current funding to this important industry.
742	Philip Wilcock	Do not defund tourism. You are being short sighted in defunding tourism. It provides much needed jobs and revenue to the region that none of the other projects do. Finding new funding will be tough and tourism has no momentum. Once you stop funding, tourism will slow down due to lack of promotion. Do not phase out.
746	Rayma and Philip Jenkins Cobden Garden Bed and Breakfast	<p>About the Bed & Breakfast sector</p> <p>The Bed & Breakfast sector comprises home-hosted bed and breakfasts throughout the country and Hawke's Bay - including homestays, farmstays, boutique, heritage and luxury accommodation. Go to https://bandbassociation.co.nz/ for more information.</p> <p>Our B&B sector attracts the high value visitors that Aotearoa New Zealand seeks – travellers who are willing to pay premium prices to be able to interact with their hosts and learn more about our culture and way of life. They tend to travel slowly and get off the beaten track, staying in high-end homes in some of our most beautiful locations.</p> <p>Our bed and breakfast Cobden Garden B&B has been operating for 22 years and whilst we were severely impacted in 2021, 2022 and 2023 with the closure of the borders and the devastation of the cyclone thanks to the exposure our region has due to the work done by Hawke's Bay Tourism we have seen a significant rebound in our visitor numbers and therefore financial rewards this past season.</p> <p>Whilst there is no official monitor of guests staying in hosted bed and breakfasts in Hawke's Bay or New Zealand. In our small 3 bedroomed B&B we hosted 380 guests in the last financial year. Of these 330 were International guests and 50 domestic from out of the Hawkes Bay Region. Accommodation spend for these guests is in the vicinity \$150.00 per person per night or as most stay for at least 2 nights, \$300.00 per stay.</p> <p>In Hawkes Bay, as well as accommodation, the visitors spend on; fine dining and activities (such as the Art Deco walks and vintage car tours, the Gannet tour, playing golf, taking wine tours and visiting wineries, hiring bicycles etc.) is significant. They also purchase fuel, shop in our retail stores and support the markets and food producers such as Arataki Honey, The Figgery, Silky Oak. Whilst we are a small owner operator businesses our guests make an important contribution to tourism and hospitality and local production and service businesses in Hawke's Bay.</p> <p>B&B owners support beyond the Tourism Industry.</p> <p>Bed & Breakfast operators also support their local areas for their product and services rather than importing items from outside of the region. This means the majority of money earned by bed and breakfasts is put back into the local economy. Whether it be locally produced toiletries, coffee from the local roaster, eggs from the local poultry farm, fruit from the fruit stall, laundry services or new white-ware from a local retailer or the services of trades and professionals including: builders, electricians and plumbers, accountants and solicitors and health professionals, the spend by the B&B industry in our local economy of money generated by tourism is significant and will only grow with increased numbers of visitors who spend on quality experiences or alternatively decline if the visitor numbers decrease due to the lack of promotion as is currently done by the Regional Tourism Organisation- Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>Attracting more visitors to Bed & Breakfast operators will increase the local economy not just by increased visitor spend which is calculated as 80% of their spend, but also by increased spend on local products and services by B&B operators.</p> <p>Support and Promotion Vital</p> <p>The B&B industry is a unique niche industry which requires support and promotion from HB Tourism to survive.</p>

		<p>B&Bs do advertise with websites, listings on booking.com et al and trade websites such as TrueNZ and Bed and Breakfast NZ, and provide accommodation for Tourism Trade Famils. For the majority of owners the costs of attending TRENZ and other trade shows are prohibitive. The B&B industry is made up of predominantly small businesses and relies on HB Tourism to be able to produce large campaigns both domestically and internationally to attract visitors to the region to support the industry.</p> <p>It is vital that HB Tourism has enough funding to attract people to the region in both the peak season and off peak season. HB Tourism needs to be able to continue to spend money on attracting visitors travelling New Zealand who previously would head straight down the middle of the North Island. They need to be able to continue to make Hawke's Bay a destination as well as a stopover. The activity that Hawke's Bay Tourism undertakes is vital for this.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism is essential for the future of Hawke's Bay. Increased Tourism spend benefits a diverse range of businesses throughout Hawke's Bay. Sharing the load by collecting tourism funding from all rate payers is the only equitable solution. Please continue Hawke's Bay Tourism funding so they can continue to promote the region by supporting Option B.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to express our views and I would be most happy to expand on any points raised in this submission on behalf of my colleagues.</p>
749	Maggie Genet	<p>I work as a customer service assistant in the Hawkes Bay Tourism sector, interacting with visiting tourists daily. I am submitting because :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When I read that the HBRC were proposing funding cuts to Hawkes Bay Tourism, I was worried that this decision would be devastating for the region as a whole. If tourism is the 2nd largest export earner for New Zealand and the 3rd most important industry contributing to the Hawkes Bay GDP, then I want to urge you to vote for Option B and continued funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. • A report done by the HBCDEM 2023 (Hawkes Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management) stated after Cyclone Gabrielle that: "Getting Tourists back to Hawkes Bay is the key to the region's recovery". I wonder why the HBDC is so shortsighted in their thinking for defunding Hawkes Bay Tourism through this difficult and crucial time, when both entities need to work collaboratively to achieve this goal, NOT sabotage one over the other. There is too much at stake. • Post COVID 19, there have been massive losses in tourism revenue worldwide, Hawkes Bay included. We have also had massive revenue losses from Cyclone Gabrielle. It is the marketing from Hawkes Bay Tourism, that will drive our tourism economy to recover, by promoting and supporting activities for our region to continue to be world-beating as a destination. Tourism in Hawkes Bay is too big to ignore and defund! • The business where I work NEEDS and VALUES the support of Hawkes Bay Tourism because they drive visitation to our region. This means our business and other Hawkes Bay businesses, benefit from the earning opportunities from retail, hospitality, events, the port, the airport, employment, horticulture, viticulture, wildlife tourism, adventure tourism, events and festivals. All this points to being the 3rd biggest earner for the region, and yet funding is being cut ? It defies logic!! • It seems this is a 'money grab' of easy funds to reutilise, at the expense of Hawkes Bay Tourism. The HBDC is putting direct and indirect earnings of \$1.3 billion at risk, to save \$1.5million. This DOES NOT add up and is not at all future proofing our region. <p>Reliance of your business on visitors and tourists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The business where I work relies 100% on tourism to operate. <p>How do you promote your business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The business where I work promotes our products through a full list of travel agents (NZ and International), online booking, website, publications, pamphlets, events, trade shows, advertising and social media. Hawkes Bay Tourism is like our 'guiding light' to help promote us. If they were to be defunded, we would suffer the direct consequence of closing our doors from that. <p>Expected impact on your business if Hawkes Bay were to lose significant numbers of visitors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Tourists- no income- no jobs- no future- struggle to survive- close doors after 30+ years in business!

		<p>Closing thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting funding to Hawke's Bay Tourism would put our entire tourism sector, the 1 in 10 locals who are employed within the sector, AT RISK. That equates to 10,000 jobs gone! • Cutting funding to Hawke's Bay Tourism would result in immediate and catastrophic effects to our tourism industry employers, decimating local and regional tax revenues, loss of regional income and even higher rates rises- a VICIOUS CIRCLE! • Lost tourism budget equals lost market share in the industry, making Hawke's Bay a BACKWATER. Competitors would swoop in and fill the void. • Investment in tourism PROMOTION is directly related to tourism SPENDING. By cutting the budget of 1.5M the HBRC would COST our region 1.3B the tourism industry currently earns and it would keep snowballing for years A SHORT SIGHTED MOVE! • TOURISM DOES NOT SELL ITSELF. Leave that job to Hawke's Bay Tourism and continue to fund them. • Continued funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism (status quo) will drive our region's RECOVERY from the effects of the cyclone and Covid-19. • I support the Status Quo but I urge you to VOTE FOR OPTION B as an alternative.
750	Jenna Snelgrove Tranzit Group	<p>Tranzit Group welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on Hawke's Bay Regional Council Three Year Plan 2024 – 2027. Tranzit does not support the proposed reduction in Hawke's Bay Tourism's budget, and instead would support Option 2 of Hawke's Bay Regional Council maintaining their current level of funding for the for 24/25 year and then a reduction for 25-26. This is because one in 10 locals are employed within the tourism sector and the \$1.3 billion direct and indirect spend helps bolster this regional economy.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism is a respected regional tourism organisation and the only local organisation focused solely on growing tourism in this region and helping drive results that benefit the whole community. These benefits include the ability to attract visitors all year round, who in turn stay in accommodation, spend their money visiting local attractions, attending events and supporting local businesses such as restaurants and cafes enjoying our warm hospitality; as well spend at our supermarkets and petrol stations. This in turn helps sustain local businesses and creates employment opportunities. It also helps drive a vibrant prosperous region to live and work in and encourage more families/ people to move here.</p> <p>As a fourth-generation family-owned New Zealand transport and tourism company, who has a significant base in Whakatū and Napier, we value the crucial role Hawke's Bay Tourism plays in encouraging domestic and international visitation to the region.</p> <p>To ensure we maintain a thriving visitor economy, it is vital that experts are in charge of destination marketing to ensure it remains cohesive as well as furthering key relationships with offshore sellers / inbound tourism operators who champion New Zealand and Hawke's Bay to their clients. Hawke's Bay Tourism already holds these important relationships as well as relationships with Tourism NZ, Tourism Industry Association, TECNZ and other regional tourism organisations – with whom they regularly collaborate with and host famils in this region to showcase all the unique attractions and visitor experiences that make this an aspirational place to visit.</p> <p>Tranzit also plays a key role in the tourism industry here. We bring various international and domestic coach groups to Hawke's Bay through our partnerships with companies such as Grand Pacific Tours and Gate 1. Our team also meets and greets, and then transports thousands of international visitors off cruise ships arriving at Napier Port, shuttling them into Napier city or taking guided coach tours around the region, where they can view unique attractions and spend their money.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism plays a significant role in supporting and promoting major events like the marathon, concerts and FAWC. If this role was to diminish it could negatively impact tourism operators, including Tranzit as the main transport provider for these events. This could be manifested in less sales for key events due to limited promotional activity; the ability to gain national (or international) reach due to key relationships/ stakeholder engagement that currently sits with Hawke's Bay Tourism as well as a loss of specialist knowledge and sharing of that knowledge. Hawke's Bay Tourism's expertise in promoting and championing what this region has to offer has also directly contributed to it being able to successfully navigate several very difficult years across the Covid pandemic, during the winter months and following Cyclone</p>

		Gabrielle. They have advocated on behalf of operators (small, medium and large) and sought advice when required to help create a cohesive voice for the region and they regularly hold networking opportunities / membership events that unite the industry and provide for meaningful collaborations that focus on delivering key activities/services. Thanks to their support of the Art Deco Festival and newer events such as Harvest wine and food festival, Hawke's Bay Tourism has also helped attract visitors all year around – not just in the summer season. On behalf of Tranzit, I'd like to thank the Hawke's Bay Regional Council for considering our submission and thank the wider tourism industry for their support in keeping this region top of mind as a place to visit. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of your decision on our community.
760	Susie Devonshire	Maintain the funding to support economic growth for the region.
762	Duncan Darroch	I strongly support the maintenance of funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. As other submitters will have attested, tourism is a significant economic engine for the region. It has enabled me to start a small business, giving my young family greater financial security. I have developed a niche, providing luxury zero-emissions transport solutions to discerning tourists. This enables manuhiri to reduce their environmental footprint meaningfully and demonstrate tiaki. My business has grown to the extent that I am now employing a subcontractor to increase the capacity. If the tap of tourism is turned off or down, this will have a direct impact on my family, my subcontractors and, in a small way, the region's emissions. Please take a balanced approach to funding, and enable our communities prosperity through the flow of tourists.
766	Jan Pavlicek Napier City Bike Hire & Tours	I'm submitting on behalf of my tourism business. We rely 100% on visitors coming to Hawke's Bay, so strong voice the Hawke's Bay Tourism provides as absolutely essential. We employ 4 permanent staff and 3-4 seasonal casual staff. We all live in Napier and spend our money locally - so there's an obvious trickle economy effect. The fact is that Hawke's Bay is one of many regions, we are also off the main tourist route so there needs to be collective effort to promote our region so visitors will find us. 1.5mil is pretty small budget and it sounds ridiculous to stop the funding. Especially if this investment in the visitors economy multiplies 100times.
772	Jeanette Darwen	I don't really agree with either of these. HB Tourism works for the whole of Hawke's Bay. Many businesses not part of Tourism benefit from the money people travelling to the Bay spend. They spend in dairies, supermarkets, restaurants, shops, accommodation. The list goes on including our airport.. I think it is very narrow thinking that HBRC is looking at adopting. It will mean that we will become a backwater. We need HB Tourism for the advertising they undertake, plus all the other work that takes place to promote Hawkes Bay.
786	Alison Francis	Our tourism sector was greatly affected by the Cyclone, but before that it was catastrophically affected by Covid. To take away the funding to a sector of our economy that needs the support is short sighted, I don't consider that the amount that will be funded is that much and we should keep it in the budget if possible.
788	Jenny Ryan	So much momentum and progress achieved over the past 15 years would be lost if our region becomes invisible at industry trade shows, is unable to support Tourism NZ by hosting visiting travel agents and media, the loss of a coordinated advertising strategy, a lack of support for local tourism operators looking to take their products to the world, the loss of established HBT special events, ie FAWC and so much more. We know that a large percentage of visitor spend does not go to tourism operators but to the wider business community, so it is only fair that with wider community continues to fund the work required to support and grow this important sector. At a minimum I support option B, but believe status quo is the best option for the region. The suggestion that HBT should look to find other income streams is not helpful as where from? The promotion of the region is a whole region responsibility, so the use of Regional Council rates is the fairest and most obvious solution.
790	Kirsten Wise Napier City Council	Summary Further to Hawke's Bay Regional Council's (HBRC's) Three-Year Plan 2024-27 Consultation Document and the Mayors of Napier, Hastings and Central Hawke's Bay's letter of support to Hawke's Bay Tourism of 20 March 2024 (Appendix A), and in the absence of a third, status quo

	<p>option, please accept this as the Napier City Council submission in favour of Option B (maintain funding at \$1.52 million for 2024-25 and then reduce to \$441,000 per annum from 2025-2026).</p> <p>As per the joint mayoral letter, we note the short notice of any funding change and a need for HB Tourism to have time to either change its delivery model or seek support from limited alternative funding sources.</p> <p>We believe that Option B allows HB Tourism the best opportunity to continue its activities relatively unchanged while working with regional and national stakeholders to secure ongoing long-term sustainability.</p> <p>We acknowledge HBRC's strategic focus but believe that thorough change management and a longer timeframe is necessary to avoid damage to our tourism industry. Napier City and its associated retail, hospitality and tours and experiences sectors are heavily dependent on tourist income and we believe that any change should be moderate, well planned and proportionate.</p> <p>As such we are submitting in favour of Option B.</p> <p>Reasons for our Position</p> <p>Our submission is based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The status quo is working well – as evidenced by local, regional and national tourism stakeholders, • Post-cyclone recovery – HB Tourism has played a fundamental role in the region's recovery post Cyclone Gabrielle. • Collaborating Across the Region – HB Tourism is an example of a successful regional collaboration. • Crucial Link in the Process – the NZ tourism ecosystem is designed for Regional Tourism Organisations to connect national and local initiatives. • Importance of a Dynamic Tourism Sector – Napier is particularly reliant on tourism, notably the cruise ships, Mission venue concerts, Art Deco Festival and the Hawke's Bay Marathon all bring significant primary and secondary benefits to the City and the region as a whole. In addition, HB Tourism supports several Napier City Council facilities, including the War Memorial Conference Centre, Bay Skate and the National Aquarium. • Tourism is important for NCC facility business review. NCC one of five strategic priorities – Napier being a destination. • NB tourism is a regional activity – needs regional view to be most effective. • HBRC is the best vehicle to accumulate and pass on funds to HB Tourism, takes away the discussion of individual Tourist businesses relating to "what is in it for me". Regional focus has much more benefit. If Local Councils take on Tourism function then you have four visions/strategic directions coming forward in HB region. This has been tried in the past in New Zealand, it does not function as good as Tourism being a regional function. • Napier City intends to submit separately on behalf of these facilities. <p>Hawke's Bay Regional Council's proposal to phase out funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism</p> <p>This submission is on behalf of all the tourism facilities operated by Napier City Council (NCC). Please accept this as a submission in favour of our preferred option of Status Quo. However, if this is not on the table, our preferred option is B (maintain funding at \$1.52 million for 2024-25, reducing to \$441,000 for 2025-2026).</p> <p>As a collective we do acknowledge Hawke's Bay Regional Council support for Hawke's Bay Tourism (HBT); this funding support has enabled our region to flourish and prosper. HBT's success and importance to the region has been highlighted further through recovery from of COVID and Cyclone Gabrielle. We cannot afford to lose this effective public investment into our region as it has delivered significant ROI on our economy. Hawke's Bay is a tourism region, tourism is our identity to the extent that NCC has invested in tourism for many generations through our iconic tourism assets, events, programmes, and services. As a Council we see the benefits tourism has had on both our city and the wider Hawke's Bay region, whether it is the significant hospitality and accommodation spend, the many indirect economic benefits and the multiplier effects of visitor spend, or the business and talent attraction. Many people and businesses now call Hawke's Bay as home as a result of the work of HBT.</p>
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	<p>Tourism and the visitor destination economy is one of Napier City Council's five strategic priorities - We aim to be 'a great visitor destination'. All our decision-making and strategic thinking comes back to achieving our five key priorities.</p> <p>The effectiveness of HBT derives from the whole of Hawke's Bay approach rather than siloed Council only centric operating model. Before HBT, Councils promoted themselves, an approach that was both inefficient and ineffective.</p> <p>As the NCC Business and Tourism collective we believe that the continuation and growth of HBT is vital. We are reminded of their importance frequently - they are the reason that Hawke's Bay is on travellers' radars. The targeted promotion of our region's offerings needs to continue to ensure we stay ahead of other regions. On a daily basis we see the results of their amazing work; visitors from all around New Zealand and the world visit us, they know about our region, they have seen the regional promotional material, they have visited the HBT's website, they have heard from friends how amazing it is. Some come on cruise ships for a taster and in the future will return for longer, they will tell their family and friends who will also come. This visitation does not happen by accident, it happens because we have a cohesive, knowledgeable, coordinated group of professional people who are passionate and work tirelessly for us – they are Hawke's Bay Tourism – please don't destroy this incredible asset we have for the region.</p> <p>Rationale for submission</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tourism sector framework. Within the framework of the tourism sector, each entity plays a crucial role in sustaining the industry's vitality. Tourism New Zealand spearheads the global promotion of the country, enticing visitors here. HBT, on the other hand, focuses on drawing these visitors, both international and domestic, to the region. Our tourism businesses, along with other tourism operators are tasked with crafting exceptional experiences for these visitors. Removing HBT from this framework would jeopardize the livelihoods of tourism operators and other local enterprises dependent on a thriving tourism industry. 2. Relationships. HBT acts as the connector for the sector. It works as the hub for everything tourism and uses its well connected "spokes" for the good of tourism and the wider business community. They play an integral part in the cruise ship industry, market our region to trade and visitors, attract major events and host media and trade famils to the region which ensures we are front of mind with industry leaders. They bring the local industry together on a regular basis for networking, idea sharing, problem solving and celebration. 3. Respected. All at HBT are respected throughout the wider industry in New Zealand and offshore. Gaining Great Wine Capital status is an amazing achievement and one which will bring value to the region in many ways. During the Covid 19 lockdowns, HBT held zoom meetings to coordinate support for stranded visitors. The day after Cyclone Gabrielle hit HBT was contacted by two cruise ship companies offering support. Our region is held in high regard thanks to the work of HBT. 4. Social Value. Tourism in Hawke's Bay strengthens community bonds by highlighting the region's distinctive character, instilling local pride, and nurturing a shared sense of belonging. Additionally, it cultivates cultural exchange and meaningful interactions between residents and visitors, leading to a deeper appreciation of diverse perspectives and fostering mutual understanding. HBT plays such a critical role in ensuring the tourism sector respects, builds, and nurtures this social licence. 5. Economic significance. Tourism is our region's second biggest economic earner and that is at risk if status quo is not continued. Now more than ever after what our region has gone through tourism is essential to the recovery and prosperity of our great region. Without the vast reach and visibility of HBT in marketing our region we will see fewer visitor numbers to the region and this will hurt our economy. Without this visibility other regions will prosper. Tourism employs 1 in 10 locals, this synergy relates to NCC where our tourism facilities comprise a sizeable percentage number of staff. Tourism contributes \$1.3B directly and indirectly to the Hawke's Bay economy - a figure that should be front of mind when making this decision. We should be focused on growing this number, rather than putting it into jeopardy. <p>This submission is on behalf of the following visitor destination facilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Napier isite and Par2 Mini Golf 2. National Aquarium of New Zealand
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		<p>3. Kennedy Park Resort</p> <p>4. Ocean Spa</p> <p>5. McLean Park</p> <p>6. Napier Conferences & Events</p> <p>7. Faraday Centre</p> <p>8. Napier Municipal Theatre</p> <p>9. MTG</p> <p>10. Napier Aquatic Centre</p> <p>11. Bay Skate</p> <p>12. NCC Events</p> <p>This submission has the support of Napier City Council's Chief Executive, Louise Miller.</p>
801	Pen Cropper	<p>I support Option B with regard to the options laid out for Hawke's Bay Tourism Funding although I would prefer the Status Quo and for the Hawke's Bay Regional Council to continue to fund Hawke's Bay Tourism 100%. I believe it is extremely short sighted for the regional council to withdraw their funding of Hawke's Bay Tourism and to create so much uncertainty with regard to the future funding of Hawke's Bay Tourism. We were all privy to how businesses in the Hawke's Bay suffered after Cyclone Gabrielle. Restaurants, Cafes and local businesses (not only in the tourism sector) suffered enormously when our region was perceived to be 'out of action' by domestic and international visitors. What you are proposing will recreate this terrible state of affairs. If we do not have an active, cohesive body promoting the Hawke's Bay (while all other regions in the country continue to have one) you are effectively preventing Hawke's Bay's presence and profile in the marketplace from being top of mind when potential visitors to the region make their decision about where to go and spend their money. Hawke's Bay Tourism has worked tirelessly to put Hawke's Bay on the map as a sought after visitor destination both nationally and internationally. Most recently a huge coup for Hawke's Bay Tourism and as such, for the region was when Hawke's Bay joined other high profile international tourist destinations like the Napa Valley and Bordeaux and became a wine capital of the world. All of this hard work by Hawke's Bay Tourism has put the Hawke's Bay on the map, but it is not a given that from this the region will prosper and flourish. Every region in New Zealand competes for the tourism dollar. Marketing is pivotal. There is an enormous amount of work to be done to ensure that we reap the rewards of this wonderful opportunity and it is very short sighted to think that our tourism numbers will increase or even remain the same and that this can happen on its own. What we need is a strong, coordinated and well managed Tourism body. By withdrawing funding to the Tourism sector - a hugely important and vital part of Hawke's Bay's economy, your decision will effectively remove the very reason why visitors come here and why people choose to live here. Reduced visitors as a result of the region not being strongly marketed and being top of mind during our visitors purchasing decisions, will directly affect businesses in the region like cafes and restaurants, wineries and cellar doors. It is very likely that some will need to close through lack of income thereby reducing the number on offer. The retail sector will be diminished for the same reasons. Flights to and from the region will be significantly reduced too. Other regions will, as a result, have significantly more to offer visitors than Hawke's Bay has and so they will choose to go there instead. Those living here (both their businesses and personally) will be impacted for the reasons mentioned and those visiting will simply choose not to. The snowball effect on our local economy is immense and the impact enormous. I strongly urge you to reconsider your proposal and to consider the catastrophic commercial impact this decision would have.</p>
803	Justine Kiwiesque Luxury Vineyard Accommodation	<p>I am so shocked at what you are proposing and definitely option B is the only thing we can do. What we have all had to suffer over the last 15 months on top of thinking you'll stop the tourist coming in without this funding, shutting down businesses, shutting down accommodation etc etc. The list goes on as in who it will effect. If businesses aren't making money then all retail will also suffer as well as not having the tourist coming in who make up a good proportion of spending ... Its bad enough how quiet Emerson St can look now so getting rid of the funding will only make it worse and more shops will sell We have a terrible look of not a lot happening in Emerson St with more tourists not coming. We</p>

		have now a library being built for how many million ? which could be funding a tiny proportion of what's needed for HBay tourism and so many are against it anyway. We have been nominated one of the top 12 wine capitals in the world, who's got that out there to overseas people etc ... Not the council It also has to be said those people that would be unemployed who work at HBay tourism have helped some of us a lot more than the council could ever do to help try and get our businesses back out there again I actually never thought that the council could go this low ... All I can say is its absolutely appalling what you are even thinking
825	Joanna Donovan	Tourism is very subjective, Art Deco, Horse of the Year to name a couple take care of themselves. The amount of money that is spend on advertising would need a close look. Does it reach the intended market? where these people coming anyway.
832	Sue Wilson	if there is no funding who will: Promote Wairoa visitor destination to media? Promote Wairoa to potential domestic travellers in markets such as Auckland and Wellington? Give local/international travel companies and Tourism NZ advice on accommodation, activities and new reasons to visit Wairoa? Mange the content on www.hawkesbaynz.com website? Bring the tourism industry together to invest in a collective marketing campaign that includes Wairoa Coordinate a tourism recovery after our next pandemic or natural disaster - incredibly important as we rebuild our region from Cyclone Gabrielle?
843	Nikki Lloyd	Tourism brings \$\$ into the region, more important than ever. Reducing funding is very short sighted, regardless if you phase out over 2 years or reduce after one year. HB Tourism brings more money into the region than it costs to run, a very worthwhile investment. With HB now being recognised as one of the worlds top wine regions, it is a perfect opportunity to push the region as a top tourist destination, HB Tourism can do this on behalf of all operators in a coordinated way. What will happen to the FAWCI event that brings high spenders from Auckland and Wellington and boosts restaurant patronage outside of the summer high season? Also, isn't funding for HB Tourism from a rate collected on behalf of all councils specifically for this? Phasing out funding won't actually provide council with more money?
847	Sue Calcinai REDCLIFFE HOMESTEAD	As a tourism operator for fifteen years and member of Hawke's Bay Tourism until very recently, I write in support of Option B, as the preferred way forward for funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. As a small accommodation provider, I would not have had a viable business without the support of Hawke's Bay Tourism for marketing. Hawkesbaynz.com is an amazing resource that attracts visitors to our region. A large proportion of my guests booked after having engaged with hawkesbaynz.com. And having arrived, guests continually used hawkesbaynz.com to plan their days and spend money in the region. I realise that massive increases in rates to meet the HBRC goals of managing natural resources and building more resilient communities, when faced with the unprecedented impact of Cyclone Gabrielle, are just not possible. However, it would be extremely short sighted to cripple one of the main sources of income for the region. If the HBRC cuts all funding to Hawke's Bay Tourism the mighty tourist dollar will bypass Hawke's Bay. Tourists, both domestic and international, bring new money into Hawke's Bay. And this money supports businesses that not only provide employment, but also pay council rates. Often overlooked is the fact that "tourists" effectively spend money everywhere, not just in "tourism" operations like accommodation and activities. The skilled marketing effort by Hawke's Bay Tourism results in revenue not only for frontline operations, but for all manner of supporting businesses from food producers and retailers to transport operators to furniture manufacturers to mechanics to appliance retailers – the list is endless. Quite simply, without funding from HBRC, Hawke's Bay Tourism would not be there to attract visitors to Hawke's Bay, entice them to stay longer and spend their money which the region so desperately needs. No other organisation actively markets Hawke's Bay outside the region. Although not the perfect solution, Option B is certainly the best choice.
852	Lucia Gordon Clifton Glamping and Gordon Farming	I am a rate payer on behalf of Gordon Farming. I am submitting in favour of Option B funding for Hawkes Bay tourism, however I actually would prefer that the funding structure remain unchanged. The regional council is simply moving one crucially important rate off their books to other councils who will then need to increase their rates. Clifton Glamping has been providing unique and unforgettable accommodation experiences for the past 8 years. Our business heavily relies on tourism, with 90 percent of our revenue coming from both domestic and international visitors. By choosing Option B funding for Hawkes Bay tourism, we are advocating for the continued support that is vital for our business and the local economy. Clifton Glamping employs a team of 3 staff. Our guests often explore the area during their stay, supporting

		the community local attractions such as cafes, wineries, bike tours, markets, and retail shops. By voting for Option B and supporting Hawkes Bay tourism, we are not only ensuring the success of our own business but also contributing to the growth and prosperity of the entire region. The funding provided to Hawkes Bay tourism plays a crucial role in attracting visitors to our area. Collaborations and famil trips help to increase our visibility and reach new audiences. Additionally, a strong regional tourism organisation like the one in Hawkes Bay organises events such as FAWC, which draw people to the region and showcase it as a premier destination for both domestic and international travellers. Without continued support, the Hawkes Bay tourism industry faces a bleak future. A decrease in funding would result in fewer visitors, leading to decreased spending and a negative impact on the local economy for years to come. As a ratepayer and a business owner, I believe that investing in Hawkes Bay tourism is imperative, as it is the only agency responsible for promoting the region and driving tourism growth. We are farmers at Clifton Station. During these challenging times of low stock prices and rising overhead costs, the success of Clifton Glamping is vital for supporting our farming operation and family. As we weather these difficulties, the presence of Clifton Glamping is essential for maintaining our livelihoods and those of our children. I urge you to consider the importance of supporting Hawkes Bay tourism and to vote in favour of Option B funding. Your decision will not only benefit businesses like Clifton Glamping but also contribute to the long-term success and sustainability of the entire region.
870	Bruce Mactaggart	At least some level of funding support (even if at a reduced level) for tourism should be sustained into the future.
871	Barb Hansen Hansen Property Group	Our property company Hansen Property Group has recently built the Tribune precinct development in Hastings. The purpose of this project was to restore a derelict group of historic buildings in the CBD and repurpose them into a mixed use precinct for hospitality, service and offices. It is now an area in the hub of Hastings that the community can enjoy and be proud of. Tribune has 28 tenants and attracts local visitors everyday and tourists visiting from outside of the region. We believe strongly that investing in progress for Hawke's Bay is vital for the success of the region in the long term. We like to think that our investment in helping to improve the CBD of Hastings supports the long term viability of Hawke's Bay as a vibrant and progressive place to live and work. Attracting events and tourists to Hawkes Bay with the support of Hawke's Bay Tourism (being the only organisation to promote our region as a whole) is crucial to take the region forward and to progress. Hawke's Bay is an attractive place to visit so is appealing for industry and corporate event organisers and other events like weddings. Without the work of Hawke's Bay Tourism we will not be getting sufficient visibility at trade shows etc and other PR to ensure that we are securing this important source of income for our region. Part of the Tribune development includes an Atrium space which after working hours is being utilised as an event space. The types of events we are attracting include weddings, industry and corporate functions. Hawke's Bay Tourism is playing a key role in our business. It has connected us with nationwide industry event organisers and other forums including securing us a pass to the MEETINGS 2024 event. This is so useful to help us to work alongside other event venues like ToiToi to attract conferences and other events to Hastings. In short we strongly feel that stopping funding to Hawke's Bay Tourism is shortsighted. Supporting this organisation to promote the region on a nationwide and international level is vital for our growth and progression. Tourism and events are hugely important revenue streams for Hawke's Bay and there is massive untapped potential in this area. We have a beautiful region with a lot to offer but we need a consolidated and supported voice promoting it in the right forums.
875	Megan Harris	PERSONAL SUBMISSION I have been involved in the tourism industry in Hawke's Bay for almost 20 years and I have seen first-hand the amazing growth that has been possible since our region has supported a cohesive approach to regional visitor promotion coordinated by Hawke's Bay Tourism (HBT) in its current form. HBT has high levels of industry support and the organisation has proven to be critical in helping our region recover from some of its darkest days. But there is still work to be done! Visitor spending plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth and prosperity in the Hawke's Bay region. As one of New Zealand's premier tourist destinations, Hawke's Bay attracts visitors from around the motu and the world, drawn by its stunning landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and renowned wine and culinary offerings. The money spent by these visitors contributes significantly to the region's economy, fueling business activity, supporting jobs, and generating revenue. This is 'NEW money that would not otherwise come into the region. One of the key ways in which visitor spending benefits the Hawke's Bay economy is

		<p>through the support of local businesses. From boutique wineries and artisanal food producers to charming bed-and-breakfasts and cultural attractions, businesses across various sectors rely on tourism dollars to thrive. Visitor spending translates into revenue for these businesses, enabling them to invest in expansion, innovation, and job creation. Moreover, the ripple effect of visitor spending extends beyond tourism-related sectors, stimulating demand for goods and services throughout the local economy. Credible research has shown visitor spending is not just directly with tourism operators, but rather it is spread much wider across the local economy, i.e. considerably less spending is directly with tourism businesses than with other businesses, such as shops, supermarkets, service industries, food producers and the like. As an example, here's a recent visitor social media post I spotted this week "We would like to thank Napier CC for the freedom camping spots. Wonderful facility. We stayed extra days and bought fuel, groceries, dinner out plus went to the markets. Wish other towns would follow their initiative. Well done." Additionally, visitor spending serves as a catalyst for job creation and employment opportunities in the Hawke's Bay region. The tourism industry is a significant employer, providing jobs for locals across a wide range of sectors, including hospitality, retail, transportation, and entertainment. Whether it's a tour guide leading visitors through the region's vineyards, a chef preparing gourmet meals using locally sourced ingredients, or a hotel staff member welcoming guests with warm hospitality, tourism-related jobs play a vital role in sustaining livelihoods and supporting families in the community. How many members of your family are employed in Hawke's Bay? How many of your children, grandchildren etc. will be affected by a lack of jobs in hospitality and many other areas if there are less visitors coming for holidays, events and conferences? In summary, I believe visitor spending is a cornerstone of the Hawke's Bay economy, driving economic activity, supporting jobs (1 in 10), and enhancing the overall quality of life in the region. As Hawke's Bay continues to position itself as a premier food and wine tourist destination, Hawke's Bay Tourism's work nurturing and sustaining visitor arrivals and spending remains crucial for ensuring the region's long-term prosperity and economic resilience. What else could you invest \$1.5m in that can give such a great rate of return (tourism now contributes \$1.3b per annum directly and indirectly) to the community as a whole? If you take away the funding, we will all lose. The thing that stands out to me about Destination/Regional Tourism Marketing is that it needs 'someone' to bring the people to a group of products and places (hotels, motels, restaurants, and activities like wineries, tours, walks, parks, pools, beaches etc.). That is, to promote the whole destination - and the many reasons to come here - to people who are outside of the region. As opposed to selling goods, which requires taking things to people outside of the region and selling them in-market, which makes it somewhat easier for people to connect with, product by product. That said, a great regional reputation and connection by people who have visited here can also assist many of these products in-market - like beef, lamb, wine and apples for example. Another plus for Regional Tourism Organisations like Hawke's Bay Tourism! I sincerely believe Hawke's Bay Tourism is the best vehicle for supporting and promoting this destination and should be funded by the region's ratepayers, via a targeted rate managed by HBRC, for the greater good. This current funding level and mechanism has been proven to work - visitor, infrastructure and spending growth over the last 12+ years proves this. PLEASE vote for continued funding the same as it is now, i.e. Status Quo, or at least for Option B. Thank you. Megan Harris</p>
880	Lucinda Perry	Tourism is pivotal for the sustainability and growth of our region. It not only drives our economy but also generates job opportunities and bolsters various sectors, including hospitality and retail.
881	Pam Minor	I feel it is crucial to continue funding Hawke's Bay Tourism as the industry has such a flow on effect into so many parts of our economy
889	Kate Galloway Hastings Distillers Ltd	I support option B and consider it the only viable option in a region that has experienced diminishing tourism in the wake of cyclone Gabrielle. HB tourism events support and add vibrancy to our region and I believe it only fair to allow them to keep up the good work for a further year and allow them a grace period to enable them to find other funding.
891	Beth Elstone	I believe neither of the above options are suited and think that the funding for Tourism in Hawkes Bay should be maintained as it is currently. Tourism is a major income generator for so many businesses and the wider community in the Hawkes Bay region and it makes sense to sustain this investment as a region to ensure the wider benefits it brings to the economy here and local business. The flow on effect of cutting this funding will be worse in the long run for the region.

896	Robyn Christiansen	This would give the region time to begin to promote without council assistance
899	Wayne England Hawkes Bay Combined Taxis Limited	I think the idea speaks for itself clearly backward thinking. We are already losing tourists due to Napier City Councils total lack of being proactive in this area for the region/city. Your removal of this funding will destroy a number of businesses etc.
909	James Orton Orton's	<p>We write in support of Hawke's Bay Tourism and its strong desire to see Option B adopted in relation to future funding for HBT. Orton Catering Ltd has been operating in Hawke's Bay since 1983. The family owned company has grown from a small business catering for weddings and other small private functions to a business that now employs 40 Full time equivalent and many more part time staff. We now cater for a multitude of customers from corporate events to sport, education, private events and from October 2023 operating the Church Road Winery restaurant.</p> <p>Much of our income is derived directly from the interface with customers/guests who reside outside our province.</p> <p>Examples being:</p> <p>Up to 80% of weddings we cater for may have relatives living in the region but the wedding couple live elsewhere and still choose HB as their destination for their wedding.</p> <p>Horse of the Year- the largest single event we cater for in the year. Most attending are from other parts of NZ.</p> <p>Mission Concert - a large% of people attending are attracted here from other parts of NZ.</p> <p>Art Deco Summer Festival week - again similar scenario.</p> <p>FAWC - an HBT innovation.</p> <p>Air New Zealand Wine Awards 2014, 2017 - significant exposure and prestige for HB</p> <p>International/National sporting events - Rugby World Cup 2011, Cricket World Cup 2015 and more recently Iron Maori, Rugby League, cricket internationals- massive impact on the local economy.</p> <p>Industry related conferences - educational, horticultural and others</p> <p>Wineries - much of the visitation that Church Road Winery experiences and consequently by us as operators of the restaurant is by way of inbound tourism guests. Likewise the whole wine industry in HB.</p> <p>12th Member Great Wine Capital of the World - such a substantial win for the region with tourism as the major winner given that this opportunity will be maximized.</p> <p>We firmly believe that all the above events, historical or current have been or are beneficiaries of an effective and well-funded source of unified information/promotion radiating from our region. These events don't just happen, they are the result of a significant investment in time, expertise and money, all of which has to be provided by one organisation that represents the whole. Not just for the benefit of the tourism industry but for all ratepayers of this province.</p> <p>While our company spends a significant amount on specific promotion of our business we simply don't have the funds to promote the big picture as to WHY CHOOSE HAWKE'S BAY. Without that overall regional wrap we believe our business would be greatly impacted.</p> <p>If the funding from HBRC is cut we can see a significant drop off in visitation to the region. The other local councils (Hastings, Napier, Wairoa) will do their best to keep the region in front of the world but in the end they will be motivated and encouraged to promote their own area of interest, therefore reintroducing the old marketing rivalry that used to exist between local councils. Hawke's Bay Tourism as an entity, is the only effective way this region can promote itself without local bias, take it away and we will all suffer the consequences and quite quickly.</p>

		If council decides to walk away what a slap in the face it will be to those industry leaders/ HBTIA members who have invested so much of their energy and time in to establishing what is now regarded as a highly professional unit earning its way. At the very least the council should vote for Option B to allow time for all of Hawke's Bay to think about its future direction and prosperity.
922	Sonya Earley	The manage tourism activities that bring in new revenue to the Bay
925	Gavin Ashcroft	We having been associated with the Tourism industry for the last 20 years, my wife and I, find the proposed reduction in funding for Tourism in Hawkes Bay to be an insult to the all members of this organization and the wider businesses that would be affected in the future that feed off Tourism. Tourism is the number one earner for growth in this region, having been recognized as one of the 12 wine regions of the world. H B Regional Council councilors must recognize this. We have seen over the years the ups and downs for Hawkes Bay region, despite the two major interruption events over the last five years , funding should be maintained at the existing level. Rates that relate to Tourism category should not be allocated to any other area. 1.5 Million previously allocated to Tourism is NOT large in the scope of things, when Art Deco week and other events during the year can bring millions in \$ terms for the region. Hawkes Bay needs an organization like H B Tourism to keep the momentum going to promote Hawkes Bay to other regions and around the world through the various platforms available to them.
926	Paul Atkins	I don't believe this should be reduced at all. Maybe work with the industry to self fund eventually but our region needs tourists, we are not a number one destination within the Nth island. Probably not even in the top 5. Our district relies on businesses surviving and tourism promotion/advertising brings in much needed jobs and revenue to the region.
931	Kevin Layton	We have the VisitorPoint Brochure Franchise for Hawkes Bay and our business (That of my wife and I) is based solely on Tourism. We rely totally on the Tourist coming to Hawkes Bay so that we can promote the local tourist attractions to the tourist. If the Hawke Bay Regional Council was to remove their funding for HB Tourism, that would eliminate the promotion of Hawkes Bay as a Tourist venue outside of this area. That would kill tourism in Hawkes Bay. It would destroy many businesses especially ours, which we have been operating for 13 years now. We have many businesses that struggle to survive as it is, let alone with less tourists coming into the area. HB Tourism does all the major promoting of the Hawkes Bay, for the benefit of all here, and if they have their funding eliminated they will cease to exist and tourism in HB will cease to exist, without the extra revenue introduced by the tourist, it will be a downward spiral and Hawkes Bay will be a back water, stagnant and all. In all reality HB Tourism's funding should be increased, especially after the cyclone to help build the area. I strongly believe if the funding is cut to HB Tourism that many businesses including ours will not be able to be sustained, resulting in us shutting down. option b is the only minimum course to take.
935	Gareth Holder	Tourism is a key part of the rebuild for the HB economy. I cannot agree with rushed cost cutting of critical programmes without clear details of the downstream repercussions of such decisions.
936	Hugh Findlay Cherry Gold Orchards Ltd	HB economy relies heavily on Tourism. Jeopardize that and we all fail.
945	Stuart Kilmister Kilhaven Orchards	Time to tighten the belt
957	Tim Averill	It appears that the tourist market will be slowing naturally with a suggested downturn in cruise ships, financial hardship is limiting travel for many and our prices are very high .It is a difficult area as it tries to make a comeback from covid. Backpackers/student were an important part of tourism as a portion of young people come and work in the hospitality/ horticulture often doing jobs that Kiwis dont do at home but on their OE /other countries. A portion of their earnings are reinvested in the local economy.
963	Zoe Chisholm	How is there not an option to just maintain - no phasing or reducing? Really doesn't scream 'have your say' when your choice is to get rid of, or get rid of.

974	Chloe Hargreaves	Neither, tourism is majorly needed in Hawkes bay!!!!!! Why would you cut that funding haven't store owners, retailers, hospitality taken enough of a hit? People need help not abandonment
985	Anna Inglis	Very short sighted to remove this fund. Play the long game and know there are wide reaching benefits from this fund. So many reap the rewards all the way down the economic food chain.
991	Sharyn Phillips	Are you mad. Hawkes Bay is only just starting to get tourist numbers back to where they were prior to Covid-19, and you want to cut our tourism sector off at it's knees. Hawkes Bay is not all about Vineyards and Cows, just look at the amount of subdivisions going in all over our region. I say maintain it for at least 1 yr, hoping you will see sense once the year is up.
992	Jane Godber	I have had an involvement with the Art Deco Trust as a volunteer walk guide for almost 15 years. While I can agree that ideally Tourism HB needs to secure funding independent of HBRC the present situation both locally and nationally would make this very difficult. Unfortunately Covid 19 and the cyclone last year have taken their toll on tourist numbers and while these have started to return this season further promotion is required to get back to previous numbers. Having a sole regional organisation (supported by all Councils) is a great advantage when promoting the area and encourages various businesses and organisations to work together. Tourism is an important part of the Hawkes Bay economy. Not only does it bring jobs and earnings into the area but following a difficult past year I believe it has a cheering and positive effect on the whole region and its people. The matter of funding is an issue that needs to be resolved at a National level throughout New Zealand (and perhaps through the likes of a previously proposed bed tax). Options for the future need to be addressed and supported by the Regional Council in the interim and also in securing a workable future for our local tourism.
994	Angie Rawlinson	I've lived in the region since early 2005. In 2010 I set up a business as a PCO (professional conference organiser) and at that time, there was very little assistance available to our organisation as the Tourism entity at that time was almost non-existent and not supported. With a rugby world cup coming, and cruise ships starting to be more frequent, funding was required to expand and enhance what our region offered, to gain more of the national and international market and HB Tourism started its journey to what it's become now, with Annie Dundas taking the helm. HB Tourism doesn't just work on tourist visitors to Hawke's Bay, they've been instrumental in growing the business sector too, making our voice heard in a busy business environment, putting Hawke's Bay on the map for many large conferences and events and all the additional dollars spent in our region that comes with that. I have worked/partnered with HB Tourism to bring conferences to the region, bringing much needed revenue to the F&B sector, accom nights and extended stays to our area as we encourage our delegates to stay a while. I've witnessed at business trade shows I've attended up and down the country, the work they have continued to do in our sector which has been huge, not only in awareness for our region, but actively promoting everything Hawke's Bay has to offer. Removing their funding will take us back to the 2010 era where our region will fall behind once again and it will take an exceptionally long time to recover. After everything that has happened to our region with the damage from Cyclone Gabrielle (and I personally have a massive understanding of that as I lived on Pohutukawa Drive), we need that voice out there more than ever now. I know this will be an increase to rates, but they're going up anyway (almost double where I live) and yet I still advocate to keep this funding in place – the long-term damage to the region will be so detrimental if we close the doors now.
996	Veronica Drexel	Keep funding HB Tourism as it is. Without the exposure that ensures, many small businesses will struggle to survive, hospitality will follow and visitors numbers will plummet even further, reducing your tax revenue and completely undermining the savings you are trying to achieve.
997	James Doolan Hotel Council Aotearoa	Of the options presented, HCA supports the status quo, but failing that we support Option B. Hawke's Bay Tourism carries out destination marketing and event attraction activity on behalf of Hawke's Bay's five councils. It is entirely right and normal for regional authorities (and by extension, ratepayers) to fund this work. It seems strange to us that Hawke's Bay Regional Council claims to want to focus on its mission of "enhancing our environment together", yet at the same time proposes to stop investing in the visitor economy. The visitor economy generated \$775 million for Hawke's Bay's regional GDP in the 12 months to September 2023 and supports one-tenth of local employment. During COVID, when New Zealand's borders were closed to

		<p>international tourists, the Hawke's Bay region thrived on the back of the contribution made by domestic tourism to the local economy. Hawke's Bay is well-placed within driving distance of both Auckland and Wellington.</p> <p>While we acknowledge that all councils in New Zealand are faced with budget pressures, the \$1.52 million invested annually by Hawke's Bay Regional Council in Hawke's Bay Tourism is a very small amount when compared with the overall value of the visitor economy.</p> <p>To be clear – it will have a very negative impact on the region's economy for this funding to be arbitrarily withdrawn and with minimal notice. Smart investment back into the visitor economy drives a positive return on investment. Publicly-funded event attraction and destination marketing is not a new or unproven thing. The reasons why councils (and countries) should invest in this work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent residents benefit: Event attraction and destination marketing has an immediate public benefit. Local residents attend high-quality events without needing to travel. Local residents work in event-connected businesses, such as hotels, restaurants, bars, stadiums and venues. Local residents benefit from permanent improvements to public infrastructure and a wider range of thriving local businesses. • Creation of an enduring brand and reputation management: Through consistent messaging and storytelling, a central agency such as Hawke's Bay Tourism is able to craft a distinct identity that resonates with target markets. Individual businesses will not invest in developing this "big picture" identity for an entire destination. Similarly, a central agency is best-placed to respond to challenges and crises that may arise, minimising negative consequences for the local economy. • Attracting investment to the region: Event attraction and destination marketing activity also supports wider efforts to attract investment and skills, generally. Sources of external capital and new permanent residents are typically first introduced to a destination when visiting as a tourist. The world's most vibrant and thriving destinations are all great places to visit. • Export promotion through tourism: Tourism reinforces and supports other export sectors such as forestry, wineries, textiles and dairy. This is particularly important for Hawke's Bay given its strength in viticulture. • Economies of scale and efficient resource allocation: A central agency is best-placed to drive economies of scale when carrying out event attraction and destination marketing. Centralisation streamlines resource allocation for optimal results – event planners do not want to deal with multiple separate local tourism businesses. A central marketing agency can avoid duplication of effort that sometimes occurs if tourism marketing is left entirely to private businesses. • Support for council-owned infrastructure and amenities: Good tourism marketing is the "software" that supports council-owned "hardware" such as conference centres, stadiums and other tourism attractions. Hawke's Bay's five councils are major investors in visitor economy assets. It is our submission that the "tough choice" to effectively de-fund Hawke's Bay Tourism is not a tough choice at all, it's potentially a short-sighted choice that could do a great deal of damage to the Hawke's Bay economy.
998	Robbie Darby	<p>This is very shortsighted and narrows your focus to recovery. Tourism as you yourselves said is important in our region, Hawkes Bay. In effect you are contradicting yourselves. You would be financially eroding one of our biggest sources of income and not being visionary for the future of our area. Hawkes Bay has become one of the better tourism destinations in New Zealand. We need flights flying in and out regularly connecting to other airports for internal and international connections. N.Z visitors and tourists from overseas when they arrive in Hawkes Bay bubble and enthuse, they spend money here and they add a great dimension to what could otherwise be or quickly become a provincial backwater if Tourism was not supported financially and it was harder if operations did not run smoothly. We do not want to bite the hands of enthusiast visitors who help make our area prosper and whom realise the integral attributes of Hawkes Bay. I moved to Hawkes Bay 20 years ago after living in Queenstown for over 20 years where I watched and worked with tourism and how the area benefited and prospered. When I moved to Hawkes Bay I thought it was very parochial. Hawkes Bay as changed since then for the better. People have recognised the potential here to invest, Hawkes Bay has grown to embrace its own assets and to share those assets with growing tourism numbers, this in turn has created an exciting vibe and a wonderful destination, our region. We have great shopping hubs. Arts and culture, heritage, art Deco, Wine Trails, winery's, artisan food products, distillery's, markets, music venues, sporting arenas, The Cape Coast, beaches, recreational fishing, bike</p>

		trails, walks, many events, wetlands, birdlife, coastlines and seascapes, productive farmlands and orchards, not to forget Te Mata Peak, one of the jewels here. I do not agree or support your preferred option A to phase out funding for Tourism. Neither is Option B good enough but I have no other choices because you have backed people into a corner so I will run with option B and hope The Regional Council has the foresight to address their shortcomings and move forward to the benefit of what Hawkes Bay offers. Looking after our many assets and potentials for growth and income sources.
1000	Laraine Russell	People who benefit from tourism should fund it themselves., not the ratepayer
1001	Prue Barton Mister D Dining	I believe that Option B allows HB Tourism the best opportunity to continue its activities relatively unchanged. It can continue to work with regional and national stakeholders to secure future strong relationships and sustainability. - As long term Napier business owners I see tourists as a necessary economic component for the continuance of this business. Napier is a small city and there are shoulder times of the year when the population is diminished and locals tend to hibernate and so tourists need to be encouraged and tempted to come to the region to support all the CBD businesses. It is not just hospitality that will suffer but it will be all the small retailers who do not have the financial support to keep afloat. - Yes we do do our own marketing of course but the added impact of Tourism HB adds a fresh spin and outlook on new areas and events that we do not potentially cover. - As I mentioned the region as a whole needs the support of a strong regional tourism organisation because we are a "destination" region and people have to drive and fly long distances to get here. We need eg Wellingtonians and Aucklanders to come and have stay cations and spend money in the region to keep the city financially buoyant. - If there is not promotion Napier City with its retail, hospitality and small local tours eg gannets, bike tours, wine tours etc there will be huge damage to our tourist industry and numbers of visitors will decline causing more financial hardship. We are all heavily dependant on this ongoing tourist dollar. - We have experienced challenging times in the last 3 years, Covid /Cyclone Gabriel and HB Tourism has played an essential role in promoting the region's recovery. HB Tourism is the only agency promoting HB outside of Hawke's Bay. - I believe it is very short sighted to cut funding as our region NEEDS tourists and we do not want to become a back water with NO promotion. Small private operators will close and the CBD will struggle. This is not an option we want for our region.
1002	Tania Camplin Soho Cafe and Bar	Soho Cafe has been operating for 3 years, I employ 26 people with 12 of those being full time. At the heart of our business we are part of the backbone of the community with a strong local following. Many of our loyal customers are Hoteliers or run air B&B's or have businesses of their own. We are well known in the region and are a highly recommended cafe to visit for visitors to the region. Due to our location we have benefited from regional sporting events at Park Island - events held here see a large influx of customers from outside of Hawkes Bay and recent concerts such as Rod Stewart and Robbie Williams provided us with record breaking sales days. Through these events other customers most notably from Wellington have come in advising their friends from Wellington recommended they pay us a visit. Any large event in Hawkes Bay easily generates a 20% increase in sales to our business, this is especially welcome in the winter months when the Locals tend to hibernate till Summer. I urge you to consider option B, as the reduction of funding will have a catastrophic impact on our economy and local businesses. The past 4 years through Covid and Cyclone Gabrielle have already put huge pressure on tourism and hospitality operators, many of which will not survive the reduction of tourists the reduction of funding will bring. Hawkes Bay is a tourist region and businesses are reliant on the trade visitors bring. The devastating impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle have already seen a noticeable decline in visitors to the region and people simply think we are not "open for business" if anything we should be increasing the funding to bring people back! Whilst Soho does have a strong local customer base, our locals also benefit from tourism and events that are held locally. Not only do visitors come and spend but locals do too, it creates a buzz and atmosphere that locals want to be part of. A downturn in tourism will have devastating impacts on our hospitality community. We are already struggling with wage increases, cost of goods increases etc. It's never been more of a difficult time for us to make a profit and margins were already thin. We are all already looking at how to cut costs and streamline our businesses but the obvious answer with less foot traffic and spending will be that of reducing staff. There are already a number of establishments that are on the brink of closure and are holding on as long as they can for the increase in visitors and spending hoping they will survive...many won't and without Option B

		going ahead we are simply taking away the last bit of hope they have. Reducing funding and not putting a strong focus on creating events and reasons to come to Hawke's Bay will only see other regions flourish whilst ours becomes a ghost town.
1009	Alastair Chalmers	Tourism is a main contributor to the livelihoods of many people living in Hawke's Bay and a major contributor to the funding of all infrastructure and maintenance projects undertaken in the area. How or what is the funding proposal to grow this sector of the local economy.
1016	Daniel King	I am writing to express my strong support for Option B regarding the funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. I believe this option is critical for sustaining our economic growth and community well-being. We all know how incredible Hawke's Bay is because we live and breathe it. Hawke's Bay Tourism shows the world what we know to be true, that Hawke's Bay is a place worth visiting! It is these visitors that provide our local economy the ability to continue to provide for what we as locals want. Iconic events that encourage so many people, including friends and family, to visit Hawke's Bay are in jeopardy. Hawke's Bay Marathon and F.A.W.C.I are just the tip of the iceberg. The loss of our status as a Great Wine Capital, is potentially the biggest blow. As the newest member of this internationally recognised programme, having to bow out after only one year, would damage our wine growing regions reputation. Supporting Option B is not merely a funding decision—it is about ensuring the long-term sustainability and vitality of our regional economy and preserving the quality of life for our community. Please consider these points carefully and recognise the broader implications of the funding structure for Hawke's Bay Tourism. Thank you for considering my perspective on this crucial matter.
1017	James Godbold	I am a golf professional with global experience, working at Cape Kidnappers. On a daily basis I see the impact tourism has on the region and the broader economy. High value visitors to Cape Kidnappers make the most of their time of Hawke's Bay and often enjoy many other activities. I am deeply concerned that defunding Hawke's Bay Tourism will lead to a poor overall experience for visitors and erode the great name Hawke's Bay has on the global stage. Ideally there would be no change to the current funding model, however given the alternative, it is vital that we maintain the funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism at \$1.52 million for the fiscal year 2024/25, before adjusting it to \$441,000 annually from 2025/26 onwards. Since its inception, Hawke's Bay Tourism has been instrumental in boosting our profile as a premier tourist destination, and has successfully elevated our region above other RTO's in New Zealand. Their continued promotional work, often only visible outside of the region, sustains Hawke's Bay's brand position. A reduction in their funding could have a profound negative impact on these economic benefits. At first the impact may not be felt, but the slow and painful truth will be a reduced visitor economy and businesses closing down because of it. Additionally, iconic events that encourage so many people, including friends and family, to visit Hawke's Bay are in jeopardy. Hawke's Bay Marathon and F.A.W.C.I are just the tip of the iceberg. But the loss of our status as a Great Wine Capital, is potentially the biggest blow. As the newest member of this internationally recognised programme, having to bow out after only one year, would damage our wine growing regions reputation. In conclusion, supporting Option B is not merely a funding decision—it is about ensuring the long-term sustainability and vitality of our regional economy and preserving the quality of life for our community. I know there are hard choices to be made, but defunding Hawke's Bay Tourism is short sighted and will have long lasting, negative effects. I urge you to consider these points carefully and recognise the broader implications of the funding structure for Hawke's Bay Tourism.
1034	Richard Marshall	Audit HB Tourism, focus on essentials. Do not destroy our regions ""Brand" much effort has been put into it for it to fade away,
1039	Cat Haslam	I am submitting in favour of Option B funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. I am a rate payer for the Napier district and the Regional council and my business will be affected directly if Hawke's Bay Tourism is disbanded. I have been providing web-based services to Hawke's Bay Tourism for over 10 years now and I have first-hand experience of the integral role they play in enhancing the success of both the service, operator and business industries. Tourism is a very competitive market, not only nationally, but also internationally. If you do not have a body of people dedicated to promotion, creative thinking and providing resources enabling visitors to find, research and make the decision choose your destination, they will go somewhere else. This is a fact, it's marketing 101. For Hawke's Bay, sitting out on the East Coast, we are not a transient population due to our proximity. There are fluctuations during the seasons due to workers coming in to fill specific roles, but apart from that, tourism is the main source of new people and new spend coming into the region. Tourism everywhere has been hit particularly hard

		in the last few years with the effects of the Cyclone only last year, making it even more difficult for the community here. Having an organisation who is key roles to support tourism related businesses allows for a support network and foundation for those businesses during difficult times. No business can stand alone and compete in the tourism industry and ride the peaks and hope to survive the troughs without such an organisation. It's a no-brainer. On a personal level, for my business as a service provider, on the wide-reaching peripheral of what Tourism Hawke's Bay supports, it affects my income directly. As mentioned, I have worked with Hawke's Bay Tourism for over 10 years and it has become a reliable source of not only income but enjoyable creative challenge. I am a solo parent so my time is very precious. Having a reliable income and clients that are a pleasure to work with is essential for me and my family's well-being. I am in support of option B and believe from experience, that not financially supporting an organisation like Hawke's Bay Tourism, so they can continue to provide the essential service they do, would be a travesty.
1043	Simon Bowker	This is critical to the HB economy
1044	Andrew Van Workum Mr Apple NZ Ltd	Not sure of the financial implications, but all funding should be focussed on absolute necessity after the cyclone/ covid.
1052	Liliana Theyer	Hospitality is a huge attraction in Hawkes bay and supporting this will help the flow of tourism through Hawkes bay
1055	Jennifer Carty	To give Tourism a bit of time to adjust
1056	Pip Thompson Napier City Business Inc	<p>Please refer to our attached submission, which supports Status Quo or Option B.</p> <p>As the representative body for 450 businesses in Napier's CBD, we are submitting in favour of the status quo funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism, and if that is not possible, then Option B.</p> <p>Our diverse membership spans retail, hospitality, business services, accommodation, community organisations, inner-city living, landlords, and more - employing over 2,500 hardworking individuals. For us, status quo isn't just a preference; it's an economic lifeline.</p> <p>Without the current level of funding, you're threatening to silence our region's voice and endanger its economic backbone. But the ripple effects would extend far beyond tourism, threatening the vitality of our entire community.</p> <p>Promoting our region is vital - it's our lifeblood. Without it, we lose influence and visitors. Just like any business, if you don't advertise, how will people find you? While other regions actively market themselves with council support, you are proposing to cut us off completely with your preferred option A or suggesting a partial lifeline with Option B. Tourism drives jobs and economic growth, especially crucial after tough times like Covid, severe weather events and the increased cost of living.</p> <p>Keeping our city and region attractive to visitors isn't a luxury—it's a necessity for our community's survival and growth. By supporting the status quo, we invest in our future, ensuring Hawke's Bay stays on the map as a desirable destination.</p> <p>Napier CBD relies heavily on tourism and the visitor economy. Choosing anything other than the status quo will have consequences. The severity of these consequences hinges on the chosen option. If Option A goes ahead, accommodation, hospitality, retail, transportation, and tourism activities will all experience a significant drop in patronage. This downturn will inevitably force businesses to downsize, resulting in job losses due to reduced demand or even worse, forced to close as a direct result and become a ghost town.</p> <p>Our support of status quo is rooted in the recognition of several key factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a mere \$1.5m investment from ratepayers —averaging out to approximately 41 cents per household, per week contributes to a \$1.3b return. Where else can you find such an exceptional return on investment? Any proposal to reduce funding and thus promotional activity threatens this economic activity, which no one wants to see suppressed. • The fact that 1 in 10 people are employed in the tourism industry in Hawke's Bay underscores its significance to the region's economy.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If Hawke's Bay Tourism can't champion our region, who will step up? We will be forgotten. Waiting for someone else to fill that void means risking the progress already made, forcing the region to toil even harder to reclaim lost ground. ● Hawke's Bay Tourism has always promoted Hawke's Bay to out of region visitors, our role is to promote Napier CBD to locals, i.e. within a 20km radius. NCBI (Napier City Business Inc) funded by a targeted levy paid by building owners within a certain boundary. ● We as a region need time to come up with a plan and find a funding model for Hawke's Bay Tourism moving forward, simply turning off the tap without it is unhinged. <p>Tourism and Visitors to our region is vital for several reasons:</p> <p>Economic Impact: Tourism generates revenue not only for tourism-related businesses but also for the wider economy. Visitors spend money on accommodations, dining, shopping, transportation, and other goods and services, injecting money into the local economy. This spending creates a multiplier effect, benefiting suppliers, service providers, and the broader community.</p> <p>Business Support: By promoting local businesses, accommodations, restaurants, attractions, and experiences, Hawke's Bay Tourism supports the growth and sustainability of these organisations. Increased visitor traffic translates into more customers and revenue for businesses across various sectors, including hospitality, retail, and entertainment.</p> <p>Job Creation: Tourism is a significant earner and employer in Hawke's Bay, providing jobs for locals across a range of skill levels and sectors.</p> <p>Community Development: Tourism investments improve infrastructure, amenities, and services, enhancing the overall quality of life for residents and making Hawke's Bay a more attractive place to live, work, and visit.</p> <p>Cultural Preservation: Tourism encourages the preservation and promotion of our region's unique heritage, traditions, and natural resources, fostering pride and identity among locals.</p> <p>Destination Promotion: Actively marketing the region's attractions drives awareness and draws visitors, which boosts visitation and spending. The matter under consultation today is approximately 41 cents per household per week—for a billion-dollar return for our region. The decision before our decision-makers carries significant weight—will it be treated as a crucial decision or dismissed as trivial bargaining?</p> <p>Status Quo, otherwise Option B is our best shot. NOT your preferred Option A. Please give the visitor economy the same support you've shown other cyclone-affected industries. Having an attractive and thriving destination that draws visitors enhances our environment together.</p> <p>Quotes from businesses:</p> <p>"As a business owner in the Napier CBD we are in desperate need more than ever to keep the tourism funding. After the cyclone Napier in particular has seen a massive drop in tourists and as a hospitality business we are noticing this impact on our business daily. We need strong messages sent that the Hawkes Bay hasn't been wiped off the earth like many out of towners seem to think. (We hear this frequently). Tourism is such a huge part of the makeup of Hawkes Bay and if we don't keep promoting ourselves at the highest level possible there is going to be a very sad outcome for many business owners. We have been through enough over the past few years and this is not something we should have to fight for. If anything we should have additional funding to get the Hawkes Bay back on the map." - Sarah Kelly, Market St - Bar & Eatery</p> <p>"I track spending by domestic tourists and my international visitors and cruise ships in my POS. More than 50% of my business comes from outside the region." - Kathleen Robins, OOMA - Objects of my Affection.</p> <p>We will conclude our hearing presentation with the 'Whittaker's chocolate slab' exercise.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, On behalf of the Napier City Businesses, building owners and residents.</p>
1064	Chloe McGill	Don't fade it out
1069	Peter Holley Marist Holdings (Greenmeadows) Ltd trading as	Established in 1851, Mission Estate is New Zealand's oldest winery and a cornerstone of Hawke's Bay's viticulture industry, and currently employs over 100 individuals across all areas of the business. Beyond producing award-winning wines, Mission Estate offers a unique visitor experience, including wine tastings, accommodation, and fine dining at its renowned restaurant. The winery's success is closely intertwined

	Mission Estate Winery	<p>with tourism, as visitors from around the world flock to Hawke's Bay to indulge in its world-class wines and experience its picturesque surroundings.</p> <p>At peak season the company has around 126 employees or the equivalent of 89.5 FTE's.</p> <p>We urge you to vote for Option B and continued funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>Mission needs and values the support of Hawke's Bay Tourism because the organisation is the only enterprise that consolidates the Hawkes Bay offering and collaboratively promotes all regional goods and services. They are pivotal in connecting and co-ordinating the activities of all in bound operators. The region's tourism industry would flounder in the absence of this critical focal point.</p> <p>I strongly believe that Mission, together with other local businesses, will suffer as a direct consequence if Option B is not adopted by Council.</p> <p>Visitors and locals alike will experience far fewer events, attractions, retail, and hospitality options.</p> <p>Tourism is a major earner and employer in Hawke's Bay and Hawke's Bay Tourism is the only agency capable of promoting Hawke's Bay.</p> <p>26% of Mission's revenue and 39% of Mission's profit is reliant on tourism.</p> <p>Mission is promoted in local publications as well as through our website and social media. Our website strongly promotes Hawke's Bay. Mission has worked closely with HBT on Famils, influencers and other external tourism operators. Whilst the exact contribution is not known it is in the several thousands.</p> <p>Over the last 12 months Mission has spent a total of \$6.9mil locally to provide tourism services, including the Concert, Cellar Coor, Restaurant, Farmhouse accommodation and building upkeep.</p> <p>Mission would be greatly impacted should Hawke's Bay lose significant numbers of visitors. The Restaurant, Cellar Door and accommodation offerings all rely heavily on strong tourism numbers, and without this we may be faced with the uncomfortable option of reducing the scope of these activities. We have worked hard to remain open and operational through Covid and post-Cyclone Gabrielle. It would be a real shame to trip up at the last hurdle as a consequence of poor decisions.</p> <p>We urge you to vote in favour of Option B as we believe that this option is the only viable option to ensure that the local visitor economy is shown the same support as other cyclone-affected industries.</p>
1070	Natalia McAllansmith	<p>I work for Touch of Spice, an inbound tourism operator as a Senior Travel Designer. I am submitting personally, not on behalf of the business and I am submitting in favour of Option B, funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. I would be happy to present in person via a Zoom link as I live in the Nelson region.</p> <p>I recently had the privilege of attending a two day famil organised by Liz Grossman at Hawke's Bay Tourism. As a professional involved in promoting tourism in New Zealand to high end international travellers, I urge you to reconsider the proposed plan to cut funding to Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>Having had the opportunity to experience firsthand the exceptional hospitality and diverse offerings that Hawke's Bay has to offer, I can attest to the invaluable role that Hawke's Bay Tourism plays in showcasing the region to visitors from around the world. From the stunning landscapes and renowned wineries to the vibrant culture and welcoming communities, Hawke's Bay offers a unique and unforgettable destination for travellers, and in particular for high end and high value travellers, which is the market that we operate in.</p> <p>As someone who had never been to the region before, the famil provided me with valuable experiences and insights into the incredible offerings of local tourism businesses. I had the pleasure of enjoying a private tour with Takaro Trails which exceeded my expectations, I had never previously known about this fantastic business. The owner was concerned about the proposal by the council to cut funding, especially after a challenging few years with Covid and the Cyclone, which of course anyone in the industry can sympathise with.</p> <p>I also enjoyed some great local cafes and restaurants (Hygge, Craggy Range, Church Road, Mission Estate, Hapi) which were of a world class standard and I would be very happy to recommend to our clients. I was impressed by the Gannet tour as well as the Art Deco Vintage car tour.</p> <p>The Church Road wine tasting experience was wonderful. None of these experience's were previously something I would have booked for my</p>

		<p>clients as I had not experienced them first hand and we always find it beneficial if we can verify the quality of the tourism operators so we can be confident in selling their products – which I am happy to say that I now am.</p> <p>The famil allowed me to connect with tourism operators I would not usually have, and develop partnership opportunities that are essential for the sustainable growth of the tourism industry. Cutting funding would not only jeopardise the efforts made to promote the region but also have far-reaching consequences for the local economy. Tourism is a vital economic driver, generating revenue, creating jobs, and supporting small businesses across various sectors.</p> <p>In conclusion, I urge the Hawke's Bay Regional Council to prioritise the long-term prosperity of the region by continuing to support Hawke's Bay Tourism. By investing in tourism promotion, the council can capitalise on the unique assets of Hawke's Bay, attract more visitors, and foster sustainable development for the benefit of all residents. Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter.</p>
1073	Liz Pollock Liz Pollock & Associates Ltd	<p>Liz Pollock & Associates Ltd has run numerous, successful corporate and public events throughout New Zealand for the last 29 years since February 1995, and has been based in Hawke's Bay for the last three of those years. The decision to move myself and the company to Hawke's Bay was based on a number of reasons however the primary reason was the outstanding reputation that Hawke's Bay enjoys both domestically and internationally as one of the jewels in the New Zealand Tourism crown. Wishing to build on my three decades of work in the event and hospitality sectors around the country and to provide support to such a key area in NZ's regional wine industry, by developing some targeted, wine related events, the move to the bay seemed like the perfect fit for myself and the business.</p> <p>In saying that the commitment to relocate to Hawke's Bay came at a considerable cost to myself, and still affords me a significant personal risk, however knowing that I was moving to a region that had such committed corporate and progressive, supportive civic communities made the decision and the risk worthwhile. Knowing that I would be living and working amongst people with similar goals, primarily being to help grow this amazing region for the good of all, was enough reason for me to want to do what I could to be part of it and contribute in a whatever way I could.</p> <p>Since moving to Hawke's Bay Liz Pollock & Associates Ltd have established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the already very popular annual Harvest Hawke's Bay Wine & Food Festival which will take place for the second year in rural Hastings in November 2024 and is expected to attract 2,500 patrons, over half of which will be from outside the region, based on 2023 demographics. These people will stay in the region for a minimum of two days and while they will enjoy the many hospitality options available during their stay, they will also have a very real impact on the regional economy outside the tourism sector during their stay. • the Viking Cruises' Hawke's Bay Wine Experience pop-up wine tasting series held at the Hawke's Bay Club which had it first season in the summer of 2023/24 and has just been confirmed to do another 11 events over the coming 2024/25 summer cruise season giving over 4,000 mainly American tourists an introduction to the outstanding Hawke's Bay wine growing region during their visit to Napier and, alongside the Great Wine Capital's campaign currently run by Hawke's Bay Tourism, help highlight the world class wine produced in the region. <p>Developing both these products, both of which have far reaching benefits especially for the Hawke's Bay wine producing region, would have been significantly more difficult, if not impossible, without the support and networks provided by Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>From a professional perspective as Liz Pollock & Associates Ltd income is currently derived 100% from the events and tourism sector in the Hawke's Bay region the continued promotion and growth of the tourism sector is crucial to the company's success and very existence locally. While the LPA team is absolutely committed to continue to work to support the local wine growing and wine tourism industries, without the framework provided by the current supportive and innovative RTO we would have to sadly reconsider our commitment and ability to stay in the region.</p> <p>In closing I cannot stress strongly enough my support for the continued financial support of Hawkes Bay Tourism in the form of Option B as outlined.</p>

1075	Neil Barber Art Deco Masonic Hotel	<p>The hotels we own have 88 rooms in total. Most of our occupancy comes from visitors to Hawke's Bay both domestic and international. ADM has a roughly even split of domestic versus international guests. Expressotel is weighted to domestic 70/30. Both hotels have their own websites and booking engines.</p> <p>We have owned the Art Deco Masonic Hotel since 1998. The premises have been entirely renovated (and continue to be) to an award winning standard. We purchased expressotel in 2016 and since then have brought the building to 100% of building code.</p> <p>We support Hawke's Bay Tourism (HBT) through membership fees (including their International Marketing Group) and through the provision of discounted and often gratis product used by HBT to help promote our region. We have in the past conducted our own international marketing at our expense by undertaking sales missions in both UK and USA. When making these sales calls you must first promote New Zealand then our region and only then can you promote your own product.</p> <p>We sponsor MTG by providing ten room nights per annum complimentary for them to use for promotional activities such as guest speakers.</p> <p>I have in the past chaired Hawke's Bay Tourism Industry Association, Chaired the Art Deco Trust and been a board member of Napier Business Association. I continue to be Trustee of the MTG Foundation. All of these roles have been voluntary. I also sat on the Board of HBT for five years as a HBTIA representative. The directors fees I was entitled to of \$50,000 I did not claim instead opting to effectively donate them back to HBT.</p> <p>We support and pay fees to Qualmark and Hospitality New Zealand.</p> <p>Our hotel occupancy provides customers for our hotel tenants, K Kitchen, Origami and Portofino. Of course visitors also spend money with local retailers and other hospitality providers.</p> <p>We employ around 30 people who of course contribute to the local economy, by buying groceries, fuel for their cars, paying rents and the like.</p> <p>It goes without saying that tourism and visitor economy is critical to our business livelihood.</p> <p>We have been strong supporters of HBT and the work that they do as a regional tourism operation in promoting Hawke's Bay outside of Hawke's Bay. They really do a great job and make a real difference. Tourism is a major earner and employer in Hawke's Bay. I urge you to vote for Option B and continue funding for HBT. I understand that the direct and indirect earnings Hawke's Bay gets from tourism is estimated at \$1.3B to save \$1.5M by not funding tourism seems to me to be reckless. Having seen our hotel occupancy restricted by the COVID lockdowns including the cancellation of major events such as Art Deco Weekend and the Horse of the Year the importance of events is brought home.</p> <p>Have you any idea the feeling of losing ALL forward bookings as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle in the space of a few days. This is where the importance and effectiveness of regional destination marketing really hits home. Hawke's Bay was painted as a destination on its knees not worthy of a visit. It was HBT that worked hard to disperse this misconception.</p> <p>I believe Option B is the only viable option. I urge you to show the visitor economy the same support as you have other cyclone-affected industries.</p>
1076	Nicholas Aiken	This is important to our local economy and these two choices are loaded as there is no maintain option. I consider this is shortsighted.
1082	Graham Kidd	Kill the golden goose !!
1083	Karen Greenslade Tākaro Trails Cycle Tours	<p>HBRC need all of our regional and local leaders to understand and acknowledge the contribution of tourism to Hawke's Bay and recognise that attracting visitors is a sound investment of ratepayer dollars. Our preference is no change to funding for HB Tourism for the future and as a secondary option, Option B - maintain year 1 then reduce. Tourism has had a pretty rough road over the last 4 years due to COVID and the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023. It is disheartening to know that our Regional Council does not think the industry needs continued support as evidenced by the preferred option for funding. The \$ value of tourism in Hawke's Bay is very clear - the stats show this - it is the second biggest contributor to the GDP in this region. So it's a positive thing for the community. Supporting the sustainability of our visitor economy is not a luxury; it's a necessity as we keep rebuilding...Hawke's Bay can't afford to lose visitor spend and tourism deserves your support now and in the future. Tourism lives and dies on promotion. HB Tourism is the promotional agency for our region - what they do brings visitors to us and</p>

		many people benefit. It's clear that the RTO is an agency we want to keep. It makes sense that the local councils act to support any change - Option A is not the way. Maybe council changes funding levels but not in a way that causes this essential service to be forced to lose traction. Throwing the baby out with the bath water...
1085	Syd & Annie King	Toursim is important, give HBT a chance to adapt to reduced HBRC \$
1088	Mayors Napier CC, Hastings DC, CHBDC	<p>Summary</p> <p>Further to Hawke's Bay Regional Council's (HBRC's) Three-Year Plan 2024-27 Consultation Document and the Mayors of Napier, Hastings and Central Hawke's Bay's letter of support to Hawke's Bay Tourism of 20 March 2024 (Appendix B), please accept this as our joint submission in favour of Option B (maintain funding at \$1.52 million for 2024-25 and then reduce to \$441,000 for 2025-2026).</p> <p>We note the short notice of any funding change and a need for HB Tourism to have time to design a new delivery and funding model alongside local government.</p> <p>We believe that Option B allows HB Tourism the best opportunity to continue its activities relatively unchanged while working with regional and national stakeholders to secure ongoing long-term sustainability.</p> <p>We acknowledge HBRC's strategic investment focus on flood resilience in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle and remain committed to collaborating with you to ensure ongoing protection and nurturing of Hawke's Bay's third largest industry, tourism. As such we are submitting in favour of Option B.</p> <p>Rationale for Submission</p> <p>Our submission is based on the following:</p> <p><i>1) "If it ain't broke don't fix it"</i></p> <p>The status quo is working well, as recognised by local industry experts, Tourism New Zealand, and the I-site network organisation. The 2021 council-commissioned Review of Local Government Investment In Business and Industry Support In Hawke's Bay concluded that there was no case for change for HB Tourism. According to the report, Hawke's Bay Tourism Limited (HBTL) was "doing a successful job in leveraging ratepayer investment into real value for the Hawke's Bay economy." The Review concluded that "there did not appear to be a strong case for change in regard to HBTL".</p> <p>Equally, the work that is carried out in out-of-region visitor attraction and event support is rarely seen within Hawke's Bay itself – the target markets are primarily the larger cities of Auckland and Wellington. The benefits from this out-of-region work are then realised through a raft of measures – card spend, bed occupancy, cruise ship visits and city pedestrian counts. Hawke's Bay Tourism's achievements range from their response to Covid-19 and weather events through to their event support and advocacy work. Refer Appendix A.</p> <p><i>2) Post Cyclone Industry Support</i></p> <p>We note the need for regional assistance for industry following Cyclone Gabrielle and that the tourism industry is no different. As the third largest industry in Hawke's Bay, we strongly believe that this is a time for renewed investment in tourism, not a reduction.</p> <p><i>3) Regional Collaboration</i></p> <p>Prior to the establishment of Hawke's Bay Tourism in July 2011, over 14 different Hawke's Bay agencies were involved in tourism, leading to overlap and inefficiencies and to the overall detriment of the region.</p> <p>We have seen following the demise of Business Hawke's Bay and the establishment of the Regional Economic Development Agency and Te Rae business hub that regional collaborations can be fragile - easy to fall apart, and hard to re-establish. We are keen to avoid a repeat of this situation with Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism provides key tourism sector leadership, coordination, advocacy, facilitation, and industry support roles within the region. They also have key external tourism marketing responsibility for the region.</p> <p><i>4) Essential Link in the Chain</i></p>

Hawke's Bay Tourism's position in the New Zealand tourism ecosystem is essential. The role of Tourism New Zealand is to attract visitors to New Zealand. Hawke's Bay Tourism's role is to bring visitors to Hawke's Bay and the isites, tourism operators, accommodation providers and hospitality businesses then take responsibility for those guests once they are in the region. To remove the middle link in that chain would be to cut off demand from supply. Arguably many of those local businesses would fail to survive the loss of their main marketing body and vital conduit.

5) The need for a Vibrant Visitor Economy

Recognising the overall contribution of tourism to the Hawke's Bay economy, most notably its retail and hospitality sectors, the mayors and chair of the region commit to ongoing support for the industry.

Appendix A

HB Tourism Highlights

Central role in emergency response for visitor economy – initial lockdown, and then cyclone	Hawke's Bay Tourism played a leading role in the management of trapped visitors and the sector response to both the Covid-19 pandemic and Cyclone Gabrielle.
Baycation campaign	Launched immediately following the easing of restrictions from New Zealand's first lockdown in 2020, encouraging prospective visitors from Wellington and Manawatu back to Hawke's Bay. The campaign was successful in driving record market share for visitors travelling from both regions.
GWC status	Led the campaign to achieve Great Wine Capital status for Napier and Hastings, cementing the regions reputation as a wine tourism heavyweight alongside Bordeaux, Napa Valley and South Australia.
Live from Hawke's Bay campaign	Developed in response to the devastation of Hawke's Bay's visitor economy in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. This video and social-led campaign featured 60+ regional leaders, personalities and tourism operators showcasing the breadth of the visitor experience on offer, reassuring prospective visitors that the region was very much open for business.
EAV	In FY23, achieved \$5.3 million in Equivalent Advertising Value through media and PR campaigns. Up 29% on the previous financial year.
Existence and ongoing legacy of F.A.W.CI	In its 12th year, F.A.W.CI is a cornerstone of the annual foodie calendar. In just two years The Grand Long Lunch has become a must-do event for both visitors, locals, and chefs alike.
HBNZ channels	www.hawkesbyanz.com achieves more than 650,000 users annually, a number bolstered by extensive social media audiences of 102K on Facebook, 14.3K on Instagram and a database of more 25K.
Media and trade hosting programmes	Extensive media and trade hosting programmes to secure coverage and businesses
Leading regional efforts to secure Hawke's Bay Marathon and support major regional events.	Along with extensive support of regional events, including key events such as Art Deco Festival, Horse of the Year and Mission Concerts, Hawke's Bay Tourism led the campaign to secure the Hawke's Bay Marathon, delivered by IronMan.
Critical role in profiling the Hawke's Bay Trails	Lead agency in profiling and promoting the Hawke's Bay Trails, ensuring patronage remains high.

1090	Lizzie Russell TENNYSON GALLERY	Our business and so many others in the arts in Hawke's Bay and in the Napier CBD rely on visitors from outside the region and outside New Zealand to be viable. Hawke's Bay Tourism do an essential job of keeping our region on the map for visitors and elevating our reputation, and without them flying the flag, we fear the region is doomed to fall behind, resulting in the loss of many businesses like ours. Is there any other tourism region in New Zealand without an RTO? Surely not. With the sector employing one in ten locals, it would be too big a loss to face if Hawke's Bay Tourism was defunded. Unfortunately I will be away during the public hearings so won't be able to speak, but I'm sure many local business operators will be fervent and vocal in their support of Option B.
1095	Louise Stobart Birdwoods Havelock North	<p>We are strongly in favour of Option B funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>On behalf of my husband, Bruce, our family and all our staff and local customers, I would like to express our full support for continued funding for HBT. We established Birdwoods in 2006 and are now widely considered to be one of the most popular and long-standing visitor destinations in Hawke's Bay with up to 50 000 visitors a year coming through our doors. We have been owner/operating for 20 years and have been through some very challenging times, firstly as migrants arriving to a new country and blindly establishing a tourism venue, surviving the economic crisis of the GFC in 2008, subsequent droughts and weather events, then the pandemic, followed by Cyclone Gabriel, and through this the shortage of skilled hospitality staff which is ongoing and now being met head on with viability. Tourism and hospitality are not an easy game, we can testify to that. However, all through this time we have had the support of HBT who are the advertising voice of Hawke's Bay, not just for businesses like us, but for everyone who lives here.</p> <p>As I write this, I have just been checking on customers dining in our garden café, there are three lots of visitors, all from Australia, not visiting family and friends, just on holiday, one couple staying in an Airbnb, another in a campervan and the others staying in the new hotel in Hastings. This is just today. We see people like them every day, proper tourists, not visitors, tourists.</p> <p>I have served two years on the Hawke's Bay Tourism Industry Association Board, so I have a good idea of what they get up to and understand and acknowledge the work that this small team do, let by excellent and experienced leaders whose goal is to put Hawke's Bay on the map – to advertise to the world that we are here. Take that away and the effects won't be immediately felt, life will go on, but it will be an erosion of our brand over time, and we will slip away from mainstream tourism which we have spent years developing and consolidating and are well known for. Much of this is thanks to the background and international work the HBT team do on our behalf. It will be so easy to lose ground and so hard to get it back.</p> <p>We believe it is very short-sighted to cut funding to this valuable organization and think that the 'invisible losses' to the region will be far greater than we can foresee. The visitor economy has been calculated at \$1.3 billion, so a saving of \$1.5 million does not seem logical in our eyes.</p> <p>At Birdwoods we have 47 staff members on our books, 16 full-time and the rest are part-time and weekend staff. The recession is going to make employing this many people difficult, and then to add a decreased representation outside of our region if we lose HBT – there will certainly be job losses. Now more than ever, we need a strong representation to get people to Hawke's Bay, and relying on friends and family to be our advocates is just not enough. We have an excellent brand thanks to the early work that the original Wine Country crew led by Sir Graeme Avery, Kim Thorpe and their colleagues put together in the early 2000's. This still stands firmly today, and we are now proud to be the 10th Wine Capital of the World. This was largely thanks to the current board of HBT and industry leaders who made this happen.</p> <p>Despite our car park being full (many are staff members) the harsh reality is that from the outside, our business is doing well in these current times, however, the last two years have been the toughest in the 20 years we have been operating with viability at the core of it. Hospitality and retail are going through a very hard time now. We know that the out-of-town visitors spend is extremely valuable to our business, and during the summer months even more so.</p> <p>We therefore cannot reiterate enough – we seriously need Hawke's Bay Tourism to continue being our advocates outside of Hawke's Bay. Yes, we are frontline advocates of the continued funding, but it is the knock on effect that should be of concern to every rate payer. From all of us at</p>

		Birdwoods we strongly urge you to support the Option B to continue funding to this valuable little organization and to keep Hawke's Bay at the forefront of visitor destinations in New Zealand.
1100	Gareth Kelly	Don't phase out at all. This is an important organisation to generate income for the region by attracting international and domestic visitors. The region will suffer without a Regional Tourism Organisation! We need to capitalise on the fact we were just named one of the great wine capitals of the world. Everyone wins when we get visitors to the region, not just tourism businesses. E.g. Most cruise spend is in retail outlets, cafes and restaurants.
1106	Stacey Baxter	<p>As a mother of three young children in Hawke's Bay, there are several reasons why I believe Hawke's Bay Tourism should continue to receive funding from the regional council for the benefit of local families:</p> <p>**Boosting Local Economy: Tourism brings in revenue to local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and attractions. This economic activity helps create jobs and sustains livelihoods within our community. When tourism flourishes, it can also indirectly benefit other sectors like retail and transportation, leading to a healthier local economy.</p> <p>**Family-Friendly Events and Recreational Opportunities: With government support, our local tourism service can invest in creating more family-friendly attractions and activities. This could help provide a space and drive to develop facilities and run events that cater specifically to children and families, such as outdoor festivals and sports events. I know from experience that these events can become cherished traditions for families in our community and provide more options for me and my children to enjoy quality time together.</p> <p>**Preservation of Cultural and Natural Resources: Tourism often encourages the preservation of cultural heritage sites, natural parks, and landmarks. Tourism funding can support initiatives to conserve and maintain these resources for future generations, ensuring that my children have access to rich historical and natural experiences.</p> <p>**Education and Exposure: Tourism promotes learning and exposure to different cultures, histories, and environments. By supporting local tourism, your children can gain valuable educational experiences by visiting museums, historic sites, or participating in cultural events. These experiences can broaden their perspectives and enhance their understanding of the world.</p> <p>**Community Pride and Development: A vibrant tourism sector can foster community pride and development. It encourages local businesses and residents to take pride in their town or city, leading to overall improvements in infrastructure, cleanliness, and amenities that benefit everyone, including families.</p> <p>**Long-Term Planning and Sustainability: Council-funded tourism projects are typically part of a comprehensive long-term plan for community development. This ensures that tourism growth is sustainable and aligned with the overall vision for the future of our community, providing lasting benefits for families like mine.</p> <p>**Community Representation: Local councils are elected bodies that represent the interests of residents. When tourism is funded by the council, it ensures that the development of tourism aligns with the needs and preferences of local families. You have a say in how tourism resources are utilized and can advocate for family-friendly initiatives.</p> <p>Funding tourism through our local council offers a range of benefits that directly impact families. It enables tailored, community-focused initiatives, promotes economic development, preserves local identity. It also seems that the Hawke's Bay Regional Council is a good place to collect it because it covers all rate payers in the region.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my submission. I hope that you can see what an important piece of our local puzzle this is and what a shame it would be for it to fall by the wayside. I strongly believe the ramifications would be devastating to our region, particularly as it continues a journey of post-cyclone recovery.</p>
1113	Michelle Kelly	Don't phase out at all. This is an important organisation to generate income for the region by attracting international and domestic visitors. The region will suffer without a Regional Tourism Organisation! We need to capitalise on the fact we were just named one of the great wine capitals of the world. Everyone wins when we get visitors to the region, not just tourism businesses. E.g. Most cruise spend is in retail outlets, cafes and restaurants.

1120	Eoin Carty	Its not the core business of the HBRC
1126	Roger Coleman	Tourism makes a huge contribution to to our region. Without contiued support for hawkes Bay Tourism we would not be able to reach or grow these.
1127	Nigel Bickle Hastings District Council	<p>Hawkes Bay Tourism Funding</p> <p>6. While there is a joint submission on this topic with Napier City Council, we felt that it was important to reinforce that submission with our own perspective in support of that joint submission, particularly in regard to how such a withdrawal from HB Tourism would affect Toitoti and the wider events sector.</p> <p>7. Hastings District Council will in conjunction with Napier City Council be making a joint submission to the HBRC Long Term Plan in regard to the HBRC's preferred option to cut funding to Hawke's Bay Tourism in 2024/25 to just \$520,000 with further cuts to follow in 2025/26 and 2026/27.</p> <p>8. The joint submission will advocate for Option B to be considered in the Long Term Plan where HBRC holds the funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism for 2024/25, ensuring time is therefore available to find a more sustainable solution for Hawke's Bay Tourism into the future.</p> <p>9. The Hawke's Bay Tourism Board Chair has made it very clear that without a confirmed and sustainable funding model in place the Board will be forced to pull back from a large number of financial commitments including staffing and this will likely impact on government funding that is also available. The likely outcome of this is that Hawke's Bay Tourism will not be a viable going concern and will be wound up.</p> <p>10. We are disappointed with how this decision has been managed. If alternative funding arrangements are to be explored then time is needed to do that. The Hawke's Bay Tourism and key tourism stakeholders have had very little opportunity to explore alternative funding models and HBRC's preferred option has not allowed for that to happen.</p> <p>11. We are requesting that you reconsider the preferred option of HBRC. The Hastings district has a vibrant and long-term sustainable Tourism sector, but it needs that regional tourism promotion and support to be truly successful. Option A is not a sustainable level of funding and will likely see the demise of Hawke's Bay Tourism as an entity with substantial impacts on the Hawke's Bay Tourism sector and all the associated businesses and jobs that they create.</p> <p>HB Tourism benefits for Toitoti</p> <p>Toitoti is a multi-use venue hosting a diverse portfolio of events, owned and managed by HDC. Toitoti hosts both community based clients and commercial clients. Commercial clients are hosts of business events such as seminars, workshops, awards and conferences which represent significant revenue for Toitoti. Conferences are the most lucrative event type delivering a significant regional economic benefit. Conferences are sourced through national sales activity working alongside Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>13. Hawke's Bay Tourism plays an important role in supporting the attraction of events into Hawke's Bay and we note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawke's Bay Tourism, trade and marketing support is a key success factor in securing national conference contracts. • The Hawke's Bay Tourism Trade and Marketing Manager ensures Hawke's Bays presence at national trade shows and sales events is coordinated under a cohesive regional banner. • Without this bi-partisan support Hawke's Bay will not be represented cohesively and the return of parochial rivalries between Napier and Hastings businesses can be expected. • Alongside travelling to national tradeshow and sales events, Hawke's Bay Tourism are the first touchpoint for business events clients enquiring to conference in Hawke's Bay. • The Regional Tourism Organisation functions as the 'sales first responder' to conference prospects considering Hawke's Bay as a location for their event. The HB Tourism role in the sales cycle is to sell the region to prospective clients while educating them about the range of services and products available in Hawke's Bay. <p>14. While there are direct benefits to Toitoti from the activities of Hawke's Bay Tourism the wider economic benefits are significant and include:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference clients have financial touchpoints across a wide range of businesses. Accommodation, hospitality, retail, tourism activities and transportation are all sectors that benefit from conference events hosted in Hawke's Bay. • The economic benefits from conference groups are critical for post cyclone Hawke's Bay. Every national conference represents new money arriving into Hawke's Bay, being distributed throughout the region and supporting small and large businesses during an extended period of economic duress. <p>15. Effect of Defunding HB Tourism on HB and Toitoti:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 31 regional tourism organisations in New Zealand. Each has a high degree of knowledge and competency. These organisations are tasked solely to attract events and external money into their region. Hawke's Bay market share in the conference sector will be quickly and thoroughly diminished by the remaining 30 tourism organisations. • Hawke's Bays 'Mana' in the eyes of the National and International business events sector will be diminished significantly and permanently by defunding Hawke's Bay Tourism. • Without the support of Hawke's Bay Tourism conference clients will elect to visit other regions who will have the necessary support and guidance in place for them to ensure their visit is easily coordinated. • The net effect on Toitoti is that conference business will be harder and more expensive to source with less contracts confirmed and significant decrease in revenue. <p>16. As noted above, Council is requesting that you reconsider the preferred option of HBRC. Option A is not a sustainable level of funding and will likely see the demise of Hawke's Bay Tourism as an entity with substantial impacts on the Hawke's Bay Tourism sector.</p>
1135	Stephen Brookes	crazy to take funding out of tourism- should continue
1150	Pip Thompson	I would like Hawke's Bay tourism to remain at status quo and or Option B.
1151	Joanne Moore & Cecil Averill	<p>As a rate payer I wish to make a submission to oppose any cut in funding to Hawke's Bay Tourism from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. Under Option B – I propose that the Regional Council maintain the status quo as outlined below and there be NO cut in funding. (source; hbrc.govt.nz)</p> <p>The continued growth of tourism is vital for our region and Tourism Hawke's Bay does a great job in promoting the region. HBT was the front runner in getting Hawke's Bay recognised as the 12th wine capital, not only good for internal tourism but to show case us internationally. The region has had a very challenging few years with covid and then the cyclone and now is not the time to cut/reduce funding. HBT was instrumental in getting tourists back to the region post cyclone and through 'we are open for business' campaign. Times are tough in New Zealand. We are in a recession; interest rates are high and we still have a high inflation rate. Hawke's Bay is currently under a red warning for a drought this season. This will have a major affect on our regional economy (source; hbrc website – alert level red (drought warning))</p> <p>Attracting domestic and international visitors is highly competitive and many regions around New Zealand are looking to increase their tourism funding support. There are close to 30 regional tourism organisations within NZ, all promoting their own regions. We need a united 'voice' to promote Hawke's Bay. Tourism is the 3rd biggest regional earner, behind manufacturing and agriculture. One in 10 people are employed or involved in the tourism sector here. .</p> <p>We need Tourism Hawke's Bay for the following reasons;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosts job creation – particularly entry level jobs where entry level is needed. • Supports local business such as retailers, cellar doors, arts sector, cafes and restaurants. • Promotes Hawke's Bay for inwards investment, ie people later to move Hawke's Bay and set up businesses • Tourism encourages greater invest in local infrastructure. (bike trails, museums, heritage eg art deco, toilets, parks, gardens, roads and cultural attractions) for Hawke's Bay residents to enjoy

		<p>On a more personal level. Twenty years ago my husband and I were living in Europe and chose Hawke's Bay to be our home because of the climate, beaches, affordability of housing and close proximity to family. How the region has grown in 20 years, we now have a vibrant café/restaurant scene, wonderful walks, a superb bike track network.</p>
1159	Sophie Phillips Gannet Safaris Overland	<p>We are an iconic Hawkes Bay tourism attraction employing 15 full time seasonal employees and 3 full time employees operating tours out to Cape Kidnappers gannet plateau and are a proud tourism operator in Hawkes Bay.</p> <p>Our business employs a local company who looks after our social media. We employ a local graphic designer. We employ students in the university holidays to help with the cruise ships and that are interested in getting into the tourism industry.</p> <p>Our fleet of 6 buses, 2 Range Rovers a van – are all maintained and serviced here in Hawkes Bay. All supplies which we need to operate are sourced locally and we pride ourselves in supporting local 90% of the time.</p> <p>When I look at our google analytics, hawkesbaynz.com in one of our top rating sites – we have a listing on there, and during our season offer 'hot deals' with promo codes which are highly redeemed by visitors coming to our region.</p> <p>Our business is 95% reliant on tourism with about 5% of the business with education and schools.</p> <p>GSO is a member of the Tourism Industry Association, The NZ Tourism Export Council, NZ Cruise Association and HB Tourism along with several other minor organisations.</p> <p>We attend NZ trade shows along with overseas trade and roadshow events. While we do this independently, this wouldn't be possible without the work HB Tourism do for our region and all the pre-work they do in promoting HB internationally and domestically as to why they should come to our beautiful region and all the magnificent things on offer. The reach they have which is far and wide we could never do ourselves.</p> <p>HBT in this last couple of years since getting back on the road to normality, has worked exceptionally hard in bringing endless agents and media here to see and experience first-hand how we have recovered. All of which, when we do famils, we do not charge for. HBT had done all the work to get me here, it's our job to showcase what we do. Our business would never be able to afford the media reach ourselves which we have received from HBT nationally and internationally. It's outstanding what they are doing.</p> <p>Any time I need a little help in understanding the market trends and statistics, HBT is always at the end of the phone explaining things to me. All of the updates they provide and brilliant, easy to understand and exceptionally helpfully with our forward planning and understand of what happening locally. Information which is extremely valuable to our business planning.</p> <p>We have a website which has all online booking functionality, we are on all the main OTA platforms and work heavily in the trade space as well as FIT. We advertise on several HB radio stations, the HB today newspaper, locally published magazines and are members of local business associations. All of which – we wouldn't be able to do if Hawkes Bay wasn't the attractive destination that it is to visit.</p> <p>We contribute to a huge variety of local schools and organisations by donating vouchers and providing transport for all their fundraising events.</p> <p>We love being in a position that we are able help with all the fundraising events and all the other local businesses and charitable organisations who need help.</p> <p>Without HBT and their promotion of HB as a destination for travel, whether it be by car, cruise ship or groups tours, we would not be able to operate in the way we do and employ the staff which we do.</p> <p>I just can't express enough how much of a fantastic job the entire team at HBT do for Hawkes Bay – our region needs tourism, it's one of the main employing industries in Hawkes Bay. The entire HB community needs the HB Tourism Association to keep functioning in the extremely successful way in which they have been for the last 10 years plus!</p> <p>To finish, we feel that 'option B' of the proposed is the only way forward and really hope that the tourism community can continue to get the support it needs to continue to recover after the brutal few years we have had.</p>

1160	Judi Godbold Hawke's Bay Airport	<p>Hawke's Bay Airport is acutely aware of the contribution of international and domestic visitors to our regional economy and know all too well what happens when people stop visiting, as we experienced during the months of the Covid lockdowns. While passenger numbers are improving, they are still to return to pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Airport has limited direct opportunity - beyond the likes of our investment in Hawke's Bay becoming one of twelve Great Wine Capitals of the World - to influence visitor travel and destination choices and, consequently, passenger numbers and the revenue they generate for us.</p> <p>To this end we depend on Hawke's Bay Tourism to build profile in our key markets encouraging people to visit and spend locally. However, our visitor economy is a fragile and interdependent economic ecosystem. Without sustainable investment in regional visitor attraction, it is inevitable visitor numbers will fall.</p> <p>Our airport, owned by Napier and Hastings councils together with the Crown, is highly dependent on inbound domestic and international visitors. The substantive part of the airport's revenue is generated through passenger landing charges. Our financial sustainability is predicated on airport visitor and passenger numbers growing - currently forecast to increase 4% per annum. This would see additional annual capacity of 24,000 seats between Napier and Auckland, together with an additional 10,000 available seats on the Wellington and Christchurch routes. These forecasts are calculated off current loads on these aircraft and projected demand.</p> <p>As it stands, passenger numbers and, by extension, the number of commercial flights to and from Hawke's Bay are yet to return to pre-covid levels. In 2019, passenger numbers were 750,000 which included Air New Zealand and Jetstar. Passenger numbers fell to 461,000 in FY21 and 394,000 in FY22 due to the impact of Covid-19 and Jetstar's exit. With 640,000 passengers in FY23, continuing to grow Hawke's Bay's attractiveness to visitors and additional commercial airlines is central to growing HBAL revenue. Anything that negatively impacts visitor attraction will flow through to lower passenger numbers and result in lower revenue.</p> <p>Of further concern is the potential for reduced air connectivity between Hawke's Bay and other regions which would be another consequence of fewer passenger numbers. The scheduling decisions of the airlines operating through Hawke's Bay Airport are heavily influenced by demand. Quite simply, any reduction in demand that adversely impacts on the financial viability of a service can, and often does, result in the removal of that service. Vital connections between Hawke's Bay and the rest of New Zealand could be lost, affecting leisure and business travellers from within the region, and inbound visitors and tourists. This is something that should be of concern to everyone.</p> <p>HBAL is strongly in favour of Option B funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p>
1161	Sean Burns	<p>As a rate payer, I believe if the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) decides to move forward with Option A and cease funding Hawke's Bay Tourism (HBT), it would be an absolute short-sighted decision with long lasting negative consequences for our region, for minimal savings. Who am I?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am a born and bred Wellington boy, who moved to Hawke's Bay in 1999 for a job offer. • I am the proud father to 3 children all born and raised in Hawke's Bay. • I have owned multiple homes and paid rates to HBRC for the last 25 years in both Hastings and Napier. • I built and opened my own business (Milk + Honey) in 2008, and recently sold it after 15 years of trading. • Over the 15 years I gave employment to hundreds of people in various roles. • I currently live in Napier, and work in Hastings District at Smith and Sheth. • The reason I first moved from Wellington to the region was for a job with a wine company (Sileni Estaes) that was about to open. I brought my skills and experience to the region for a role that depended on tourists. • Since that first role, all the businesses I worked for (Craggy Range, The Farm at Cape Kidnappers, Smith + Sheth) or owned (Milk + Honey), were built from scratch with a business model that were marketed towards both the local and out or region/county high end tourism customers.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The visitors we welcomed spent money in many other business, then went on to tell others about our businesses and brought new tourist dollars to the region. <p>As someone whose income has been dependent on tourism in every role I have worked, I am a huge supporter of the work HBT do for all the businesses that depend on tourist dollars to be viable.</p> <p>As a former business owner, I saw firsthand the effect on income when tourists stopped coming after Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023. Whilst State Highway 5 was closed, and in the weeks following, our revenues did not sustain our staff costs and overheads.</p> <p>As a business owner, I also saw the flow on effect our business had to other businesses that weren't typical tourism businesses. Milk + Honey paid local food and beverage suppliers, plumbers, electricians, courier drivers, sign writers, accountants, equipment repairers, etc. If the income from tourism did not make the business viable, all these other businesses would be greatly affected. Which in turn would affect the Hawke's Bay economy as a whole.</p> <p>ourism is a significant contributor to the local economy. Relying on the Hawke's Bay brand to grow organically and presuming visitors will seek us out is naïve and arrogant. Hawke's Bay needs to continue to grow its profile, not let it stagnate or worse, go backwards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need an organization that represents us all with one loud and clear voice to have a chance at penetrating a very busy and competitive market place. • We need an organization that will ensure the right media keep profiling us to the outside world. • We need an organization that will represent Hawke's Bay on the world stage. • We need an organization that will protect our Great Wine Capital status. <p>We already have that organization. Why would we get rid of it when there is so much at stake?</p> <p>If tourism does not thrive and grow in this region, many people like me will move to other regions where there are jobs and security for us. It's as simple as that. And there are a lot of us.</p> <p>Please don't get stuck in the political short term cycle to gain a small saving now, when there is so much to lose without HBT.</p> <p>I whole heartily support plan B.</p>
1162	Alastair MacLeod Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Agency	<p>The Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Agency (HBREDA) unreservedly supports the continued funding of HBT. The economic benefits of tourism to the region have been well traversed in HBT's feedback and supported by many other stakeholders including tourism operators and the airport. We endorse the view that HBT should be supported to continue promoting our region and growing our share of domestic and international tourism. HBT has built up expertise, networks, and a broad membership base that need to be retained for the good of our economy.</p> <p>As the region's new economic development agency, we would like to add two perspectives for the Council to consider, which are around long-term thinking and mandate. We believe we are able to speak with a particular appreciation for these issues as HBREDA has recently been established by the five councils (including HBRC), iwi/hāpu, and business to help ensure joined up, long-term thinking on the economy that keeps the wellbeing of all households at the forefront. Our establishment follows years of failed efforts to sustain an economic development agency in Hawke's Bay, with different iterations being established and then defunded only to be replaced by new entities and for the cycle to repeat. The current funding arrangement for HBT was born out of one of those boom and bust cycles when Venture Hawke's Bay was disestablished; HBRC's coordination of an economic development rate was recognition that Hawke's Bay would be the loser if support for the tourism sector was withdrawn.</p> <p>There is no doubt in our minds that if funding is withdrawn and HBT ceases to operate, we will be back having the same conversation in a year or two about the need for a regional tourism organisation as our economy feels the effects of a downswing of visitors to the region. We can state from experience that it takes time to build a regional entity with the appropriate foundations, expertise, networks, resourcing, and clarity of purpose that enable it to add value to the economy.</p>

		<p>The stop/start nature of funding for these types of entities results in opportunity costs for the region as well as significant financial costs due to repeated (re)establishments, not to mention the reputational cost for our region. We simply must do better and we must think longer term. This issue relates closely to one of mandate: who carries the responsibility to fund a tourism promotion entity in our region? You note in your consultation document that tourism is important to the HB region and that finding a sustainable funding model has been an ongoing challenge. We suggest that expectations around finding a sustainable financial model are largely unrealistic.</p> <p>Alternative sources of funding should, of course, be explored as a priority, but core funding for an entity like HBT will likely always need to come from local government, barring legislative changes that open up new funding sources. The economic justification for this investment rests on the broad benefit to the region. No one company or organisation is the sole beneficiary of the investment; rather there are broad benefits for economic growth, job creation, community development, the promotion and protection of cultural heritage and the natural environment, and more.</p> <p>While Hawke's Bay has managed to build a profile as a tourism destination, the cyclone last year showed how vulnerable the sector is and the important role HBT played in encouraging visitors to the region. HB faces an uncertain future, not only as the long-term effects of the cyclone are played out, but within the context of an unstable global economy. We need to hold the course on our regional investments.</p> <p>It is our view that HBRC should maintain current funding across the next three years, if not increase HBT's funding. In responding to the two options presented by HBRC, however, we advocate for Option B to at least give HB Tourism time to work with councils and other potential funders on its future while still delivering on its core purpose.</p>
1164	Craig Little Wairoa District Council	<p>I am writing to express my support of Option B, for the continuation of funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism at \$1.52 million for the year 2024-25, with a subsequent reduction to \$441,000 for 2025-26, as proposed in the Three-Year Plan 2024-27 Consultation. Sustaining this level of funding for the upcoming year, followed by a gradual reduction, aligns with the strategic vision for the Hawke's Bay Region's tourism industry and ensures continued growth and sustainability across the sector. I also acknowledge this is a difficult decision, but I understand Hawke's Bay Regional Council needs to focus on its core business at this time. In this transition period, perhaps Hawke's Bay Tourism needs to look at other funding avenues to ensure it is sustainable in the future. These are challenging times, and we all need to cut our cloth accordingly.</p> <p>1) Value for Wairoa</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism has demonstrated value in promoting tourism and fostering economic development throughout the region, including the Wairoa district. The initiatives undertaken by Hawke's Bay Tourism have contributed to the growth of the tourism sector in Wairoa, bringing several benefits to the community.</p> <p>Through strategic marketing campaigns, collaborative partnerships, and targeted promotional efforts, Hawke's Bay Tourism has showcased Wairoa as a must-visit destination. Through Wairoa District Council's partnership with Hawke's Bay Tourism, we have collectively advocated for tourism infrastructure projects in Wairoa, actively supporting projects aimed at improving accessibility, signage, and amenities for visitors. Through strategic investment in imagery and visual storytelling, Hawke's Bay Tourism has elevated Wairoa as more than a drive-through town and district.</p> <p>Additionally, through event collaborations such as the Food and Wine Classic events at local marae, farms and the Gaiety Theatre, Hawke's Bay Tourism has enhanced the Hawke's Bay region's reputation as a destination for unique culinary and cultural experiences, further attracting visitors to Wairoa.</p> <p>2) Post-Cyclone Support</p> <p>Wairoa's economy is facing ongoing challenges. Sustained support from Hawke's Bay Tourism is now more crucial than ever. Advocacy from Hawke's Bay Tourism can promote Wairoa's attractions, foster partnerships, and secure investment in tourism offerings. Especially after Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023, ongoing support is vital for Wairoa's recovery and long-term economic growth.</p> <p>3) A need for a Regional Tourism Organisation in Wairoa</p>

		<p>With the proposal of Hawke's Bay Tourism facing a phased reduction in funding, the lack of dedicated support threatens to set Wairoa back further in its efforts to attract new investment and promote economic growth through tourism. The revitalisation of Wairoa's economy hinges, in part, on the growth of the local tourism sector, and the ongoing advocacy and support of Hawke's Bay Tourism are indispensable in realising this potential.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my input into this matter.</p>
1167	Marisa Bidois Restaurant Association	<p>Executive Summary</p> <p>The Restaurant Association of New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to set out the importance of continued Council investment into the tourism-related functions carried out by Hawke's Bay Tourism. We wish to appear before Regional Councillors to speak to our submission. While our preference would be to maintain funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism at its current level, we recognise that this is not an option. We therefore submit that the only viable proposal is the Council's 'Option B' to maintain funding at \$1.52 million for 2024-25, and \$441,000 per annum for 2025-26 and 2026-27.</p> <p>Introduction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Restaurant Association of New Zealand (the Restaurant Association) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Three-Year Plan. 2. We are strongly opposed to the Council's preferred 'Option A' to phase out funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. 3. While our preference would be to maintain funding at its current level of \$1.52 million for the next three years, we recognise this is not an option. We, therefore, submit the only viable proposal is the Council's 'Option B' - to maintain funding at \$1.52 million for 2024-25, and then reduce to \$441,000 per annum from 2025-26. 4. The Council's preferred option would force Hawke's Bay Tourism to shut down in July which would greatly affect the region and New Zealand's wider economy. As the largest representative body in New Zealand for food and beverage businesses in the Hospitality industry, we are concerned by the significant impacts the proposed funding cuts will have on the region's tourism and hospitality sectors, the third largest contributor to the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). <p>Key Feedback</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Tourism and hospitality are key contributors to people and place. Our tourism and hospitality industries are integral to our national identity; when they thrive, so does New Zealand. They bring economic diversity and resilience, generate jobs and contribute to regional prosperity while showcasing our cultural richness and timeless experiences, fostering pride and social connectivity both locally and globally. 6. We recognise that, across New Zealand, local governments are under immense pressure, and are tasked with making difficult decisions. Funding for tourism, however, is an investment in the economic future of every region that consistently generates a significant return on investment, and any cuts to that funding is simply a short-term solution to capital expenditure restraints with long-term negative impacts. 7. Destination promotion and stewardship is an important investment with collective benefits that extend beyond individual businesses or organisations. Tourism promotion is a public good that requires collaboration and support from governments, communities, and stakeholders to maximise its positive impact. <p>The opportunity for the Hawke's Bay Region</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. After the devastating effects of cyclone Gabrielle, it is more crucial than ever to ensure that local investments are made that help to rebuild our economy. While other investments in the region's cyclone recovery which are preventative in nature are important (such as stopbanks), investments in visitor attraction help to deliver immediate and ongoing returns which directly support the region's economic recovery. 9. International experience tells us that when visitor attraction funding is cut, market share in the visitor economy is lost and can take decades to recover. We submit that the Hawke's Bay Regional Council has an opportunity to capture a greater share of New Zealand's national visitor economy.

	<p>10. While every region is making decisions about their investment in visitor attraction, sustained investment in tourism funding provides the Hawke's Bay Regional Council with two possible outcomes:</p> <p>10.1. Should other regions cut their investments in visitor attraction, by maintaining the Council's current level of investment the Hawke's Bay region will naturally fill the gaps left by other regions in both domestic and international tourism.</p> <p>10.2. Should other regions maintain their investments in visitor attraction, the Hawke's Bay region maintains its market share of the visitor economy and does not lose ground which is notoriously difficult to regain in the future.</p> <p>The impact of proposed cuts to regional tourism funding</p> <p>11. The hospitality, tourism and retail industries are often subject to the availability of household discretionary spend, meaning it is the first to be cut during times of economic downturn. The phasing out of funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism will inevitably result in a restriction of economic activity that disproportionately impacts these industries that are already reeling from the cost of living crisis, by failing to attract the tourism spend which relies heavily on a flourishing domestic and tourism sector.</p> <p>12. Hawke's Bay Tourism estimates that 1 in every 10 jobs (approximately 10,000) in the region come from these industries, which means that as local businesses lose out on the tourism spend that they depend on, businesses will be forced to cut costs, downsize, or close down entirely, resulting in job losses.</p> <p>13. On average, 18,000 visitors come to the Hawke's Bay region every day. Approximately 20% of visitor spend goes toward tourism-related services and 80% going to the broader community¹. If funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism was phased out, the visitor economy would decrease by at least 20% or \$260 million over the next three years². The cost of continuing to fund Option B would be less than 1% of the loss (\$2.4 million).</p> <p>14. In the year ended September 2023, the hospitality and tourism industries contributed approximately \$1.3 billion both directly and indirectly to the Hawke's Bay economy. This is 7% of the regional GDP, making these industries the third largest contributors to the region's GDP behind process manufacturing and agriculture.</p> <p>15. The Hawke's Bay Regional Council's current investment in tourism of \$1.52 million is approximately 0.1% of the industries' contribution to the region's GDP - a return on investment of over 85,000%. The proposed \$441,000 annual contribution is 0.03% of the \$1.3 billion return to the region. Reducing the Council's investment in tourism by over 70 percent as is proposed will mean these industries—the third largest contributor to local GDP—are unable to maintain their contribution to local GDP, resulting in a significant blow to the local economy.</p> <p>16. It is clear that the negative effects of implementing Option A and phasing out the funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism far outweigh the costs of continuing funding at a reduced rate. These negative effects reach far beyond the hospitality and tourism industry, impacting the region and wider economy. For this reason, the Restaurant Association encourages Regional Councillors to vote in favour of Option B while maintaining our position that, were it an option being proposed by the Council, the Restaurant Association would instead support retaining funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism at its current levels.</p> <p>Hospitality sector resilience</p> <p>17. While the majority of hospitality expenditure comes from local spending and allows for maintenance of operations, the boost to our sector that comes from tourism spending is what allows our sector to innovate, adapt and address the large-scale issues we face.</p> <p>18. The Hospitality sector has suffered unprecedented levels of disruption to our industry over the past four years—from the global pandemic and its flow-on effects, to the repeated extreme weather events and the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>19. An October 2023 survey by the Restaurant Association, which focused on Hawke's Bay members' current operating conditions and future needs, the following points were highlighted:</p> <p>19.1. Inbound tourism was cited as most critical to the ongoing success of the region's hospitality businesses.</p> <p>19.2. Investment in regional marketing was listed as the top priority to support business.</p>
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1170	Nicky Breeze	<p>I am submitting in favour of Option B funding for HB Tourism. I am submitting this personally. A definite YES to presenting this submission to the regional councillors who will hopefully understand the widespread support for the continued funding for HB Tourism who do a fantastic job for the region and community.</p>
1172	Sandi Boyden	<p>I urge you to vote for Option B and continued funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. The region and industry needs the support of a strong regional tourism organisation because Tourism including Hospitality is a major earner and employer in Hawke's Bay. Putting \$1.3 billion at risk that including the direct and indirect earnings Hawke's Bay receives from tourism to save \$1.5million is strategically short sighted.</p> <p>With the confirmed increase in both regional rates of 19.6% in 24/25 and another 18.1% and 9.0% in 25/26 and 26/27 consecutively. In addition to this Napier City Council rates are increasing on average 23.7% there will be less discretionary spending by locals that will directly impact tourism, hospitality and retail businesses. Hence continuing tourism funding is imperative to attract and maintain tourist visitation to drive the local tourism economy and support the broader retail businesses across the region.</p> <p>Whilst tourism businesses recognise the responsibility of marketing and promoting their business. They also need a strong local agency to promote the region as the desirable destination it is beyond Hawke's Bay, the core role of Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>Option B is the only viable option here, I urge you to recognise the importance of the tourism economy for our region and maintain funding for the 2024/25 and continue to support in 25/26.</p>
1175	Katie Silcock	<p>Firstly, the lack of notice of the proposal to Hawkes Bay Tourism and The Tourism Industry has been at the very least inadequate. The impact of the proposed defunding model will essentially close the doors of Hawkes Bay Tourism, having an immediate and significant impact on those employed in the organisation and the wider industry.</p> <p>I think it is important to remind the decision makers of the significance of the tourism sector in the wider regional economy and therefore the need for sustained investment by council.</p> <p>Tourism employs one in 10 in the Hawkes Bay. Visitors to the region spend 20% in the tourism sector directly and the other 80% in other areas of the economy. There are significant tourism investments and assets in the Hawkes Bay, both from the private and public sectors. These facilities have a positive impact on the lives of Hawkes Bay residents and support other sectors such as construction & trades.</p> <p>Right now, Hawkes Bay needs to sustain the visitor economy through the continued industry coordination & marketing activity undertaken by Hawkes Bay Tourism. Without this organisation there will be immediate and lost lasting impacts to the region, potential job losses, closure of SME's and paired back or less facilities for the enrichment of Hawkes Bay communities.</p> <p>It is clear that there are pressing infrastructure and environmental challenges in the Hawkes Bay, but rather than seeing the defunding of Hawkes Bay Tourism as a cost saving, council should consider the visitor economy as a potential part of the solution to these challenges.</p> <p>It may be that an alternative long-term funding model can be sort, but this needs to be done with adequate consultation with the industry and rate payers. The Hawkes Bay Regional Council has not provided this time for an alternative funding model.</p> <p>I can't emphasise enough the weight this decision holds for the future of the Tourism industry in Hawkes Bay. Should the outcome be that Hawkes Bay Tourism is defunded, the positioning of Hawkes Bay as a leisure travel destination will be severely impacted and devastating for the</p>

		region. Therefore, I am submitting in favour of the proposed Option B funding for Hawkes Bay Tourism by the Hawkes Bay Regional Council.
1192	Arlene Crispen	<p>As a ratepayer and an individual who has/does work with many business owners across various sectors, I understand that tourism is a key earner for our region, and pulling the rug out from under the industry, and wider community is careless for our region that needs a boosted economy more than ever. If HBT isn't the voice for our region, who will be? Any relatively smart business person can see this could have a devastating impact on our region and local economy. Haven't we been through enough?? Think outside the box, council's preferred option A seems like an easy target but is very short sighted.</p> <p>I understand the need to make tough choices, but it's crucial for ratepayers to also have a voice in determining whether to maintain the status quo versus slowing or cutting, and whether we would like to see HBRC free up some of its significant investment portfolio for core projects instead. After all, the funds in question aren't exclusively owned by HBRC; they're the stewards rather than sole proprietors.</p> <p>Expecting the four councils to step in will only create a confusing, inefficient and fragmented approach - whereas one governing body (HBRC) offers our region clear understanding and focus.</p> <p>My preferred option is actually status quo as mentioned on the consultation website, but the way the council's consultation was set up made it unclear if that was even an option.</p>
1197	Peter Allen Hawke's Bay Wine Auction Trust	<p>We urge you to vote for Option B and continued funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>Our organisation needs and values the support of Hawke's Bay Tourism as a small charitable trust we do not have the funding or capability to promote the region and our cause to both domestic and international visitors.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism does a wonderful job of taking our region to a wide audience and their efforts on projects like securing the region the status as the 12th Wine Capital of the World are unprecedented. The HBWA has plans to capitalise on the 12th Wine Capital status to boost interest in the wine auction from out of region wine collectors and increase the number of these collectors attending Hawke's Bay, particularly for the wine tasting event and the main auction dates.</p> <p>We strongly believe our organisation will suffer as a direct consequence if funding is reduced or ended. So too will many other businesses in the region.</p> <p>Visitors and locals alike will have far fewer events, attractions, retail and hospitality options if this funding is removed or reduced.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism is the only agency promoting Hawke's Bay out of Hawke's Bay. It provides a series of promotions that charities like ours benefit from and can't afford to do on our own.</p> <p>Tourism is a major earner and employer in Hawke's Bay, We understand that over \$1.3Billion of income to the region is at risk - this is the direct and indirect earnings that Hawke's Bay makes from tourism. To save \$1.5m is not only bad maths, it's reckless.</p> <p>We have an annual budget of approx \$120,000 to fund our events and almost all of this money is spent locally on a range of services including a part-time General Manager role, advertising, PR, catering, event hire, event lighting/security, website, social media, communications etc.</p> <p>We fund the cost of flights from Auckland to bring our brand ambassador (Mike McRoberts) to Hawke's Bay a couple of times a year.</p> <p>We have had two recent experiences of loss when Hawke's Bay lost significant numbers of visitors - the two years of COVID border closures and lockdowns in 2020-2022 and Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023.</p> <p>Our entire event calendar was cancelled in 2021 as a result of COVID lockdowns etc so we were not able to make a significant donation to Cranford Hospice that year.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay is a small and generous community, however, we learned from the experience last year with the cyclone that it only takes a small number of our regular bidders to be absent or constrained to have a large impact on our fundraising. It is vital to broaden the appeal of the wine auction to new, out of town bidders who will be attracted by the uniqueness of the lots offered at the auction. Hawke's Bay Tourism is a key vehicle for helping us to achieve this.</p>

		<p>We liked the comments made by Rick Barker (ex HBRC Chair) at the recent meeting of Hawke's Bay Tourism. He said that he doesn't think the ratepayers are being asked a fair question. This should be the question for all councils to ratepayers - do you want to fund tourism/regional promotion? If yes, which mechanism do you want? But this is not being asked. Tourism is the 3rd most important industry in Hawke's Bay (by contribution to GDP), and it is having its marketing budget cut at the most critical time.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism has been very successful in marketing HB as a destination over recent years and is instrumental in encouraging visitors to the Bay. This is of vital importance as Hawke's Bay works through the recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle and the post-COVID economic downturn.</p> <p>We are going into a recession; this is the worst time to stop promotion.</p>
1198	Peter Allen & Paul Smith	<p>First off, a bit about us.</p> <p>We're both self-employed and own a couple of properties in Hawke's Bay through our Family Trust. There's our main house at 1420 Railway Rd South, and then there's an investment rental property at 3 Kopanga Rd, Havelock North.</p> <p>We made the move to Hawke's Bay almost five years ago, ditching the hustle and bustle of Auckland. Know what sold us on this place? It's the buzzing tourism scene. We've got everything here - accommodation galore, top-notch eateries, bars, cafes, events, wineries, breweries, cycling tracks, art deco vibes, beaches... you name it!</p> <p>Now, why are we bothering to submit?</p> <p>Well, it's simple.</p> <p>We're big fans of Hawke's Bay Tourism, and we think that they deserve the continued support of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, especially Option B. These guys do a stellar job putting our neck of the woods on the map. Remember when they snagged us the title of the 12th Wine Capital of the World? Epic stuff!</p> <p>But here's the kicker: if funding gets slashed or axed, our communities and local businesses are going to feel the pinch. Less funding means fewer events, attractions, and fewer places for both tourists and us locals to kick back and enjoy. Less visitors means jobs will be lost.</p> <p>Less visitors means businesses will fail.</p> <p>Plus, let's talk numbers. Tourism's no small fry in Hawke's Bay. It's a major player, bringing in over \$1.3 billion to the region. To try and save a measly \$1.5 million by cutting funding? That's just bad maths, and frankly, it's a reckless move.</p> <p>Now, let's get real about the impact. We've already seen it firsthand when we lost a bunch of visitors due to COVID lockdowns and Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023. Events got cancelled, businesses took a hit - it wasn't pretty.</p> <p>Closing thoughts? We're in agreement with what Rick Barker, ex HBRC Chair, had to say about all this. He's got a point when he says ratepayers aren't getting a fair deal. Shouldn't the real question be: Do you want to fund tourism? And if yes, how?</p> <p>Seems like common sense? But that's not what's happening. Tourism's a big deal here, and slashing its marketing budget now, of all times, just doesn't add up.</p> <p>With Hawke's Bay Tourism leading the charge, we've got a shot at bouncing back from Cyclone Gabrielle and shaking off that COVID slump. We're staring down a recession, and</p>

		now's not the time to skimp on promotion. Let's keep the tourists coming and the good times rolling in Hawke's Bay!
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Other - 'support reduction' sentiment

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
437	Anon	Stop it now.
579	Penny Reynolds	Stop funding immediately
643	Ken Rowe	Cancel now. All focus needs to be on recovery of damage and ultimately economy.
653	Robert Gardiner	forget about tourist, our district and communities come first. Cut any funding immediately and introduce a user pays for use of any existing tourist activities. This funding can be used more appropriately for basic essential utilities reducing debt and reducing the burden on rate payers
664	Peter Robson	Stop funding Hawkes Bay Tourism straight away. Totally unnecessary expense for the ratepayers. Let the cruise ship owners; shop owners and tourist firms pay a subsidy, NOT THE RATEPAYERS.
665	Margaret Cranwell	In light of the recent catastrophic examples of climate change on the region I strongly support the withdrawal of funding from HB Tourism. HBRC's focus should be concentrated firmly on environmental needs. Clarification of focus, hopefully, will reduce financial impact on the region's ratepayers while contributing to a better environmental outcome. From my perspective as a small business owner for 12 years I failed to see any real measurable impact HBT made on owner operated businesses. It could be argued success within the industry was generated by individuals and businesses with 'skin in the game'. Under the current circumstances I do not see any justification for the ongoing funding of HB Tourism by the HB Regional Council.
730	Don Ryder	Phase out as quickly as possible. The Tourism programme has worked well for the area to date but the current situation requires a hiatus period. Cancel and defer as much as possible and then review in three years to get back on track.
753	Karena Sutherland	Stop all together
938	Carolina van Seventer	I do not support rating for HB tourism under the current economic climate. HB tourism has known for the last 6 years that they were supposed to find ways to self fund. All businesses self fund.
1116	Gren Christie	HB tourism should be able by now, after years of public charity, to organise itself to stand on it's own two feet.
1183	Hamish & Joan Cameron	Stop funding altogether
1200	John Bostock	There are many things that could be cut including tourism spend, transport, open spaces, efficiency, staffing levels and many feel good projects. On tourism I can't understand how the council would tax businesses to supply money for other business ie picking winners. Politicians and councils are not good at picking winners. It is totally wrong to take from one category of enterprise to give to another. If tourism spend was such a good idea why can't the operators fund it themselves?

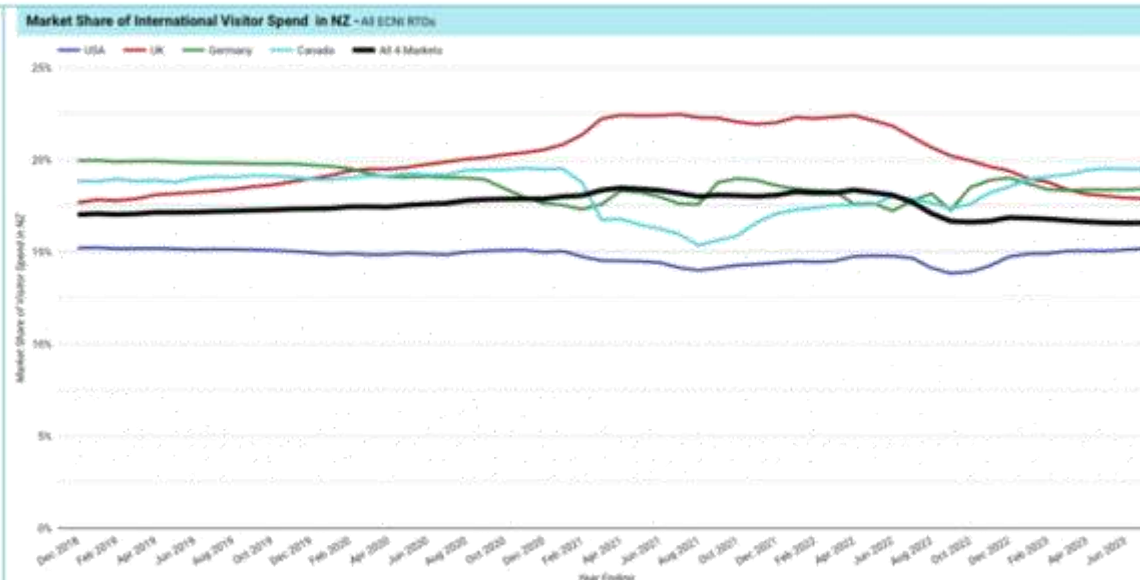
Other - 'support continuance' sentiment

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
30	Caleb Arrowsmith	Hawke's bay tourism is an important for a region and I think we should continue the funding. Phasing out the funding will have major effect on our tourism in our region.
60	Sven Herselman	Phasing out funding for tourism in a region where tourism is so vital to the economy doesn't make any sense.
103	Colin E Haipe	if it's a case of 'saving money" - as Tourism support to the region is no doubt crucial - where would Tourism HB get it's funding to support Regional tourism Operators?? Can you refer to links here which speak to 1. WHY and WHEN the HBRC began funding HB Tourism and 2. WHY HBRC now is considering phasing out funding to Tourism HB?? please provide more information around WHY CUTS need to be made so Ratepayers can make INFORMED decisions. tourism is going to be crucial to the region in the recovery and rebuilding process - in more ways that just financial.
108	Gemma Smith	I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for the continued funding of the tourism sector in our community. As a resident and business owner here, I have witnessed firsthand the significant positive impact that tourism has on our local economy, job market, and overall well-being here in Hawke's Bay. Tourism is not merely a luxury but a vital pillar of our community's economic stability. The funds allocated to promoting tourism play a crucial role in attracting visitors, sustaining local businesses, and creating employment opportunities. These investments not only drive revenue directly within the tourism sector but also have a ripple effect throughout our economy, benefiting various other industries - hospitality, retail, and transportation. By defunding the tourism sector, we risk not only losing jobs but also jeopardising the livelihoods of countless individuals and families who rely on tourism-related businesses for their income. Small businesses, in particular, would be disproportionately affected, as they often depend heavily on tourist spending to stay afloat. Without adequate funding and support, many of these businesses may be forced to close their doors permanently, resulting in a significant loss of entrepreneurial spirit and community identity. Furthermore, our community's reputation as a desirable destination hinges on continuous investment in marketing and infrastructure. Cutting funding to the tourism sector would not only hinder our ability to attract visitors but could also tarnish our image as a vibrant and welcoming place to visit. This could have long-term consequences for our economy, as it may deter potential investors and residents who are drawn to areas with thriving tourism industries. I would like to urge you to carefully consider the ramifications of defunding the tourism sector in our community. By continuing to support this vital industry, we can ensure the sustainability and prosperity of our local economy, preserve jobs, and maintain the unique character that makes our community such a special place to live and visit. As a small business owner situated within the hospitality/tourism sector I am truly grateful for the role that Hawke's Bay Tourism has played in advocating for and promoting our beautiful region. Their expertise in promoting and championing what we have to offer has directly contributed to us being able to successfully navigate several very difficult years across the pandemic, and post-cyclone landscapes. Thank you for your attention to this matter.
109	Andrew Wilson RotoruaNZ & Explore Central North Island	We are writing regarding the proposed changes in funding, contained in the draft 2024-27 Long Term Plan (LTP), for your Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO), Hawke's Bay Tourism. As a collective of eight RTOs who form the Explore Central North Island (ECNI) marketing alliance and make up a large portion of the North Island, we have significant concerns about the proposed changes. The proposed reduction in funding will result in very significant economic retraction. Additionally, any RTO not contributing to ECNI will cease to be part of the partnership, will no longer appear in itineraries and marketing activity, and understandably lose market share. ECNI is a central North Island collaboration between Destination Hauraki Coromandel, Tourism Bay of Plenty, Visit Ruapehu, Destination Great Lake Taupō, Rotorua NZ, Hamilton & Waikato Tourism, Activate Tairāwhiti, and Hawke's Bay Tourism who come together to market ourselves. We promote the three main touring routes through the central North Island; Pacific Coast Highway , Thermal Explorer Highway and the Volcanic Loop . In addition, we provide a number of specific itineraries through the eight regions of ECNI to assist both domestic and international travellers and industry members, to experience some of New Zealand's beautiful sights and activities. As a collective we host and attend trade

training events in NZ and internationally, keeping Travel Buyers up to date with product offerings from central North Island tourism businesses for their clients traveling to NZ. Our collective voice is strong as we continue to drive and increase demand for North Island visitation. The primary focus for ECNI is achieving growth in the key long haul western markets of North America and UK/Europe. For the year ending July 2023, international visitor expenditure for these key markets exceeded pre-Covid levels at \$209.49million across the ECNI regions. Following a summer season where we have experienced strong growth in the North American market, this figure will have increased significantly, underlining the value of tourism to your local communities and benefit of the ECNI partnership. The following table provides additional detail on the market growth for ECNI.

All ECNI RTOs - International Visitor Spend				Market Growth			Post-COVID Recovery		
Market	Year Ending July			% change 2022-23			Pre-COVID	% recovered Jul 2023	
	2021	2022	2023	RTO		NZL	YE Jul-19	RTO	NZL
USA	\$20.56M	\$25.84M	\$102.94M	+298.4%		+284.9%	\$77.61M	133%	132%
UK	\$32.70M	\$31.78M	\$75.45M	+137.4%		+182.1%	\$77.00M	98%	100%
Germany	\$1.50M	\$1.02M	\$16.73M	+1543.9%		+1485.5%	\$32.77M	51%	55%
Canada	\$2.13M	\$2.29M	\$14.37M	+526.7%		+474.3%	\$15.03M	96%	94%
All 4 Markets	\$56.90M	\$60.93M	\$209.49M	+243.9%		+267.3%	\$202.40M	104%	107%
Other Intl	\$71.86M	\$74.43M	\$278.28M	+273.9%		+271.7%	\$287.00M	97%	97%
Total Intl	\$128.76M	\$135.36M	\$487.77M	+260.4%		+270.0%	\$489.40M	100%	101%

From both an international and domestic perspective, tourism is a highly competitive sector. At a national level New Zealand must compete strongly to secure a small share of the total international tourism market and once a visitor has decided on New Zealand as their next destination, regions compete fiercely for a visitor's time and money. In a New Zealand context, the larger metropolitan centres and those with an international airport are at a distinct advantage, with much larger marketing budgets and more opportunities to partner with airports and airlines. ECNI pools resource and has been very effective at maintaining market share across the target markets, as detailed in the following graph.



The proposed funding reduction in the draft LTP will jeopardise Hawke's Bay Tourism's ongoing participation in ECNI. As discussed above, the ECNI partnership allows the 8 regions to compete successfully, as evidenced through market share and visitor expenditure, against the larger gateway regions that have significantly larger budgets. Put simply, each RTO's investment in ECNI delivers excellent value for money as funds and resource allocated is boosted 8 times through the partnership. Any RTO not contributing will cease to be part of the partnership, will no longer appear in itineraries and marketing activity, and understandably lose market share.

It is important to highlight that economic contraction and a withdrawal from market requires a significantly greater investment to reverse once enacted. There are a range of international case studies that demonstrate how even well-known destinations can suffer when they fail to promote themselves. One of the most relevant examples is Colorado, which shut down its travel promotion program in 1993 by cutting the states promotion budget from US\$12 million to zero almost overnight. The consequences were immediately felt as follows:

- Within one year, Colorado slipped from first place to 17th place in the summer resort category.
- By 1997, Colorado's overall share of the U.S. leisure market plummeted by 30%.
- Visitor spending fell dramatically, creating an immediate loss in revenues of US\$1.4 billion, which increased to US\$2.4 billion by the late 1990s.
- As a consequence, state and local tax receipts dropped by US\$134 million between 1993 and 1997.
- In 2000, the state opened the Colorado Tourism Office with a US\$5 million annual budget, which increase to US\$19 million in 2006 following a demonstrated return on investment of more than 12:1.
- The head of the Colorado Tourism Office in 2011 was quoted "Our lesson to [the state of] Washington is that it's been 18 years since we went dark in 1993, and we still haven't gotten back it the national market share we had."

		Any reduction in the modest funding provided to Hawke's Bay Tourism will result in a significant economic contraction as competing regions secure market share. Once lost, this is difficult to regain and will require substantial new investment beyond the amount saved in the proposed cuts. Tourism plays a pivotal role in the economic, social, and cultural fabric of New Zealand. Beyond the iconic landscapes and attractions that draw international visitors, tourism offers an opportunity for local communities to showcase their unique heritage, traditions, and natural wonders. Tourism fosters a sense of pride and identity among locals, encouraging preservation and stewardship of natural and cultural assets. Overall, tourism not only drives economic growth through visitor expenditure and employment but also creates vibrancy and a destination that is a great place to live, work and do business.
117	Lucy Whyte	I would like to strongly oppose the proposed defunding of Hawke's Bay Tourism in the 24-27 Long Term plan. If Hawke's Bay loses this invaluable resource our tourism industry will never be the same, and many businesses will suffer, including wineries such as Trinity Hill. Please reconsider this proposal for the sake of the tourism industry in Hawke's Bay. Option B is the only viable way forward, if any cuts are to be made at all.
120	Kim Thorp	<p>A plea for continuity of funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p> <p>I fully appreciate that councils in our region are stretched right now – perhaps like never before. At a time when restoring critical infrastructure etc is a significant priority I can understand the temptation to perhaps put funding for something like tourism on the 'back burner' for a little while. Can I please take this opportunity to put forward a couple of observations on why that could be exactly the wrong thing to do precisely at a critical time like this.</p> <p>1.This is bigger than tourism</p> <p>As you would know, the future economic prosperity of our region will not rely just on the fertility of our soils. It increasingly relies on Hawke's Bay being perceived as a positive place to invest, to establish a business and ideally, to move to – perhaps with family.</p> <p>We don't have the draw of a large metropolis with a ready-made customer base.</p> <p>We need to attract this investment with other attributes. Much of this relates to being perceived as a great place to live as well as to work and invest. We are thankfully part of a global shift in thought processes around these decisions.</p> <p>And in turn, much of this appeal relates to what you can increasingly do here – including vibrant towns and cities, great options for physical activities as well as eating out and wining and dining experiences that are as good as anywhere.</p> <p>The catch is, the attractions and destinations that increasingly make Hawke's Bay desirable simply would not be here if they had to rely solely on our residents. It is a blunt truth that if we don't have the visitors we won't have many of the lifestyle assets we all enjoy either.</p> <p>I know for a fact there are a number of small much loved 'icons' of our visitor experience that are on their knees right now and unlikely to survive the coming winter. The cyclone didn't just wipe out infrastructure and cropping it also wiped out our visitor base and it only started to come limping back this summer.</p> <p>Visitors are more than a 'nice to have' in our region. They're a lifeline. And therefore in turn, Hawke's Bay Tourism is as important to the economic development of the region as it is to visitor numbers.</p> <p>If not HB Tourism, then who?</p> <p>If there was no ongoing funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism, there is no way the void would simply be filled by private business. Even for a short time. Not just because of the lack of resources but more, because of the lack of cohesion, contacts and focus. Very few visitor attracting entities in Hawke's Bay would be of the size and scale where they could independently and individually promote the region in order to promote people to their door. Most of us are working our own customer databases and search engines as hard as we can to keep business active.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism is now an admired and trusted partner in the entire complex process of getting visitors to our region. Working closely alongside Tourism New Zealand and other national and international entities, Hawke's Bay Tourism uses both its powerful connections and tight</p>

		resources to attract potential visitors with credibility no other individual entity here could ever duplicate. This is a complex information flow that is at long last reasonably seamless and working with everyone playing their role. Take Hawke's Bay Tourism out of that equation – even for a short time – and that process significantly falters. It would put that process back in the hands of smaller less co-ordinated promotional groups, individual councils, towns and self-interested sector groups. In my opinion It would be a complete long-term disaster to go back to the fractured days of divided messaging so many of us worked so hard to unify nearly 20 years ago. We would be back to square one frighteningly quickly.
122	Peter Alexander	Maintain a governance overview role, to provide ongoing leadership, yet reduce funding of this organisation progressively to phase out after 3 years. Get a robust realistic long-term strategic plan in place during the next 3 years to guide this organisation's trajectory going forward.
157	Gus Black	Tourism is fundamental to the regions resilience and prosperity. Any reduction in the ability to generate or maintain our tourist dollar has an exponentially negative effect on our local economy. I do not want to see any reduction in funding until there is alternative, equal funding available. Ie secure funding before reducing the council contribution.
195	Robin Gorry	How short sighted can you be? They help bring in billions to the region, which in turn keeps people in work, people who pay your rates. This doesn't solve any problems but will create many, without the work the HBT do, all other regions who can advertise will bring in tourists to their region. And once this organisation has gone, it's not like it can just start up and magically start bringing back the lost tourists, it's a multiple year pipeline that you'll be breaking.
208	Roger Wakefield	Not at all. We need tourists more than ever.
232	Stephen ensman	I believe the role of HBRC in supporting HB Tourism is too valuable to end. I would like to see it continue even though that would push rates up further.
250	Frances Blake	Do not phase it out
256	Andrew Flint	NO reduction in funding. The return on investment here is outstanding and should when possible be increased. Do we need to be building new playgrounds in Stortford lodge? or Water Museums? How much did they cost? and how much will they cost to maintain?
278	Michael Koch	I think tourism is an important income source for Napier and surrounding areas, you should NOT phase out funding, rather increase it.
301	Barbara Arnott Art Deco Trust	The Art Deco Trust strongly opposes the defunding of Hawke's Bay Tourism proposed in the draft Hawke's Bay Regional Council Three-Year Plan 2024-27. The work that Hawke's Bay Tourism undertake for regional tourism sector is vitally important to the Hawke's Bay economy. Tourism is widely regarded as one of the largest income generators for the entire Region. Their work is vital in amplifying the work of the tourism sector across Hawke's Bay, including the Trust, in the domestic and international market. Year round the Trust (and multiple tourism operators) work very closely with Hawke's Bay Tourism in the promotion of the region as a place to visit, without their amplification of our 'voice and offering' within the region and those other regional tourism operators – Hawke's Bay's will become much silenced in the (inter)national marketplace. As Chair of Hawke's Bay Tourism, George Hickson, ex CEO of Tourism New Zealand, says, the region will become a backwater destination. The Art Deco Trust promotes and markets nationally and internationally the heritage across Hawke's Bay, we focus on our slice of the tourism offering of the region. All individual operators of activities, hospitality, events, and experiences market their own offerings. But there are gaps, and these are both New Zealand wide (funded by government) and regionally (funded by the regional council). To return to a piecemeal funding strategy which is hit and miss rather than the stability and success which the Regional Council through its rate payers are funding. Hawke's Bay Tourism's work promoting and amplifying 'what's on' in Hawke's Bay, enables the funding for marketing the region to grow from outside sources. For example: The Trust was awarded MBIE funding to work with Hawke's Bay Tourism to grow the numbers attending all our festivals from outside Hawke's Bay. Without this funding/support from Hawke's Bay Tourism, our charitable Trust reach would be significantly diminished. Currently, each Festival has a direct economic impact across the Hawke's Bay, estimated at \$6m in 2019 (for one weekend). Art Deco Trust strongly urges Hawke's Bay Regional Council to maintain status quo funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism permanently.

311	Damon Harvey	I support the current funding model and don't think any alternative should be looked at.
322	Doreen Adams	Whilst option B is preferable to option A, this seems a very short-sighted change given how many businesses rely on tourism.
353	Ronald WILKINS	SADLY I WOULD LIKE THE FUNDING TO CONTINUE, HOWEVER IF IT HAS TO HAPPEN I SUPPORT OPTION2
358	Julie Redman Morere Lodge	I would like to register our strong opposition to the proposed cuts to Hawkes Bay tourism. Small businesses like ours depend on regional tourism representation as many of us have extremely limited marketing and advertising budgets so getting national and international exposure is very difficult. Our post cyclone tourism recovery has been slow and if you go ahead with plan A will see many businesses like ours fail. With our sector bringing so much revenue to the region it seems like a huge mistake. We feel very let down by our regional council and this short sighted plan to save money. plan B will postpone the inevitable collapse of the industry here rather than support it. We don't support any plan to cut funding.
374	Simon Beale	Spend the same money on Hawke's Bay Tourism. Attracting visitors locally and internationally support our region with accommodation, visiting our wineries, art deco etc; and spend money in the restaurants and supporting local attractions. These visitors are often international business people who are large investors or buy primary products for selling their countries.
397	Rachel Ward Cape Sanctuary	I am writing on behalf of the team at Cape Sanctuary, to support Hawke's Bay Tourism and the amazing work they do. We are not yet a tourism destination for Hawke's Bay, but have the potential to be a major asset to the regions tourism economy in future, and one of the most sought after nature experiences in a region that is sadly lacking in this area of tourism. The work done at Cape Sanctuary over the past 17 years has restores dune systems, regenerated damaged forest, planted over 1 million new native trees on retired farmland, removed 100K+ of introduced predators and pests species, and re-introduced 23 species via translocation including three seabird species, two kiwi species, tuatara, kaka, kakariki, robin and pateke to the peninsula. The benefits can be seen in the suburbs neighbouring the sanctuary now with bird life expanding out of the sanctuary, and the sanctuary populations established enough now to consider the next stage – opening for tourism and showcasing the conservation achievements and spectacular site. We have been working recently with Hawke's Bay Tourism to get this dream to become a reality, and we could not to this without their guidance and know how – we do not know how to enter this space nor have the contacts to build an incredible tour product without their access to trade shows, industry experts and famils. We were so thankful that the service was funded - as a conservation project we operate at a large deficit each year and are looking to turn that around via tourism so that we can put any revenue towards new species translocations and speeding up our progress. 'Without their guidance we are not sure how to proceed, or if we will. Please take this submission in support of Hawke's Bay Tourism – we do not support their funding being cut, this is a hugely beneficial service to the region and ratepayers deserve the opportunity to be listened to in this instance.
406	Mark von Dadelszen	I was a foundation member of the Hawke's Bay Regional Development Council between 1978 and 1984. While local authorities then provided their communities with essential services, until the 1980's local bodies had little if any active involvement in promoting and supporting the economic development of their districts, cities or regions. A number of Regional Development Councils were established around the country, and the Hawke's Bay Regional Development Council was formed to advance the economic development of the Hawke's Bay region. One of the sectors in the Hawke's Bay economy which was, then, becoming increasingly significant every year was tourism, and the Hawke's Bay Regional Development Council was largely responsible for the formation of the Hawke's Bay Tourism Board which I then chaired for several years. The main reason for the formation of that Tourism Board was that the region's community and Councils did not appreciate how attractive Hawke's Bay was as a tourism destination, or the fact that the, promotion of visits to Hawke's Bay by national and international tourists to enjoy our scenic attractions (with the consequent contribution to Hawke's Bay's economic development. Such promotion as then existed was minimal, and, if it did exist, it was fragmented and uncoordinated, and the potential benefits to Hawke's Bay's economy and to its communities were being lost. The Hawke's Bay Tourism Board was instrumental in developing and co-ordinating the activities of our local authorities and of our business community to develop Hawke's Bay as a tourist destination. I cannot, now, recall how those promotional activities were funded, but I do know that Tourism

		<p>Board members worked on a pro bono basis and that much of the funding and works essential the promotion of tourism was provided by most (or all) of Hawke's Bay's local government authorities.</p> <p>According to various reports in local media this year I understand that the economic support of regional tourism promotion and of physical tourist attractions and facilities by some Hawke's Bay local and regional councils may be reduced or eliminated entirely. If those reports are correct then, with respect, I submit that this would be prejudicial to the economic and social well-being of our local and regional communities, and that your Council should financially support regional tourism promotion and its physical tourist attractions and facilities.</p>
416	Kylee Dunkerley	A regional approach to tourism is absolutely crucial. We've seen in the past how a fragmented approach doesn't work.
436	Anon	Do not do any type of activities of tourism you should not of been doing.
444	Julie Greene	I believe this is a regional rate and should be maintained not reduced.
445	KATE Field	I think it would be crazy to reduce the money spent attracting tourists to HB.
458	Michelle Yvette O'Sullivan	Hawkes bay needs all the tourism dollars we can get so it would be ridiculous to remove this funding.
464	Matthew Bennett	<p>I am the CEO of a business in Havelock North. We sell snack food into supermarkets here and in Australia. I manage a significant P&L and global supply chain. We are not involved in the tourism or sustainability industry and other than being rates payers we are not directly impacted by your plan. As such I would hope you will consider this an impartial view to the extent that is possible and from someone with experience managing significant budgets and complexity.</p> <p>I have a number of serious concerns about your draft plan and indeed on the state of the finances of HBRC. I will address the points I think are of most relevance.</p> <p>Phase out funding for Hawkes Bay Tourism</p> <p>Most public consultations pass me by and I do not feel the need to add input to them. However, I was drawn to investigate yours because of the publicity surrounding the cuts to HB Tourism. Initially I was surprised they would be subject to cuts given their importance to the region – in particular as we seek to recover from the Cyclone and Covid impacts to the region and the strong role Tourism can play. I had hoped there would be detailed reasoning to back up the proposal but sadly not. I am left with four primary areas of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism is worth around \$1.3bn to the region. To support that, your investment is a mere \$1.5m. You are suggesting cutting that to zero immediately which would, as you must well understand, have the effect of disestablishing HB Tourism. You don't outline this, but will no doubt say that tourism won't be diminished and the private sector will come in to fill the gap. I can assure you the private sector doesn't have a pot, immediately available and just waiting to dip into. However irrespective of this, the level of risk you are taking by actioning this cut is astonishing and breaches your primary goal of 'financial prudence (not taking undue risks)' as stated in the finance strategy. It is universally accepted that this industry is of the utmost importance to the region. Your approach can, at best, be described as reckless. The proposed speed of change and lack of notice with which it has been delivered demonstrates a poor grasp of the region and the way business and budgets run. • If you have completed analysis on the economic impact of this proposal, you have not shared it. How many businesses that rely on this industry do you expect to fail? What is the associated projected reduction in rates revenue? Have you had Treasury advice on the likely increase in unemployment in the region? To what extent will that increase costs to deliver other HBRC services? Where in the budget have you made allowance for this because it isn't apparent? With reduced visitor numbers what does that mean for our allocation of Waka Kotahi and other key infrastructure spend and has assurance over that been received? It is obvious to all that HB Tourism materially supports the industry and as such this decision has wide ranging impacts that are complex. Nothing in your Consultation document indicates you have considered them.

		<p>I suggest that there are a significant number of businesses in this space who, having survived Covid and the Cyclone, have no more capital available to weather a new reduction in revenue that your proposal will bring.</p> <p>While it may be uncomfortable reading it is imperative that any modelling is made public. Can you please provide that to me by return or let me know if none has been completed.</p> <p>I stress to you both that, given the central role of tourism in the region, if none has been completed then the Consultation is impossible for the public or Councillors to judge. Your positions being untenable would be unavoidable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I may be sympathetic to the argument that this is not an area HBRC should be responsible for. It is not covered in your Vision or Purpose although Regional Development remains an ongoing part of your Governance and Partnerships Activities budget. However, even if you take that view, the fact is that you are currently responsible for it. When trying to pass on that responsibility there are ways of doing it which allow the organisation to continue operating to support the wider industry. You have failed to do that and have caused significant, unnecessary and entirely avoidable disruption. • The individuals working for HB Tourism are de facto employees of HBRC. You owe them a duty of care and the way you have handled the announcement and roll out of this plan fails totally in that duty. These are people's lives and they deserve far better than you have given them. Quite simply this is just not how things should be done
490	Rose Artemiev	Reduce funding over the longest period of time. There are significant funding cut happening under the government and job losses. Let that settle before reducing tourism support, which will result in few visitors and less income for local businesses.
499	Lucy Nicoll	Please remember that tourism is essential to the wellbeing of all in Hawkes Bay. Have you worked out what the negative impact on the local economy would be from this decision?
512	Natasha Cooke	Do not phase out.
521	Winifred Hide	Tourism brings money into our Community No Brainer there.
536	Sally Pike	Our region is potentially heading into a time of great stress for businesses. As a manufacturing business owner I know there is way more pain to come re jobs and business closures and the desperation of retailers and businesses dependent on marketing Hawke's Bay as a national and international destination. I can't even imagine how the regional council can think that reducing support for tourism at this time is the right cost saving for our region. every dollar you spend promoting the region flows through to all parts of the economy here and will maintain jobs, businesses, create the desire for other organisations to provide funding to programmes and events here - seeing our own Regional Council pull back on this must surely send a sign to others looking to invest here that this region is closed for business, not interested in growth. The least you can do is maintain the level and review in a year - you give us no options that make sense here.
548	Patrick Maloney	<p>I do not support either of these two options for a reduction in the HBRC funding of HB Tourism. I support the continued current level of HBRC funding, with no planned reduction. Tourism and the visitor contribution to the regional economy is significant and most valuable. The gains are shared by many. It is not just the high profile ventures such as the airport that benefit. The economic gains are spread across the whole community, motels, hotels, restaurants, wineries, cafes, retail shops, fruit and vegetable roadside stalls, petrol stations, and even bookshops. These businesses are important employers and they are also rate payers, and their viability would be significantly reduced without strong tourism support. If their viability is at risk it affects the levels of employment, wages, retail sales, and property values across the whole region. That would lead to lower economic activity and a less viable community, including the communities ability to pay its rates. That is not the outcome we want for our region. The importance of a viable tourism sector cannot be underestimated, especially at the present time with the pressures on farming and horticulture incomes. We need a strong tourism region to reduce and balance the economic risk of Hawkes Bay being reliant too reliant on agriculture to sustain employment and wages in our region. This tourism funding is best done by the single funder model of the HBRC, this having replaced the previous multi council model. of earlier years The previous model of having all councils contributing individually was just not</p>

		workable. It was fragmented, it was not regionally focussed, and the overheads of separate reporting and divisive agendas was burdensome and wasteful. It is also not feasible to think that a few select key easily identifiable enterprises can pay for tourism marketing for everyone. The most efficient way of funding HB Tourism, which has the reputation of doing an excellent job, is to continue the current model and just have the HBRC pay on behalf of the whole community. For the record I am a rate payer on two properties, and I have no financial or beneficial interest from the tourism industry. I just believe this is an important community benefit, and I am happy for my rates to be used to support HB Tourism at the current level with no reduction in this financing.
558	Paul Barker	No. Tourism is a vital part of Hawkesbay. If we don't attract visitors here then vital tourism industries will cease to exist leading to more unemployment and hardship. This will reduce income throughout the bay and burden the rate payers even more!
566	Michele Cole and Shane Collins The Crown Hotel Napier	I am submitting that Hawkes Bay Regional Council keep the status quo and maintain ongoing funding of \$1.52 million. Firstly I am quite astounded that we are even having this discussion once again in regards to Hawkes Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and their current funding (\$1.52 million) of Hawkes Bay Tourism and the proposal of a complete defunding over next 2 years or an Option B of maintaining funding at \$1.52 million for 2024-25, and then a reduction to \$441,000 per annum from 2025-26. HBRC acknowledges that tourism is important to the Hawkes Bay region therefore why would there be a proposal to cut/reduce HB Tourism funding, particularly after the effects of COVID lockdowns and Cyclone Gabrielle to our region. This would be a disgrace and a kick in the backside with all the hard work Hawkes Bay Tourism, and all businesses, in which we have been fighting to get the Hawkes Bay region back on the radar of the domestic and international traveller to come to our region. Yes EVERYONE is in a time of unprecedented financial pressures and having The Crown Hotel which employs 20+ staff we also need to watch our costs but we are also not complacent and we need to keep marketing and reinvesting into our product and people to ensure we are maximising our exposure to drive people to our region. It would be catastrophic if we did not have a Hawkes Bay Tourism body and the region would suffer as a direct consequence. I absolutely acknowledge there are tough times ahead still and rate increases are difficult however you do not cut your funding that supports the local economy. If HBRC cut tourism funding it will not be a saving as rate payers will pay through city council rates. With a reduction in investment we will lose market share...guaranteed. Other regions will continue to see economic growth and Hawkes Bay will decline in every aspect. By working together we also need to see tourism continue to drive economic growth in the future and the only viable option is for Hawkes Bay Regional Council to keep the status quo and maintain ongoing funding of \$1.52 million.
569	Kevin Murphy	It is very disappointing that HB Regional Council are pulling away from funding our RTO. I was involved with the HB Wine Tourism Assn for a number of years over the time that HB Tourism was established. Prior to this there were many organisations trying to promote the regions destination. There are a few areas that concern me. 1. The rates collected for tourism was initially set up to be handled by HB Regional Council because it made sense to not have all councils collecting the rate. This historic setting has not been spoken about. 2. All 32 RTOs in NZ are funded by councils. 3. The rush to make changes so quickly is not fair on HB Tourism staff. And finding alternative funding is not a quick fix. 4. The general public do not understand that HB Tourism does most of its activity to promote the region outside of Hawkes Bay – so of course the general public don't see or understand the great work that HB Tourism conduct. 5. I am involved in events and many events decide to bring their events to HB because of the great feel the region has – after being marketed in the right way for a number of years. It's the impression that people have – they want to come to HB – this hasn't just happened. Overall it is just so disappointing that you are not understanding the great impact that will happen by not having a fully funded and functional RTO. You should keep the status quo or at worse case support Option B.
571	Brendon Rope	Neither of the above. Maintain the investment in the tourism economy. Until the HBRC funding began the tourism promotion was, putting it kindly, a mess. The consistent funding has enabled a collective approach and direction achieving positive results for Hawke's Bay. The impacts of Covid and Cyclone Gabrielle has stretched the sector that is still rebuilding. Taking away funding at this critical point in time will take the sector back to what it was pre-2015. I do not know what support HBRC has provided HB Tourism in seeking diversified funding streams, but this must be included before any funding is reduced. I cannot see any reference to this type of support in the consultation documentation. It is counterproductive to remove funding before alternative funding opportunities have been secured.

572	Toni Butcher Pask Winery Ltd	As the land and building owner at 1133 Omaha Road, Hastings We have invested a significant capital sum into the redevelopment of our site - both before and after the cyclone. The final part of the construction process has been the development of a new Cellar Door and Restaurant Facility. One of main reasons for this development was because of the on going success Hawkes Bay Tourism have had in bringing events to the region. If this funding is cut it will have an effect on our tenants bottom line (and thereby ours) and their on going success both in the wine processing side and hospitality.
573	Toni Butcher Benton Wine Group Ltd	Maintain existing. Do not reduce. We operate Benton Wine Group and one of our major brands is Pask. Who have been operating in Hawkes Bay for nearly 40 years. Benton Wine Group lease both grape growing land within the Gimblett Gravels and a processing plant with a cellar door and restaurant attached at 1133 Omaha Road. As the tenant of this property we have/are committed to bring business into the region and as such have provided a place where we can showcase this. If the funding to Hawkes Bay Tourism is altered it will effect the number of events in the region which will in turn effect the number of flights into the region. Due to the isolation of the Hawkes Bay it is not an option for our overseas buyers to drive from Auckland to see us and what the region offers. Time is of the essence for many of these business travellers. The harsh reality of having minimal flights is of real concern to our company. We need Air New Zealand to keep a full schedule of flights otherwise it will be even harder to get business done in the region. As such Hawkes Bay Tourism funding needs to remain, the effect on a large array of businesses will be immense should it not.
574	Greg Reynolds	Neither, keep it at current levels or increase. Part 4: I have already commented on what IMHO is a poor decision to cut tourism spending. But in all the tables in this section you have not included the current spend so its hard to gauge what the impact of your proposal is.
580	Jeremy Rimene Triathlon Hawkes Bay	Opposition to Discontinuation of Funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism Dear Council Members, I am writing to express my profound concern regarding the proposed plans to cease funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. In my view, this decision reflects a short-sighted perspective that fails to recognize the vital role tourism plays in our local economy and community. Tourism is not merely a sector of our economy; it is a cornerstone that supports livelihoods, businesses, and the overall vibrancy of our region. The economic benefits of tourism are undeniable, generating revenue, creating jobs, and stimulating growth in various sectors. However, its impact extends far beyond financial metrics. The presence of cruise ships and hosting events such as music concerts, sports events like the HB Marathon, Ironmaori, and the upcoming Triathlon Olympic Qualifying event infuse our region with energy and vitality. These activities not only attract visitors but also foster a sense of pride and identity among residents. They showcase our unique culture, landscapes, and hospitality to the world, enhancing our reputation and drawing further interest from prospective tourists, investors, and residents alike. Furthermore, tourism contributes to the preservation and promotion of our natural and cultural heritage. By highlighting our historical sites, indigenous traditions, and environmental treasures, tourism encourages stewardship and appreciation for the assets that make our region special. Ceasing funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism would not only jeopardize the economic benefits but also undermine the social and cultural fabric of our community. It would deprive local businesses of crucial support, lead to job losses, and diminish opportunities for growth and development. Moreover, it would diminish our ability to showcase Hawke's Bay as a desirable destination for visitors and investors, hindering our long-term prosperity. Instead of viewing tourism as an expendable expense, I urge the council to recognize its strategic importance and commit to investing in its sustainable development. By leveraging our natural assets, fostering innovation, and collaborating with stakeholders, we can ensure that tourism continues to enrich our community for generations to come. In conclusion, I implore the council to reconsider the proposed decision and reaffirm its commitment to supporting Hawke's Bay Tourism. Let us embrace the opportunities it presents and work together to build a prosperous, resilient, and inclusive future for our region. Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter.
595	Tiffany Knauf	Tourism makes up a massive part of the Hawkes Bay economy, a huge employer and those people patronise every business in this region For what is a small amount of the total budget, it would be short sighted to defund a successful and vital organisation. HBRC is best suited to fund as a regional organisation.
606	Heather Sharp	Keep funding

619	Flores Snelgrove	I am strongly recommending NOT to phase out HBT as they provide plenty of services for the whole region thereby generating publicity, visibility, productivity and employment for our beloved region. It will be a huge mistake to phase out such a great committee that is helpful to our overall success as a tourist destination throughout the world. Thank you.
622	Sue Thomas	We need to have the support of the council in order to continue to promote tourism in Napier. This is a vital commodity to provide and not only supports businesses but gives employment which nationwide is a huge problem.
625	Natalie Beath	Don't phase it out! The organisation is critical to maintaining tourism in the region.
636	Phoebe Bormann	How are we going attract people to Hawkes Bay and bring in economy if they don't know what we have here. Multi Share trails _ Horse trails: Please do some research - Tarakani horse trails for example are bringing 53 million dollars back into the Taranaki region. This is easily achievable for Hawkes Bay as well , but there does need to be some long term future planning and not necessarily funding from HBRC. However the LTP plan really needs to include Multi shared trails in the future.
641	Simon Cartwright	Here are a few reasons why cutting funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism is a bad idea: 1. Economic Impact: Cutting funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism may result in decreased tourist numbers, leading to reduced spending in the region and a negative impact on the local economy. 2. Job Losses: Tourism is a significant source of employment. Reduced investment could lead to job losses across various sectors including hospitality, retail, and services. 3. Negative Brand Image: Without adequate promotion, the perception of Hawke's Bay as a tourist destination may falter, potentially deterring future tourists and investors. 4. Local Business Suffering: Many local businesses rely on the influx of tourists. Less funding for tourism promotion could translate to lower footfall and profits for these businesses. 5. Decreased Competitiveness: In an industry driven by marketing, less funding means Hawke's Bay could fall behind other regions that continue to actively promote themselves. 6. Loss of Cultural Promotion: Tourism helps to celebrate and preserve local culture and heritage. Reduced funding can mean less emphasis on these important aspects of community identity. 7. Investment Deterrence: A decrease in tourism promotion could signal to potential investors that the region is not prioritizing economic growth, making it less attractive for external investment. 8. Impact on Future Growth: Cutting tourism funding could have long-term effects on the growth and development of the tourism sector, hindering future opportunities. 9. Reduced Quality of Visitor Experience: Part of tourism funding goes into improving infrastructure and services for tourists. Without this, the quality of the visitor experience could decline, leading to negative reviews and further decreases in tourist numbers.
668	Mike Freeman	Stopping funding to the biggest festival of the year, the Art Deco Festival is not just short-sighted, but cruel. After several years of unavoidable cancellations this year's festival was a boon to the local economy as well as the spirit of the people of Hawkes Bay, in ways that can't be measured in a ledger. It takes decades to build popularity for a week-long event such as this, and to cut the legs out from under it just as it regains its footing seems penny wise but pound foolish.
669	Steve Smith	Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to submit on this issue, and thank you for indulging me in writing to you individually. I know as leaders of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council you take your responsibility seriously in ensuring you make the right decisions for our beautiful region. A quick background. I have spent my life in the New Zealand wine industry, most of that here in Hawke's Bay. I co-founded Craggy Range and led the company for 16 years. I was intimately involved in the significant commitments Craggy Range made to Hawke's Bay through investment in what has become one of the world's most spectacular wineries. Those decisions were underpinned by a sense of the real commitment that the region had to the growth of high value tourism. I have lived here and raised my family here. I am a Fellow of New Zealand Winegrowers and have been inducted into the Hawke's Bay Winegrowers Hall of Fame. I have sat on many government boards including the Tourism Growth Partnership, and have been Chancellor at Lincoln University where tourism and environmental programs are world class. I understand high value products of the land, I understand the investment required to realise that value, I understand what impact high value products of the land have on the wider community. Hawke's Bay Tourism is a product of our land. People come here not for museums, or adventure parks, or raging nightlife. They come here for our beautiful scenery, the hills, the ocean, the vineyards, the wines, the food, the glamorous farms, the fresh air, the beaches, the people, the beautiful

wineries, cafes and restaurants, the lamb, the seafood, the berries and figs, the incredible architecture old and new. They come here to experience one of the world's most glamorous farming districts. They go back home with these memories and stories, and some become evangelical ambassadors. There is nothing more powerful than have someone else tell your story.

Now they come to visit one of the twelve Great Wine Capitals of the World. That in itself is a startling achievement, and doesn't happen by chance. It happens through investment in building reputation over generations. Wine can become an anchor for high value tourism, benefiting everyone in tourism and the wider community. It is why in 2005 Kim Thorpe, one of the world's great branding specialists and one of our own, coined the Hawke's Bay Wine Country branding.

So now, when all of hard work has been done to forge a reputation like this, are you proposing to pull the pin on funding one of the key pillars that can drive prosperity for our region? I understand the financial situation, and the drive to look for cost efficiencies to minimise the impact on ratepayers after what has been a catastrophic period for us. The temptation is always where can we cut. The real approach should be where can we most effectively spend our limited money. To do that properly every organisation should go back to its key foundations, especially the Mission and Vision.

Here it is from the HBRC website:

Our Mission Statement: Enhancing our Environment together
Te Whakapakari Tahi I To Tatau Taiao

Our Vision: We Want A healthy environment, and a resilient and prosperous community.

The word environment is front and centre as are the words prosperous community. It is interesting to understand what these words mean.

Environment.

Noun: en-vi-ron-ment in-'vi-re(n)-mont -'vi(-9)r(n)-

Synonyms of environment

1. the circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded
2. a: the complex of physical, chemical, and biotic factors (such as climate, soil, and living things) that act upon an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival
b: the aggregate of social and cultural conditions that influence the life of an individual or community

Environment and prosperity together impact all living things. It is not just our physical environment. It incorporates social and cultural factors, with prosperous communities a key outcome. The Hawke's Bay Regional Council is the guardian of this mission and vision and you as leaders in the organisation are mandated to make decisions on that basis. Proposing to stop supporting an industry that is a fundamental strategic pillar for the region with a compelling value proposition, Great Wine Capitals, is not supporting your own mission and vision. An industry that brings \$775m directly into the regional economy, and you are not willing to spend \$1.52m!

Your three-year plan talks about being very disciplined with your investments to keep rate rises down as much as possible. I would be interested to see the business case that supports an increasing investment in public transport right now, to \$15.6m, that will drive better outcomes and more prosperous communities. This investment at the expense of a relatively small investment in tourism.

An investment in tourism drives better outcomes for a very wide spectrum of the Hawke's Bay community because so many different people at every level of society are involved, contributing 7% of regional GDP (the region's third biggest earner) and \$1.3b to the Hawke's Bay economy when both direct and indirect spending is considered. Why not reduce the public transport investment by a small amount to fund a full tourism program?

I get that tough decisions have to be made, however organisations that cut to the core in things that can help growth and greater prosperity will ultimately fall behind. It is not time to cut funding in tourism, because tourism can truly help create a more prosperous community and improve

		<p>our environment. Hawke's Bay Tourism has already lost one great asset in their PR & Communications Manager as a result of the uncertainty. Let's not also lose more great talent, or the crown of New Zealand's only Great Wine Capital.</p> <p>I would submit that you pledge continued support at the \$1.52m level for two years only, and then only guarantee further support if Hawke's Bay Tourism comes up with a compelling investment plan for the future. A plan where they are clear what they see as Hawke's Bay unique place in the world of tourism, what we can win at, and what investments are needed to make that happen. If I am critical, sometimes Hawke's Bay Tourism tries try to keep everyone happy, and that never gets great outcomes. They also need to show some leadership and communicate that carefully targeted investments on where they can win, will benefit all.</p> <p>It is time to be prudent, it is time to disciplined, but it is also time to look to the future and invest where the most benefit for the wider community can be gained</p>
678	Bruce Beaton	<p>The region has suffered horrendous losses over the past year or so. To help get the region going again, it needs economic activity. Funding HB Tourism is a major driver of economic activity and is essential to get the region going. I appreciate hard choices need to be made, slowing economic activity has greater consequences. I support maintaining year 1 and finding support from the other Councils to make up the gap. I also appreciate tall Councils are finding this hard, but we need economic activity.</p>
702	Faye Te Nahu	<p>Why when we need the people to come here and spend money and enjoy and learn about our rohe</p>
716	Maurice Field	<p>Do not reduce tourism funding</p>
719	Margaret Pope	<p>First all, why not keep the status quo? With 1 in 10 of Hawke's Bay population employed in tourism related jobs, can HBRC afford not to continue to fund Hawke's Bay Tourism? This money is already allocated to tourism through the economic development fund and as such should be consulted on with the ratepayers. As you have said all councils help fund this and you administer it. I submit HBRC keep funding Hawke's Bay Tourism to deliver growth in tourist numbers by marketing and promotion and therefore keeping the visiting market flowing through HB, which in turn supports local businesses. Assets the council maintains such as the Hawke's Bay Trails, parks, and reserves are used by locals and visitors alike. Will these be left to perish through lack of use? How many cafés will be forced to close? This is not a nice to have, this is an essential lifeblood to our region.</p>
726	Rhys Evans Village Vineyards Ltd	<p>DONT PHASE OUT AND CONTINUE TO FUND!! This is of critical importance to the viability of Hawkes Bay as a place to live and visit. So many businesses rely on tourism in HB and we have done a fantastic job to bring this to light. For ex. being named recently in the top 12 wine destinations in the world. Accolades like this have a huge flow on effect to local industry. After several tough years for the service and hospitality industry this culling of funding would be the final blow particularly for the smaller, innovative, boutique artisans. Speaking to the later point if HB becomes the wild west for tourism promotion and marketing we will lose our ability to progress as a region as the companies with the biggest wallets will pull the strings. The voice of Hawkes Bay will essentially become more influenced by parties not from here (or potentially overseas) that have no interest in the longterm community development of Hawkes Bay. Continue the funding!! A strong tourism sector in the bay will pull our region out of this mess. I am submitting this in support of CONTINUED FUNDING FOR HAWKES BAY TOURISM My business relies on tourists and visitors to operate like thousands of other business in HB. This threat of cessation to funding to the coordinating body not only puts my business at risk, but also the livelihoods of the people I employ and their families and the money that they spend at other HB businesses. You don't just close one sector with this call, the effect flows on and this will be a devastating blow. Hawkes Bay being named recently in the top 12 wine destinations in the world is a testament to the success of our tourism organising body and the amount of hard work that has gone into the regional marketing effort. The number of visitors that have walked through our doors and mentioned this over the recent summer would be 7-8 out of every 10 people from outside the region. If there is no one representing us like this, giving us a voice to the world then who will tell the beautiful story of Hawkes Bay to people in Auckland, Sydney or Singapore ? Yes we need to invest in infrastructure but what good is it if there is no-one here to use it. The pressure on hospitality at the moment is immense. Covid, Gabrielle, subsequent cost pressures caused by all sorts of things like</p>

		supply chain issues, road closures during peak summer months etc. If cellar doors and wineries close their front doors we are at risk of becoming a region that will trade solely out of region. The danger here is the job losses and flow on impacts to the local economy. This will be huge. Hawkes Bay has benefited immensely from exploiting the success of our wine industry, we have no problem with this and love that we have helped the Bay become a tourist destination in NZ. I now urge the regional council to look after our industry in it's time of need. Don't cut the funding!
737	Chris Fox	Don't reduce at all. Tourism is the life of Hawkes Bay. Invest in cycling and art deco and wineries. Hawkes Bay is a unique destination. Invest for greater return!
743	Greta Harvey	Keep status quo and don't change at all. There will be a huge impact on our economy if funding is cut and it is short sighted to think that funding should be pulled or moved across to other local councils. HBRC was the collecting agent for funding of HB Tourism so as to ensure that it was a fair rate collect from all rate payers across HB. If we don't fund HB Tourism then our region will suffer in many ways.
745	Brent Pilcher Pernod Ricard Winemakers	As owners of the iconic brand and cellar door, Church Road, Pernod Ricard Winemakers would like to express our support for the continuation of current funding levels for Hawke's Bay Tourism by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. Church Road winery in Taradale is one of the oldest wineries in New Zealand, founded in 1897 on the site it stands on today. The wines are highly awarded and continue to win accolades both domestically and internationally given the talents of the local winemaking team led by Church Road winemaker Chris Scott, which has been awarded 'NZ Winemaker of the Year' over four consecutive years. We have invested in our facilities and site over many years and as a result, we are a significant part of Hawke's Bay's tourism offering. In 2022, we welcomed 38,000 visitors to the cellar door as we continue to rebound post Covid. Church Road is also one of New Zealand's premier venues for large scale events and functions. Our annual concert series has seen international artists UB40, Groove Armada, Jefferson Starship, Jack Johnson and Crowded House all perform at Church Road drawing in audiences to the region. The Church Road cellar door is reliant on domestic and international tourism and the marketing of Hawke's Bay as a visitor destination is important to ensuring visitation continues. Post-Covid, we are seeing growth in international visitors to Church Road most of whom stay in Hawke's Bay for three or more nights contributing to the overall Hawke's Bay economy. A visit to the cellar door creates long lasting consumer relationships. Once consumers have visited the region and seen for themselves the environment our super premium wines come from, their loyalty to the Hawke's Bay brand and all the products it represents is cemented. Tourism employs one in ten people in the region and the resulting reputational benefit supports many more jobs. In Hawke's Bay we have actively supported events targeted at attracting visitors to the region including FAWC and the Big Easy. In addition to our own website, social media and marketing campaigns, we promote experiences, concerts, events and activities at our cellar door to help drive multi-day visits to the region. A reduction in visitor numbers would be expected following any defunding of Hawke's Bay Tourism and the impact of which would flow on to local businesses we partner with from food suppliers to event promoters. It would require an assessment of the viability of the cellar door overall including trading days and employee numbers. During Covid-19 lockdowns, we made the difficult decision to close our Brancott Estate cellar door in Marlborough and we have not reopened since. The recent recognition of Hawke's Bay as a Great Wine Capital has enabled us to promote the region globally and its inclusion has for the first time, enabled New Zealand wines to be included in "La Cite du Vin" in Bordeaux. We are extremely proud to have three of our Church Road wines selected for inclusion enhancing the spotlight on the region. Reduced funding would jeopardise future membership. We are committed to Hawke's Bay which we have demonstrated through our response to the devastating floods. We sent helicopters laden with supplies to the area as soon as we could and during our annual volunteer day, Responsib'All Day in 2023, our employees spent the morning cleaning up debris on Awatoto Beach and the afternoon in a wellbeing workshop with a psychotherapist. A central agency marketing Hawke's Bay as a tourism destination with a consistent voice is important to the regional economy, from the tourism industry to the primary sector. Strong marketing of the region is vital to capturing tourism spend and creating demand for products originating in the region to bring overall prosperity. The role that Hawke's Bay Tourism plays is one that no individual company could replicate. Again, as owners of the well-known and popular Church Road winery and cellar door, we are advocating for the continuation of current funding levels for Hawke's Bay Tourism.

756	Petra Christie	How can you rely on income from Tourism but not invest in promoting it?! VERY short sighted. Once you lose this momentum you will find it very difficult to bring back.
765	Val Morrison	Why? I thought Tourism brought in more \$\$?
768	Esther and Tom Seymour	Tom and I have been involved in the tourism industry for many years in the Hawkes Bay regional. We have owned motels, and at present we own and operate a boutique hotel on the Marine parade. I understand we have had a difficult year in Hb with the cyclone last year, and much money has to be spent in infrastructure and river maintenance. But tourism is a large earner for this region after agriculture, and it seems very short sighted to be cutting the funding to such an important industry. I am old enough to recall funding being cut in the past to things such as stock bank maintenance and river dredging, and now we are paying the price for that short sightedness. I believe the current council are travelling down the same path with cutting the small amount they pay to help fund HB Tourism. We would be more than happy to pay a little extra in our rates to cover this funding as we believe it benefits the entire community, far beyond just the operators. We also pay directly to fund HB Tourism and would be happy for that amount to be raised also
773	Martin Bain	I vote for option B. Tourism is also still in a recovery phase. Tourist numbers are still below pre-covid levels. Tourism is a major earner and employer in the Hawkes Bay, this will only increase in the future. This will only happen if we continue to fund the only agency that promotes Hawkes Bay. Tourism pulls in \$1.3 B that is shared between hospitality, tourist operators, food and wine producers. To cut funding at this time is both reckless and fool hardy. Don't complain when your favourite coffee shop has to close due to a lack of clients. Tourism contributes so much to this region, without them we will become a bleak backwater.
776	Sue Myles	As an Art Deco Guide for 30 yrs I am aware of the fluctuations of Tourism in Hawkes Bay. I knew it was one of the biggest industries in the Area and to hear that 1:10 are actually in or on the edges of the industry is not to be ignored. Post Cylone Gabrielle we are even more reliant on Tourism for income coming into the Bay economy. One of the biggest challenges in the Tourism industry is to market the area as a two-night stop-over and we need to have that website updated to market the multiple activities our area has to offer for that to happen. I have heard many, many times from individual 'self-drive' tourists that they wished they had had two days on the itinerary for Hawkes Bay. We need to market our area off the main track of the "one week tourist" (tick-box tourists) who "do" Auckland, Rotorua, Christchurch, Queenstown, Fiordland! And we need to look beyond Cruise ships who's spends are limited as their time is limited. Self-Drive tourists spend money on accommodation, restaurants, supermarkets, activities like bike riding, wine tasting, hiking, art galleries, museums, and specialist activities like fishing, hunting, boating, helicoptering for sights. The self-drive market tourists are frequently active middle-aged tourists who want a spread of activities and sights and often at the high end in expenditure. They are looking for "experiences" where they meet the locals – not just "postcard stuff" where they see the post-card sights! As an Art Deco guide I observe these people are well travelled and intelligent and want a good "travel experience". Hawkes Bay cannot afford to disregard the Hawkes Bay Tourism Organisation which is partially funded by the Hawkes Bay Regional Council. The Region is diverse and spread between several towns and therefore needs an organisation to join these towns together and market them together. I recently came across an American and a Brazilian tourist up at Bell Rock and they had driven down from Gisborne. You never use to see overseas tourists in such an environment unless they were visiting with local friends or relatives. They saw the walk online. Please continue to fund Hawkes Bay Tourism.
778	Malcolm Dixon	Neither of the above. Why isn't maintaining the status quo an option? HB Tourism has an impact on the economic prowess of the entire province. Effectively HBRC is telling us it no longer is prepared to be the collection agency for a targeted rate. This will be devastating for HB. Your reasoning beggars belief and has a purely selfish intent. This was highlighted by the recent opinion piece in HB Today written by one of your councillors. I believe in this media article the councillor who wrote it has predetermined the way he will vote. If he is permitted to remain at the table he will open up HBRC to a legal challenge. I would expect the chair to make a ruling at the beginning of the LTP hearings and debate.

808	Brian Martin	As a region we are really struggling and economically we need to ensure we continue to attract out of region visitors. At a time where other funders are unlikely to be willing to be involved the support of HBRC is vitally needed to maintain the funding of HB Tourism through this period. This, I see as concomitant to the decision to investing in creating and maintaining our regional asset environment. I support maintaining the current level of expenditure for at least the next 3 years.
812	Matthew Bonnett	I am writing to express my profound concern regarding the proposal to defund Hawke's Bay Regional Tourism. As a marketer with over 30 years of experience, I am acutely aware of the significant economic and social benefits that result from the work of Hawke's Bay Regional Tourism in marketing our region. First and foremost, as a homeowner, I wholeheartedly support maintaining the current levy of .41c per week. This nominal fee pales in comparison to the substantial returns it yields in terms of visitation and economic impact for the region. Moreover, the recent challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and Cyclone Gabrielle underscore the crucial role played by regional tourism initiatives in reviving our local economy. We are just beginning to see the benefits with a steady return of visitors. With nearly 30 years in marketing, I can attest to the detrimental effects that even a temporary halt in tourism marketing would have, and for our region to disappear off the radar in a highly competitive market space. The potential loss in revenue far outweighs the modest \$1.52 million in annual funding allocated to Hawke's Bay Tourism. I urge the council to consider the ramifications of defunding Hawke's Bay Regional Tourism carefully. Not only would such a decision undermine the progress made in promoting our region post Covid, but it would also have far-reaching consequences for businesses across the entire region. Furthermore, the proposal to shift the financial burden onto local councils does not appear to represent a genuine saving for taxpayers, as it merely transfers costs from one entity to another. And I do not believe that this can be done without cost in and of itself. In conclusion, I implore the Regional Council to reject this proposal and instead reaffirm its commitment to supporting Hawke's Bay Regional Tourism. Let us not jeopardise the hard-won successes of our tourism industry but rather continue to invest in its growth and prosperity.
828	Bettina Driscoll	No, HB Tourism needs this funding. Its very minimal when you look at the return HB Tourism brings to the HB community. Our council needs to be far more commercial and protect resources that generate income!!
850	Ivan Aplin	Many will know me from the event space and have work alongside. I strongly disagree that you/HBRC are not supporting HB Tourism going forward. The model has worked well spread over more ratepayers, so why change it. As you well know the more money that is brought into HB has the potential to go around 10 times helping support many business and ultimately have an affected on number of rate payers or save some business. It is not the right time for organisation to try and get a reduce bucket of sponsorship I appreciate you need to maintain a reasonable budget and with most council posting a greater % increase in rates already. We need to support industries that help inject more money into our economical and not been seen to closed up.
863	Anna Lorck	Protect the status quo as simply a collector of the regional rate. Retain the regional approach not a disjointed on of going back to the future. The REDA model is untested. Regional council is failing to see that this levy supports promoting all of HB to the world and NZ and the economic benefits come well beyond tourism which is also a huge generator of jobs and business. Very short sighted on the regional council and HB will lose out.
865	Clayton Hairs	In a region that has (besides agriculture) almost NO other means of growing its economy and employment opportunities to cut the funding for a body which promotes tourism is completely unintelligible. Looking at the budget shortfall purely in a defensive manner holds no prospect for the future ... there has to be a recognition of the importance of tourism to our region. When the ex Prime Minister chooses the region as the location for her marriage you have to support that initiative don't expect anyone to invest in you if you are not prepared to invest in yourself is the time honoured saying amongst entrepreneurs and not without good reason. To pull the plug is an admission of complete defeat rather than viewing the situation through the lens of possibility and opportunity.
868	Helen Bennett	Don't phase out. We need this to ensure our towns don't die
874	Chris Nimon	Keep protecting our tourism with whatever funding you can. It is vital for our area

877	Liv Worsnop	I think NO! I work at Peak House and tourists are a key part of our success. After the floods, we saw a significant decrease in out of town patrons to our business. HB region fell off the radar of visitors and encouraging tourism, in a unified and succinct way is vital for us. We observe the value our region provides to visitors. These people marvel in our Hawkes Bay. They take long lunches, enjoy our produce, hospitality and wines and are so happy to be here. Eliminating the efforts of Tourism Hawkes Bay will reduce our business AND the enjoyment and pleasure accessible to our kinsmen. PLEASE FUND IT
886	Johanna King	DO NOT PHASE OUT FUNDING. Hawkes Bay was severely impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle the region needs the tourist dollar to ensure many businesses remain viable. The country is in the midst of a recession, we in our region need a share of the tourist generated dollar, which will otherwise go to Queenstown, Nelson, Wellington etc. Until recovery is evident it would be very short sighted to reduce the countrywide promotion of Hawkes Bay. A cost benefit analysis of the funding, i.e. a best bang for buck should be undertaken annually to ensure promotion is actually directed into the best the region has to offer. Ascertaining the best and most effective marketing (not always the most expensive) should be undertaken following each promotional drive/event. The statistics then published for public review in Hawkes Bay Today. Support advertising by regional/local business needs to be encouraged, on a basis of 'you have to be in to win. Research into alternative activities/interests would be of benefit to the hinterland. Geology tours, Night Sky tours, Down on the Farm events, Fabulous fishing events.
908	Lauren Jenner	You should never consider a phase out of funding to Hawkes Bay tourism - it's a no brainer. Why on earth would you not want to support tourism to our region when we have so much to offer and businesses, people and families need it so much?
910	Elaine Linnell New Zealand Events Association	New Zealand Events Association (NZEa) welcomes the opportunity to outline the continued necessity of Hawkes Bay Tourism serving as the Regional Tourism Organisation for the region. The region's need for a dedicated RTO is paramount in sustaining and enhancing tourism-related functions vital for the economic growth and cultural enrichment of Hawkes Bay, which includes events. Key feedback The proposed budget reductions targeting Hawke's Bay Tourism could bring about a dire economic downturn in the region, potentially resulting in the loss of over \$250 million from local businesses should these cuts materialise. The Hawke's Bay Regional Council's plan to gradually withdraw funding from visitor attractions, including events, over three years would effectively necessitate the closure of Hawke's Bay Tourism by July, leading to the cessation of numerous iconic events, the erosion of Hawke's Bay's domestic and international visibility, and a substantial blow to local enterprises and employment opportunities, and moreover a significant and lasting impact on the positive reputation of the region. Should this transpire, the region's visitor economy is projected to shrink by at least 20 percent, equating to a staggering \$260 million decline over the course of the council's Long-Term Plan. The events industry is integral to our national identity; when it flourishes, so does New Zealand. It brings economic diversity, resilience, generates jobs, and fosters regional prosperity while showcasing our cultural richness and providing memorable experiences, promoting pride and social connectivity both locally and globally. Across New Zealand, local government faces significant challenges. NZEA recognises this pressure and the challenging decisions Councils must make. Nonetheless, we assert that funding for core events and tourism activities by Councils is an investment in the economic health, wellbeing and future prosperity of the towns, city, and region of Hawkes Bay, an investment that will yield a healthy return on investment for your residents and visitors. Drawing from international evidence, we argue that Council expenditure in these events and tourism functions should be regarded as an investment, not a mere cost. This expenditure yields dividends in the form of increased economic activity, enhanced Council revenues, more and better jobs, and increased vibrancy across the region. During this period of economic uncertainty and challenges, nurturing vibrant events activity is also a logical and sensible step for Councils to take for the well-being and satisfaction of local residents. Beyond the immediate economic benefits, fostering a lively events scene also contributes to making a place desirable to live in. Communities thrive when there are vibrant cultural and recreational opportunities, making the region not just a destination for visitors but also a fulfilling home for its residents. The events industry Events encompass a broad spectrum of activities that attract participants and audiences, contributing to the vibrancy and cultural richness of a region. As an investment, resources allocated to these areas generate returns that surpass the initial cost. This is why countries and cities worldwide invest in events functions. Generally, for every dollar invested in the local events economy, there is a direct return for the funding party, such as the local government entity, with even greater benefits for businesses and

		<p>individuals within the local economy. This rationale for events investment is globally accepted. In cases where such funding has been withdrawn, the outcome is typically a noticeable decline in events activity, followed by a gradual period of recovery after reinstating the funding. Evidence suggests that when events-related investment is reduced, visitor spending decreases immediately and continues to decline. Fortunately, such funding reductions are rare, indicating the recognised and valued boost generated from this type of investment. Events play a crucial role in stimulating demand from high-value visitors and addressing challenging issues such as seasonality or fluctuations in demand. This amplifies the benefits of investing in programs that attract events, particularly those that can provide a boost to fill otherwise quiet periods. By attracting events, regions can create a more balanced and predictable demand pattern, sustaining businesses and the jobs they create. NZEA submits that, in alignment with the evidence detailed in this letter, there is a significant need for Hawke's Bay Tourism to serve as the Regional Tourism Organisation in order to sustain and enhance tourism-related functions, vital for the economic growth and cultural enrichment of Hawke's Bay, which includes events. Thank you for the opportunity to express our views, and we would be delighted to provide further elaboration on any points raised in this submission.</p>
912	<p>Jason Dawson Air New Zealand</p>	<p>Air New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to submit on Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Three-Year Plan 2024-2027 and I write in support of maintaining Hawke's Bay Tourism (HBT) funding at the current level. 1.2 Air New Zealand values HBT's impact on lifting Hawke's Bay's reputation as a visitor destination, providing immediate and long-term benefits to the prosperity and vibrancy of the region for both businesses and residents. HBT's focus on marketing Hawke's Bay to both domestic and international visitors supports demand for Air New Zealand's services to and from the region. Air New Zealand flies from Hawke's Bay to Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington, with services connecting also onto the airline's international network. Demand for travel into Hawke's Bay in turn supports the retention of a schedule, and frequency of flights, that enable local customers seeking to travel for business or other leisure purposes. 1.3 Given the visitor economy, including events, is still suffering from the long-tail of impacts from Covid-19 and current cost of living pressures, the sector needs continued support to rebuild and maintain competitiveness in an ever-changing international market. Tourism New Zealand and Air New Zealand are working harder than ever to ensure that travellers return to New Zealand, while funding support for HBT helps to ensure that their choice is Hawke's Bay. 1.4 In our view, HBT has a pivotal role to play in the further recovery of Hawke's Bay's visitor economy which also enhances social and cultural wellbeing. It targets promotion and marketing effort efficiently and effectively by partnering with other regions, Air New Zealand and Tourism New Zealand. 1.5 The approach taken by HBT, and the expertise of its staff, gives Air New Zealand a high degree of confidence to regularly partner with HBT and invest in tourism promotion activity for the region. This includes: (a) Air NZ retail marketing campaigns promoting travel to Napier and Hastings, and the wider Hawke's Bay region, in all our international markets. (b) Profiling destination Hawke's Bay and visitor activities in Kia Ora magazine. (c) Hosting international media to the Hawke's Bay to generate positive media coverage and promoting the region to international travel trade by facilitating air travel. (d) Partnership marketing campaigns with HBT to promote Hawke's Bay in the Australian market. (e) Promotion, marketing and support for major events in Hawke's Bay; and (f) Promoting New Zealand and Hawke's Bay as a Business Events destination in international markets, as well as facilitating buyer famils into the region. 1.6 We hope to be able to continue this important programme of work with a suitably resourced RTO and further support the Hawke's Bay visitor economy's recovery from the impact of Covid-19, the ongoing impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle and cost of living pressures which may lead to a contraction of domestic visitation.</p>
913	<p>Kevin England Bay Tours & Charters</p>	<p>It is acknowledged HBRC has been collecting the targeted rate on behalf of the other regional councils for over 10 years, and the funds invested into HBT over those years has been respected with reciprocal economic returns throughout the community. The pioneering and continuation of this initiative must be commended, as an active operator within the tourism industry we have experienced first-hand the benefits of having a specific tourism entity that can present a cohesive regional profile to prospective visitors. It is unfortunate we are now presented with a dilemma that could very well jeopardise the region's ability to maintain a competitive presence in the visitor market. Bay Tours & Charters (BTAC) has been hosting visitors to Hawke's Bay and taking senior guided tours for over 40 years. We have a fleet of 15 vehicles and employ up to 25 employees (casual and full time) which provides us with the capability to provide an extensive charter service connecting people to a wide range of</p>

		<p>destinations (regionally and nationally). Along with other tourism operators, we are reliant on the vibrancy of the local tourism industry and Hawke's Bay Tourism (HBT) has been a key driver/contributor in that regard. BTAC has experienced the highs and lows of the tourism sector and is grateful for HBT leadership, professionalism and industry knowledge they have provided over that duration. The intellectual property that HBT has acquired over the years has been invaluable for all industry stakeholders. With the tourism sector being the third largest contributor towards the region's GDP, HBT has played a significant advocacy role with this realisation. Having a neutral representative that is strongly connected with key stakeholders has been pivotal for our sector and HBT's ability to provide cohesive visibility to prospective visitors (international/domestic) is an important function and can never be taken for granted, especially in a competitive environment. HBT capability to enhance the region's brand and profile cohesively, has been hugely successful and it is hard to comprehend why the HBRC would ever want to contemplate a decision that could very well depreciate this achievement. Especially after the pandemic and cyclone events where the region's economic welfare needs every avenue of enhancing rather than abandonment. The economic contribution the tourism industry provides our region is well documented. The statistics speaks for themselves, and the visitor market has every potential for further returns. To impose an alternative funding model(s) after the pandemic and cyclone events is unrealistic and problematic under the current landscape. Further investment advancements over and above "the status quo" are to be encouraged, rather than a disinvestment approach. BTAC certainly values HBT's existence and do have concerns to why the "status quo" was never put forward as another option. By only putting forward Option A and B appears to illustrate a predetermined mandate that "could" influence the demise of HBT. The timing of such a predetermined mandate is inconvenient, especially when the sector is just starting to experience a post covid/cyclone rebound and if HBT's services was to be compromised, then the recovery of that momentum would be lost. I refer you to the old clique - "you should never take your eye off the ball" as we know competitors will certainly take advantage of any loss of momentum or misfortune. Any consequential loss of momentum will have a direct impact on BTAC revenue streams as we are dependent on the visitor market. If presented with declining revenues, then we would have to consider corresponding disinvestment approaches. As mentioned above, we are disappointed to see that HBRC has disregarded the "status quo" as another option. We view HBT has been consistently "putting runs on the board" and has been a significant contributor in enhancing tourism returns for the benefit of the local economy. This is a noteworthy KPI and should be respectfully recognised with stable funding support. In conclusion, we are a strong supporter of HBT's continued existence and would accordingly like to see the Economic Development targeted rate retained and allocated in its current format. In view of that, we strongly urge the HBRC to keep the "status quo" or alternatively, if the ratepayer's preference is to defund HBT, then we would ask HBRC to endorse Option B. This will give HBT further time to consult the sector's stakeholders to find alternative funding solutions. We see the terms associated with "Option A" has been designed to influence HBT's dissolution.</p>
915	Megan Harris Hawke's Bay Tourism Industry Association's Board	<p>The tourism industry in Hawke's Bay stands at a crossroads as the prospect of defunding Hawke's Bay Tourism looms large. Without viable and sustainable funding, Hawke's Bay Tourism will close its doors. For member businesses of the Hawke's Bay Tourism Industry Association, this decision poses significant risks that could reverberate throughout the region's economy. Understanding these risks is essential for stakeholders to navigate the challenges ahead and advocate for the preservation of critical funding. As a group, our association strongly believes that the Status Quo is the best funding option for tourism promotion for our region at this time, but in the event that this is not an option, then we submit that Option B should be adopted. While our association acknowledges the fiscal challenges faced by HBRC and local councils post-Cyclone Gabrielle, we firmly oppose the cessation of funding to an organisation that has consistently united regional promotional efforts and delivered substantial wider economic benefits. Since its inception as the as the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) in 2011, which was facilitated by our association with substantial backing from industry stakeholders, Hawke's Bay Tourism has relied largely on funding obtained through a targeted rate system. This funding mechanism has been administered by the HBRC on behalf of all regional body ratepayers, ensuring collective investment in the region's tourism promotion efforts. This approach was unanimously agreed by all local councils at the time, recognising its superior efficiency and cost-effectiveness compared to the fragmented funding and competitive council-by-council activities of previous years. Our association is extremely grateful to HBRC for undertaking the role of funding manager for Hawke's Bay Tourism on behalf of the region's councils and its ratepayers, and for</p>

the support from many councillors and HBRC staff over the years. Our heartfelt wish is for this arrangement to continue until an effective alternate regional funding mechanism can be agreed. Our member businesses actively contribute to Hawke's Bay Tourism's endeavours by not only paying membership and advertising fees but also by providing in-kind support. This includes offering complimentary familiarisation (famill) visitor activities and accommodation to national and international travel trade and journalists etc. These activities had a combined value of \$422,000 in the last fiscal year. Further to this our members and other key players also contribute to the tourism industry and the wider regional economy directly by way of providing infrastructure, i.e. new builds and renovation projects at a broad range of properties worth many millions of dollars. Without the cohesive, collective representation, coordination and promotion that Hawke's Bay Tourism provides, many would not have the confidence to undertake these projects in future. This cohesive and effective approach to tourism promotion since 2011 has significantly enhanced the region's economy and the following outlines what is at risk should Option A be accepted.

1. Economic Vulnerability: Defunding Hawke's Bay Tourism threatens the economic viability of some member businesses. The region relies heavily on that organisation's promotion of Hawke's Bay as a visitor destination, and Hawke's Bay Tourism is the only agency charged with this responsibility. Businesses promote themselves and Hawke's Bay Tourism promotes the region, in the same way that Tourism NZ promotes the country. Businesses are not in the business of (nor have the responsibility for) promoting a region and elevating it above others – that's why the role of an RTO is so important, and why there is an expectation (reliance) that regional tourism is well supported in generating a healthy environment for attracting visitors. The RTO is in the business of reputation management for the whole region, and ensuring it is highly considered. This is good for all businesses and residents. Without the marketing support and visibility provided by Hawke's Bay Tourism, businesses will face decreased visitor numbers, lower occupancy rates, and diminished profitability. This economic vulnerability will result in layoffs, business closures, and a ripple effect of economic hardship across the region. We feel it is important to point out that the beneficiaries of a robust visitor economy are not this notion of a small group of wealthy businesses which has been purported by some. Yes, there are a few larger tourism operators, but for the most part it is the sole traders or Mum and Dad tourism businesses, SME's, the laundry operators, plumbers, butchers, chemists, service providers etc. who all benefit from supporting the front-line tourism sector or from the mere presence of visitors.
2. Loss of Market Share: Hawke's Bay Tourism plays a crucial role in positioning the region as a desirable destination for travellers both domestically and internationally. Defunding the organisation will erode the region's market share as competing destinations continue to invest in aggressive marketing campaigns and promotional activities. Without a cohesive strategy to showcase Hawke's Bay's unique offerings and experiences, member businesses will be overshadowed by competitors, leading to a decline in visitor interest and patronage. Because Hawke's Bay is located off the beaten track (i.e. not near SH1), it takes extra effort to educate the travel trade and potential visitors and get them to visit. We are finally seeing some reward for Hawke's Bay Tourism's efforts of the last 12+ years in this regard.
3. Loss of Events: Losing flagship events like F.A.W.C.I and the Hawke's Bay Marathon, orchestrated by Hawke's Bay Tourism, would deal a severe blow to the region's economy and cultural vibrancy. These events draw thousands of visitors annually, injecting vital tourism revenue into local businesses and accommodation providers. Beyond financial gains, they showcase the region's culinary and scenic delights, enhancing its reputation as a premier destination. Their absence would not only diminish tourism income but also deprive the community of cherished cultural experiences, stifling growth opportunities and eroding the region's competitive edge in the tourism market.
4. Risk to Brand Equity: Hawke's Bay has cultivated a robust brand presence both domestically and internationally through strategic partnerships with regional tourism organisations (RTOs) and Tourism New Zealand. This positioning has seamlessly integrated within the esteemed 100% Pure New Zealand brand, elevating Hawke's Bay as a premier destination. However, the region's cherished Food and Wine Country brand, which has evolved over time with strong industry support, faces jeopardy. Competing regions are aggressively vying for the coveted title, and without Hawke's Bay Tourism, we will lose our Food and Wine Country brand positioning.
5. Loss of Great Wine Capitals: Without Hawke's Bay Tourism, we will lose the hard-earned membership of the Great Wine Capitals alliance which is managed by them on behalf of the region. This poses a significant risk to Hawke's Bay's global recognition as a premier wine destination. As a member, the region benefits from international exposure, networking opportunities, and collaborative initiatives that elevate its reputation among wine enthusiasts worldwide. Exclusion from the alliance could diminish Hawke's Bay's competitiveness, limit

		<p>access to valuable resources, and impede growth in wine tourism. Moreover, it may signal a loss of prestige and credibility within the global wine community, which will deter visitors and investment. Retaining membership is crucial for preserving Hawke's Bay's status as a leading wine destination on the world stage. 6. Decline in Infrastructure Investment: Beyond marketing and promotion, Hawke's Bay Tourism also plays a pivotal role in advocating for infrastructure development and investment to support the tourism industry. Defunding the organisation will result in a loss of political influence and leverage, making it more challenging to secure funding for critical infrastructure projects such as transportation upgrades, visitor amenities, and cultural attractions. Hawke's Bay Airport have also publicly stated that without the promotional representation Hawke's Bay Tourism gives our region there is a risk to air services, related infrastructure and economic activity across the whole region. If (and when) flights in and out of the region are cut due to a reduction in both international and domestic leisure travellers, the flow-on effects will reach across the whole economy. A key impact of this reduced leisure travel could be a reduction in the ability of councils to maintain assets that are supported by tourism and enjoyed by rate payers. I.e. Ocean Spa, Aquarium, Splash Planet, Toitoto & Napier Conference Centre etc. 7. Environmental Degradation: Tourism, when managed responsibly, can be a catalyst for environmental conservation and sustainable development. Hawke's Bay Tourism plays a vital role in promoting eco-friendly practices, responsible tourism behaviours, and conservation initiatives to preserve the region's natural beauty and ecological integrity. 8. Loss of Community Engagement: Hawke's Bay Tourism serves as a unifying force that brings together diverse stakeholders, including businesses, local communities, indigenous groups and government agencies, to collaborate on tourism-related initiatives. Hawke's Bay Tourism took a lead in bringing together tourism operators and the Atea a Rangi Educational Trust in putting together protocols for access to Atea a Rangi Star for future generations. As a result, members of the Atea a Rangi Educational Trust recognised the value that Hawke's Bay Tourism brings to the region and became paying members. Without Hawke's Bay Tourism who will take the lead in doing this next time? In conclusion, the risks posed by defunding Hawke's Bay Tourism are multifaceted and far-reaching, with profound implications for member businesses, the broader tourism industry, and the region's economy and environment. Until an alternative funding mechanism is identified and secured, we believe current funding should stay in place. Viable long-term alternatives are arguably a national discussion, not just a regional one, and there is no solution that can be conjured up at short notice. In a nutshell: - Tourism employs 1 in 10 locals – many of these jobs will be at risk. - Contributes \$1.3B directly and indirectly to the regional economy. - Hawke's Bay Tourism plays a pivotal role in attracting private and public investment. - Hawke's Bay Tourism disseminates tourism research data to better understand the current trends and shares this with members and local stakeholders. - There is no other organisation that could/would promote Hawke's Bay as a visitor destination in the domestic and international markets. - There are regional brand assets at risk, which once lost will be very expensive to recover/recreate – think domain name, website, Food and Wine Country positioning, social media channels. - The region also risks losing \$500,000 of post-cyclone targeted MBIE funding for promotion by Hawke's Bay Tourism if Option A is adopted. - The current financial funding model works and has been extremely successful to date. - An economic downturn is NOT the time to turn off the tap on regional marketing. As a common business principle, it is a time to stay the course and be seen. We cannot rest on our laurels! Stakeholders must recognise these risks and advocate for the continuation of critical funding to sustain Hawke's Bay Tourism's efforts in promoting the region. Failure to do so will jeopardise the future viability and competitiveness of Hawke's Bay as a premier tourism destination, with lasting consequences for all stakeholders involved. We urge you to completely disregard Option A as a viable option and at best keep the Status Quo, or at least vote for Option B.</p>
916	Tom Young FizzyPop Ltd	<p>I am writing on behalf of FizzyPop, an advertising agency deeply connected with the tourism sector and its various stakeholders. We strongly oppose the proposed phasing out of funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism over the next two years. Hawke's Bay Tourism (HBT) is integral to our region's economic health and cultural vibrancy. The proposed defunding of \$1.5 million annually threatens to dismantle the very foundation that promotes our region as a prime destination, thereby jeopardising our economic backbone.</p> <p>The following points highlight why continued funding for HBT is crucial: Economic Impact: Tourism is the third largest contributor to Hawke's Bay's economy, injecting \$1.3 billion annually. The current funding costs ratepayers approximately \$21.70 per household per year, which equates to</p>

		<p>around \$0.41 per week. This small investment yields substantial returns, supporting not only tourism businesses but also benefiting the wider community.</p> <p>Employment: Tourism supports around 10,000 jobs in our region, accounting for 1 in 10 locals. The defunding of HBT puts these jobs at risk, creating potential economic instability for many families.</p> <p>Community and Culture: Tourism helps sustain and promote numerous local events and attractions such as the Horse of the Year, Art Deco Festival, and various music and arts festivals. These events not only attract visitors but also foster community spirit and cultural pride.</p> <p>Knock-on Effects: The reach of tourism extends beyond the direct activities it promotes. It supports complementary business sectors, including retail, hospitality, and services. The recent promotions highlighting Hawke's Bay as a wine region have shown the extensive benefits tourism brings to our local economy.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism's efforts have consistently demonstrated a high return on investment. The defunding proposal overlooks the substantial, multifaceted benefits HBT provides. Losing this organisation would result in a significant economic and cultural loss for our region. We urge you to reconsider the proposed phasing out of funding for HBT. Continued investment in tourism is an investment in the prosperity and well-being of Hawke's Bay.</p> <p>I strongly oppose the proposed defunding of Hawke's Bay Tourism. As a director of an advertising agency and a resident of a suburban area, I can attest to the critical importance of maintaining robust funding for tourism promotion in our region. The recent Art Deco Festival Napier provides a compelling case for continued support.</p> <p>The Art Deco Festival Napier 2024 significantly boosted the local economy, contributing millions of dollars and showcasing the substantial return on investment from tourism promotion. This event alone brought in over 18,000 attendees and generated considerable economic activity, highlighting the importance of maintaining funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. The proposed defunding would jeopardise these economic benefits and diminish our region's appeal as a tourist destination.</p> <p>Maintaining adequate funding for tourism is essential for supporting a wide range of businesses that benefit from increased visitor numbers. During the Art Deco Festival, businesses across Napier experienced a surge in demand, leading to increased staffing and higher revenues. For example, many local establishments reported significant business gains during the festival. Reducing funding for tourism promotion would directly impact these businesses by decreasing visitor traffic, leading to lower sales and potential job losses.</p> <p>Tourism promotion has a multiplier effect, benefiting not only tourism-related businesses but also the wider community. A substantial portion of visitor expenditure circulates within the local economy, supporting various local businesses. Defunding Hawke's Bay Tourism would disrupt this economic ecosystem, leading to broader negative impacts on the region's economic health and community well-being.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism is instrumental in driving visitation through effective marketing campaigns and partnerships. The organisation's efforts ensure events like the Art Deco Festival continue to flourish, attracting international visitors and providing substantial economic benefits. The collaborative marketing endeavours, refined over years, are critical for maintaining the region's appeal and economic prosperity.</p> <p>The proposed defunding is a short-sighted measure that overlooks the long-term benefits of sustained tourism promotion. The success of the Art Deco Festival underscores the importance of continued investment in Hawke's Bay Tourism. By supporting tourism, we not only bolster our economy but also protect our cultural heritage and enhance the quality of life for residents. In conclusion, I urge the Regional Council to reconsider the proposed defunding of Hawke's Bay Tourism. Maintaining this funding is essential for sustaining the economic, cultural, and social vitality of our region. I'd like to present a report showing the net impact of tourism advertising has had on our regions across a cohort of our clients.</p>
917	Robert Tomlinson	Maintain for 1 year - then RECONSIDER Tourism = jobs ,revenue - tax pool - employment -is important for economic growth- population growth = more rateable income - larger pool to pay off debit
929	Oliver Ryan	We need tourists We don't need all your bogas compliance costs

930	Scott Lawson Hawkes Bay Vegetable Growers Assoc	HB wide Economic development is the responsibility of all TLA's, if HBRC is to contribute its 29% and administer the total on behalf of the other 4 TLA's more community consultation is required. Status Quo.
948	Fenton Wilson	The HB tourism future discussion has more dimensions to it than just reduce funding. If you go back in the short history of the organisation to what HB had before this, you will find multi-Council constructs that for a range of reasons ultimately failed and cost the region in both rates wasted and opportunities lost. The step change was when the HBRC showed real political leadership and took control of the discussion via setting a regional rate to create what is now HB tourism. It was a challenging discussion. George Hicton had the vision and the credentials to extol the benefits of such an organisation and then once set up prove the theory. It has stood the test of time and not once in these tough choices discussion have, I heard cutting the funding is directly related to performance or lack of in the organisation. It was not a comfortable space for the Council as our rate take rose at a time when we had other challenges to deal with. The reality in hindsight was there are always other challenges to deal with. It's the nature and workbook of being a Council. If the funding is cut it is clear they will have to close the doors as the company act is unequivocal on directors' responsibilities. The solvency test must be met which involves certainty of future business. Without this the best interests of the company through the directors lense will focus on managed closure limiting repercussions and supporting staff where possible, closing contracts and relinquishing leases etc. This will start 1 July if funding is cut or drastically altered and will take some months to complete. An unintended consequence but inevitable. There have been many attempts to find other funding streams. Bed night tax, visitor tax, more management type work streams that create income have been explored and discounted because nothing is fairer and demonstrably successful as a regional rate. Attract people to the region and enjoy the extra spending, the building developments in accommodation providers facilities including air B&B etc, goods sold at all shops and shows that come here for us all to enjoy. HB is the place to be if we tell everyone about it. Flights into the region, sports events and conferences that are as much based on the extra things for visitors to do than just the event itself to name but a few. The precedence of walking away from tourism funding shouldn't stop there. What's next? Push civil defence rating back to the territorials and re-create the different entities that existed before but claim the perceived cost benefits for regional ratepayers when the territorials have to pick it up anyway? Same ratepayers' different invoices. This discussion is about leadership. Keep the funding intact and measure KPI's on the spend with more rigor. This shouldn't be considered a tough choice.
953	Courtney Lean	I don't think you should cut funding at all! You need the funding to maintain the trails on the peak and to remain open for tourism and locals.
959	Jessie Brillard	Without amazing tourist spots, how do we make enough money for the region?
982	Hans Doevendans	The two options above are leading, i.e., selecting one of them is agreeing with the phasing out of HB Tourism funding. Stopping funding will reduce income in Hawke's Bay. Is the HBRC proposing to stop funding and increase rates over reduced income? This appears to be short term thinking.
987	Kelly Annand	I don't support either option listed - I support keeping the funding for the tourism rate being collected and given to HB Tourism through the HB Regional Council
988	Annie Dundas	I was the very proud GM of Hawke's Bay Tourism for 8 years. I was brought in by the tourism industry to rebuild the regions tourism organisation after a series of poor funding decisions that had left the region with no presence outside of Hawke's Bay and very little credibility from a visitor perspective. PLEASE DO NOT DO IT AGAIN. I had the privilege of working with the many businesses that make up the visitor economy as well as the many passionate staff in Napier, Hastings, Central Hawke's Bay and Wairoa councils to ensure we represented Hawke's Bay around New Zealand and the world. And you know what - the world wanted to know about Hawke's Bay! They want to experience it, see it, meet the people and spend their precious holiday dollars in Hawke's Bay. (Don't forget visitors have a choice as to where they spend their holiday dollars and if Hawke's Bay doesn't remind people, create and run events to drive demand, build reasons to visit – all those dollars go elsewhere and not into the pockets of hardworking businesses). Fast forward to 2024 and Hawke's Bay is one of the most well regarded regional tourism organisations in New

		<p>Zealand. HBT established F.A.W.C! – the most successful of all food and wine events in NZ and can proudly claim itself as “Food and Wine Country. HBT invested in the Hawke’s Bay Marathon (alongside NCC and HDC), now a staple event on the calendar bringing thousands of people to Hawke’s Bay in an “off-season” month. Horse of the Year, Art Deco Weekend, Mission Concerts are significant events that allow the region to showcase itself and all its many attributes. The digital offering of www.hawkesbaynz.com is the envy of most regions. Do you really want to throw away the investment made to date, and say to those who invest in the region to bring large scale events – we don’t consider what you do worthwhile or of value? These events, website content creation, visiting media etc simply do not happen without the intervention of a regional tourism body and the wider industry. You are better than this Hawke’s Bay Regional Council – the work of HBT allows you to show the community how good the region is, build some pride, bring some joy to life in Hawke’s Bay. Now is the time for HBRC to show the region that there is a bright spark on the horizon – and that’s in the shape of a well funded regional tourism organisation to bring visitors to Hawke’s Bay so their money can be spent in Hawke’s Bay to benefit the local community. Use Hawke’s Bay Tourism’s good work to your advantage. Maintain funding at \$1.52m per annum.</p>
1003	Aaron Mills Hospitality NZ, Hawke’s Bay Branch	<p>Hospitality New Zealand (“Hospitality NZ”) is a not-for-profit organisation representing approximately 2,500 businesses, including cafés, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, commercial accommodation, country hotels and off-licences. We champion hospitality, serving our members and communities, and seek to see hospitality recognised and celebrated for its contribution to Aotearoa, attracting fresh talent and generating sustainable returns for businesses and communities. We have a 122-year history of advocating on behalf of the hospitality and tourism sector. We are writing to you on the Hawke’s Bay Regional Council Long Term Plan and the proposal to phase out funding for Hawke’s Bay Tourism. Of the options presented, Hospitality NZ supports the status quo, continuing to fund Hawke’s Bay Tourism, but failing that we are in support of Option B. The visitor economy generated \$775 million for Hawke’s Bay’s regional GDP in the 12 months to September 2023 and supports one-tenth of local employment. During COVID, when New Zealand’s borders were closed to international tourists, the Hawke’s Bay region thrived on the back of the contribution made by domestic tourism to the local economy. While a \$1.52 million gap in funding is not insignificant, we see reduced funding for Hawke’s Bay Tourism as short-sighted. If Council has taken the view that over the long term these initiatives should not be funded by general rates, then at the very least funding should continue in the short-term while alternative funding tools are developed. We should also note that given the economic contribution these initiatives add to Hawke’s Bay, we see it as wholly appropriate that at least some funding for destination marketing and management should come from the general rates pool. There is a real potential that by reducing economic development and visitor attraction activities (both domestic and international), Hawke’s Bay’s reputation as a destination will stall, and future investment in the region will be hampered. It is also worth noting that the visitor economy provides benefits for Hawke’s Bay ratepayers when it comes to entertainment options, and drives the vibrancy of hospitality offerings. Without the visitor economy, locals will have less choice, lower quality offerings and less competition. Hawke’s Bay Tourism has made it clear that without continued funding, it will be unviable. It cannot be overstated that once an asset like a regional tourism organisation is lost, it is immensely difficult to restart and rebuild momentum for destination marketing and management. We support ongoing funding from Hawke’s Bay Regional Council, but at the very least, Hawke’s Bay Tourism should be given another year to secure funding from other sources.</p>
1007	Christine Scott	<p>Phasing out funding for Tourism Hawkes Bay. Over the years there have been several iterations of such a body and never have any of them come near to being independent of public funding. When this model was set up it was after public consultation and consultation with the territorial authorities of getting a single rating fund for regional visitor promotion. I do not know to what extent you have actually measured the impact on the regional economy, but we do know that there are certain events that bring in a large number of visitors. Some of these events are open to all to enjoy and it would be impossible and possibly detrimental to the influx of activity in various business areas to abandon these. They are not going to occur without some public funding. Covid left many businesses in HB reeling especially in tourism and hospitality sector. The unfortunate rant in the local paper of subsidising fat profits for a few beneficiaries is a very false and surprising picture from one once involved in one of these iterations. The reason I question the wisdom of the move is there is no sign of prior consultation with the Territorial Councils over their each picking up a share of the funding nor is there any analysis of impact of loss of businesses in this sector and the impact this will have on the regional</p>

		economy and on your rates. The businesses are ratepayers too! And remember you have chosen to move urban properties to Capital value rather than land value. And then propose cutting any benefit some of those properties might get!
1010	Angela Mount AAT Kings	<p>AAT Kings is based in Auckland at 131 New North Rd. AAT Kings have been operating coach tours in New Zealand including to Hawkes Bay for many years. The company is made up of 250 employees across Australia and New Zealand and operates coach tours throughout both countries as its sole purpose as a tourism operator. Guests coming to Hawkes Bay on AAT Kings tours have a two-night stay on four tours to the region. Tour numbers range between 22 and 48 guests per tour and we operate approximately 20 tours per season to Hawkes Bay.</p> <p>I believe our business will suffer direct negative consequences if Option B is not successful. Being based in Auckland, I directly rely on the RTO through Hawkes Bay Tourism to keep abreast of any and all tourism supplier changes in region, new operators, contacts for venues and hotels and famils. Being able to visit the region on a regular basis is not possible without support from the RTO, and visiting in person with assistance is a key factor in tour success by constantly reviewing and changing product and hotels. The RTO is able to make the best use of my time spent in region effectively making it possible to visit key operators in the space of a couple of days.</p> <p>AAT Kings tours bring income into region by way of local tourism operator inclusions, hotel nights, restaurant spend, optional activity spend. Hawkes Bay is a detour on the common tour operator route, and in order to keep our tours coming to Hawkes Bay we do require support from Hawkes Bay Tourism as outlined above. There are many alternatives to Hawkes Bay in the North Island, which will have to be considered if Option B is not successful and we no longer have the support of the RTO and Hawkes Bay Tourism.</p> <p>Tourism is an integral part of the economy in Hawkes Bay, and having a visible presence at trade shows and tourism events through Hawkes Bay Tourism is key to bringing higher value tourists to the region. In summing up, I hope councillors support Option B as the only viable option.</p>
1012	Jane and Hugh Gordon Fairley Motor Lodge	Tourism is a life blood for Hawkes Bay providing income, employment And we have potential to expand the structure we already have . Tap the potential, fund and promote!!
1013	Steve and Louise Gregory	<p>This submission is on behalf of the Gregory family where we strongly support the preferred option of Status Quo for Hawke's Bay Tourism and maintain funding at \$1.52 million ongoing. If this is not applicable, our preferred option is B (maintain funding at \$1.52 million for 2024-25, reducing to \$441,000 for 2025-2026).</p> <p>As a household we are currently paying \$11.58 per annum on Economic Development and effectively tourism in our rates for the region. Our family values what Hawke's Bay Tourism (HBT) has done and continues to do for our incredible region. As ratepayers we hold the position that our region is getting considerable ROI on our annual fee of \$11.58 and am somewhat perplexed why this is even up for consideration. We would go further to say that our household would be prepared to pay even more to enhance what HBT delivers.</p> <p>We understand that it is extremely tough times out there for our community but HBT is a tool and mechanism that brings prosperity to our region, you need to think very carefully on the risk if there is no HBT promoting Hawke's Bay. We acknowledge and appreciate Hawke's Bay Regional Council support of HBT and we strongly encourage you to keep status quo for the best interests of our community, we need HBT reach, visibility and influence nationally and internationally now more than ever.</p> <p>Using our family as a case study and I'm sure is typical for many people returning or considering relocation here or bringing their business to the region. We were attracted not only for family connection, the climate and beauty of our natural environment but it was HBT reach and visibility promoting Hawke's Bay of what is on offer. The numerous unique events, tourism facilities and activities that are family friendly but a tourism economy that caters to all interests and demographics. Importantly, the employment opportunities tourism offers and I speak from my own experience. Tourism employs 1 in 10 locals. Ask yourself this question, can we afford to jeopardise the fact that tourism brings in over \$1 billion economically, our second biggest economic earner.</p>

		<p>I'm sure many Elected Members believe this cost should be shared across all the five Councils, this has been proven ineffective previously and it is really only going to resort back to patch protectionism regionally, it will be siloed promotion and our region will loose out with no collective voice. Status quo delivers an all of region benefit and HBT delivering incredible results for all of us to benefit from.</p>
1015	Bex Tacon Planit Events	<p>Tēnā koutou, Before I begin my submission, I want to thank HBRC for managing the funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism on behalf of the councils and the rate payers in the region. As a business owner, resident of Hawke's Bay, and board member of the Hawke's Bay Tourism Industry Association, I have witnessed firsthand the invaluable impact of this funding.</p> <p>Secondly, it is essential that I acknowledge the significant challenges our region has faced in the past year following the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. I understand that the past 12 months have likely been the most challenging to date for you as councillors and for the staff at HBRC. The increased pressure on your workloads and personal lives must have been immense. I want to offer a special mention to Hinewai Ormsby, acknowledging the personal impact you have endured.</p> <p>My name is Bex Tacon, and I am the owner of two businesses: Planit Events, an event management company, and Planit Staff, a temping agency primarily serving the hospitality industry. With over ten years of operation in these sectors and a total of 25 years of experience in events and hospitality, our team of four full-time staff members at Planit Events and over 80 part-time staff members across both companies live and breathe this industry. Through the highs, lows, and everything in between, we have remained deeply committed to our work.</p> <p>Approximately eight years ago, as I endeavoured to grow my business, I made the decision to join Hawke's Bay Tourism as a member. I recognised the value of networking with like-minded individuals and exploring the potential benefits of involvement. Now, eight years later, I am not only still a member but also a proud board member of the Hawke's Bay Tourism Industry Association and have held this position for the past six years.</p> <p>Through my involvement with Hawke's Bay Tourism, I have witnessed firsthand the vital role they play in our region. Their work in marketing, promotion, and work in driving people to our Region has contributed \$1.3B directly and indirectly to the regional economy. The impact of their efforts extends far beyond monetary gain; they are integral to the vibrancy and success of our community.</p> <p>I write to you with an urgent plea to safeguard the future of our Hawke's Bay tourism industry. As a resident, business owner, and staunch advocate, I implore you to consider the profound impact of this decision. Tourism isn't just an industry; it's the lifeblood of our region and one of the economic backbones of Hawke's Bay. It sustains local businesses, creates jobs, drives growth, fosters innovation, and creates a sense of pride in our unique identity that we all proudly call home.</p> <p>I've witnessed firsthand the profound positive impact tourism has had on our local businesses, job market, and overall well-being. Tourism funding isn't just about marketing campaigns and promotional activities; it's about investing in our future. It's about ensuring that our region remains a vibrant, welcoming destination for visitors from near and far. It's about preserving jobs, supporting small businesses, and maintaining the unique character that defines us.</p> <p>The consequences of defunding tourism would be nothing short of devastating. Countless families and individuals rely on tourism-related businesses for their livelihoods. Small businesses, in particular, would bear the brunt of these cuts, facing closure and financial ruin. Moreover, our community's reputation as a desirable destination would be tarnished, leading to a loss of revenue, jobs, and opportunities for growth.</p> <p>We implore the Hawke's Bay Regional Council to commit to maintaining current funding levels for Hawke's Bay Tourism on a permanent basis. Should this not be immediately achievable, we advocate for the endorsement of Option B: sustaining current funding from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council for the upcoming twelve months at \$1.52 million for FY24/25, followed by a reduction to \$441,000 from FY25/26 onwards. This transitional period will afford Hawke's Bay Tourism the opportunity to collaborate with local government in crafting a sustainable operating model funded by ratepayers, thereby ensuring the prosperity of Hawke's Bay's visitor economy.</p> <p>As a small business owner deeply entrenched in the hospitality and event industry here in Hawke's Bay, I speak from both personal and professional experience when I express my grave concerns about the proposed defunding. Without their support our businesses and many others would struggle to survive. Every dollar cut from tourism funding threatens jobs, closes businesses, and undermines the very fabric of our</p>

		<p>community. The ripple effect of decreased tourism funding will be felt not only by us but by every small business owner in the hospitality, event and wider sectors.</p> <p>We've weathered many storms in this industry, from economic downturns, global pandemics to natural disasters, but the threat of losing vital funding is one we cannot afford to ignore. It's not just about our bottom line; it's about the livelihoods of our staff and the livelihoods of countless families who rely on tourism-related businesses. Our region cannot afford to take a step backward, especially in the wake of the recent challenges we've faced. We need bold leadership and decisive action to ensure that our tourism industry not only survives but thrives.</p> <p>I urge the Hawke's Bay Regional Council to consider the human impact of their decisions. We are more than just numbers on a balance sheet; we are families, friends, and neighbours who are deeply invested in the success and the economic health of our region. Now is not the time to turn our backs on the very industry that forms one the backbone of our region's economy. Now is the time for solidarity, support, and a commitment to ensuring that Hawke's Bay remains a thriving destination for years to come. The implications of such a decision would reverberate far beyond the boardroom, impacting the lives of everyday people who call this region home. It's not just about numbers on a spreadsheet; it's about the future of our communities, the opportunities available to our children, and the legacy we leave behind.</p>
1020	Michelle Seaton	<p>As a concerned resident of Hastings, I am submitting my option for keeping the status quo of funding Hawkes Bay Tourism. If this is not on the table, then I go for Option B. We have an amazing region with so many tourist activities – like wineries and cellar doors, cafes and restaurants who mostly use local suppliers, attractions and tours. The region and industry need the support of a strong regional tourist organisation for the following reasons. • Hawkes Bay tourism promotes Hawkes Bay to the world. We would not see the volume of visitors without this. • Tourists coming to our region spend money in all areas of businesses, as mentioned above, without the tourists many businesses will close due to lack of sales. • There is 1 of 10 people in Hawkes Bay who work in or are part of the tourism industry and without tourists they would lose their jobs. • Without tourists the Hawkes Bay region would become a ghost region as businesses could not survive on local spending. Local suppliers would lose customers and so on. Thank you to the Hawkes Bay Regional Council for collecting the money from around the region to fund Hawkes Bay tourism for the last 10 years. Because of this funding Hawkes Bay region has become a destination visitors want to come to and often return. These visitors also tell their family and friends. We want to continue to get visitors here. Hawkes Bay Tourism can do this, but they need the security of knowing the funding is going to be there for them. I support either Status Quo or Option B.</p>
1024	Jane Libby	<p>As a Hawke's Bay Regional Council rate payer I welcome the opportunity to support tourism by paying my rates which include the tourism targeted rate. I have canvassed a number of friends and colleagues and they 100% support this as well. At no time have I or anyone been asked by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council if we would agree for this to be taken off. In your own documentation you state that you have consulted about this rate in the past but you have not done it this time. You are proposing to take this targeted rate out but keep the money for something else and this is disingenuous, I strongly suggest that this allocation stays as a portion of the rate collected – status quo. The value of tourism and therefore Hawke's Bay Tourism is obvious; we have a region that is a very popular destination because of our stunning wineries and cellar doors, our plentiful cafes, and restaurants, our attractions and tours, our cycle paths and companies that support all of these businesses. All of this exists because we are a strong visitor destination built over the last 10 years with the expertise, passion, and foresight of those who work for and work with Hawke's Bay Tourism. The statistics show a compelling case to either leave the allocation at status quo or increase the funding, it certainly does not suggest it should be cut. Tourism is the 3rd biggest contributor to the Hawke's Bay economy to the value of \$1.3 billion into our community. This is staggering especially when the majority of businesses are small to medium sized companies; to change the fragile balance by cutting funding to the most important industry organisation would be devastating to a massive amount of Hawke's Bay people, this would put around 10,000 jobs at risk. Over the last four years the tourism sector has been through the most difficult time, now is the time to support this sector Questions 1. If status quo is not an option please explain why not? 2. Please explain why Hawke's Bay Regional Council has not consulted with rate payers about discontinuing the targeted tourism rate? 3. I recently read that "... over the past 20 years. In that time rate payers have stumped up with around \$30m" - Neil Kirton Hawke's Bay Today 10 May 2024. Would you please explain if this \$30m was for Tourism? If so was it indeed for Hawke's Bay</p>

		Tourism alone although they have only been in existence for around 10 years. How was this amount calculated, how was this collected and by whom? 4. How much, over the last 10 years, has the Hawke's Bay Regional Council spent on the Economic Development agency HBREDS? What economic value have the rate payers of Hawke's Bay got for this investment? I would like to state that I appreciate the continuity of funding that the HBRC has collect and allocated to Tourism – it has been a resounding success – well done. Overall, the value of Hawke's Bay Tourism extends beyond economic gains, encompassing cultural, environmental, and social benefits that contribute to the region's prosperity and vitality. As a region we need to continue and grow our investment in this important organisation.
1026	Brian Slader	Maintain as it currently is
1030	Serena Hughes	do not phase out at all! Hawke's Bay relies heavily on tourism to provide jobs and income for our economy. Without funding from the council we can expect to see a decline in visitors to the region. With Hawke's Bay being named a Great Wine Region of the World, along with FAWC, Mission Concerts and Art Deco we should be advertising these and encouraging visitors to HB.
1035	Brydon Nisbet	keep fully in place
1037	Kristine Larnar Porters Boutique Hotel	We are in favour of the current funding model, however if this is not an option, we are in favour of Option B funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. Porters Boutique Hotel is located in Havelock North and opened in 2016 with 42 rooms and suites. The Hotel is locally owned by the Mackersey and the Lowe families. The Hotel currently employs 23 people: 1 full-time manager and 22 permanent part-time employees. The Hotel attracts 82% domestic visitors, and 18% international visitors, including leisure and corporate guests. Firstly, we acknowledge and appreciate the administrative role the Hawke's Bay Regional Council has taken to gather the targeted rate ensuring a collective effort to regional promotion. This has allowed Hawke's Bay Tourism to attract experts in their individual fields to effectively promote Hawke's Bay as a visitor destination outside the region, successfully secure central government funding and provide leadership to the local tourism sector. There is no doubt this high performing organisation has played a significant role attracting \$1.3b into the local economy to direct and indirect tourism-related businesses. However, this is now at risk. Porters Boutique Hotel is an active member of Hawke's Bay Tourism. Our annual financial contribution of \$3,415 to the RTO includes being part of the International Marketing Group, paid advertising in the Hawke's Bay Visitor Guide, local workshop registration and attendance at the eXplore trade show in Auckland. We also support the RTO with in-kind accommodation (valued at \$7573) during the last financial year. This is a combined investment of \$10,988. Whilst we have our own marketing budget for Porters Boutique Hotel, we rely heavily on the RTO to promote Hawke's Bay outside our region in a similar vein to Tourism New Zealand promoting New Zealand offshore. Once visitors have decided upon Hawke's Bay to visit, it is our job to encourage them to stay at Porters Boutique Hotel via our own marketing activity. It is a combined effort to encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more. Over the last twelve months we have been experiencing a decline in domestic leisure activity. We believe this has been felt across the region and can be attributed to either the cost-of-living crisis for some or the call of overseas destinations for others. Hawke's Bay has historically attracted 80% domestic visitors and 20% international visitors, highlighting how critical the domestic market is to the local economy. The forecasts for winter this year are concerning for many, and now is not the time to turn off regional promotion. We have experienced first-hand the value of the RTO through their media programme, travel trade and business incentive introductions and site visits, access to research data to enable more informed decision making, inclusion on the hawkesbaynz website, upskilling members via their workshops including becoming more sustainable and advertising within the Hawke's Bay Visitor Guide. We have also greatly benefited from visitors attending events such as F.A.W.C.I, Hawke's Bay Marathon, Triple Peaks, Mission Concert etc that have been promoted by the RTO to their extensive consumer databases. We strongly believe that Porters Boutique Hotel would be negatively impacted without an RTO. If Hawke's Bay is not being actively promoted as a visitor destination, our occupancy levels will decline, and room rates will soften. Our employees who are already suffering from increased cost of living expenses would be affected by reduced hours. Although we pay above the minimum wage, we would be at risk of losing our skilled workforce due to a lack of paid hours. Further financial impacts of reduced occupancy levels would be felt by all our local suppliers including Central Linen, AV technicians, SEO and IT experts, WiFi provider, our plumbers, electricians, painters, AC technicians, pest

		control, beverage and coffee vendors, Real World, locksmiths, stationery providers and our provider of cleaning products. The 80% indirect economic benefit that tourism provides to our local economy is very real and at risk. The tourism sector has had a challenging three years while operating through a global pandemic, followed by the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. We are grateful to Hawke's Bay Tourism who took a leadership role with industry to guide businesses through these challenging times. It was Hawke's Bay Tourism that activated the successful Wellington based domestic campaign whilst borders were closed to stimulate domestic travel to the region. It was Hawke's Bay Tourism who understood the complexity of visitor perception that the region was closed after the cyclone, and worked tirelessly to reinforce the messaging out of region that we were open for business. The visitor sector falls hard and fast when natural disasters/global pandemics hit but is proven to rebound quickly with the assistance of strong and concise regional promotion. Now is not the time to defund the RTO as tourism promotions and events are solutions to economic growth and an investment into the regions future. Now is not the time to eliminate destination marketing as other destinations are competing for visitation. Instead, it is time to take a collaborative approach to ensure a long-term and sustainable funding model is agreed upon for Hawke's Bay Tourism. The short notice given by the HBRC to defund Hawke's Bay Tourism within Option A is just bad business. Anyone with commercial sense would understand that a fair notice period is required to plan and seek commitment. We strongly urge your support to Status Quo. Alternatively, Option B needs your support to enable alternative funding models to be explored to allow Hawke's Bay Tourism to continue to promote our region and allow businesses and locals to enjoy the economic benefits and employment opportunities the tourism industry returns. We strongly urge you to support Status Quo or Option B. Closing Hawke's Bay Tourism's doors should not be an option.
1038	Sharleen Baird	Neither - stop funding them this year. I worked in Tourism - major events e.g. Art Deco are globally well known, can be self funded. In this digital age if tourism operators can't find marketing opportunities online and through contacts, they should close. Totally wasteful spending flying US travel writers here (avge \$20,000), wining and dining them with no evaluation of how many extra US visitors this created, Familiarisation tours where we too were wined, dined, accommodated - we already promoted and knew what attractions HB had to offer in our jobs. And don't forget we ratepayers already paid for a new wharf for their cruise ships. Urgent that priorities are environmental and minimise costs for ratepayers.
1040	Kerren Withington	I write this as a Napier City ratepayer and a proud board member of Hawke's Bay Tourism Industry Association. Firstly, I would like to thank HBRC for managing the funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism on behalf of the councils and the ratepayers. In my opinion, this has worked well over the years, so why try and fix something that isn't broken? I acknowledge the challenges our region has faced in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle and the pressure and stress you would have all faced, both with your workloads and in your personal lives. HB Tourism have done and are still doing a stellar job in promoting the region's brand and profile, especially after the hardships of Covid and Cyclone Gabrielle. They are the only organisation that promotes Hawke's Bay out of Hawke's Bay. This funding is needed to achieve this. Tourism is the third largest contributor towards the regions GDP. HB Tourism have worked tirelessly with key stakeholders, have made Hawke's Bay visible to visitors both international and domestic, their capability to enhance the regions brand and profile can never be taken for granted. We, as a region, cannot afford to not have HB Tourism working for us, all of us. As a ratepayer, my ED rate is \$11.58pa (the equivalent of 2 cups of coffee) and we need to retain this minimal amount to be allocated towards promoting our region, investing in the future of all in Hawke's Bay. The consequences of cutting this funding will be devastating for so many. I have grave concerns about the health and well being of our community, business owners, families, and our young, as every dollar cut from tourism funding will lead to businesses closing and jobs lost. We are human, real people, not numbers on a balance sheet and the impact of cutting funding will be devastating for our region. Visitors to the region will drop and we will lose out to other cities for some fabulous events in the Bay, that HB Tourism and others have worked so hard to secure. We will lose the vibrancy in our cities. I think of our senior students who have part time jobs while still at school, or studying at EIT or University and working in the holidays to help fund their education. Without visitors coming into our region, the amount of jobs available to our teenagers will be limited, it's a flow on affect. So many of us have had youngsters learn life skills and commitment through part time working, which help set them up for the future, wouldn't we want our families to continue to have that opportunity? HBRC, please do not turn your back on HB Tourism funding, now is not the time. As a region, we need to work together, support one another and commit to ensuring Hawke's Bay, the beautiful region we call home, remains a wonderful destination to visit, to

		live in and to be proud of for years to come. I strongly believe the Status Quo is the best funding option for tourism in Hawke's Bay, but if this is not possible, then I support Option B.
1041	Jessica Vandy	<p>Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa, I am making a submission on the decision to defund or severely decrease funding for Hawkes Bay Tourism in the Hawkes Bay Regional Council Long Term Plan. I am not a current member of Hawkes Bay Tourism, am not a past member, nor do I intend to be a member in the future. I am not a supplier, and I have had no official communication with Hawkes Bay Tourism in relation to this submission. For context, I have worked and owned businesses within the tourism and hospitality sector for 19 years in Aotearoa. I currently own and operate a tourism consulting business based in Ahiriri. Through my company and my international partner organisations, we have the privilege of working with over 120 regional tourism organisations (RTOs) also known as destination management organisations (DMOs) similar to Hawkes Bay Tourism across the world. From Asia Pacific, to UK & Europe, and into North America. While much of my own activity is centred on Asia Pacific, the core of the work I undertake is with destination management organisations; supporting these organisations to develop and implement sustainable tourism strategies, capacity and capability building for the tourism ecosystem, and working with local Government's or municipalities on the broader societal impacts of tourism and events. As a local business owner, and as a business owner in this field I was deeply concerned to read the LTP proposal to defund or severely cut funding to Hawke's Bay Tourism. The reason I am concerned is because from experience this would lead to a catastrophic loss of tourism and hospitality business for the region, at a time when we are on a knife edge following Cyclone Gabrielle and the ongoing hangover of slower tourism activity from the pandemic and cost of living crisis. Having worked in a council environment previously in Aotearoa, I appreciate and understand the many challenges of funding at this time. However in my view, this is absolutely not the time to be cutting a lever which demonstrably drives visitation, job creation, and tourism development to this region. Tourism, unlike conventional industries such as agriculture or manufacturing which are classed according to the goods and services they produce, is defined by the characteristics of the customer seeking a type of tourism product. These products can cut across a range of standard definitions and therefore require a far different approach to usual industries. Tourism is a feeder industry to many others in our region – wine, agriculture, produce, culture, entertainment. It would be disingenuous to suggest Hawkes Bay Tourism's only role is to co-ordinate marketing on behalf of tourism operators. This may have been a very simplistic view of a tourism destination management organisation 20 years ago. While I am not privy to the exact day-to-day activity of Hawke's Bay Tourism, I would like to highlight the key role that destination management organisations play in creating both economic, social, and cultural impacts that extend far beyond the 'marketing brochures':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing compelling visitor experiences including activities, attractions, supporting infrastructure, and services • Economic development; driving regional growth through tourism. Both directly through their activities as well as indirectly to their members and supporters – tourism businesses, accommodation providers, restaurants, cafes, cultural activities, events. Where there are funding constraints or no presence of an RTO/DMO, this development would drop away • Stakeholder co-ordination and management of resources; the RTO/DMO acts as a critical co-ordinator of stakeholders within the tourism sector including local Government, private businesses, community groups, business ecosystems, other destinations within Aotearoa, and Tourism New Zealand. This level of co-ordination ensures that efforts are aligned and tourism offerings can be cohesive providing a much more integrated / collective approach for visitors. This co-ordination is invaluable to the smaller towns within the region that it promotes and represents. • Regulatory: Both central and local Government authorities have strategies, policies, and regulatory frameworks in which tourism can operate. The RTO/DMO provides the knowledge, insights and guidance to support tourism operators to meet these requirements • Crisis management; the RTO/DMO plays a crucial role in the recovery of the sector following a major or catastrophic event (eg. Climate or pandemic). This was evident with Hawkes Bay Tourism immediately after the pandemic and following Cyclone Gabrielle; immediately launching campaigns, in-market activity, and being a vocal advocate for the region highlighting the plight and getting visitation returning through this collective effort • Infrastructure development; the RTO/DMO advocate and advise on the much needed tourism infrastructure within the region such as transportation, visitor activities, and further development of tourism product • Cultural promotion and preservation; the RTO/DMO play a critical role in promotion of our cultural activities, festivals, arts, develop Māori and indigenous tourism offerings • Marketing & Promotion; developing the region's marketing

		<p>and promotional activities, creating demand and enabling the region to become competitive and productive. This is a core part of managing a destination effectively – to target the right type of visitors, managing seasonality, and regional dispersal. The RTO/DMO develops strategic and targeted campaigns that drive visitation, ensuring visibility both domestically and internationally. The RTO/DMO will participate in domestic and international B2B trade events which are critical to driving business into the region. What many misunderstand, its the competitive nature of the international tourism market. When a region stops participating in trade events, they will no longer become front-of-mind for wholesalers, travel agents, tour companies, event organisers, promoters, professional conference organisers. These contracts book years in advance and when a region drops out, tourism business would be poached by other regions and signed into multi-year agreements – this is common practice. Should Hawkes Bay Tourism lose funding, this is what is at risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective and cohesive voice of Hawke's Bay; without the RTO/DMO, there is a threat of division between the local councils on agreed tourism activity, tensions would likely occur among operators who are resourced to promote themselves vs the smaller organisations who are not. In this case, Hawkes Bay would lose the collective voice and messaging of what define Hawke's Bay and makes the region unique from other regions. Over time without an RTO/DMO, Hawkes Bay would be seen as offering very little. • Community benefits; while I am aware that many residents have shared their concerns about 'what does Hawkes Bay Tourism actually do', they may not realise that without their contributions, many initiatives including improvements to infrastructure or community facilities may not exist. Without Hawkes Bay Tourism, over time these benefits may be reduced potentially impacting their quality of life as a resident. These benefits may be harder to quantify as a one-off activity however, it is important to recognise Hawkes Bay Tourism's voice and role in supporting development in the region. Many of the points above highlight the complexities of the RTO/DMO, it also provides some insight into the critical role that Hawke's Bay Tourism plays in driving tourism growth and visitation, and managing resources to enable this. The indirect effects from the activities the Hawkes Bay Tourism undertake result in tourism & hospitality businesses existing and having regular business, conferences being booked and held in the region and delegates returning for leisure tourism, and students and industry professionals having sustainable job opportunities within the region. Through its activity, Hawke's Bay Tourism creates social and cultural benefits that extend far beyond the economic impacts or ROI they are currently measured on. Defunding or severely cutting their funding will represent an incredibly dire situation for this region. I have experienced first hand when I worked in Kirikiriroa/Hamilton in the early 2000s when Tourism Waikato was defunded by Hamilton City Council & the regional councils. This was an abject failure and resulted in significant lost economic opportunities highlighted in several reports through Katolyst, Waikato Economic Development Agency. It took almost 10 years for the Hamilton and Waikato region to build back its tourism and event portfolio, gain traction with visitation, and build a clear narrative and collective voice of what makes Waikato unique. We must not let this happen to Hawke's Bay. As a minimum I would encourage you to please support Option B of the funding proposal for Hawke's Bay Tourism. Severely cutting their funding (anything below \$500k) would see their organisation as no longer being viable. My preferred recommendation would be to continue funding Hawkes Bay Tourism on an ongoing basis at the same level, establish a suitable impact measurement framework that addresses how the organisation can demonstrate its value beyond the economic output or KPIs that it is currently measured on, and develop an on-going resident partnership/engagement strategy to offer ratepayers a purposeful way of providing feedback and insights into strategies, initiatives, and activities that Hawkes Bay Tourism undertakes thus ensuring every ratepayer can understand the value this organisation brings to the region.
1067	Emma McRobbie Havelock North Business Association	<p>The potential withdrawal of funding for HBT poses a significant threat to the vitality of our region, with implications stretching beyond negative impacts only on businesses directly connected to tourism. Over the last 4 years there has been numerous challenges including border closures, travel restrictions, and cyclone damage, these times have all underscored the critical role of visitor spend in our region. Visitors are vital customers for local hospitality, retail, accommodation, and activities. These businesses, in turn, contribute to the fabric of our community by renting commercial spaces and engage a broad range of services such as accountants, lawyers, cleaners, mechanics and marketing agencies. Moreover, by employing 1 in 10 locals, they put money directly into the pockets of residents, who then reinvest in even more local businesses, from hair salons to childcare to automotive repairs.</p> <p>I am writing to you on behalf of the Havelock North Business Association, representing over 300 local businesses deeply invested in the economic</p>

		<p>prosperity of Havelock North and the wider Hawke's Bay region. Our collective concern revolves around the proposed funding cuts to Hawke's Bay Tourism (HBT) and Te Mata Peak Park by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) from July 2024. We understand the necessity for fiscal responsibility and acknowledge the complexities involved in these budgetary decisions. However, we urge consideration of the broader implications of removing the tourism levy and funding to Te Mata Park which is not only a tourism attraction for the region but, a space used by an ever-increasing number of locals for sports, exercise, fun and education. In conclusion, we implore the Hawke's Bay Regional Council to prioritise the retention of existing Hawke's Bay tourism and Te Mata Park funding as an investment in our region's economic stability and growth. Should the HBRC proceed with the proposed removal of funding to Hawke's Bay Tourism we stand in favour of the alternative, 'option b' that HBT has proposed of individual council funding through their own rate collection. We advocate for collaborative dialogue and proactive measures to safeguard the continued success of our tourism industry and the prosperity of Te Mata Park.</p>
1074	Lisa Hopkins Business Events Industry Aotearoa	<p>At a time when local authorities are meticulously evaluating their priorities, expenditures, and investments, it is my privilege, on behalf of Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA)—the peak body for the business events sector—to provide this submission. This document explicitly champions Hawkes Bay Tourism's outstanding contributions, specifically focusing on the work completed by their business events division and its positive impact on the region. The submission underlines the vital and unique role that New Zealand's business events sector plays in enriching both the local and national economies, spotlighting the initiatives spearheaded by Hawkes Bay Tourism. As BEIA's Chief Executive, I am honoured to present this paper to Hawkes Bay Regional Council for consideration, supported by this industry's collective voice. We encourage the regional council to maintain the status quo. The business events sector in New Zealand is a pivotal part of the global \$2.7 trillion¹ business events market and is also included in the latest New Zealand tourism expenditure data of \$37.7 billion². Before COVID and the establishment of new purpose-built infrastructure, such as the Te Pae Christchurch Convention and Exhibition Centre (Te Pae), this sector was valued at \$1.5BN. As the most recent developed country to introduce a suite of new, environmentally sustainable convention centres, we are pioneering standards that place our nation in the spotlight worldwide and attract unmatched attention. There has never been a better time to invest in business events and reap the benefits this sector offers. For a region like Hawkes Bay, those benefits are plentiful as the sector works hard to amplify its advantage as a destination for tourism and business events. This extends to the work done by Hawkes Bay Tourism and the team focusing on business events. The region is a key component of New Zealand's business events network of significant places with large facilities, namely the Napier War Memorial Centre, arguably one of the best-located venues in the country and the recently refurbished Toitū – Hawkes Bay Arts & Events Centre. Domestically, Hawkes Bay Tourism has worked hard to foster strong cross-sectoral connections, making it a crucial component of the region's economic, social, and intellectual framework. The domestic market accounts for 75–80% of all business events in New Zealand, and this region with its first class airport, facilities, accommodation and activities is a premiere and premium destination for the domestic market. Internationally, the region offers something different from the main metro cities and is currently slated for a large Australasian conference in April 2025. With 300 people anticipated to attend, this one conference is expected to inject \$750K into the local economy directly. This excludes any spend on delegates who will choose to extend their stay in the region. Data from 2022 tells us that Hawkes Bay hosted 29,300 delegates over 48,800 delegate days at a business event. This generated over \$11M in direct spend for the region and also excludes any additional spend for delegates who chose to extend their stay. Additionally, BEIA forecasts that as the new convention centres in Christchurch, Wellington and soon, Auckland become hotspots for large-scale conferences of 500 people plus, regions like Hawkes Bay, Rotorua, Waikato, Marlborough, Dunedin, and Southland will be targeted by the domestic market. They all offer larger conference venues, accommodation and strong hospitality offerings. Undoubtedly, the Hawkes Bay region has suffered significantly from weather events, and the need to invest in rebuilding damaged infrastructure is critical. However, tourism, business events, hospitality and the cruise sector are the key economic drivers contributing to this rebuild, and the ROI is high. At this submission's core is a plea for continued regional council support for Hawkes Bay Tourism. Through its outstanding efforts, Hawkes Bay Tourism has not only raised the profile of the Hawkes Bay as a preeminent and premium business event destination, culturally rich and forward-thinking, but also a place that embodies the principle of manaakitanga, welcoming all visitors with open arms.</p>

1089	George Hickton Hawke's Bay Tourism	<p>The preferred solution for rates collection for Hawke's Bay Tourism is that of status quo, with Hawke's Bay Regional Council acting as the regional rates collection mechanism. Failing that, we request status-quo funding for 12 months (24/25) while an alternative agreement is developed ("Option B").</p> <p>The board of Hawke's Bay Tourism thanks Hawke's Bay Regional Council for collecting rates towards funding a regional tourism organisation on behalf of all councils. Having a single regional collections mechanism has been deemed a successful and efficient model. In 2011, when Hawke's Bay Tourism was rebuilt following years of fractious failures in bringing funding parties together, the single rate collection mechanism delivered by HBRC was welcomed.</p> <p>Perhaps the genesis of the kaupapa of rate collection on behalf of all councils has been lost over the years.</p> <p>The board of Hawke's Bay Tourism is grateful for the Hawke's Bay Regional Councilors who, as council representatives, have sat on the board of Hawke's Bay Tourism over the years. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Pipe • Fenton Wilson • Tom Belford • Craig Foss • Sophie Siers <p>In the last five years, Hawke's Bay Tourism has worked with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 HBRC Council board reps • 2 HBRC CEOs • 5 HBRC council managers as tourism points-of-contact • 2 years of Covid/international border closures • 1 year of Cyclone Gabrielle recovery • A flatline funding model with no CPI <p>All the while, reporting to HBRC, we have also ensured that we have kept the Mayors and CEOs of the other city and district councils apprised of our activities through presentations and reports.</p> <p>Flatline Funding – 0% increase</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism has been funded through a rate collected by HBRC since 2011.</p> <p>HBT has had 0% increase applied to it through HBRC rates every year since 2018, without a CPI adjustment.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Regional Council investment Annual NZ CPI</p> <p>(y/e JUN)</p> <table> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>\$1,220,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>\$1,520,000</td> <td>1.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>\$1,820,000</td> <td>1.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>\$1,520,000 (decrease)</td> <td>1.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>\$1,520,000 (no increase)</td> <td>1.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>\$1,520,000 (no increase)</td> <td>3.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>\$1,520,000 (no increase)</td> <td>7.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>\$1,520,000 (no increase)</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023/24</td> <td>\$1,520,000 (no increase)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Status quo at 0% increase, \$1.52m would be a further annual 0% increase.</p>	2015/16	\$1,220,000		2016/17	\$1,520,000	1.7%	2017/18	\$1,820,000	1.5%	2018/19	\$1,520,000 (decrease)	1.7%	2019/20	\$1,520,000 (no increase)	1.5%	2020/21	\$1,520,000 (no increase)	3.3%	2021/22	\$1,520,000 (no increase)	7.3%	2022/23	\$1,520,000 (no increase)	6%	2023/24	\$1,520,000 (no increase)	
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	<p>HBRC has put it to ratepayers that retaining funding of HBT, even with a 0% increase, results in a 2.4% impost to ratepayers. We wish to note that a home with a CV of c.\$800k currently pays only \$11.58 per year towards economic development including tourism promotion.</p> <p>Return to the future</p> <p>HBRC has been collecting rates on behalf of the region's councils – Wairoa, Napier, Hastings, and Central Hawke's Bay – for regional tourism since 2011. Before that the councils collected rates from their own ratepayers and contributed individually.</p> <p>By proposing the defunding of Hawke's Bay Tourism, and accepting that there is a letter of support from three mayors to find a funding solution from 2025, the "new" funding model being proposed is one that existed prior to 2011.</p> <p>Successful model</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism has been operating a successful regional tourism organisation model since 2011.</p> <p>In December 2021, following a comprehensive review of the region's economic development HBRC agreed to the following recommendations:</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Economic Development Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the Stage 2 Review recommendations for priority activities/services and the focus for ratepayer investment in business and industry support and notes that the transfer of funds will incur no extra cost to HBRC nor reduced level of service. • Supports the establishment of a regional development entity in Hawke's Bay. • Supports the recommended funding split and notes the financial implications for the Regional Council. • Endorses the Hawke's Bay councils' partnership approach with iwi/hapū • Agrees to accommodate the Regional Council's funding contribution for the new entity from reprioritisation within the targeted rate funded regional development budget in the 2022-23 Annual Plan. • Notes that this effectively removes HBRC from direct delivery of business and industry development and transfers that activity to the new entity. This does not disturb HBRC's existing relationship and funding with HB Tourism. <p>The effectiveness of Hawke's Bay Tourism is not in question. The debate is around the appropriate rates collection model.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism and supportive council funders require more notice than was given to devise and negotiate an amicable and appropriate funding agreement. In the event of a discontinuation of status quo over the next three years, we collectively request status-quo funding for 12 months (24/25) while an alternative agreement is developed.</p> <p>Additional or alternative funding</p> <p>There is agreement among tourism bodies for the need to determine a national solution to tourism funding. The new government will not support regional funding challenges – but they are pivotal in working towards equitable solutions that see a hybridised national model incorporating such mechanisms as an international visitor levy increase, a share of visitor gst, introduced bed taxes, and continued local government investment as tourism reemerges as one of New Zealand's largest export earners.</p> <p>In 2018, HBRC requested HBT to work with HBRC to investigate bed taxes and peer-to-peer charges to alleviate reliance on the ratepayer. Hawke's Bay Tourism worked with staff at HBRC to ascertain opportunities to source alternative funding, with an emphasis on the growing "peer-to-peer" (Airbnb, Bookabach style) properties. Work on this discontinued following the assertion that such a model would require a national approach supported by legislation.</p> <p>In DEC 2019, The Productivity Commission dropped its support for local bed taxes and accepted Tourism Industry Aotearoa's position that international visitors are already more than paying their way, primarily through the GST system.</p> <p>This largely left HBT with considering hefty increases for its voluntary membership. As a rate review and membership drive was being considered, Covid-19 appeared.</p>
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	<p>In MAR 2020 Covid closed the country down, international borders closed, and HBT gave a membership holiday to members, HBRC gave their ratepayers a rates holiday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In JUL 2020, HBT attracted \$700k in funding from central government • In 2021, HBT attracted \$1m from central government • In 2023, HBR attracted \$1.2m in Cyclone recovery <p>Since 2020, in agreement with HBRC Councillors, Hawke's Bay Tourism's funding KPI has been:</p> <p>Increase industry contribution</p> <p>As we rebuilt our sector following the Cyclone, we continued to grow industry support and contribution. On 20SEP 2023 feedback from the HBRC representative was:</p> <p>Your paper was well received by our Corporate & Strategic Committee today.</p> <p>Just a couple of bits to pass on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Kirton passed on his congratulations on the overachievement of the industry funding KPI. <p>\$500k MBIE funding in jeopardy</p> <p>HBT developed a proposal for funding support from MBIE towards tourism marketing rebuild and recovery following Cyclone Gabrielle. HBT required funds to support the first summer campaign in years to rebuild confidence.</p> <p>A total of \$1.2m in funding was granted in October 2023 for investment through to 2026. \$500k remains with MBIE, for investment over the 24/25 and 25/26 financial years.</p> <p>Condition of the funding is that "funding from other sources will not be reduced below current levels as at the commencement date of this agreement".</p> <p>Appropriate and adequate funding will allow Hawke's Bay Tourism to remain open to work towards the development of an alternative funding mechanism.</p> <p>If HBRC's Option A goes ahead, Hawke's Bay Tourism will close. There is no alternative.</p> <p>This is not a tactic designed to intimidate. It is the reality. There is nowhere else that Hawke's Bay Tourism could go to for funding, so \$520,000 will wind up business, support staff and ultimately close the regional tourism organisation (RTO).</p> <p>Hawke's Bay will be without a regional tourism organisation, opportunities will be lost, market share will be snapped up by other regions and the incredible work of more than a decade will be wasted. Mahi lost will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The brand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Brand Hawke's Bay – We are the only agency with the remit for promoting the region outside of itself. o Food and Wine Country positioning – many other regions are trying to stake their claim here o Great Wine Capitals accolade – without funding Marlborough could snap this up o c.700,000 annual hawkesbaynz.com website users o 102,000 Facebook followers o 15,000 Instagram followers - Revenue to the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The visitor industry is the 3rd highest contributor to regional GDP o c. \$1.3b in direct and indirect spend o \$775m total annual direct visitor spending in Hawkes Bay o We believe defunding could result in 20% contraction of the visitor economy o Visitors to Hawke's Bay stay an average of 2.3 nights versus an national average of 2.1 nights.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jobs and businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 1 in 10 locals are employed by the visitor economy (9,468) o Even a 10% decrease in employment would see c\$42.6m lost to the region (947 jobs x \$45k salary = \$42,615,000) - Established networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Hawke's Bay Tourism has 164 members with additional advertisers and weblisters investing c\$422,000 into the promotion of the region (\$311,131 in cash, \$111,113 in contra) o These networks were invaluable during Covid-19 pandemic and Cyclone Gabrielle in assisting visitors who were stuck in Hawke's Bay. o More than 25,000 engaged subscribers to Hawke's Bay and F.A.W.C.I databases - Air services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Capacity and frequency of flights is underpinned through tourism demand. o Decline in tourism promotion and thus visitors will result in reduced supply of air services. o No chance of securing services of a competitor airline - Media promotion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o \$5,300,000 of equivalent advertising value – advertising we don't pay for o 316,000,000 total potential readership/viewership o Hosted media programmes - Events delivery and support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o F.A.W.C.I will be cancelled – including c.\$300,000 in ticket sales volume that goes directly to hospitality sector o Financial and promotional support for Hawke's Bay Marathon o Regional Events Fund (\$100k 24/25 year) o Regional Events Promotion Fund (new govt fund of up to \$230k pa) - MBIE funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o \$500,000 recovery marketing support for 24/25 yr - Partnerships and investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Explore Central North Island (ECNI) US/UK initiatives – Taupo, Waikato, Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Tairāwhiti, Ruapehu, Rotorua o Classic NZ Wine Trail – tourism initiative – Marlborough, Wellington, Wairarapa o Pacific Coast Highway – driving route alliance – Tairāwhiti, Coromandel, Bay of Plenty o Te Matau-a-Maui initiative – Nga Toi, Ngāti Kahungunu o Great Wine Capitals – Hastings, Napier, Hawke's Bay Wine Growers, Hawke's Bay Airport, EIT o Tourism NZ – famils of travel trade and media o Tourism Industry Aotearoa o Regional Tourism New Zealand o NZ Maori Tourism o Business Events Industry Aotearoa o Tourism Export Council - Trade & Business support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Contact centre support for travel trade, conference organisers, event organisers o Event support o Bid support for conferences and business events
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Bid support for events o Sales calls & representation <p>Not only is there no alternative funding option, there is also no alternative organisation or agency that can absorb this work, and the established IP, respect and relationships associated with it. Any closure would require a 3-5-year rebuild to get an RTO back to where we are now. Destination promotion and stewardship is an important investment that no region/district can afford not to make without damaging the future economic and social wellbeing of communities.</p> <p>Due to collective benefits that extend beyond individual businesses or organisations, tourism promotion is considered a public good that requires collaboration and support from governments, communities, and stakeholders to maximise its positive impact.</p> <p>Managing the Hawke's Bay brand and reputation is not undertaken by anyone else.</p>
1092	Aaron Havelock North Motor Lodge	I am writing in support to keep Hawke's Bay Tourism funding and think the current funding model shouldn't be changed.
1093	Rebecca Ingram Tourism Industry Aotearoa	<p>Tourism is an important part of the fabric of our nation, Aotearoa New Zealand. This applies nationally, but even more so at regional and local levels where tourism activity takes place.</p> <p>Within communities, tourism generates economic activity and diversity, resilience, jobs, and fosters regional prosperity. In so doing, tourism showcases our cultural richness and fosters pride and social connectivity both locally and globally.</p> <p>TIA is very aware of the pressures that local government is under right across New Zealand and particularly those impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. It is with sensitivity to these pressures that we now advocate for Council expenditure on their tourism functions. We consider that such expenditure to be an investment in the economic health and future prosperity of the towns, cities and regions across our country; spending that generates a healthy return on investment (ROI) for the Councils themselves.</p> <p>Our submission is that every effort must be made to ensure the ongoing successful operation of Hawke's Bay Tourism. As the overarching tourism industry association, we place great value on regional tourism organisations for the vital work they do and for the benefits that accrue for the communities that they serve.</p> <p>Tourism Industry Aotearoa TIA is the peak body for the tourism industry in Aotearoa New Zealand. With around 1,300 members, TIA represents a range of tourism-related activities including hospitality, accommodation, adventure activities, attractions, retail, airports and airlines, transport, as well as related-tourism services.</p> <p>TIA is sharply focused on ensuring the sustainable future of the industry, and this is clearly articulated in our key guiding documents and programmes. This includes the tourism industry's strategic framework, Tourism 2050 – A Blueprint for Impact, He Pae Tukutuku.</p> <p>Tourism 2050 has ten Actions, one of which is 'Address Industry Funding' which includes local government funding for tourism. It is a priority for TIA that substantive progress is made in this area, and sustaining Council funding levels forms part of this.</p> <p>The Tourism Industry Tourism is the movement of people to places where they don't normally live to 'do, see, visit or experience'. In the year to March 2023 (the latest data point we have) tourism expenditure was \$37.7 billion, and with tourism making up 11.4% of exports and supporting 11.3% of New Zealand's employment. Since then, further recovery has taken place as tourism works to restore its position alongside Dairy as New Zealand's largest export earning sectors.</p> <p>TIA Submission The options set out in the draft Plan lays out the withdrawal of Hawke's Bay Regional Council from its current responsibility to fund Hawke's Bay Tourism. This is expressed as the preferred Option A where funding is phased out over two years, and also in Option B where the funding reduction is staged and with the Regional Council funding continuing at a lower level (29% of the current investment). A third option to retain the status quo is not elaborated on in the draft Plan.</p>

	<p>TIA is opposed to the change options set out, particularly without the pathways for changed funding models being secured. If gaining funding from the other Hawke's Bay councils is the intention, this transition should be formally addressed, including the timing to ensure continuity of funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. The mode of operation to make this major change through the Three-year Plan process does not allow all considerations to be adequately addressed.</p> <p>To assist your consideration of this matter, TIA would like to set out the following important points:</p> <p>1. Tourism spend is an investment. As an investment, resources spent in Councils' tourism-related activities such as marketing, events attraction, destination management generate a return over and above the direct cost. This is why countries, regions and cities around the world invest in these functions. Generally, for every \$1 invested in the local visitor economy there is both a direct return for the funding party, such as the local government entity, and a larger benefit for businesses and people working in the local economy. This is the globally accepted rationale for destination marketing and events attraction activities.</p> <p>Analysis of regions or cities that reduce their tourism marketing spend tells a consistent story as set out in a report from the US Travel Association (refer link in footnote).³ This cites the positive benefits from tourism promotion (including economic boost, job creation and additional revenue for state and local governments), but also sets out several examples of the negative outcomes where investment in travel marketing has decreased. These outcomes include reduced visitation, less economic activity and lower tax revenue. It finds that "...destinations that fail to invest consistently in travel promotion will see visitors - and jobs and tax revenues - go elsewhere."</p> <p>Overall, the international evidence is that local government entities that provide sufficient funding for their tourism functions gain both a direct return on investment and the intangible place-making and community benefits that will accrue because of this expenditure. Disruption to Hawke's Bay tourism investment will certainly trigger the sort of demand impacts as seen in the reference case studies.</p> <p>2. Tourism in the regional economy. Tourism is an important part of the Hawke's Bay economy with \$775 million of annual visitor spend in the region, 7% of regional GDP and one in ten jobs in the region. Tourism is also an industry that has strong support from New Zealanders, with 95% of New Zealanders agreeing that 'Tourism is good for New Zealand' and 80% 'of New Zealand residents personally benefited from tourism activity in their local area over the past year.' Clearly, New Zealanders are welcoming visitor activity to their places.</p> <p>The benefits of tourism are very dispersed through the economy. For instance, in the year to March 2022, spend on Accommodation made up 7.7% of total tourism spend, Food and Beverage 9.2%, Road Transport 3.5% and Air Transport 6.7%. By contrast, the various categories of Retail were 37.6% of total tourism spend.</p> <p>This distribution is important in that it reinforces the spread of tourism benefits across communities well beyond what are obvious tourism businesses. From a local government perspective, this highlights the public interest from council investment in such tourism activities as destination promotion, destination management and events promotion.</p> <p>It also highlights the impracticality of raising funds directly from the tourism industry given the very long tail of those that are beneficiaries of tourism activities. There is a clear public good interest involved.</p> <p>3. Utilise funds for the purpose raised. We note that the funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism is generated from a targeted rate on behalf of the Hawke's Bay's five councils to promote economic development in the region. The draft Plan does not set out the basis for diverting these funds away from tourism economic development purposes for which they were collected.</p> <p>In addition, as these funds are collected 'on behalf' of the five councils, it would seem appropriate these councils are involved in how the funds are deployed, and the Plan gives no indication on this, even though under Option B it refers to a dependency to reach an agreement with the other Hawke's Bay councils for a joint funding arrangement. Will the other councils be allocated their portion of the targeted rate? With a targeted rate already in place for economic development and tourism purposes, it is imperative that these funds are used for the purpose for which they are collected.</p>
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		<p>4. Continuity of expertise and relationships. In TIA's extensive experience, regional tourism organisations that are established on a secure basis are able to operate effectively and to grow and develop as circumstances change. It is our assessment that Hawke's Bay Tourism is a very effective agency in serving the interests of the people of the Hawke's Bay through its support of tourism in the region.</p> <p>Our concern is that any break in funding will have an enduring impact on the effectiveness of Hawke's Bay Tourism, with resultant downsizing having both an immediate impact and with the loss of capacity necessitating a slow rebuild as and when funding is restored.</p> <p>TIA submits that whatever option is pursued, the provision of resourcing to ensure continuity of the operations of Hawke's Bay Tourism must be a priority to ensure the wellbeing of the visitor economy and the important role it plays within the Hawke's Bay community.</p> <p>TIA's Overall Position</p> <p>Overall, the international evidence is that local government entities that provide sufficient funding for their tourism functions gain both a direct return on investment and the intangible place-making and community benefits that will accrue because of this expenditure.</p> <p>In relation to the Options presented in the draft Plan, our feedback is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A. TIA does not support. • Option B. TIA does not support, although notes it could form a basis for further work. • Option C. TIA supports. <p>On the comment attached to Option B above, this is where we believe a deeper and fuller process is required, one that addresses key issues, including the use of the available economic development funds, the roles of the other councils, the time required to build funding into their budgets, when the changes should be made, and how the capability of Hawke's Bay Tourism will be retained throughout this transition.</p>
1094	Hamish & Diane Prins Prinsy Tours	<p>Backstory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Prinsy's Tours we are a family business that is deeply rooted in our community, and are one of the many businesses who have been riding the wave of growth thanks to Hawke's Bay Tourism (HBT) and our collective efforts. • We have been a Hawke's Bay owner-operated tour business for just over 20 years, and employ 6 part-time tour guides 100% of our business is in wine, rural, and sightseeing tourism and approximately 60% of this is from luxury tours taken by high-end international visitors. Our visitors are connected with local winery operators, restaurants, orchards, and our sense of place, every day. • We are involved in many projects and community level, and support and connect with numerous community members all along the chain. We are people who feel the pulse of this region, from paddock to plate, ship to shore. • Thinking back ten years—Hawke's Bay was barely on the map. Now, we are competing as a region with the big guys internationally and have made huge in-roads. It is our position that cutting HBT's funding now is like pulling the rug out from under our region. Not only would it open the door for other highly competitive regions to take our place, we need to remember that there is a very real need to proactively encourage visitors to "turn left at Taupo". This isn't just about us tour operators; it's a \$1.5bn industry that directly and indirectly benefits everyone in the region. <p>Why Cutting Funds is Bad News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed rate cut from \$1.52M to \$500K for HBT funding represents a critical turning point, potentially setting us back significantly after years of collective and personal efforts to enhance the region's visibility, vibrancy, and appeal. • Such a drastic reduction in resources would not only compromise our ability to maintain a presence on the international stage but would also weaken our overall marketing capabilities at a critical time. Specifically, our small business, like many others in the region, spends approximately \$15K annually to participate in and promote Hawke's Bay at international trade events such as TRENZ. These efforts, primarily driven by HBT's structured marketing and familial programs, are pivotal in drawing vital tourism into our beloved region. • We also invest in other marketing efforts of our own which draw visitors to Hawke's Bay, including a website and booking system, trade famils, Trip Advisor / Viator, newzealand.com, an invaluable presence on hawkesbaynz.com, and are proactively involved in supporting the local tourism system, with a member on the Tourism Industry Association board.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting off our marketing budget means closing the doors of HBT. Doing so threatens to drastically reduce our region's exposure in key markets, leading to a swift drop-off in engagement from the international travel agent community, which is likely to be the first and most immediate casualty. Subsequently, we anticipate a steady decline in the influx of both international and domestic tourists which will be felt hard, with the broad and deep impacts such funding cuts would impose on the region's economic vitality and brand. • We anticipate the impacts on our business could result a need to reduce capacity, likely reducing our staff and vehicle assets. ??? It would certainly negatively impact the value of our 20-year business, and our subsequent opportunity for succession planning and future sale would be in very real jeopardy. <p>Impact of the Cyclone on Local Business and Community Well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our experience with Cyclone Gabrielle has been nothing short of devastating. Directly impacting our family and business in Puketapu, we have suffered a significant blow, with damages surpassing \$1.2 million and a notable \$1 million reduction in our property's capital value. • This catastrophic event has placed us in a difficult situation, torn between understanding the necessity of allocating funds towards enhancing community safety measures such as river and stop-bank improvements, and the critical need to maintain, if not boost, investments that ensure Hawke's Bay remains a thriving and attractive region for residents and visitors alike. <p>We Need to Keep the Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this situation we are talking far beyond keeping tourism businesses afloat. This is about the whole community. Tourism dollars help everyone — from agriculture (fruits, food, wine) to accommodation and retail. Regular people in regular work. Providing for a thriving and vibrant region for both tourists and locals to enjoy. • After the cyclone hit us all, tourism has remained a strong and thriving backbone of our regional economy, compared with many industries that are currently suffering. Our collective ability to bounce-back shows our resilience. But our region simply can't keep that up without reliable and ongoing funding. We respect HBRC is looking to reduce rates rises. However, in this submission we are not asking for endless cash. All we are asking with Option B is a reasonable horizon to diversify funding streams without crippling the current tourism framework that serves not only as an economic pillar but also a communal lifeline. <p>Act Now!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What we're saying is to hold fire - don't cut the funds without bringing in all stakeholders first. There is a reason HBRC was provided the mandate to collect this targeted rate for HBT. Before HBRC drops the responsibilities of this mandate, we need a plan that doesn't set Hawke's Bay back 5-10 years. This is about keeping our region and a \$1.5bn industry on the map, especially after what we've all been through with Covid and then the cyclone. <p>Wrapping Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would urge HBRC to remember that we are all in this together. Cutting HBT's budget isn't just an irresponsible move; it's a mighty step back for everyone that lives here. You have the numbers; we've shared our stories. We know money is tight, but this is about investing to secure our future earning potential. We are asking you to think twice about axing funds that not only help our businesses but keep the whole community thriving. • Given the sweeping implications of the proposed cuts, we advocate for Option B to allow HBT to maintain Business-as-Usual for one year and partner with local government to achieve a long-term, sustainable funding model. The ask is not merely a deferment but a constructive dialogue to explore all possible avenues to prevent scaling back resources critical to our regional prosperity. The rallying call extends beyond retaining the current funding levels; it's a plea to recognize the compounded value tourism brings to Hawke's Bay. Aiding in our recovery post-cyclone, ensuring the region remains a beacon for both domestic and international visitors, requires preserved, if not enhanced, investment in tourism. • We urge you to vote for Option B and continued funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism, as the only viable option.
1101	Johnny Milmine	Maintain always. Very short sighted to phase out.

1102	Kevin Bayley Bayley Produce Ltd / Bayley Family Trust	Do not phase out
1108	Lynda Keene Tourism Export Council NZ	We support Council retaining the current level of funding in the 2023-2024 financial year as the same in the next three years and future Long Term Plan.
1117	Giordano Invernizzi	I have been living in Napier for the last 4 years working in the hospitality sector. I am the current Restaurant Manager at Mister D Dining. This year has seen hard trading times due to Cyclone Gabriel and before with Covid. This summer was "up and down" and very unpredictable. Business owners struggle with finding qualified staff and Hawkes Bay right now needs all the help it can get to keep it financial and keep the promotions up to bring in much needed tourism. We need tourists to keep Hawkes Bay economic and especially as Napier is a small city. I believe to cut funding in Hawkes Bay will speed up the closures of many restaurants, bars, small retail shops and small unique cellar doors. This will in turn create job losses and a downturn for the city.
1118	Jason Lambert	Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this very important issue for our region. I am writing on behalf of myself, a resident of Havelock North, and homeowner of a Hastings property. My submission is to urge the council to consider the continuation of funding as per the status quo or at the very least, decide in favour of option B funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. It is my belief that Reduced funding is not a viable option. Hawke's Bay Tourism is also a vital tool in connecting and promoting visitation to our region and the financial injection that comes with it. Tourism's positive impact on the regional economy is estimated to be \$775 million annually, as a rate payer, I am happy to provide my support through my rates bill. I submit that you pledge continued support at the \$1.52m level or at the very least support Option B.
1133	Michael Davis Davis Orchards	Tourism is important to Hawkes Bay, cut cost elsewhere
1152	Maddie Bayley	Keep funding
1163	Gregory Collinge Millar Road Limited	<p>I am submitting that you should NOT stop funding of Hawke's Bay Tourism to the tune of \$1.52m per year.</p> <p>I am in the tourism industry with my business 'Millar Road', so yes I have a vested interest. However, I also have a background in economics and finance.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism has asked us all to submit in favour of Option B. However, I submit that you should keep the status quo.</p> <p>I set up my tourism business almost 20 years ago in an environment where there was no regional coordinated effort to promote tourism in Hawke's Bay. I was around when Kim Thorpe and others did their damndest to get some kind of coordinated approach to marketing the region, instead of having tiny cities and towns all competing against each other for their share of the pie.</p> <p>It's called the theory of competitive advantage - by promoting collectively, everyone benefits, not just individual businesses. And if you create a collegial environment, then it is not just the operators who benefit, but the wider economy.</p> <p>It seems to me that it is insanely obvious that Kim and others' efforts were incredibly beneficial to the region. We have a fractured council system here in Hawke's Bay for a population of only, what, 160,000 people. Tourism, which benefits the entire region, is entirely logically handled at the level in charge of regional issues, i.e. the Regional Council.</p> <p>Kim was instrumental in the setting up of Hawke's Bay Tourism and since then Hawke's Bay has gone from strength to strength in terms of a place that people want to come to. People like Annie Dundas and now Hamish Saxton have put in place so many measures that put Hawke's Bay on the map - almost every single weekend of the year. This is something that simply cannot be achieved by individual operators working on their own. We are all small businesses, bar a few exceptions, so we simply do not have the resources (time and money) to get together to replicate this model.</p> <p>I have not had time to investigate your financial statements properly - I am a classic New Zealand SME that must focus on running day to day</p>

		<p>operations and navigating a post-Covid and post-cyclone environment. But you seem to have revenues of \$158 million, meaning that the \$1.52 million allocated to Hawke's Bay Tourism is less than 1% of your budget (\$9.50 per person based on a ratepayer base of 160,000 people). I believe that you have three main responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managing the investment in the Port of Napier - which I assume is now effectively taken care of for you, given that this is now privately managed 2. Managing the regional environment - a non-revenue generating exercise but clearly of benefit to the region as a whole 3. Tourism funding <p>Your proposal seems to suggest that cutting less than 1% of your budget for tourism funding will contribute to a decrease in rates that is disproportionately higher. This does not make any sense to me.</p> <p>Furthermore, you characterise the tourism levy as a subsidy to the tourism industry. This is simply wrong - a subsidy is something that goes directly into operators' pockets. This minuscule levy on ratepayers should be classified as an investment for ALL ratepayers - because it goes to a body that invests, not just on behalf of the tourism industry, but on behalf of ALL people that live and work and run their businesses in Hawke's Bay. Quite simply, the more tourists we have, the more all businesses benefit.</p> <p>Your Option B supposes that other Councils top up the shortfall. Where is the saving to ratepayers? And what is the logic of making a model that currently works for us more complicated?</p> <p>And if you want to have security of funds to keep contributing to the non-revenue generating part of your responsibilities (the environment), why take away funding for something that will only increase the wellbeing and financial stability of the people paying those rates? You seem to want to destroy your own ratepayer base's ability to keep paying your rates.</p> <p>I personally have benefited from the environment funding, as I have very gratefully received support for my erosion control and associated native replanting programme on my property. I would be more than happy to forgo this in exchange for continued funding of tourism in Hawke's Bay. If I can continue to operate my tourism business in an environment with support, it will benefit me and other tourism operators such that we can 'stand on our own feet' and keep investing in our own businesses for the benefit of the broader economy.</p>
1168	Callum Ross Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' Association	<p>Firstly, regarding Hawke's Bay Tourism, we oppose the proposal to phase out funding over the next two years. The tourism industry in Hawke's Bay relies heavily on the promotion and support provided by Hawke's Bay Tourism. Without sustainable funding, the closure of this organization would have detrimental effects on member businesses and the region's economy. We urge you to reconsider this proposal and ensure the continued support for Hawke's Bay Tourism.</p>
1177	Natalie Grace Smith & Sheth	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this very important issue for our region. I am writing on behalf of Smith & Sheth, owned by Aotearoa New Zealand Fine Wine Estates based in Havelock North.</p> <p>Our submission urges the council to consider just two options – the continuation of funding as per the status quo or at the very least, decide in favour of option B funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism. It is our belief that Option A where funding is discontinued is not a viable option at all.</p> <p>In 2019 we opened the Smith & Sheth Oenothèque and Heretaunga Wine Studio - a collection of great wine experiences including a tasting room, wine lounge, retail store and theatre-come-barrel hall in the heart of Havelock North. This 'cellar door' without a vineyard has been heralded as one of the most unique wine experiences in New Zealand, featured in the New Zealand Herald, NZH Viva, Escape, National Geographic and Seven Sharp. Hosted by hospitality professionals, it acts as the 'face' for our collection of wine brands, welcoming local, domestic and international visitors year-round and is one of the key levers for driving our direct to consumer and wine club business, having a significant impact on our wider business.</p> <p>Our business leans heavily on the support and promotion of our region by Hawke's Bay Tourism and its showcasing of the region's unique experiences. The media outcomes mentioned above were the result of the Hawke's Bay Tourism inbound media programme and our inclusion on the itinerary. We also promote our offering through social media, regional airport and I-Site advertising and relationships with fellow tourism operators. The reduced investment or potential closure of Hawke's Bay Tourism would significantly impact the effectiveness of our promotional</p>

		<p>reach through these channels, including social media which often relies on third-party endorsement (such as media articles) for cut through. Secondly, any loss in visitation and subsequent revenues would see our business reviewing our retail and hospitality hours and subsequent staffing requirements.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism is also a vital tool in connecting and promoting our business with inbound travel designers through the coordination of experiences for industry specialists and those who promote our offering at national and international travel trade events that we couldn't fund nor execute alone. The power of a single, collaborative and coordinated voice in this competitive space, and access to these important, high value travel planners is significant.</p> <p>If investment in Hawke's Bay Tourism is discontinued, it puts the region's status as a Great Wine Capital at risk. We have seen the benefits Adelaide, Australia reaped from this accolade – turning it from a sleepy country town at the bottom of the country to a mecca for arts, culture and wine. This was not by accident, but a concerted effort by local tourism bodies and regional and national government to invest in promoting the region's gems. Hawke's Bay Tourism have provided expert coordination and the logistics of attaining and maintaining this important tool in building our wine credentials on the world stage. A benefit that extends well beyond tourism and to our local wine industry.</p> <p>Finally, we are concerned that if funding of Hawke's Bay Tourism is discontinued, a vast number of hospitality and tourism businesses will lose patronage, a death-knell for those already operating at the margins due to increasing staffing and operational costs. Tourism's positive impact on the regional economy is estimated to be \$775 million annually, and 80% of visitors' spending dollars are spent on broader 'business as usual' goods and services. One in ten people are estimated to be employed as a result of tourism. It will take years and millions of dollars to rebuild Hawke's Bay Tourism to current operating capacity if funds are cut now. Momentum is everything. It is our view that \$1.52 million is a very fair investment for the strong economic return that the activity brings into the Hawke's Bay economy. It's important to note that any business that relies on tourism is also a source of income for those outside the industry and the impact is far reaching. By way of example, our business sources from neighbouring restaurant Malo, artisans Telegraph Hill olivery, fellow wine producers, and technical support for our audio-visual systems. For rate payers (based on 73,209 households) \$0.40 per week for a \$204 return sounds reasonable.</p> <p>We appreciate that tough decisions have to be made, however organisations that cut to the core of activities that can help growth and greater prosperity will ultimately fall behind. It is not time to cut funding in tourism, because tourism can truly help create a more prosperous community. We submit that you pledge continued support at the \$1.52m level or at the very least support Option B, showing the visitor economy the same support as you have other cyclone effected industries. While it is time to be prudent and disciplined, it is also time to look to the future and invest where the most benefit for the wider community can be gained.</p>
1178	Jiratchaya Amarak Anchorage Motor Lodge	<p>Of the options presented, Anchorage supports the status quo, continuing to fund Hawke's Bay Tourism, but failing that we are in support of Option B. The visitor economy generated \$775 million for Hawke's Bay's regional GDP in the 12 months to September 2023 and supports one-tenth of local employment. During COVID, when New Zealand's borders were closed to international tourists, the Hawke's Bay region thrived on the back of the contribution made by domestic tourism to the local economy. While a \$1.52 million gap in funding is not insignificant, we see reduced funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism as short-sighted. If Council has taken the view that over the long term these initiatives should not be funded by general rates, then at the very least funding should continue in the short-term while alternative funding tools are developed. We should also note that given the economic contribution these initiatives add to Hawke's Bay, we see it as wholly appropriate that at least some funding for destination marketing and management should come from the general rates pool. There is a real potential that by reducing economic development and visitor attraction activities (both domestic and international), Hawke's Bay's reputation as a destination will stall, and future investment in the region will be hampered. It is also worth noting that the visitor economy provides benefits for Hawke's Bay ratepayers when it comes to entertainment options, and drives the vibrancy of hospitality offerings. Without the visitor economy, locals will have less choice, lower quality offerings and less competition.</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Tourism has made it clear that without continued funding, it will be unviable. It cannot be overstated that once an asset like a</p>

		regional tourism organisation is lost, it is immensely difficult to restart and rebuild momentum for destination marketing and management. We support ongoing funding from Hawke's Bay Regional Council, but at the very least, Hawke's Bay Tourism should be given another year to secure funding from other sources.
1182	Pam Joyce	<p>Please don't reduce the HB Tourism funding keep it as it is. It is crucial for the HB economy that this funding remains in place. The funding provides a focussed and coordinated strategic promotion of the HB region and supports this with a range of functions including bringing major events to the region, conferences and meetings, media and inbound cruise operators, or facilitates member's activities and supports them with industry knowledge, training and events.</p> <p>Tourism brings income not only to tourism operators but flow on to all industries in HB.</p> <p>Don't let the progress HB Tourism has made be lost because you want to save money. By reducing funding you will impact the whole HB economy. Central government has valued the worth of tourism in HB after the cyclone. By giving \$1.2m because many people still think HB is still closed. The cyclone and Covid are still impacting the whole HB economy and reducing funding to HB tourism will impact the all the people in HB. It will do more damage to the economy if you reduce or remove funding to tourism.</p> <p>Don't be shortsighted and lose the good traction HB Tourism has achieved since its inception to save a few \$\$\$. As a ratepayer I fully support HB Tourism at its current funding levels.</p> <p>I have seen the direct impact that HB Tourism delivers to not only to if members and tourism operators but also to the HB Region.</p>
1186	Jade Baker Arts Inc Heretaunga	<p>Our organisation is concerned to read in the draft Three-Year Plan 2024-27 budget, that one of the options being considered is the defunding of Hawke's Bay Tourism or significantly reducing its funding from next year. Neither of the options are acceptable or reasonable in the timeframes proposed. A decrease in funding that significant should be phased over time to allow the organisation the opportunity to transition their practices and secure new revenue streams. The impacts of this will be felt not only by that organisation but the network of businesses across the region who benefit from their services and expertise.</p> <p>Like many businesses, the impacts of COVID-19 and the Cyclone were substantial for us. Our ability to earn revenue was significantly limited. Over recent months, we have started to see some recovery. It is now more than ever that coordinated effort could achieve significant impact for our region's economic recovery. With backbone support from an organisation like Hawke's Bay Tourism, it is impossible to achieve collective impact. Fractured and siloed approaches will be inefficient, ineffective and costly.</p> <p>The loss of the funds available for Hawke's Bay Tourism from the Regional Council would have severe impacts on our organisation. The support we receive is essential to achieving our full potential.</p> <p>In the overall scheme of the Council's funding this is a relatively small amount of money, but the many initiatives these funds support are not small in impact and help make a real difference to the quality of Hawke's Bay people's lives.</p> <p>We hope that you will advocate for the retention of this small amount of funding which delivers so much to our communities.</p>
1190	Angie Whitworth EastEnd Cafe & Bar	<p>I believe the HBRC is reviewing the \$1.5 million it donates annually to HB Tourism with the intention to possibly stop this.</p> <p>As a business owner in Wairoa my concern is our town and surrounds will miss the opportunity to be promoted as a tourism destination and the costs to promote our area will fall back on individual business owners which will leave an uncoordinated approach and for some no advertising to potential visitors and internationals alike.</p> <p>The past three years have proven challenging with Covid and cyclone Gabriel, putting pressure on the whole community and the ability to keep going for many.</p> <p>I would ask that the funding be continued in the name of tourism in Northern Hawkes Bay.</p>

Other

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
48	Carina Chambers	So where will this money go? Hopefully this means you stop the bike tracks and their maintenance?
140	Blair Smith	You are so f**ked if any government entity thinks of this, quit now, close HBRC.
226	Catherine Mueller	What income does HB Tourism bring to the region? I don't have enough information to be able to answer your question above. I assume Tourism brings significant income to the region and all councils must contribute. Can there be a combined fund, from all three councils, based on a calculation of income from tourism
300	Bret Morris	Tourism Cut back is good but time to invest in high tech stop the rot with low paid tourism, harvesting, processing jobs and get real. The area is notable for its myopic focus on low paid industries with greedy fat cats owning the operations. Make real change education and high tech skills.
718	Walter Breustedt	reduce by 10% from now on
794	Christine Hay	Explain how much per household this adds to rates per annum so we can make an informed decision
1014	Rowan Manhire-Heath Heath New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora	Health NZ does not have a position on the proposal to phase out funding for Hawke's Bay Tourism.
1065	Jim Galloway Federated Farmers	Federated Farmers opposes region-wide rating when the service is not available to region-wide ratepayers, and there is no direct benefit. Tourism is a specific sector of the regional economy and easy for the Council to identify and rate accordingly. It appears that the Council already recognises that tourism benefits are not spread evenly throughout the region both by area and land use due to the differentials applied, and in particular Wairoa is acknowledged to not receive much benefit at all. We prefer a rate targeted at the commercial and industrial ratepayers, because they are directly benefiting from the service. If the tourism activity is 100% funded by a rate targeted at the tourism sector, then it is up to this sector if they want this tourism promotion service to continue. Submission: 3. Federated Farmers is neutral on whether the tourism promotion activity continues, on the condition that it is 100% targeted at ratepayers in the tourism industry that directly benefit. 4. Federated Farmers opposes region-wide general or uniform rates being used to promote the tourism activity.

-ENDS-

Sustainable Homes programme - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on the Sustainable Homes programme. Some commentary is an excerpt of the submitter's full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

	With comments	Without comments	Total
Option A (preferred) – Stop from July 2024	84	143	227
Option B – Continue for 10 years	78	100	178
Other – 'support reduction' sentiment	5		5
Other – 'support continuance' sentiment	11		11
Other	8		8
TOTAL	186	243	429

Option A - Stop from July 2024 (84)

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
5	Sam Hartree	If people can afford to build a home they can look at putting in their own heating and make it sustainable. HBRC should defiantly stop this.
8	Shanon Tait	Stop.Focus on flood protection.
66	Keith Rodel	Hi There, I agree that the HBRC solar heating loans scheme should be scrapped. The present scheme is geared toward providers that have inflated prices which makes projects more expensive
71	John Moir	Please do not use our money to subsidize the above programme to make artificially viable the actually unviable. We cannot afford to waste money on impractical programmes like this so just let the market function without intervention
116	E deB00rder	Need to know exactly where the saved funds will be allocated
134	Matthew Harman	All cost cutting options need to be adopted to reset the organisation's cost base to a more realistic and sustainable level.
157	Gus Black	Nice to have, not necessary.
171	Jo Burborough	Help redirect locals to other funding streams/ loan options to continue momentum for progress in sustainability within homes.
174	John Reilly	Need to cut spending on non essentials
182	John Kavanagh	From experience this is a subsidy that long term benefits landlords
184	Nicky Solomon	There are now other sources of low-interest funding for these sorts of home improvements, with many of the mainstream banks offering them.
189	Margaret Symons	The grants aren't fair. If one has a little money put away, one can't access these. They should be accessible to everyone or not at all.
193	Warren Howell	Most homes that would use it should of done so by now. I have done so twice now. Once for insulation and second gas heater and hot water install over past 10 years
204	brian webby	do not baby people the world economy runs on user pays so stop dreaming
254	Hilton Taylor, Te Mata Peak	Should have been done by now. But Keep a solar panel grant.

	Mountain bike trail rebuilders	
258	Andrea Baikie	As above. Although a great idea, there are people who can afford to do this themselves. Certainly warm homes are key to a healthy home. Perhaps offer it to lower socio economic communities instead as these are generally the ones who have unhealthier homes or offer a loan scheme to landlords.
259	Kayla Knibb	Again support us rate payers and pull these that are nice but not nessessary.
271	greg porcer	scrap, some silly policies, people have managed for years without it, it won't make any different.
288	Julia Butler	Banks now offer people cheaper (including interest free loans) for sustainable options like insulation, double glazing and heat pumps.
292	Martyn Gyde	Unaffordable
303	David Urieli	because other options fund it more cheaply
304	Viv Smith	You would think by now that most people in older homes would have taken advantage of the scheme. Newer homes have better insulation so don't need it.
337	Dianne Cameron	Don't need it
343	Susan Garner	Could be better spent elsewhere.
366	Phil Lascelles	Council is not a bank. This should be provided by commerical banks.
444	Julie Greene	I agree that banks may be able to do this cheaper.
457	Kate Parker	not your job to provide funding. banks can do.
488	Jon Eames	This should be a central government funded issue
504	Ruth Holmes	I am sure that these loans and grants have been available for some time? I would think most people who wanted to use them have done so.
532	Dean Hyde	I support Option A, however ask that Council continue to promote similar programmes offered by alternative providers.
535	George Spiers	We've got to cut expenditure as rate payers simply can't afford your rate increases. I know of people are already avoiding living in HB because of the rates
592	Miriam Jardine	Recommend stall given technical recession until Cost of living cost in 2024 & into early 2025 reduce for regional rate payers- many people on low to middle incomes impacted significantly by across the board increases
594	David Cormack	This is a personal matter not Councils.
629	Peter Culloty	Stop grants and loans in the next two years to allow for proposed changes
647	Andrew Pearce Kaiangaroa Residents Association	We support Council's Preferred option to stop Clean Heat grants and Sustainable home loans from July 2024, and to continue to charge the targeted rate for the next 12 years to those who have participated in the programme in the past, in order to balance out and recover the funds loaned. We note that these programmes have been very successful over the last 15 years, that participation is slowing, and that other parties now offer similar assistance.
653	Robert Gardiner	Cut any funding immediately to sustainable home loans and clean heat grants. Money saved can be used more appropriately for basic essential utilities reducing debt and reducing the burden on rate payers
664	Peter Robson	You need to reduce costs for the ratepayers.
681	Emil Driessen	The banks are giving a 1% loan to people wanting to improve their houses. I feel the council should inform people of this from July 2024.
682	Johannes Ehlers	Subsidies is an evil from socialism and should be eradicated. While people cant pay for healthy homes millions is spend by the same people on fast foods.
687	Tony Alexander	This would make a huge savings
694	Carly Hopgood	Banks are doing 0% or low interest rate loans for parts of what the sustainable home loans covered, so let the banks deal with it.

696	Peter Williamson	These are costs for individuals to bear. Personal responsibility is required. Each ratepayer has their own priorities to resolve and I cannot afford to carry others.
697	Bob Alkema	As above, and need to free up all funding levers to assist reducing the overall rating requirement
711	William Gray	Whilst I appreciate HBRC has an interest in this, this is not core business in my opinion.
717	Gabriela + Ralf Spindler	A really tough decision. The alternative of a \$5.3M impact on debt leaves no room for other options though
730	Don Ryder	Helpful results have been achieved in recent years. Hold off for now and review in six or so years.
731	Mark Oldershaw	By now most existing homes will have or should have obtained clean heat grants and or loans. New builds will have been built to meet sustainability and clean heat regulations so I see no reason for Council to continue with these loans & grants.
740	Stuart MacIntyre	There will be other grants and incentives to move to warmer homes coming from central government.
742	Philip Wilcock	Gone long enough. Not too sure it's been successful.
769	Kirsty Dinsdale	This programme has been going on for so long now and everyone that is entitled to this should have claimed by now. Just stop and be done with it.
777	Kerry Marshall	It's good that some have made use of it but there are other funding options available
787	Glenda Mawson	User pays. The region cannot afford to sustain this initiative any longer.
808	Brian Martin	I do not see a role for the HBRC in this area. It has been vastly overstated and has more than enough others operating in this space. HBRC should desist from this spending where able.
811	Glenn Marshall	Given the massive financial tsunami looming it is time for the HBRC to focus its spending on core business.
825	Joanna Donovan	There has been ample time for homeowners to get their houses insulated. As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end
827	Sera	Advise the community if this service is going to stop, so that those who require this service can organise for installation prior to the deadline to utilise the service (while still being able to pay off via their rates as normal).
856	Paul Baker	This sustainable homes project is one group of householders subsidising another specific group. HBRC should not be so generous with other people's (ratepayers) money. If such generosity was so important, why would HBRC Councillors and senior staff not fund these grants and loans from their private financial resources 100%? (I bet they won't match the total funding!) Why then does HBRC expect other ratepayers to do it? My strong feeling is that the "user should pay".
867	Lynne Anderson	Again, a great programme but realise you have to make cuts somewhere and better to cut this than make environmental cuts
874	Chris Nimon	Let people find their own building .. I do!
896	Robyn Christiansen	Anyone who hasn't applied by now should pay for themselves
907	Andrew Common	Funding should be discontinued immediately. In addition to this, regulation and enforcement on existing dwellings should be temporarily deferred for a period (perhaps 5 years) to assist HB residents.
917	Robert Tomlinson	Reconsider after 12 months
926	Paul Atkins	People/ homes should have taken advantage of this loan or grant by now if they were going to. It's been around for a fair while now.
930	Scott Lawson Hawkes Bay Vegetable Growers Assoc	Other providers are taking up this space. HBRC is not the only option. 11,000 households have taken up this offer, others have had 15 years since 2009 to take up this up.
935	Gareth Holder	If necessary, this should be paused with the intention of recommencing when costs can be brought under control.

936	Hugh Findlay Cherry Gold Orchards Ltd	Individuals should fund such things themselves.
945	Stuart Kilmister Kilhaven Orchards	Time to tighten the belt
957	Tim Averill	This is not a necessity for the council to invest in. It is more an individuals responsibility. You have removed or controlled peoples ability to heat through fire and with the assured knowledge that electricity is only going to increase in cost, the previous govts stance on the use of gas has left a lot of people "out in the cold" Elderly afraid to use heaters because of the cost, and then when there are power outages there is no alternative for heat and cooking unless you have a barbecue/or generator. So much for resilience as was shown when Gabrielle hit.
983	Graeme Sunnex	Why put more cost on other rate payers.
1043	Simon Bowker	This is an individual choice and should not be funded by all
1065	Jim Galloway Federated Farmers	Federated Farmers supports a stop on these programmes. The Regional Council does not need to prop up conversion to clean heat or household conversions to solar energy because the private market already provides this service. Banks already provide low interest loans such as this ANZ Good Energy loan of up to \$80,000 at 1% for three years, and this Westpac Greater Choices loan of up to \$50,000 interest-free for five years. There is no need for local government to provide this service and it is outside core functions. Submission: 5. Federated Farmers supports a halt on both the Clean Heat and Sustainable Homes programmes, because banks already provide lending services for these activities. Federated Farmers supports a stop on these programmes. The Regional Council does not need to prop up conversion to clean heat or household conversions to solar energy because the private market already provides this service. Banks already provide low interest loans such as this ANZ Good Energy loan of up to \$80,000 at 1% for three years, and this Westpac Greater Choices loan of up to \$50,000 interest-free for five years. There is no need for local government to provide this service and it is outside core functions. Submission: 5. Federated Farmers supports a halt on both the Clean Heat and Sustainable Homes programmes, because banks already provide lending services for these activities.
1081	Lindsay Tallman	The Sustainable Homes programme is a good programme-- however, there are more urgent issues that need to be funded -- namely, flood resilience and biodiversity protection. These items simply cannot wait.
1083	Karen Greenslade Tākaro Trails Cycle Tours	We tried to access this service and did not get good value for money. The subsidy didnt seem to add value?
1085	Syd & Annie King	although this work is important for individual homes essentially the HBRC is helping improve the capital value of private properties which is not your role
1101	Johnny Milmine	Not the council's core purpose
1105	Rose Stobie	Another option of: stop from July 2025 would've given the community more time to adjust.
1119	Ian Jones	Again this is not a function for the regional council.
1120	Eoin Carty	I think you have had a fair go at this area for many years now. Time to bring down the curtain on it - savings have to be made somewhere ?
1135	Stephen Brookes	should be sorted by now so should cease
1139	Roger Mogford	We need a break from rates increases year after year. What happens when too many of us cant afford the big rate increases?
1143	Andrew Mason	Older properties should have taken advantage of the scheme by now and newer properties are already insulated to code

1181	Vanessa Moon	I support "Option A" based on the availability of other options for accessing the support that HBRC has been providing. However, a bigger discussion needs to be had about how we create warm, dry, energy efficient and sustainable homes/buildings for everyone, both new and existing as part of mitigation.
1183	Hamish & Joan Cameron	Stop funding altogether
1191	Carmen Morrell	This is a fantastic opportunity many have benefitted, however the reality of Gabrielle requires a different focus we expect HBRC to act on. Thank you very much for including information of financial assistance alternatives in the booklet. I do hope that should ratepayers pursue the alternatives, that HBRC will supply a letter of support to assist their applications.

Option B – Continue for 10 years (78)

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
10	Ian Morton	Drop gas from the sustainable homes, there is nothing sustainable about gas it's a fossil fuel. For water heating Hot Water Heat Pumps are the future
16	Angela Taylor	We urge you to consider a five-year extension of the Sustainable Homes Programme. We are confident that a collaborative approach involving stakeholders from the building industry, environmental groups, and the public can lead to more effective and sustainable housing solutions for Hawkes Bay Residents. Environmental Benefits: Reduced Energy Consumption: Sustainable improvements like energy-efficient appliances, insulation upgrades, and solar panels can significantly decrease a home's energy use. This translates to lower carbon emissions and a smaller environmental footprint. Conservation of Resources: Sustainable features such as rainwater harvesting systems and water-saving fixtures can reduce water consumption. Additionally, eco-friendly building materials can minimize environmental impact during construction and renovation. Financial Benefits for Homeowners: Lower Utility Bills: Energy-efficient upgrades directly translate to reduced utility costs, saving homeowners money on their monthly bills. This creates long-term financial benefits and a faster return on investment for the initial improvements. Increased Property Value: Sustainable homes are increasingly sought after by environmentally conscious buyers. Upgrading a home's sustainability features can potentially increase its market value, creating a financial advantage when selling. Community Benefits: Improved Public Health: Sustainable homes often have better air quality due to improved ventilation and reduced reliance on fossil fuels for heating. This can contribute to improved public health outcomes within communities. Increased Resilience: Sustainable features like rainwater harvesting and storm-resistant materials can make homes more resilient to extreme weather events, reducing the risk of damage and associated costs. Additional Advantages: Job Creation: Investment in sustainable home improvements can stimulate the green building sector, creating jobs in construction, manufacturing, and installation of sustainable technologies. Empowering Homeowners: Access to funding empowers homeowners to take control of their energy consumption and environmental impact, fostering a sense of ownership and environmental responsibility.
17	Lindsay Taylor	We urge you to consider a five-year extension of the Sustainable Homes Programme. We are confident that a collaborative approach involving stakeholders from the building industry, environmental groups, and the public can lead to more effective and sustainable housing solutions for Hawkes Bay Residents. Environmental Benefits: Reduced Energy Consumption: Sustainable improvements like energy-efficient appliances, insulation upgrades, and solar panels can significantly decrease a home's energy use. This translates to lower carbon emissions and a smaller environmental footprint. Conservation of Resources: Sustainable features such as rainwater harvesting systems and water-saving fixtures can reduce water consumption. Additionally, eco-friendly building materials can minimize environmental impact during construction and renovation. Financial Benefits for Homeowners: Lower Utility Bills: Energy-efficient upgrades directly translate to reduced utility costs, saving homeowners money on their monthly bills. This creates long-term financial benefits and a faster return on investment for the initial improvements. Increased

		Property Value: Sustainable homes are increasingly sought after by environmentally conscious buyers. Upgrading a home's sustainability features can potentially increase its market value, creating a financial advantage when selling. Community Benefits: Improved Public Health: Sustainable homes often have better air quality due to improved ventilation and reduced reliance on fossil fuels for heating. This can contribute to improved public health outcomes within communities. Increased Resilience: Sustainable features like rainwater harvesting and storm-resistant materials can make homes more resilient to extreme weather events, reducing the risk of damage and associated costs. Additional Advantages: Job Creation: Investment in sustainable home improvements can stimulate the green building sector, creating jobs in construction, manufacturing, and installation of sustainable technologies. Empowering Homeowners: Access to funding empowers homeowners to take control of their energy consumption and environmental impact, fostering a sense of ownership and environmental responsibility.
24	Warwick Thomson	Wake up! We have appalling statistics relating to human health and warm, energy efficient homes. Climate change is HERE, NOW
30	Caleb Arrowsmith	Family's are struggling more than every now and making sure there is funding to help with environmental clean heating and sustainable homes is more important now than ever.
35	Kerri Goodwin	The point system is unfair. Just because someone does not have debt history but they have a mortgage. They shld still qualify to help make there house healthy.
37	David Trubridge	This is vital for us to meet our climate change pledges and targets
42	Tanja Klumpers	CleanHeat grants are important to assist ratepayers in moving to compliant heating sources.
46	Deborah Mellors	Why are you penalising the less well off. We have a large population of maori and pasifika, it is well documented that these groups are over represented in adverse health outcomes. Having warm, healthy homes are a fundamental key to improving these health inequalities. We are also trying to improve our enviromental impacts as a whole country fir out future generations, your idea to scrap these grants is absolutely ludicrous!
65	Duncan Kinnear	People need all the help they can get to improve their homes
67	Sandra Bishop	Regional Council, As a Rate Payer Paying Rates for Hastings as will as Napier Regional Council, I think we should and others as well should get something back for what we pay for.
73	Sarah Singleton	Please don't scrap the loans for Solar, if we hadn't had one we would never have been able to afford Solar & what a marvellous thing it has been.
74	Jackie Whaanga	A short email from my work email sorry as it is easier than typing on my phone! We installed solar and once it was paid off (we anticipate 2 more years at \$100 a week) we wanted to look at getting double glazed windows through the same scheme. We truly could not have considered installing solar here in Waikopu were it not for your programme and the same with the heat pumps and ceiling and floor insulation. We took on 60 years of deferred maintenance when we purchased the family home in the early 2000's and to this day we continue having to replace something major every year. This winter we are doing 5 double glazed aluminium windows as the old ones are almost falling out of the wall everything is so rotten and had I been able to do that through our rates bill, I would have but I want to pay off one thing first so the next lot of windows we would look to do through this scheme, on our rates bill. I understand there may be some people that add administrative costs for you but it is a wonderful solution and enables people to think more/act on reducing carbon footprints and how we can set up our home going forward so that we don't use as much electricity in the future. The reality is not many homeowners especially in provincial/coastal areas has large sums of money to make improvements to their property.
75	ANON	I'd like to be ANONYMOUS please. I feel sad over that! What about our elderly that need it right now and families who have children? Things are very expensive these days. Winter has approached and its colder than we have ever had. Flooded victims need it at this moment I know of an 80 year old and a family of 7 with young children NEED one right now and theirs no help they have been to the recovery team and still havent come to their aid its been months and still SHIVERING COLD! So come on HBRC PLEASE keep it GOING!

77	Louise Ihimaera	We are so appreciative of having this option to have a hot water heat pump in our household with an intergenerational family of maternal grandparents, adult children and 4 mokopuna on our property - this heat pump has been a blessing which was made possible by receiving a low interest loan and paying for this heat pump via our regional rates provider. So please leave this option open to other hopeful rate payers :-)
78	Melanie Davidson	I have heard recently that there is a proposal to stop the Sustainable homes programme loans for solar and hot water heat pumps. We installed a hot water heat pump a few years ago on the programme and are now loving the benefit of it. We never could have managed to do this without access to the loan. It has meant that our hot water bills dropped by about a third and our hot water is more efficient all round. Please reconsider scrapping this programme, it makes such a difference to the community.
79	Austin Family	Please don't scrap the healthy homes solar panels and solar hot water. We could never of afforded to get solar panels if it wasn't for this and being able to pay it off on our rates, and it has helped our family so much.
80	Carl Oliver	I believe that your position of removing the funding of solar panels is very short sighted. You are reducing services across Hawkes bay due to funding costs and the solar panel programme makes you money from the interest that you make on their sales. Our community needs more solar power to help people reduce their over all power costs and this service that I have used and recommend to others to use is a win for the council and the community!!!! It makes absolutely no sense why you would consider dumping this programme!! Your community that funds your wages needs your support and taking another service away from them shows just how out of touch with the Community you are!!!
82	Rachel O'Brien	It would be a huge shame to get rid of the sustainable homes scheme as it has helped so many people and will continue to do so. I for one am wanting to us that scheme for double glazing as our 3 bedroom he becomes an ice box during winter so our house becomes a 2 bedroom. Highly impractical. Please do not remove or get rid of the sustainable homes scheme. Not everyone can afford an amount as large as the solar/ double glazing or other costs without the aide of this scheme.
83	Russell Meyer	I bought all my solar through this scheme without it I would have never been able to afford it I'm thankful this was an option I love the benefits of solar so much so that we added batteries as well for home best thing we ever did but again if this scheme wasn't running I would have what I have got today it benefits so many people and it does reduce the power bill so keep it going it does make a difference
84	Angela Silverwood	My husband and I were very disappointed to hear that the council are thinking of scrapping the above scheme! In our world today where we are trying to find ways to reduce our carbon emissions and promote a much healthier and greener lifestyle, this council sees fit that it no longer wants to help with this!
85	Mike Betts	Cancelling this subsidy will be a negative step for a lot of people whom could not afford to get the system. I think the council needs to rethink their actions. It is a loan homeowners are paying for and the council still glean interest on it. I VOTE NO FOR STOPPING THE LOAN.
87	Daniel Wilkinson	I do not know too much about the Sustainable Homes Programme but what I do know is that solar and hot water heat pumps are making a substantial difference financially as well as environmentally for homeowners across Aotearoa given both the cost of living and global warming crisis currently upon us. We would even suggest that home battery storage solutions be included in this programme. The recent 'Rewiring Aotearoa' report highlighted the significance of moving towards electrification within our homes and I have heard this program is one of the best contributors within the Hawkes Bay region for enabling people to make this change.
88	Felicity Marriott	The option of upgrading to modern energy saving technology for solar power heating and being able to add this to your rates bill should stay. The person who owns the house still continues to pay for it. It is a good investment for heating with our current climate crises affecting us. Hawkes Bay has long sun shine hours so totally makes sense to utilise this scheme. It enables the installation to go ahead, especially important considering the high interest rates on loans for home owners
93	Hera Taukamo & Kahuroa Reihana	AS A RATE PAYER FOR MANY YEARS. I HAVE HAD NO REASON WHAT SO EVER TO GO AGAINST WHAT YOU AND THE COUNCIL HAVE HAD IN PLACE. HOWEVER, FOR YOU TO ALLOW THIS PROGRAMME TO HAPPEN HAS ENLIGHTEN ME VERY MUCH AS TO THE NEW TECHNOLOGY AND ADVANCE TO A WARMER ENVIRONMENT AWAY FROM AN OPEN FIRE, THAT WE NOW HOLD AND WHOLE HEARTLY REPAY WHAT WE OWE FOR

		OTHERS TO BECOME PART OF THIS BEAUTIFUL PROGRAMME. FOR THIS TO COME TO AN END IS NOT HELPING OUR FUTURE GENERATION BUT PUTTING THEM IN A COLDER ENVIRONMENT THAT ALL NEEDS TO BE THANKFUL FOR. ONCE AGAIN, HAVE YOUR SAY, IS PLEASE DO NOT END THIS PROGRAMME AS WE ALL NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE. THE WARMER YOU ARE THE LONGER YOU PERFORM
97	Megan Couper	This grant helped my family and many like ours provide a healthy home for our tamariki. Stopping this grant seems extremely unwarranted. It comes at no cost to the council to continue and effects the world we are leaving for our tamariki. This grant is everything and should be left as it stands. I don't understand the want to end it?? It makes no logical or financial sense. Those who want to invest in their futures can do so without impacting others... Don't stop this. Please.
98	Thursday Ibbetson	There is no clarity as to how the HRC will continue to support air quality.
100	scott hodgetts	I think this is extremely beneficial option to have for the residents of Napier, if the demand for it is slowing then it is working and should be kept on
129	Josephine Moran	Dry and Healthy homes are needed to keep residents healthy. HBRC may be required to assist the HBDHB in the future.
136	Britney Jamerson	Helps people keep homes healthy with no excuses.
148	Alana Sayers	This is an extremely important scheme that many ratepayers find extremely useful. We have benefited from this scheme in the past and our quality of life was greatly improved. Many children and families may otherwise live in colder and damper homes without this scheme!
154	Sonia Gray	It needs to stay in. Recommend this project to any home owner. It saves on the power bill, plus you add to the grid where they pay you less than what you have to pay, if you don't get batteries. You have more control over your hot water functions and use. Paying it off is a god send as you hardly notice it's gone from your pay. If there are more weather problems coming solar is a good option with hot water attached.
164	Liz Gordon-Crosby	I wish to oppose the Council's recommendation to end the Sustainable Homes Programme. I know of many ratepayers who have taken advantage of this scheme who would not have otherwise been able to make the home improvements to have a warmer home and energy efficient. The scheme has provided an affordable loan that is accessible to those that may not have had any other options to upgrade their fireplaces that regulations were imposed on them for clean heating. The option to further home improvements has been invaluable for affordability and providing our community to live in a healthy home. You advise there are other options as such with financing through banks, although this is not as easily accessible option for many lower income homeowners. This is also a scheme that may not always be available from Banks. I also understand the Bank Loans are not easy accessible and require more for the applicant to provide. Should the HBRC end the scheme I believe it will be lost forever and not reinstated. The scheme has not only provided for homeowners it has also provided for Local businesses to benefit from the scheme. The impact of this could have wide spread affects on these businesses and the community. I would urge that Council considers other avenues to cutting costs than to end these schemes. PREFERRED Option B: Continue with offering the Clean Heat grants and loans and the Sustainable Home Loans for the next 10 years! PLEASE
215	Henderson Sissiel	Surely these are a needed service. How can anyone get into a home without a loan of some kind.
216	Neil Eagles	We must work to increase sustainable homes and properties. To reduce is short sighted
226	Catherine Mueller	Anything to do with the environment and sustainability should be funded if at all possible.
227	Jessie Smith	This work is so important for everyone, but especially for renters. It's hard out there at the moment, and a lot of people are paying big bucks to live in a cold and unsafe home. Providing loans and grants to help homeowners get their property up to scratch is a fantastic thing for people who could otherwise not afford it upfront.

232	Stephen Hensman	The sustainable homes programme is just as important now as it was when it was set up, so I do not support its cessation.
253	graeme pedersen	You are slugging us off more and more and taking away the FEW services the average pensioner can claim
309	Deena MacGregor	This has been truly beneficial for myself and many other home owners We had 2 heatpumps installed and also want to get solar through this option. Without it, we likely cannot have solar
318	Pii-tuulia Nikula	The climate crisis and poverty are pervasive critical societal issues. The Sustainable Homes programme helps mitigate these.
325	Wendy Rapaea	There is still alot of hard workers that don't know about this, so keep it going this actually helps people
330	Bevan Jenkins	Although air quality may have improved a bit, it still has a way to go. There is still dense smoke on cold, still nights. We should double down on the clean heat particularly.
340	Kyal Gordon-Crosby KGC Aluminium Installations LTD	I wish to oppose the Council's recommendation to end the Sustainable Homes Programme. I know of many ratepayers who have taken advantage of this scheme who would not have otherwise been able to make the home improvements to have a warmer home and energy efficient. The scheme has provided an affordable loan that is accessible to those that may not have had any other options to upgrade their fireplaces that regulations were imposed on them for clean heating. The option to further home improvements has been invaluable for affordability and providing our community to live in a healthy home. You advise there are other options as such with financing through banks, although this is not as easily accessible option for many lower income homeowners. This is also a scheme that may not always be available from Banks. I also understand the Bank Loans are not easy accessible and require more for the applicant to provide. Should the HBRC end the scheme I believe it will be lost forever and not reinstated. The scheme has not only provided for homeowners it has also provided for Local businesses to benefit from the scheme. The impact of this could have wide spread affects on these businesses and the community. I would urge that Council considers other avenues to cutting costs than to end these schemes. PREFERRED Option B: Continue with offering the Clean Heat grants and loans and the Sustainable Home Loans for the next 10 years! PLEASE
353	Ronald WILKINS	I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER TEN YEARS
361	Sarah Abrehamsen	The sustainable home loans and heat grants have been a life saver to some people who are desperate and in need. People work hard and get paid little to nothing and struggle with all their bills and sometimes end up losing their home or going cold because of this. Please keep this going as it's needed in our current climate and with so many people still recovering from the cyclone too.
420	Abby Davies	Costs are so incredibly high for households to live day to day there is no additional money for them to also put in new heating alternatives without assistance.
431	Natasha Macaulay	Stopping the sustainable homes grants and loans makes no long term sense. Especially in tandem with increasing the air shed areas. The cost of doing so will not justify any savings.
459	Bruce Garner	People need a good home to live in
499	Lucy Nicoll	We need to think about the environment and continue to support people making sustainable life choices, as long as they are not excessive.
511	Andy Dowley	I understand that you want to end the sustainable homes programme. Your own website states that you declared a climate emergency and want to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. 25 years is not a long time. Without this funding you are taking a big step back. There are many households who cannot get access to the funds required to upgrade their house. I am sure that you are aware that New Zealand has very poor housing stock, which you were helping with but are not anymore. If this scheme does not consume council resources, and with an interest rate of 6% it should not, then I cannot understand why you would make this decision. Please reconsider this regressive step. We are way behind with the living standards of our homes. Improving these will help the health of our community and also contribute to our reduction in climate emissions. You have committed to reducing these.

516	Tania Luscombe	Reduced user rates is good but option to hit more homes over the next 10 years important
529	Darren Cooper	You are earning interest from these Payments so it should be making money.
599	Peter McAlley	Whilst this is an immediate cost with the right amount of interest applied this could be a source of regular income.
667	Shaun Andrews	I work for a company Ecoefficient solutions of which provides solar and battery power installations for the residents of Hawke's Bay. Throughout the years of the scheme being available we have provided solar to countless homes that have utilised the scheme to achieve the goal of bringing down their power costs and monthly overheads. It is my opinion that those in the community that are in the lower socioeconomic area are the ones that benefit the most from the scheme allowing them solar. Without the scheme it is very unlikely they can afford the capital outlay for solar and or batteries thus denying them of creating resilience, reducing costs in the home and furthermore improving the homes environmental footprint. Todays weather warning about using less power to avoid a blackout only exemplifies the need for more homes to go solar, reduce the load on the grid and become more independent. I believe it would be a great loss to the region if the scheme was removed as it denies rate payers of the opportunity that they would otherwise not be able to achieve with such ease. Therefore I strongly suggest the scheme stay in place for the foreseeable future and for the good of the community.
702	Faye Te Nahu	THIS INITIATIVE HAS PROVEN BENEFICAL FOR MANY WHANAU I KNOW THAT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO UTILISE THAT OTHERWISE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD -FOR EXAMPLE- LINING THE HOMES, OR OTHER SOURCES OF HEATING TO KEEP THEM HEALTHY AND WARM THROUGHOUT THE WINTER.
718	Walter Breustedt	This program is helping to reduce our carbon foot print .If you stop it future generations will pay the price!
747	tessa Tylee	Although this must seem like a nice to have it isn't - clean heat loans are essential to encourage people to first heat their homes and secondly choose clean energy.
756	Petra Christie	Again this is incredibly short sighted and the lower income and demographic will suffer- as in CHILDREN will suffer.
772	Jeanette Darwen	There are so many buildings that can benefit from this. People are able to warm their homes.
804	Paul Barber	I would like to add my voice against the end of the Sustainable Home Programme. It is incumbent on every human to take steps where they can to reduce their impact on the planet and solar energy and efficient hot water generation amongst a number of available technologies makes a material difference. Any steps counter to this are a great step backwards. What we need is everyone to understand and accept the need for change, and to understand ways that they can play their part. The Sustainable Homes initiative helps people that can't afford the capital cost up front to make this important change to help better their future. To undo this is to wilfully and needlessly ignore the dire situation the world is in, and fail to accept the responsibility that society as a whole, and the governance that Council provides on behalf of society, has in promoting and driving positive change. People's ambivalence to this existential crisis is the biggest problem of our time - don't be part of the problem, be part of the solution.
853	Elaine Plesner	What if you continued the \$700 clean heat grants and stopped the loans. People could at least have insulation as a minimum.
862	sarah wilson	People need to be warm and healthy
875	Megan Harris	I believe it is important for people to be supported locally in making choices for more Sustainable Homes. For some people bank loans may not be possible. I think it would be a good idea to reduce the burden somewhat and remove the 50% interest rate subsidy on Clean Heat Loans to offset cost.
877	Liv Worsnop	HONESTLY WHAT!!!!!! Our world needs more sustainable homes. We need healthy homes. We need safe and secure homes. Reducing these loans and grants will have a massive impact on the wellbeing of our people and environment. The impacts will be felt at a micro and macro level. You will be directly responsible for causing grief to individuals as well as creating an unhealthy living environment. Which will have fiscal impacts down the line by affecting peoples finances and health. PLEASE CONTINUE THE GRANTS

886	Johanna King	The need for future proofing, conservation and sustainability on the home front in our region to reduce energy consumption will become ever greater as climate and environmental challenges arise in the future. Energy conservation is to be encouraged in all ratepayers in our region, council endorsement is vital to the ratepayer to enable them to become sustainable.
916	Tom Young FizzyPop Ltd.	The Sustainable Home loans and CleanHeat grants and loans have been pivotal in promoting energy efficiency and sustainability in our community. These programs not only contribute to environmental conservation but also provide significant benefits to homeowners and the broader society
918	Johanna Rodgers	I think the scheme is valuable and it should continue. It has a proven track record of helping people get warmer homes. The five year period is good for people who can't find the capital, but can pay the loan off in a sensible time.
925	Gavin Ashcroft	This is another area that should continue. Short sight ness again by Councilors not looking to the future.
967	Ingrid Perois	This is an important funding that helps many people to improve the quality of their homes and also the quality of the environment. If not funded by HBRC it needs to be funded some other way.
987	Kelly Annand	But i am not sure it reaches as far as Central Hawke's Bay so it would be great to see our community having this as an option
991	Sharyn Phillips	We still have a huge amount of people in horrendous homes that you would not want to live in. New home owners need to be able to ask for help if they cannot afford the huge cost involved (especially now their rates bills are going to be so high).
1000	Laraine Russell	Stopping this is false economy, it is not just people who have been impacted by the floods who need to be looked after. If people choose to live by a river, they should be aware of the risks , not expect the ratepayer to be used as a handy Atm every time there is a weather event.
1009	Alastair Chalmers	People need warm and heated homes as a basic life requirement, reduce the planning and consent requirements and allow people to achieve this in a more cost effective manner and then it would not be necessary for the regional council to continue grant aiding this process.
1034	Richard Marshall	Have the people wanting the loans and Grants pay a little more and have the Companies supplying the materials lower their profit margins.
1038	sharleen baird	Continue but perhaps means tested so not available to everyone.
1052	Liliana Theyer	Seems obvious we need to invest in a sustainable future otherwise there won't be one
1187	Paul Cornille	heating is important and people are less able to afford than ever before

Other - 'support reduction' sentiment (5)

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
256	Andrew Flint	There are plenty of options for people to "fund" these items. Yes stop in a years time. You cant just pill the plug straight away and toughen up the criteria.
436	Anon	You should not be doing this activity at all.
490	Rose Artemiev	Stop the sustainable home loans and clean heat loans. There are other sources of lower interest loans for this. Keep the clean heat grants.
579	Penny Reynolds	Stop home loans and grants immediately
1007	Christine Scott	Ceasing Clean Heat Funding. This was introduced at the time the time of the restrictions placed on open fires and less efficient enclosed wood burners (for health reasons) in urban homes to lessen the impact that the upgrade heating and meeting the standards of healthy homes for the more vulnerable sectors of our society that this plan change would have. This was several terms of council ago and has served its purpose.

Other - 'support continuance' sentiment (11)

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
54	Oliver Welfare	Reversing funding for greener choices and more energy efficient homes and heating is socially irresponsible and reprehensible
72	Patricia Andersen	As members of a household where asthma, eczema and allergies afflict our loved ones, the Sustainable Homes Programme is not just a policy but a lifeline. Its emphasis on eco-friendly building practices directly contributes to healthier indoor environments, crucial for those with respiratory conditions like asthma and allergies, particularly our youngest family members. This programme isn't just about reducing carbon footprints; it's about prioritizing human health. Sustainable homes offer improved indoor air quality, crucial for managing respiratory issues. By incorporating features like advanced ventilation systems and low-toxicity materials, it creates sanctuaries free from common triggers like mold, dust, and volatile organic compounds. Discontinuing the Sustainable Homes Programme would jeopardize the well-being of our family and others like us. It's not just a matter of sustainability; it's a matter of health. We must advocate for its continuation to ensure that every household has the opportunity to live in spaces conducive to respiratory wellness
76	Shaun Driscoll	It gas cam to my notice that you are considering scrapping the sustainable homes programme. As a user of this programme, I am writing to urge you to reconsider. This programme opens the door for many people to enjoy healthier homes and significantly improved comfort and personal health. Without the programme, it would be impossible to improve the living standards of so many people. I hope you reconsider and are able to maintain the programme.
229	Laura Andrews	I am writing to you in regards to stopping the sustainable homes programme. I am the owner of Ecoefficient Solutions and I have been the largest solar photovoltaic supplier within this scheme since solar was introduced. I am very concerned that the council's approach is stop the funding for solar. We have helped hundreds of Hawke's Bay home owners go solar with the help of this funding available. It doesn't make sense to myself or my clients to why we would stop this funding, when the interest component covers any costs that the council incurs through administration staff. The sustainable homes team themselves also want this scheme to continue. We are in a climate crisis! It was only last week I watched 'Sunday' and they have found seals and birds on our Kaikoura coastline dying from starvation due to warmer waters, and with this, less fish. It was only a year ago that we were hit with a flood that destroyed homes and took lives in our own backyard. We have been told to expect many more floods and extreme weather events which will no doubt result in power outages for extended periods. Having solar power is a step in the right direction to becoming self-sufficient in a power outage. Removing this funding as an option is a step backwards and something I thought the regional council would have understood. The banks low interest loans are a good option for those that have the ability to get it. Attaining these loans are not easy with the bank as I am sure you all understand how difficult banks can be. Having the council help the local residents go solar creates a positive connection to the council also. They feel like the council is really doing something to help them out and help the environment out. Just because the programme has been successful, doesn't mean it should stop! In fact, it should mean the opposite!!! There is nothing bad about solar, it saves the home owner money on their power-bill, helps them to become more self sufficient, adds value to their home and reduces their carbon footprint. I am more than happy to come into the council and discuss this in more detail in person if this is wanted.
355	Anon	I think its still a fit for purpise scheme where financially home owners dont have access to available funds to fix or replace essential assets in there home. Please reconsider.
374	Simon Beale	Continue only is it is cost neutral.
382	Jaki Smiler	It would be disastrous for the many home owners of HB to have this programme stopped. My home was built in 1977 and had no proper heating for all those years. To have the insulation and heat pump installed through the sustainable homes programme has been a blessing. We had 3 generations living in the home for years and the amount of times we had sick children due to insufficient heating and insulation cost the health of

		my children immensely during their early years. Our HB conditions are not suitable for the homes like ours that were built way back then. I am asking in earnest not to stop this amazing programme. Thank you for making this possible for my whanau.
630	Rachel Cameron	Why would you stop these?
982	Hans Doevendans	The two options above are leading, i.e., selecting one of them is agreeing with the phasing out funding. Do not stop the Sustainable Home loans and CleanHeat grants and loans. The social impact leads to more illness and poverty. All new houses must comply with current rules, so the the Sustainable Home loans and CleanHeat grants and loans will phase out automatically over the years.
1014	Rowan Manhire-Heath, Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora	Health NZ would like to commend Council for the success of the Clean Heat and Sustainable Homes programme. It has contributed to reduced winter air pollution and provided opportunities for communities to adapt their homes to the effects of a changing climate. Health NZ strongly supports access for homeowners to financial assistance to support investments in healthy and more sustainable homes. Health NZ is also aware that there are now a number of banks offering low or no-interest loans for sustainable home improvements that are equally as accessible to homeowners as Council's Clean Heat and Sustainable Homes programme.
1168	Callum Ross Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' Association	Secondly, we are against the proposal to stop the Sustainable Home loans and CleanHeat grants and loans. These programs are crucial for promoting sustainability and energy efficiency, which are priorities for our association and the wider community. Discontinuing these initiatives would hinder progress towards a more sustainable future and miss out on associated benefits, both environmentally and economically. We urge you to maintain and expand these programs to support sustainable practices in our region.

Other (8)

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
48	Carina Chambers	So where does the money go that's being used here? And I thought you were all so intent on terrifying as many people as you could regarding the climate crisis! Surely sustainability is right up your alley!
68	Erica Wilson	Please consider keeping the solar loans. With the increase in power and environmental issues we certainly need to change our planet. Solar power is a great way to do so.
103	Colin E Haipe	Why do you need to stop this?? More information please? Has the original objectives of the plan been reached?
122	Peter Alexander	Provide a governance oversight role. Defund after 5 years for all cases other than acutely serious applicant situations.
140	Blair Smith	Ratepayers pay for this themselves as a loan
300	Bret Morris	Sustainable homes need to be much more emphasis on insulation double glazing and sun energy capture.
311	Damon Harvey	Not sure why this needs to be stopped - isn't it cost neutral anyway?
929	Oliver Ryan	We need cheaper houses Paper work and compliance costs are out of control Time to trim the fat

-ENDS-

Erosion Control Scheme and Biodiversity/Biosecurity programmes - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on Erosion Control Scheme and Biodiversity/Biosecurity programmes. Some commentary is an excerpt of the submitter's full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

Erosion Control Scheme	ECS	B/B
Option A (preferred) - Reduce or slow for 3 years	129	133
Option B – Continue at previous levels	223	226
Other – tell us	39	42
No option but commentary supplied	20	15

At the hearing, four submitters talked about these consultation topics:

Option A: Reduce or slow for 3 years (selected for both activities) - 24

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
122	Peter Alexander	This is low order spending priority, and funding should be cut right back. Most horticultural operations can manage their own pest control programmes now...should pest occurrences spread from land areas typically under HBRC surveillance.
288	Julia Butler	Funding should be diverted to climate-related issues as a result of the cyclone.
325	Wendy Rapaea	Council contributions will help with this, double dipping on the money
341	Greg Donnison	Erosion Control Scheme – I'm comfortable with the reduced level of funding which seems to be at a level that will allow work to continue at a slower pace, rather than stopped outright. However, there needs to be some acknowledgement of an intention to significantly accelerate this work once the cyclone recovery period has passed. This is, after all, a key part of building resilience into our region, rather than a 'nice to have'. Biodiversity / Biosecurity Programmes – I'm also comfortable with the reduced level of funding as long as it "holds the line" for the progress that has been made over the past few years. As we are seeing with the cancellation of Jobs for Nature, progress in such areas as wilding pines control will all come to nothing if momentum is stopped. It would be a waste of past time and resource. As above, there also needs to be some acknowledgement of an intention to significantly accelerate this work once the cyclone recovery period has passed.
426	Leonie Bennett	Put other non essential schemes on hold
516	Tania Luscombe	Erosion Control - Reduce % funded as scheme is well established Biosecurity - Maintain improvements and review in 3 years

532	Dean Hyde	Erosion Control: I support Option A, however am left asking why Council should continue to provide such significant subsidies to private business interests (agriculture, horticulture and forestry)? I believe that the maintenance of such private and corporate assets are the responsibility of the business owner. Whilst I understand the logic and argument behind protecting our soils for this and future generations, I have to question why landowners (private businesses) need to call upon what is little more than corporate welfare in order to protect their assets? The irony of this situation is that it is buffoons like Federated Farmers who openly oppose progressive policies to lift their industry to meet internationally demanded standards, yet are more than happy to stick their hands as deep as possible into the public purse. Families are under immense financial pressure, Council needs to acknowledge this and stop this corporate subsidy; private business interests should be held to account and not be allowed to continue to rely on succour from the public breast. Biosecurity and Biodiversity: I support Option A, this is a fundamental responsibility Council has on our collective behalf.
535	George Spiers	We have to cut back expenditure in all areas until the region recovers
579	Penny Reynolds	Reduce all spending as quickly as possible
647	Andrew Pearce Kaiangaroa Residents Association	Erosion Control Scheme (page 26) We note that the text for Option A (Preferred) and the related table are not consistent. The text says ".... reduce what we make available to landowners from \$3.4 million per year to \$2 million in 2024-25, \$2.5 million in 2025-26, and \$3 million the year after that". The table shows "Ratepayer contribution" as \$1.6 million in 2024-25, \$1.8 million in 2025-26 and \$2.1 million in 2026-27. We support Option A (Preferred option) and the specific figures shown in the table under Option A. Biodiversity and biosecurity programmes (page 27) We think that the heading here is expressed in a somewhat unfortunate manner given that what is proposed is in fact a slow increase in funding from 2024-25 through to 2026-27 (albeit that the funding proposed is lower in the next two years than it would have been without Cyclone Gabrielle and the re-prioritising of funds to cyclone recovery in 2023-24). We support Option A (Preferred option).
697	Bob Alkema	For the same reasons set out for the two previous items. Our priority above minimal levels of investment in these areas is one recovery from the floods and meeting the higher operational costs arising from inflation and increased cost of insurance
723	Jean McIver	These I see as core work for the regional council, but we need to reduce costs and as these are temporary reductions I am in favour of these.
808	Brian Martin	Erosion Control This is an important ongoing role, but I support Option A and the suggested reduction in total quantum through this challenging period. Bio Diversity and Pest Control I support Option A.
816	Roger Hooker	Parks are necessary for wellbeing of residents. In many cases they act as pockets of ecology protection. They need to be repaired and maintained
819	Sam McLennan	There is no more money to go to go around. Time to reduce projects, cut staff and services.
825	joanna Donovan	How do you control erosion, there is so much silt in the rivers currently seems like a waste of time and money Biosecurity, what are you targeting, the above is very vague Regional Parks, will done do dumb stuff like you did up at Waitangi, (wetlands restoration) for it to be destroyed by Gabrielle. You believe this will happen again, think it through people
862	Sarah wilson	If it going to cost the rate payer more then its common sense to leave it for awhile
882	John Waterson	Keep rivers and roadway drains open. No do after event. Go back to county council thinking of years gone. Clean drains and river mouths before winter and before major events. Dredge rivers to lower waterways. Use labour from prisons they get paid to sit on their arse. PEP worker programme
896	Robyn Christiansen	We need to cut costs in all areas and reduce council staff and expenses

916	Tom Young FizzyPop Ltd	I reluctantly support the temporary reduction of funding for the Erosion Control Scheme, Biosecurity and Biodiversity programmes, and Regional Parks and Te Mata Park funding over the next three years. While these initiatives are crucial for our environmental health and community well-being. However, given the significant financial strain and the urgent need to prioritise cyclone recovery efforts, we must acknowledge the necessity of reducing costs in some areas. While it is regrettable to slow progress, a temporary adjustment allows us to address immediate recovery needs while still preserving the capacity to revisit and revitalise these initiatives in the future. Balancing these priorities is a difficult but necessary step to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of our region.
945	Stuart Kilmister Kilhaven Orchards	Time to tighten the belt
984	Denise Bavidge	Happy to slow these activities for 3 years and then review
1091	Colin Maunder Timberlands Limited	Proposals to Stop or Slow Levels of Service 10. Generally, we support the proposals put forward to cut or slow particular services or service levels. However, we would like to record a note of caution with regard to: • Reducing funding available for Council's erosion control scheme • Slowing down the biosecurity programme. 11. Protecting highly erodible land and limiting the adverse effects of unwanted plants and animals have long term environmental and economic benefits for the region. While short term reductions in service levels are unlikely have any serious consequences, ongoing reductions in these programmes could result in these areas going backwards. Council needs to have a plan to reinstate these service levels as soon as possible.
1105	Rose Stobie	I would have preferred to see this put on hold and revisited

Option B: Continue at previous levels (selected for both activities) - 46

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
24	Warwick Thomson	Doesn't the cyclone damage already answer this question? Spend less on prestige projects and more on creating a resilient future!!
46	Deborah Mellors	As a council you are making absolutely ridiculous suggestions. I would actually suggest that you focus on improving environmental issues and actually look at ways to encourage more healthy activities!!
98	Thursday Ibbetson	These are critical activities to managing and maintaining a healthy, positive environment for Hawke's Bay - specifically biosecurity and biodiversity programmes would seem central to HBRC charter.
103	Colin E Haipe	These are all necessary to the Taiao and the Tangata on the Whenua therefore. Why are these under consideration for funding cuts??
189	Margaret Symons	Sort out the flood mess. So many bad plants like hemlock, fleabane, calamint are rampant. The cycle tracks re full of privets that have never been cutdown and poisoned. Help everyone stop the pests. It's disgusting the amount of rats and mice running around. Why are there ferrets?
216	Neil Eagles	We must protect biodiversity at all costs. Tutira especially is a treasure that should have community input to develop and protect, erosion control etc. They belong to our children and their children.
232	Stephen Hensman	Each of these is too important to pause.

278	Michael Koch	Erosion control is essential, take the funding from the fight against "climate change"!
303	David Urieli	Erosion in NZ is already disastrous and will become worse if we don't take it seriously. Again if we don't care for this beautiful land we don't deserve to have it. Parks such as Te Mata Park are a very valuable resource and much used and appreciated by the local communities.
318	Pii-tuulia Nikula	These programmes help mitigate and build resilience in the fight against climate heating.
330	Bevan Jenkins	Hawke's Bay has a lot of recovery to pay for, but it has also been growing and improving in the last few years. I support continuing the programmes to improve our region, rather than defer for a few years. I'm happy to pay more rates to help continue the good work.
343	Susan Garner	All essential needs for Hawke's Bay and needs to continue.
370	Rachel Haydon	The comparatively small amount of funding given to biosecurity, biodiversity and the Te Mata Park and Regional Parks facilitates a much larger and more cost effective range of outcomes that have far reaching effects. Funding supports administration and infrastructure that encourages a huge amount of visitation and work being done - how will this be done without HBRC funding, or what will HBRC staff have to pick up? HBRC has a responsible to support better environment and biodiversity outcomes for our community. This signals they do not see nature or the environment as priorities at all.
402	JONELLE JARVIS	If these schemes are stopped or slowed everything deteriorates, I believe that all the past money spent would therefore have been a waste of \$\$ we have to maintain what we have.
417	Marcia Stork	I don't even understand how you could even think about reducing on these activities. It is short-sighted, without healthy nature there will be no future for future generations and perhaps not even for us.
431	Natasha Macaulay	Stopping these things makes no long term sense. The cost of doing so will not justify any savings.
444	Julie Greene	I believe these are essential services and should be funded. I think some assets sales to support the upgraded flood schemes should occur instead of cutting funds to essential services.
490	Rose Artemiev	Alternative funding sources for these activities have reduced under this government. Maintain funding until impact of these other reductions is better understood.
538	Hazel E Hudson	It is imperative that support for the environment continue, our land is all we truly have. Te Mata Peak is a fabulous well used resource that contributes to the Biodiversity of the area and is heavily used by the whole community. Reducing biosecurity risks pays for itself. Incursions cost more to manage than prevent.
571	Brendon Rope	Erosion Control Scheme: It seems to be counterproductive to reduce the support of this programme given the erosion outcomes of Cyclone Gabrielle. It is difficult to understand the future subsidy requirements without seeing trends and forecasts of subsidy applications. Biosecurity and Biodiversity programmes:
574	Greg Reynolds	I dont think you should reduce funding or core services.
637	Charlotte Pedersen	By slowing the Erosion Control Scheme & Biosecurity and Biodiversity programmes all we are going to do is fall further behind. Pest management is vital to enhancing biodiversity and by slowing this even for 1 year is going to undo all the hard work that has been done so far!
707	Gill Tracy	The current issue that we are facing in Hawke's Bay is responding to the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle. With continued climate uncertainty we cannot just focus on repairing the damage that has already happened. We must also invest in activities that will prevent further damage from future climate induced events. Sustainable heating and biodiversity are contributions towards this goal.

718	Walter Breustedt	NZ has one of the highest erosions data world wide. If Erosion Control and the Biodiversity program are reduced, we may experience the impact during the next extreme downpour. Parks are our green lungs and helping active against global warming by improving our microclimate
744	Marie Taylor	We think the erosion control scheme and biodiversity scheme is exactly the kind of work that needs to continue. It seems counter-intuitive to reduce funding for these programmes when the focus of the council is to make Hawke's Bay more resilient to flood events. Instead of reducing the funding, the council could make it go further by reducing its percentage input to 50%. This would spread its funding over a wider area, so that more land can benefit from the erosion control work. Another way to make this programme go further would be to have a lower cap on project funding. We understand the council has to cut its cloth to suit, but landowners shouldn't be discouraged from going ahead with critical work to protect their environment. Page 37 of your consultation document refers to nature-based solutions: the erosion control scheme is just such a solution.
747	tessa Tylee	Submission for the Hawke's Bay Regional Council Three-Year Plan 2024-2027 Thank you for the opportunity to submit. I acknowledge how challenging it is for the HBRC to plan and set priorities when so much needs to be done within our region. Rebuilding our infrastructure after cyclone Gabrielle, as well as maintaining essential ongoing work, means difficult decisions need to be made about rates increases and cuts. While supporting much of the plan, I am strongly opposed to HBRC's proposal to slow funding in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity restoration projects • Biosecurity programmes • Maintenance of our regional parks Rather than reducing this funding, these programmes must continue at current or higher levels. Slowing biodiversity and biosecurity programmes will have long term consequences that bring even higher costs in the future as we attempt to undo the damage. It will also, inevitably, mean further destruction of our region's fragile environment. Below is a brief outline of the benefits of the programmes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native biodiversity restoration projects (forest & wetland landscape restoration/regeneration) are multifunctional/win-win-win/multiple-outcome projects, that can engage and unite the community, beautify the landscape, sequester carbon (climate change mitigation), control erosion (climate change adaptation), reduce risks and impacts associated with floods AND wildfires (adaptation again: with the exceptions of manuka and kanuka, native trees are much less flammable than exotic species especially pines and eucalypts), create habitat for native birds, fish, invertebrates, create cultural and economic opportunities for future generations in the form of selective harvesting of premium timber and non-timber forest products, bring water back to hill country and hold water in the landscape, provide shade for livestock, the list goes on. Globally Aotearoa is one of a very small number of countries in the world internationally recognised as global biodiversity hotspots. This means very high levels of endemism of vascular plants (implicitly high levels of endemic animals), and overall habitat loss of over 70%. Hawke's Bay has lost 98% of its wetlands and 77% of its native forest cover, making the region an endangered habitat of global significance in its own right. https://www.conservation.org/priorities/biodiversity-hotspots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity programmes Hawke's Bay is a national hotspot for a variety of highly invasive noxious weeds such as Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) and Old Man's Beard, not to mention our invasive insect and mammal predators including feral cats which have only recently (in the last few years) become such a threat to our biodiversity that HBRC has elevated them to priority target species alongside possums, rodents and mustelids (stoats, weasels etc.). Reducing funding for biosecurity (and regional parks maintenance) in the short term is guaranteed to end up costing us more in the long run, as it could easily take a decade to undo the damage caused by 3 years of cut funding. CNG and Old Man's Beard are not only a threat to our biodiversity, they are economic threats, doing untold damage to livestock (in the case of CNG) and commercial forests (in the case of Old Man's Beard).
787	Glenda Mawson	The first 2 should continue.
814	Lindsay Bates	This funding is an investment in resilience that will help the region and the ratepayers survive future climate events. It will save our ratepayers money in the medium and long term.
867	Lynne Anderson	This is not the time to be making cuts to environmental resilience - slowing environmental protection will have long term consequences that will cost more in the future. Healthy biodiversity controls erosion, helps with flood protection and sequesters carbon. NZ's natural biodiversity is in crisis with over 4000 NZ species at risk of extinction. Locally, it would be a huge detriment to Hawke's Bay if 'Biodiversity Hawke's Bay' was no longer funded. This is an organisation with a sound Strategy and Action Plan - they enable and support numerous environmental groups throughout Hawke's Bay to deliver their projects which enhance our local biodiversity. If noxious weeds and predators are allowed to flourish - it will be of huge detriment to our natural

		environment and either: may never be recoverable or, will cost far more in the future to right the wrongs - don't take your foot off the pedal! Nature is taking hit enough from the present government - e.g. proposed fast track bill, RMA reforms etc - please don't make it even worse!
875	Megan Harris	Too much erosion already, control needs to be kept up and hillsides secured. - Too many indigenous species of flora and fauna are under threat from invasive predators/ other species and should be protected so they don't take over. In all 3 areas above its important work is maintained so that what has already been undertaken is not wasted or needs to be repeated.
917	Robert Tomlinson	Control of Erosion is essential to protecting our rivers /waterways Biosecurity / Biodiversity important to our horticulture / agriculture industries and therefore such exports and employment - need both strong to ensure economic growth = strong economy= repaying debt shorter term
936	Hugh Findlay Cherry Gold Orchards Ltd	To do that would risk going from the frying pan into the fire.
943	Susan Mends	Please don't slow funding on any of these projects. I believe doing so will reduce the wellbeing of our region's people, land and biodiversity which is already fragile so a loss we may never recover from.
972	David Mackie	Biosecurity is essential to some of our big export earning industries, we can't afford to reduce that. Regional parks have been well funded over recent years so can afford to be paused
982	Hans Doevendans	On what exactly does the HBRC intend to spend the increased rates if it reduces funding of all long term programmes. Be Leaner, not Meaner.
985	Anna Inglis	Once again if funding is removed for these programmes just like house maintenance if stopped your house will be worthless in a few years time.
996	Veronica Drexel	The natural environment is a precious resource and must be maintained and improved
1000	Laraine Russell	Our parks and wild places need to be preserved and replanted with native species. I belong to a care group that works in our local reserve, we don't expect to be remunerated, but some funding for native plants would be good.
1034	Richard Marshall	Bio Security is essential to New Zealand's reputation .Global warming allows damaging flora and Fauna to flourish. Proximity to the Napier Port and its effect on food production should not be underestimated.
1085	Syd & Annie King	This is NOT the area to be cutting funding as it has the most direct environmental benefits - every time you slip back it will be harder to regain where you/we should be in terms of maintaining progress or sustaining slipping biodiversity e.g. take your foot off the throat of possums and they will very quickly be back in numbers before you started. Ditto every other aspect of our 'sadly declining biodiversity' - we see this as fundamental to HBRC's environmental enhancement responsibility. Alligator weed and wilding pine work is very important but so is controlling old man's beard, needlegrass and the choking of our waterways by watercress e.g. all the nitrate and phosphate contaminated small streams in the Ruataniwha thanks to the over-allocation of water rights to a handful of corporately owned (absentee owners) industrial scale dairy farms. Cows and dairying per se are not the problem if managed properly - it is the scale of industrial dairying that is causing a disproportionate amount of damage that will leave an inter-generational, deleterious, legacy. Your core function is environmental enhancement which is absolutely vital in the current tough times with few options. Whatever else you reduce please do not reduce your responsibility for the environment and biodiversity. Losses in this area will never be regained.
1102	Kevin Bayley	Keep all of these things going they are important - cost save as previously mentioned

	Bayley Produce Ltd / Bayley Family Trust	
1106	Stacey Baxter	The local natural environment - wildlife and flora - are far too important to risk letting predators and other factors create damage for three years. Especially when the actual running cost for these services at a ratepayer level is arguably minimal and the potential impacts for our world and our future generations is immense.
1111	Kate Lindsay QEII National Trust – Ngā Kairauhi Papa	<p>QEII and Hawkes Bay Regional Council collaboration</p> <p>QEII and HBRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2020 to signal our shared intent to support landowners in the region to protect and enhance biodiversity on private land. This MOU was the formalisation of many years of existing collaboration between QEII and the council, with a long history of HBRC supporting landowners to covenant with QEII.</p> <p>The MOU outlines that HBRC will provide financial assistance to landowners establishing covenants that help to maintain healthy ecosystems in the region and provide habitat for indigenous biodiversity. Most often HBRC contributes to fencing for covenant establishment, but sometimes also for pest plant and animal control, and targeted native planting where appropriate.</p> <p>The importance of the collaboration between QEII and HBRC, and the contributions that the council makes to support landowners with this work cannot be overstated. For many landowners, this contribution makes the difference between them being able to afford to do this work or not. This is particularly the case at the moment where we are seeing lower confidence in the rural sector and financial pressures meaning landowners are struggling to afford to work with QEII and benefit greatly from certainty around funding support from third parties.</p> <p>Investing in this work with QEII and landowners also helps HBRC to achieve their strategic objectives for water, land and biodiversity, for example, the MOU outlines a focus on supporting the protection of HBRC Priority Ecosystems and Erosion Control Sites. Investing funding in biodiversity protection with QEII is also a “safe” investment – the council can be confident that when they invest in new and/or existing covenants, the outcomes are protected in perpetuity.</p> <p>With such high pressure from feral deer in the landscape, we are increasingly supporting landowners to establish covenants with deer fencing. This is more expensive, often prohibitively so for landowners, so council contributions towards this work is critical. The council has contributed to deer fencing across 29 covenanted sites (both new and existing) since the MOU was signed in 2020, protecting approximately 400 hectares of covenanted land from feral ungulates. Considerable progress has been made in the last two years as part of the council’s collaboration with QEII via regional rep Troy Duncan, on the Jobs for Nature deer fencing project. Many of these sites involved in this project are classified as HBRC Priority Ecosystems (PE).</p> <p>Proposals in the three-year plan</p> <p>Reduced funding for Erosion Control Scheme and Biodiversity & Biosecurity programmes</p> <p>Investing in programmes like the erosion control scheme and the biodiversity and biosecurity workstreams is crucial for the long-term resilience of the region, particularly in the face of climate change. Healthy and resilient native ecosystems are critical for wider landscape resilience – as mentioned above, this was evident after Cyclone Gabrielle last year.</p> <p>Reducing funding for animal and plant pest control over a number of years could have significant negative impacts and undermine the progress and investment that has been made in protection and restoration projects over many years. There are still many areas of remnant native ecosystems across the region in need of protection, and reducing the funding available for this work is likely to act as a disincentive for landowners.</p> <p>We urge the council to take a long-term view and commit to long-term, sustained investment in these programmes.</p> <p>Working with QEII to co-fund biodiversity protection and management on private land is a very cost-effective way for the council to achieve its objectives and support landowners, and we hope to see this investment continue, whatever cost-saving measures the council decides to pursue as part of the three-year plan.</p>

1146	Elizabeth Johnston	<p>I would like to submit on the HBRC plan and acknowledge the huge cost to the council of Cyclone Gabrielle. Inevitably rates must go up which I completely accept. As an environmentalist who has put a lot of money and effort into planting native bush on our small block and consequently seen a huge increase in native bird, I am worried about decreasing expenditure on biodiversity, biosecurity programmes and maintenance of regional parks. Pest eradication has made a huge impact on local fauna in our area. Reducing pest management (both plant and animal) will cause long term work in the future to even regain what has been achieved to date. Pest eradication on home properties is not enough to stop spread along rivers and public land. In addition the spread of Chilean needle grass will be a threat to livestock, and old mans beard is spreading freely. Parks have had a lot of input from the region but if neglected there will be rapid resurgence of non native invasive plants. Letting this develop will be a massive job to restore again</p> <p>Native planting is a major part of resilience. Cyclones and similar events will be part of the future and we need native plantings to aid climate adaptation and wetlands to absorb flooding. The environment should have more input not less as we see these disasters increasing.</p>
1171	Richard Hilson, Tukituki Landcare	<p>Background: Tukituki Land Care Inc (TLC) is a collective catchment group representing the majority (13 out of 17) of the sub-catchments of the wider Tukituki catchment. The Tukituki catchment covers approximately 250,000ha and has close to one thousand farms and larger lifestyle blocks within it. TLC was formed in 2022 and has funding from MPI to carry out its work plan across three years. TLC has endeavoured to remove or reduce the administration requirements of individual sub-catchment groups, as well as driving the formation and cohesion of new and existing groups. TLC has actively engaged landowners, local communities, iwi, scientists and scientific institutions, as well as enjoying a close working liaison with HBRC. TLC is active on social media and has an up-to-date website. The committee of TLC is made up of a number of Central Hawke's Bay landowners and business people, with a clear vision for the future of local catchment groups and the role of those groups within the local communities.</p> <p>General Comments Tukituki Land Care (TLC) welcomes the opportunity to submit to the Hawke's Bay Regional Council on the Three-Year Plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TLC supports the Three-Year Plan, insofar that much of the work required and spending forecast would appear necessary. 2. TLC does support the change from land value to capital value as it seems to be a more equitable calculation, as well as bringing the rating system in line with most other regional councils in New Zealand. 3. TLC does not support removing or decreasing erosion control and biodiversity funding from the plan as this directly effects on-farm and catchment wide initiatives. <p>In a wider context, TLC wishes to comment on HBRC behaviours that impact on the cost of many of the works and outputs of the regional authority, and similarly impinge upon the initiatives and outcomes of ratepayers and landowners involved in community groups such as TLC.</p> <p>Specific comments on high-cost and low-output HBRC activity Most CHB farmers enjoyed a close working relationship with HBRC through until maybe mid 2010's. The level of service and the connection between farmers and HBRC ground staff was to be lauded. However, this relationship has soured, alongside the poorly planned and executed Plan Change 6 and a deterioration of trust that has largely run in parallel with the growing ranks of HBRC staff.</p> <p>While most involved with TLC have experienced the cost and burden of this burgeoning bureaucracy as individual landowners, it has been astounding how hard it has been to get genuine engagement and positive answers for recent TLC and sub-catchment projects that stand to make significant and immediate impact on riparian outcomes and community engagement.</p> <p>Recent working examples, but certainly not limited to...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mangamahaki catchment (Omakere) with stream clearing. TLC has seen this important community project started, with significant advocacy, after several decades of complete neglect by both district and regional councils. That was a significant early "win" for TLC, yet the lack of haste and incredibly slow physical progress (estimated at maybe 20% of expected output) brings into question the inefficiencies within the works group. <p>Accordingly, TLC questions the value for money experienced by ratepayers, when experienced local operators express dismay at the dawdling progress.</p>

		<p>b. Upper Tukituki catchment (Ongaonga, Hinerua and Ashley Clinton areas) with willow islands and choked riverbeds. This is an excellent example of a genuine large-scale riparian management issue being addressed with local willingness, knowledge and equipment... yet becoming completely stalled by the need for a simple answer "yes" from office-dwellers. Time delays have been significant, with considerable community effort and spending to reach a point where consent has been considered and works could begin.</p> <p>TLC considers these sorts of delays unacceptable when the community stands ready, willing and able. HBRC appears to have no direct lines of communication on issues of this nature and no mandate to make decisions that are socially acceptable and environmentally palatable.</p> <p>c. Maharakeke & Porangahau catchments (Takapau and Hatuma) have developed a riparian planting plan that is highly visible, involves the wider community (including the local primary school) and is sited on the land of the largest local business and employer, Silver Fern Farms Takapau plant. While some previous site selections were less than ideal, a very good site on Fraser Road was identified and HBRC commentary sought. In this case, a firm "no" very nearly stymied an entire year's work, as the ordering of plants and ground preparation and planting where effectively stopped. These examples indicate to TLC and ratepayers that not only is HBRC an inefficient user of funds, it is also an inefficient user of the time gifted to it by a willing community. This is reflected in the widely held perception that the council has become too focused on compliance and risk aversion, and, by its own actions, hindering practical solutions.</p> <p>In general, community groups that TLC interact with feel disconnected from the council's decision-making processes and that the Regional Council neither understands nor appreciates the efforts and contributions of community groups.</p> <p>With the background for this submission being the huge, proposed increase in Regional Council rates, TLC therefore respectfully suggests that the council looks within its own processes and policies at how to achieve expedient, efficient and cost-effective outcomes. TLC's experience thus far is that good work is being slowed by the handbrake that is HBRC itself.</p> <p>TLC has a close working relationship with a number of HBRC staff, who are passionate about their work, just as our community is about the local environment. However, HBRC clearly has a culture issue where lack of activity, a culture of mediocrity by committee, and low output continue to erode HBRC's standing within one of the biggest communities that it is supposed to serve.</p> <p>Therefore, TLC suggests that HBRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explores opportunities for increased community involvement and delegation of responsibilities to community groups. • advocate for more transparency and accountability in the council's decision-making processes. • push for a more practical, on-the-ground approach to project delivery and problem-solving. • be encouraged to develop a clear long-term vision and strategy, with input from the community.
1187	Paul Cornille	<p>ECS - Change to retirement of land only. Have just spent millions cleaning up silt because land has been cleared and use inappropriately.</p> <p>Biodiversity/Biosecurity - money already spent will be wasted</p>

Various options selected across both activities - 86

Id	Name	Erosion Control Scheme	Biosecurity and Biodiversity programmes	Please tell us more below
5	Sam Hartree	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	Reduce them all, in your consultation document you are saying they will be reduced but the amount going in is increasing. The Biodiversity programs should be cut all together as this is DOC's area and they do it better.

30	Caleb Arrowsmith	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	Now is the time to help grow the environment not take its funding away. We as a region have an opportunity to help grow the natural environment and lead the country by example but by taking away funding is showing support against it. We should be supporting regional parks more and we want future generations to enjoy them as we have been. But by cutting funding for them is risking all of the hard work that we have all put in for years. It's taken a lot to get to where we are now. Cutting the funding is letting all of the hard work go to waste.
37	David Trubridge	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	Biosecurity and biodiversity are essential for the well-being of both us and future generations. We just HAVE to pay more NOW for the environment, for reducing carbon emissions, for protecting biodiversity, for preventing pollution and degradation of nature. Because if we don't it will cost us a whole lot more in the future and not just in \$\$ terms.
45	Matthew Ovenden	Continue at previous levels	Other - tell us below	These activities are absolutely critical to maintaining the beautiful Hawkes Bay region and maintaining our parks so that everyone can enjoy some essential balance in our busy lives. Cutting these costs will create health and safety concerns and only increase long term costs
48	Carina Chambers	Other - tell us below		What funding has been put where! Clearly not in the correct place as erosion is fairly substantial at present! Planting of the waterways a lovely idea however as seen in Gabrielle it created massive flooding by slowing some rivers down. And there are thousands of volunteer hours and will continue to be. If you are cutting and slowing down expenditure I think you should be cutting your staff numbers also! Our books should be open to the public and we should know WHERE our money is ACTUALLY being SPENT! Not happy with our councils
52	Michelle Hicks		Continue at previous levels	If you reduce funding now it will cost even more in the future, to get back. It might be about money for the council, but even more valuable is time. Find another way
116	E deB0Order	Other - tell us below	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Totally disagree with the erosion reduction. The council regional over the last 20yrs has reduced river clean outs, lagoon maintenance all because of personal member and political agendas on Regional council part of the issues were their redirection of rivers etc
134	Matthew Harman	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	A far more aggressive cost reduction programme is needed to reset the organisation's cost base to a more realistic and sustainable level.
147	David Booth			I do not believe it is appropriate to slow funding in any of the above, in fact the opposite. All three activities require greater funding levels
149	Roslyn Thomas	Continue at previous levels	Other - tell us below	Restoration and revegetation in our natural environment is crucial to help mitigate climate change and should continue previous levels and more. Education in these area's is also a key input to bring entire communities along in the efforts.
157	Gus Black	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Other - tell us below	Erosion control is nice but not necessary, much like biodiversity. Money better spent on safer road conditions, infrastructure security, and reducing environmental harm by more recycling depots/refuse facilities.
174	John Reilly	Continue at previous levels	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Need to cut spending on non essentials
184	Nicky Solomon	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	Although it is difficult, we have an obligation to take a long-term view about investment in biodiversity and natural spaces. Reducing investment in these projects now is likely to require a disproportionate increase in funding for them in the future. Reducing investment in the erosion control scheme in the short term seems sensible for the reasons that you have outlined.

204	brian webby	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	do not need erosion control my property has issues which i am mitigating without your help I see your silt still comes down doesnt matter what you do biosecurity the horse has bolted, fund mitigating issues with the aliens paying huge entry fees into the country and imprisonment if breached regional parks only for dreamers and idle people so remove the funding
226	Catherine Mueller	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	What will this funding be directed towards instead? All of the above are essential if we are to protect and enjoy our whenua for generations to come. Inflation has driven cost increases across all sectors, it makes sense that rates have to increase each year and ratepayers need to understand that we have to collectively pay for catastrophic events like Cyclone Gabrielle, so rates should increase accordingly, in order to pay for reparations etc, then could be reduced again. If rates were increased for a period of three years, with the promise that they would decrease again, that would perhaps be easier to digest for ratepayers.
227	Jessie Smith	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	HBRC should not be reducing funding for any of these programmes; if anything, funding should be increased for all of them, but particularly for the erosion control scheme. We saw the soil slide straight off the land during Cyclone Gabrielle; soil conservation is even more important now than ever. Likewise, our precious ecosystems are more at risk than ever, and we can't afford even a reduction in efforts to protect them. This includes Regional Parks and Te Mata Park, as well as biosecurity and biodiversity work on private land. We need nature-based solutions, not more engineering.
256	Andrew Flint	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	How much is Bio-security and Biodiversity costing the ratepayer? Can end users pay more? Isn't bio-security vital for such a high exporting area? Erosion, there will be 3 priorities, high, medium, low urgency schemes. Can end users pay, does insurance or EQC help?
258	Andrea Baikie	Continue at previous levels	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Erosion control is vital to maintain especially with changing weather patterns. Funding for parks and Te Mata, although important, could be reduced. Biodiversity is perhaps something community groups could be encouraged to do through the councils.
268	John Paton	Other - tell us below	Continue at previous levels	Careful attention needs to be given to all aspects of erosion. It has been happening since the start of time. New infrastructure needs to look at the big picture and work with the land not try to force it (the land) to comply
270	Michael Fowler			Most councils throughout New Zealand are under financial pressure, and are closely looking at expenses - which is what you are doing. I believe HBRC's assistance to Te Mata Park is part of your core responsibility to the environment, and your present funding supports this. It meets your stated objectives of • Biosecurity – pest plants & animals. • Biodiversity. • Environmental education. • Land management Pulling funding from this regional asset would be a big mistake in my opinion, and this proposal - and I've studied many of them - would be I believe of the most short-sighted decisions in your local government history. I am sure the public would never forgive you if the park falls into disrepair because of you pulling such a significant amount of money to the Te Mata Park Trust - but insignificant to the HBRC's ratepayers at 65 cents. I urge you to show some leadership and continue to fund the park, and moreover, look at increasing this amount in the future.
292	Martyn Gyde	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	Stop all the above programs now, we can't afford if.
309	Deena MacGregor	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	Money can be better spent elsewhere

315	Mark Scofield	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Other - tell us below	Some erosion control must be necessary. Cost to mitigate will only go up if nothing is done. Regional Parks are an asset to the whole community. We can not allow these important assets to deteriorate over next three years as for the above will only incur extra costs to catch up in 3 years time. Some reduction is responsible but not to the level where there will be increased costs to bring back to suitable standard in three years
319	Kate Atkinson	Other - tell us below	Reduce or slow for 3 years	It's been proven that we need to deal with our erosion sooner to ensure flooding events are minimized, not slow down this process
347	Ann Tod	Other - tell us below	Continue at previous levels	Planting of small natives e.g. Flaxes have proved to be efficient along waterways in flooding. Looking at less willows and pines would be beneficial. Embracing native plantings - prime example Peka peka swamp south of Hastings. Other positives of moving away from willows and pines less pollens which cause havoc to humans and animals with respiratory issues
353	Ronald WILKINS	Continue at previous levels	Reduce or slow for 3 years	MY THEORY IS THAT IN THE LONG RUN IT IS BETTER TO CARRY ON AS WHEN THE WORK IS REQUIRED IT WILL BE MORE THAN DOBLE AND YOU HAVE GAINED NOTHING A BACKWOOD STEP IN MY OPINION
374	Simon Beale	Other - tell us below	Continue at previous levels	Erosion control should be a partnership with landowners. Support should be provided at cost, not any costs to the rate payers. Biosecurity must be supported, the whole of Hawke's Bay needs it's primary industries protected, if we fail we will reduce options for the goods grown in our region.
387	Shelley Thomsen		Other - tell us below	I support Biodiversity HB as they are the umbrella organisation focused specifically on sustaining and improving native biodiversity in our region. I work with the Westshore Community Association in regards to the revitalization and replanting of "The Gap" back to native species. We have been working for years on this project. Our volunteer group would not be as successful with this if we did not have the support and efforts of Biodiversity HB.
436	Anon			You do not know what you are doing eg DOC can do biodiversity and biosecurity, erosion control!! How when you build on the hills!! Damage the hill and put concrete there!!!
437	Anon			Dept of Conservation should be responsible for this.
457	Kate Parker	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	Bio diversity, erosion control and funding regional parks help protect Hawke's Bay from flooding etc. bio diversity and native act as sinks to absorb water, and take in carbon. we will be going backwards if we stop this.
504	Ruth Holmes	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	Erosion Control Scheme - I am sure this is important to many and the greatest need can be targeted. Biosecurity and Biodiversity programmes - I would be disappointed to see this reduced as it appears to be an area that is often overlooked and one that NZ has a large problem with. If unsupported NZ could lose the things that are a point of difference and attract visitors and provide employment.
521	Winifred Hide			Typical of the Council to Pull the Pin. Finish what use have started!!
550	Luke Goodwin		Continue at previous levels	Stop the Erosion Control Scheme altogether. Farmers have spending all available funds on recovery. No spare cash for them to work on this.
599	Peter McAlley	Continue at previous levels	Reduce or slow for 3 years	I think it is essential to maintain erosion schemes.
606	Heather Sharp	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	We don't want to go backwards in biosecurity etc - it will cost more to get back to where we are. I understand this will increase rates.

628	John McGifford Westshore Residents and Development Association Inc		Continue at previous levels	This submission is in support of there being no reduction in funding for BioDiversity Hawke's Bay which plays a very important role across our region, and related to Westshore specially at the area known as "The Gap" on The Esplanade. In this area BioDiversity Hawke's Bay actively promote and engage in the planting of native and taonga species that are at risk of extinction, being something Hawke's Bay Regional Council are required by law to protect from. This activity is strongly supported by the Westshore community who hold regular planting weeding sessions, all of which are done voluntarily. Outside of that activity is well known to the Westshore Residents and Development Association of the other great work BioDiversity Hawke's Bay does across the region, not only in planting and weeding activities but in holding project funds in trust and managing them on behalf of groups/individuals; scoping projects and developing project plans; being advisors and sounding-boards for the communities; providing access to a wide network of expertise and training; attracting additional project resources (funds and in-kind) and maintaining the Project Portal that connects biodiversity and conservation projects to volunteers and resources they need. In brief BioDiversity Hawke's Bay is fundamental to addressing the biodiversity crisis and any reduction in funding would be very neglectful by Hawke's Bay Regional Council, and would be a failure by that organisation to uphold their legal responsibilities in terms of the protection of native species and ecosystems under the Resource Management Act. This essential piece of work cannot be ignored or de-prioritised, as extinction is forever. So again we submit that there be no reduction in funding for BioDiversity Hawke's Bay, and that Hawke's Bay Regional Council continue to optimise their support to BioDiversity Hawke's Bay's essential work.
643	Ken Rowe	Continue at previous levels	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Erosion control is part of the recovery package and should continue. The others can be stopped now without damage and reinstated as future funds allow.
653	Robert Gardiner	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	Cut the constant waste of rate payers money. Regional Council are accountable for every dollar of taxpayers money you spend. Past generations of wasted rate payers money would have fixed all of these problems we are now facing. Erosion Control Scheme should be financed by those landowners who benefit. Costs should not be passed on to general rate payers who have already been raped by Regional and City Councils.
671	Linda Crabtree	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	Must keep on top of biosecurity control. Halt all NEW developmen.
696	Peter Williamson	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	Biosecurity has the priority for me and ongoing biodiversity maintenance is essential as once the pest problem gets worse it gets more expensive to restore control levels.
702	Faye Te Nahu	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	EROSION CONTROL - WHY BOTHER PUTTING ANYTHING INTO THIS COUNCIL DOESNT LISTEN ANYWAY. BIOSECURITY AND BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMMES IS JUST A SCAM TO KEEP SOMEONE IN A JOB
711	William Gray	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	The Erosion Control and Biosecurity and Biodiversity Schemes should be assessed for what level of funding needs to be provided to at least maintain the current level of service/positive benefits. It would be unwise to reduce funding for maintenance and operation when this would result in poorer outcomes, and thereby backward steps.
717	Gabriela + Ralf Spindler	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Other - tell us below	Biosecurity and Biodiversity This should be reduced by another \$2M per year and the goal should be to support tree trusts and other initiatives. Why not sourcing this out and monitoring the progress closely with strict reporting measures on a regular basis?

730	Don Ryder	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	Another area where the council has been doing a pretty good job to date but all of these good things should now be deferred for a few years in an effort to achieve a more reasonable rate increase. The council needs to take much tougher decisions in order to help those who just cannot afford to pay a 19% rate increase.
742	Philip Wilcock	Other - tell us below	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Defund the erosion control system. Farmers should be doing this and paying for it - it's their land, it's their responsibility.
753	Karena Sutherland	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	Stop all they are extras
771	Susan Marsh	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	I am also concerned that due to the Climate Emergency, it is more critical than ever that all biosecurity and Biodiversity programs are maintained. Thank you.
773	Martin Bain	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	Obviously erosion control must be a priority.
792	Floyd Pepper	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	<p>While supporting much of the plan, I am strongly opposed to HBRC's proposal to slow funding in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity restoration projects • Biosecurity programmes • Maintenance of our regional parks <p>Rather than reducing this funding, these programmes must continue at current or higher levels. Slowing biodiversity and biosecurity programmes will have long term consequences that bring even higher costs in the future as we attempt to undo the damage. It will also, inevitably, mean further destruction of our region's fragile environment. Below is a brief outline of the benefits of the programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native biodiversity restoration projects (forest & wetland landscape restoration/regeneration) are multifunctional/win-win-win/multiple-outcome projects, that can engage and unite the community, beautify the landscape, sequester carbon (climate change mitigation), control erosion (climate change adaptation), reduce risks and impacts associated with floods AND wildfires (adaptation again: with the exceptions of manuka and kanuka, native trees are much less flammable than exotic species especially pines and eucalypts), create habitat for native birds, fish, invertebrates, create cultural and economic opportunities for future generations in the form of selective harvesting of premium timber and non-timber forest products, bring water back to hill country and hold water in the landscape, provide shade for livestock, the list goes on. <p>Globally Aotearoa is one of a very small number of countries in the world internationally recognised as global biodiversity hotspots. This means very high levels of endemism of vascular plants (implicitly high levels of endemic animals), and overall habitat loss of over 70%. Hawke's Bay has lost 98% of its wetlands and 77% of its native forest cover, making the region an endangered habitat of global significance in its own right.</p> <p>https://www.conservation.org/priorities/biodiversity-hotspots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity programmes <p>Hawke's Bay is a national hotspot for a variety of highly invasive noxious weeds such as Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) and Old Man's Beard, not to mention our invasive insect and mammal predators including feral cats which have only recently (in the last few years) become such a threat to our biodiversity that HBRC has elevated them to</p>

				priority target species alongside possums, rodents and mustelids (stoats, weasels etc.). Reducing funding for biosecurity (and regional parks maintenance) in the short term is guaranteed to end up costing us more in the long run, as it could easily take a decade to undo the damage caused by 3 years of cut funding. CNG and Old Man's Beard are not only a threat to our biodiversity, they are economic threats, doing untold damage to livestock (in the case of CNG) and commercial forests (in the case of Old Man's Beard).
795	Garth Eyles	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	<p>Stabilising our hill slopes is an even more important action needed to protect the region's people and infrastructure. Well over \$160m has been spent removing silt and a further multi million dollars spent replacing infrastructure so the community can return and prosper – all the result of erosion. One of the successes of Regional Council programmes has been the space planting of trees. Ask any farmer and they will tell you trees reduced slip erosion in Gabrielle. It takes approx. 7 years for trees to become fully effective so a delay of 3 years in a planting programme means 10 years before any advances are made. Is this acceptable?? Surely the planting programmes need to be speeded up and enlarged rather than delayed. The current situation is that the Council nursery is performing poorly. The projected harvest this year is about a quarter of past years. Immediate steps need to be taken to improve production knowing it takes 2 years for poles to be ready for harvest. Surely staff know how effective plantings are – a programme to revisit sites surely is not needed as it must be part of normal process. Pole planting has been a mainstay of soil conservation in Hawkes Bay since the 1950s. We know it works and how effective it is. But we also know it has always been hindered by underfunding. I know between 1994 and 2008 every pole produced was used and staff could have used many, many more. A 3 year delay is devastating, instead over the next three years efforts need to be increased. By putting off, for three years, increased effort into erosion control tree planting HBRC is compromising the future productivity of our hill country, maintaining the high risk of sediment generation and the loss of life in future events. If the urban situation is compared with the rural situation the plan is saying that because urban people can't afford the megabucks required for a flood control scheme the ratepayers and government will provide the money ASAP. Yet for the rural community the plan says remedial works and preventive works will be deferred until farmers can afford to pay. There is a disjunct there as protecting the rural environment also protects the urban environment whereas protecting the urban environment only protects the urban environment. 4.4 Biosecurity is a core area of work and therefore needs minimum financial reduction. However, it needs improved outcomes as these have been dropping over recent years. Option B</p>
798	Jenny Elliott	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	<p>I support much of the plan however I am strongly opposed to HBRC's proposal to slow funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity restoration projects • Biosecurity programmes • Maintenance of our regional parks <p>Rather than reducing this funding, these programmes should be boosted to continue at current or higher levels. Slowing biodiversity and biosecurity programmes will have long term consequences, bringing even higher costs in the future as we attempt to undo the damage incurred by stopping or slowing down these programmes. It will also, inevitably, mean further destruction of our region's fragile environment. These long-term costs are not worth the short-term savings. Below is a brief outline of the benefits of the programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native biodiversity restoration projects (forest & wetland landscape restoration/regeneration) are multifunctional/win-win-win/multiple-outcome projects, that can engage and unite the community, beautify the landscape, sequester carbon (climate change mitigation), control erosion (climate change adaptation), reduce risks and impacts associated with floods AND wildfires (adaptation again: with the exceptions of manuka and kanuka, native trees are much less flammable than

				<p>exotic species especially pines and eucalypts), create habitat for native birds, fish, invertebrates, create cultural and economic opportunities for future generations in the form of selective harvesting of premium timber and non-timber forest products, bring water back to hill country and hold water in the landscape, provide shade for livestock, the list goes on. Globally Aotearoa is one of a very small number of countries in the world internationally recognised as global biodiversity hotspots. This means very high levels of endemism of vascular plants (implicitly high levels of endemic animals), and overall habitat loss of over 70%. Hawke's Bay has lost 98% of its wetlands and 77% of its native forest cover, making the region an endangered habitat of global significance in its own right. https://www.conservation.org/priorities/biodiversity-hotspots • Biosecurity programmes Hawke's Bay is a national hotspot for a variety of highly invasive noxious weeds such as Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) and Old Man's Beard, not to mention our invasive insect and mammal predators including feral cats which have only recently (in the last few years) become such a threat to our biodiversity that HBRC has elevated them to priority target species alongside possums, rodents and mustelids (stoats, weasels etc.). Reducing funding for biosecurity (and regional parks maintenance) in the short term is guaranteed to end up costing us more in the long run, as it could easily take a decade to undo the damage caused by 3 years of cut funding. CNG and Old Man's Beard are not only a threat to our biodiversity, they are economic threats, doing untold damage to livestock (in the case of CNG) and commercial forests (in the case of Old Man's Beard).</p>
810	Megan McBride			<p>Firstly, thank you to HBRC for all the hard mahi that happens both on the ground and in the now famous, but all too important, 'back offices'. It is dedicated people who make the work happen, often under very trying circumstances. I believe the current economic and political circumstances are very trying for all at the moment, not least of all for our elected representatives at HBRC - especially post cyclone Gabrielle. Just wanted to acknowledge you all. I also believe that part of ongoing healing from the cyclone has been seeing the gradual restoration of te taiao, the natural environment, all around us. Little by little, raw scars on the hill sides have been replanted either by people or nature. Trees that have fallen have been replaced by saplings. Waterways have been cleared and planted - and looking down from Te Mata o Rongokako just over a year since the cyclone, it is hard to believe all the earlier destruction.</p>
811	Glenn Marshall	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	<p>If you 'dial back' biodiversity funding then you are no longer cutting into the fat, rather you are now cutting into the muscle.</p>
827	Sera	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	<p>Erosion Control Scheme Whatever will be the lowest cost to all ratepayers and that will not disadvantage the property owners in these areas. Please look into obtaining more central government funding to cover costs where possible to alleviate the burden to Hawke's Bay Regional Council ratepayers. Biosecurity and Biodiversity programmes Whatever will be the lowest cost to all ratepayers and that will not disadvantage the property owners in these areas. Please look into obtaining more central government funding to cover costs where possible to alleviate the burden to Hawke's Bay Regional Council ratepayers.</p>
853	Elaine Plesner	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	<p>I strongly urge the council not to reduce funding. NZ. Is losing its natural areas / habitat and many of our species are endangered. HB has lost 90% of its wetlands which is shocking when you stop and think about that. Biodiversity is the vast array of flora and fauna that all interconnect with each other (ecosystem) For humans this provides us with food incl fish, clean water to swim in our rivers and clean air. Humans are part of the ecosystem but we haven't realised that causing damage to the system resulting in climate change. The biodiversity /</p>

				restoration projects the council is funding engages the community, carbon sequestration, reduces soil erosion, reduces risk and impact of floods and fires. It also provides jobs which is of social benefit. Reducing funding for bio security will cost us more in the long term and undo the good work already done. Feral cats, mustelids, possums, deer rats kill native species or eat the forest creating a wasteland, and there was a mice plague this year in CHB. I believe it is our responsibility to look after our native species as they are unable to speak for themselves. Thank you to the council for everything you have done so far. It is very hard decisions that you have to make going forward. Trying to be pragmatic I think the soil erosion scheme could be slowed for 3 years. Some landowners will have the money to do this themselves and others have to prioritise other things with the money they have such as fencing.
856	Paul Baker	Other - tell us below	Continue at previous levels	Erosion Control Scheme. This needs to be accelerated as human beings have caused "accelerated erosion" over widespread areas in Hawkes Bay on unstable and naturally erodible sandstone, siltstone and mudstones. Successive storms (Bola, Hale, Gabrielle) have underlined how vulnerable our soils are and wrought decades / centuries worth of damage by creating shallow hill soils and deluging flood plains with low fertility "B and C" horizon soils. If we fail in this we sow the seeds of our own demise as a species and become like parts of the Middle East - deserts. There is no future in farming or afforesting rocks for commercial gain.
863	Anna Lorck	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	Cutting back will see investment to date go to waste - retain the maintenance and look to actually enhance - very basic core work that council is responsible for
886	Johanna King	Continue at previous levels	Other - tell us below	The spread, number and extent of uncontrolled of noxious weeds in the Hawkes Bay region is of great concern, noxious weeds are very evident in road reserves bordering highways and along roadsides. Nationally, noxious weeds are required to be eradicated, this apparently is not being done in Hawkes Bay. Fennel (<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>) is classed nationally as a noxious weed, it spreads easily through seed and root runs. Fennel is a phototoxic plants, many people, children in particular are allergic to this plant. Symptoms can range from mild reactions like itching, skin rash, or throat irritation, to severe anaphylactic reactions. Other reactions can include breathing difficulties, nausea, or swelling of the face and lips. Always seek immediate medical attention. Clematis Vitalba, 'Old Man's Beard' is classed nationally as a noxious weed, over the past 5 years in Hawkes Bay it has spread and invaded parks and reserves, hedge-lines and trees bordering road reserves, highways and embankments. Old Man's Beard smothers and kills all plants to the highest parts of the canopy, and prevents the growth of native plant seedlings. It can grow quickly producing up to 10m of growth in just one season. Just 500m from the Regional Council's offices in Waipawa on the junction of Tikokino and Abbotsford Rd is a large embankment area with 10m+ high trees covered in this noxious plant. Seeds ripen in autumn and are dispersed by wind and birds. This has been reported to CHBDC and by them to RCHB, at this time no action has been taken to eradicate this infestation
907	Andrew Common	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Other - tell us below	HBRC should immediately discontinue all spend on biodiversity for a period of 3 to 5 years, or until HBRC's budget permits it within its current revenue. Biosecurity, particularly pest/possum management should be funded but at similar or lower levels than previous. Costs should also be allocated to land users, rather than a general amortisation.
911	Ewan McGregor			I am vitally interested in the environmental protection of Hawke's Bay, and always have been. My concern is focused on the Hawkes Bay, (and New Zealand too, of course) of the future, after my inevitable departure. It takes many forms. One is a concern I have had for at least 30 years, and in which the HBRC bears a primary

				responsibility. To me it is glaringly obvious that the mass-plantings of untended poplars over our precious pastureland is to create a landuse and landscape problem for future generations of landowners; a problem that will likely to be beyond their means to effectively rectify. You will know of my concerns of this as a few months ago I personally sent a print-out of a paper on the subject. In response I received a prompt and agreeable email from Cr Harding, but that was all. Not so much as an email with a single word of acknowledgement. (It is my long-held belief that responding to correspondence is a fundamental courtesy; if holding a public office, an obligation. In an age of email, such is instant and costless.) I note that in your introduction to inviting submissions to the Plan you say this: Your ideas matter and we'd love to hear them. Share your thoughts to make the Hawke's Bay region an even better place to live - for generations. (My emphasis.) I take this as reassuring. My submission is attached. It is that printout already sent, unchanged. I fully understand the enormous and costly pressures that your council is under, as is the case with other councils, and, indeed, central government, but what I advocate can be managed with negligible, if any, cost. In fact, it emphasizes the commercialization of poplar, now with the addition of carbon trading, as well as the vital social benefit of a vibrant family-owned rural infrastructure rather than great swaths of pine trees.
926	Paul Atkins	Continue at previous levels	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Surely erosion control of farm land needs to continue! Coastal erosion is not included within this 3 year plan so no comment on that!
948	Fenton Wilson	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	I don't know enough on the 'current' programmes to comment.
957	Tim Averill	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	Biosecurity is imperative in a horticultural/farming environment. Guard down and industry/economy wiped out. Erosion waits for no-one and something needs to be done following the effects left by Gabrielle.
987	Kelly Annand	Continue at previous levels	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Erosion control schemes is another thing that needs to be offered and given air time for our CHB coastlines.
1005	Kathryn Bayliss	Other - tell us below	Reduce or slow for 3 years	I don't like agreeing to slow the biodiversity programmes for 3 years as I think it should be a priority to look after our natural and indigenous. But as my rates have increased so much any spending by HBRC for which I be rated for is undesirable and objectionable. Stop the funding for the Erosion Control Scheme and Land for Life. These schemes should be combined into one activity. HBRC should only provide advice and act as a connector between farmers and outside funding. HBRC should plant grow native plants instead of planting and selling Willow and Poplar poles.
1014	Rowan Manhire-Heath Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora			<p>Topic 3: Reduce funding available through the Erosion Control Scheme</p> <p>The increasing frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change is likely to result in increased erosion across the region. Health NZ shares Council's view that controlling erosion is important to protecting waterways and water quality in Hawke's Bay. It supports Council's proposal to revisit sites that have benefited from erosion control funding to evaluate progress, following a reduction in investment.</p> <p>Topic 4: Continue a slow down of biodiversity and biosecurity programmes</p> <p>Biodiversity plays a critical role in human health, and communities rely on ecosystems that function well and provide clean air, fresh water, mahinga kai (gathering food as a natural resource from the environment) and rongoā (healing).^{2,3} Biodiversity loss, resulting from anthropogenic climate change, pollution and land use, is having, and will continue to have, negative health consequences for populations. This is particularly significant for indigenous populations who are most disproportionately and acutely affected by the impacts of these ecological</p>

				<p>changes.⁴</p> <p>Health NZ strongly encourages Council to prioritise the protection of the region's biodiversity by maintaining and strengthening its Environmental Protection and Enhancement programme, particularly as it continues to be a strategic priority for Council. Health NZ also notes Council is considering utilising nature-based solutions and increasing river size for flood mitigation. These approaches, if found to be feasible, are likely to provide benefits to (if not protection of) the local biodiversity.</p>
1036	Sue MACDONALD Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society		Other - tell us below	<p>We have grave concerns that the slowing down of Biodiversity funding will negatively impact some of your ongoing projects especially the problem of Tubeworm infestation of the upper estuary. We submit to you that the tubeworm problem is dangerously close to being so severe that it may not successfully eradicated. We urge the HBRC to make this a priority for funding. We do understand the pressures you are facing and also the massive increases in rates over this 3 year plan period that our ratepayers face. BUT our Ahuriri Estuary deserves more attention than it has received in the past. Our Society conditionally supports the delay in funding for the setting up of the "Regional Park" This is a project that can wait for a little while, as more information is gathered. It is a project that must be carried out with the utmost care.</p>
1038	sharleen baird	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	<p>EROSION - could continue but place an additional levy on those wanting to take up. BIOSECURITY is a win/win with Biosecurity HB providing private funding as well as HBRC contribution so protection is expanded.</p>
1065	Jim Galloway Federated Farmers			<p>EROSION CONTROL SCHEME Over the years, Federated Farmers has been asked to comment on a lot of the Regional Council programmes for various erosion and/or tree planting programmes aimed at farm land uses. There has been the Future Farming Fund, Land for Life, Hill Country Erosion, Right Tree Right Place, kick-start projects for specific areas. All these Council projects seem like they are at cross purposes and are jostling for the same market share of advising farmers what to do on their own properties. We are not even sure if these projects still continue or have been replaced by the next project. There is plenty of industry advice available from levy bodies and other organisations, and Hawke's Bay farmers will be concentrating on financial and farm infrastructure recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle for the next few years and will have little resources available for nice-to-haves. The Long Term Plan tells us what a project is costing, but we are unsure of what the value is. A stock-take is needed. Submission: 6. Federated Farmers submits that the plethora of land use projects and programmes are consolidated and streamlined into a single project in order to deliver realised value</p> <p>BIODIVERSITY AND BIOSECURITY PROGRAMMES As with our opinion on the erosion control scheme above, there seems to be a lot of biodiversity and biosecurity programmes. We recommended consolidating and streamlining them. We are disappointed that it appears the Council is going back to farmers doing possum control rather than the Council contractor control method that we supported in 2022.</p>
1068	Chantel Pagel Forest & Bird	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	<p>General comments</p> <p>Climate change and biodiversity considerations need to be at the core of every local council's decision as they are in line with holistic well-being across the rohe.</p> <p>Forest & Bird would like to see investment in regional parks and planting, and significant investment in pest control (predators and browsers), including the control of terrestrial and aquatic weeds. Healthy natural ecosystems are much more resilient, by absorbing shocks of weather extremes that can harm native species and human communities, in a rapidly changing climate. Healthy ecosystems are vital to turning the tide on indigenous</p>

			<p>biodiversity loss and for a climate-safe future. While we appreciate council is trying to save costs and prioritise 'rebuild' costs, now is not the time to cut back on funding for biodiversity programmes. These are essential pre-emptive actions that will ensure you are more resilient to future extreme weather. For example, it is critical to keep managing deer and other browsing species that are undermining the ability of forests to slow water down on steep slopes (by destroying their undergrowth) and preventing forests from regenerating.</p> <p>Tough Choices</p> <p>Forest & Bird acknowledges the difficult decisions Council has to make in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle and the rebuild of critical infrastructure to reconnect and safeguard local communities in the rohe. However, we are deeply concerned over the planned cuts in funding for environmental services. As previously raised, a thriving environment is paramount to our climate change response and building resilience for future events. It is critical you continue to invest in these actions through this period.</p> <p>Reduce funding through our erosion control scheme</p> <p>Hawke's Bay's eroding land loses, on average, more than 3 million tonnes of sediment into the region's waterways every year. The decision to use of steep erodible soils for pasture and production forestry was the reason that so much debris came down the rivers. In 2018, Forest & Bird supported the Erosion Control Scheme as part of the Long Term Plan. In general, Forest & Bird believe those landowners who are undertaking an activity with a significant impact on the environment should bear a significant portion of the cost to clean it up. However, given that immediate action is needed on this front, we supported council's intention to assist and initiate this work as soon as possible, provided it is undertaken in a responsible and effective way. We believe retaining the scheme and protecting highly erodible land will benefit local communities and therefore should not be ceased.</p> <p>Continue a slow down of our biodiversity and biosecurity programmes</p> <p>Introduced browsing pest numbers in upper catchments throughout the North Island East Coast are high and largely managed for recreational hunting purposes rather than for biodiversity protection or soil and water conservation. Forest & Bird is supporting the council's efforts in its deer impact monitoring but are 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. Reducing the funding for essential mahi to foster resilience for future events will be counterproductive and in the long term, will cost communities more when livelihoods are impacted. 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.</p> <p>Nature-based Solutions</p> <p>Nature-based Solutions (NBS) are approaches that utilise the inherent power of nature to address various environmental challenges while providing co-benefits to human societies. As the world faces complex environmental problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and natural resource depletion, nature-based solutions offer a promising avenue for sustainable and holistic solutions.</p> <p>NBS play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide. Forests, wetlands, and other natural ecosystems act as carbon sinks, sequestering large amounts of carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Replanting farmland in indigenous forest, harnessing the benefits of deep-rooting and soil</p>
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				condition that nature-based solutions cut across all portfolios and underpin any climate change action plan for the greater Hawke's Bay region. In line with this, we would like to encourage council to diversify their investment portfolio towards more ethical and environment-friendly options.
1076	Nicholas Aiken	Other - tell us below	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Increase erosion protection.
1080	Dean Astill	Reduce or slow for 3 years	Continue at previous levels	Bio security integrity is a large part of what drives the HB and NZ economy and I think we need to be careful and smart about how that's managed it's a real concern to reduce focus in this area.
1081	Lindsay Tallman	Continue at previous levels	Other - tell us below	Biodiversity programmes need to be top priority for the region. We are already suffering from the effects of climate change and unpredictable weather, and habitat for native species is declining. We cannot deprioritize this work because everything else depends on it. If we lose our native species, they are gone forever, and if climate change continues, the rest of our funding initiatives will be for naught. There is no time to delay on biodiversity programmes-- we cannot afford to lose three years' worth of work. Reducing programmes such as possum control will create more work in the future when programmes are picked up again then simply continuing, because the numbers will rise.
1097	Bruce Wills Biodiversity Hawke's Bay		Continue at previous levels	<p>Biodiversity Hawke's Bay (BioHB) is concerned that the proposal to decrease funding towards biodiversity action is counter to Hawke's Bay Regional Council's (HBRC) stated environmental priorities and objectives. Specifically, we do not support the slowdown of the HBRC biodiversity and biosecurity programmes (Tough Choices 4) and believe that proposed Tough Choices 3 and 5 will also negatively impact biodiversity outcomes.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>BioHB welcomes HBRC's comment (Three-Year Plan 2024-2027, page 27) that addressing the decline of indigenous biodiversity remains a strategic priority for Council. We stress that biodiversity is essential for human wellbeing and the health of our ecosystems, it supports key economic sectors such as agriculture and tourism, and is crucial to recovery from, and resilience to, natural disasters and mitigating the long-term effects of climate change.</p> <p>We believe that HBRC is the appropriate funder for our ongoing activities. Council was instrumental in our creation, arising from the Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy 2015-2050 (the Strategy) and the resulting Action Plans across 2017-2025. HBRC previously funded us until 2021, when Covid 19 impacted budgets. We believe operational support from HBRC should be reinstated as our work directly aligns with, and contributes to, its statutory responsibilities and environment pou (priority strategy area). It would also be consistent with funding provided by other regional councils such as Waikato and Taranaki that are supporting their hubs and increasing biodiversity funding as a core mechanism for achieving climate resilience and biodiversity protection.</p> <p>We strengthen Hawke's Bay's efforts to protect and enhance native biodiversity by supporting and enabling community groups and individuals to focus on "doing the doing" on environmental projects and initiatives. Examples of projects supported include those involving long tailed bats, dotterels, pest control, riparian planting and ecosystem restoration. The infographic below illustrates the range of our community-focused activities; we also partner with HBRC by administering the Environmental Enhancement</p>

1115	Roy Boonen	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	<p>Contestable Fund (EECF) grant. In 2024, this grant is again oversubscribed by over 300% and over half of those applying took advantage of our Biodiversity Community Facilitator in assisting them with their applications.</p> <p>While supporting much of the plan, I am strongly opposed to HBRC's proposal to slow funding in the following areas: • Biodiversity restoration projects • Biosecurity programmes • Maintenance of our regional parks. Rather than reducing this funding, these programmes must continue at current or higher levels. Slowing biodiversity and biosecurity programmes will have long term consequences that bring even higher costs in the future as we attempt to undo the damage. It will also, inevitably, mean further destruction of our region's fragile environment. Below is a brief outline of the benefits of the programmes. • Native biodiversity restoration projects (forest & wetland landscape restoration/regeneration) are multifunctional/win-win-win/multiple-outcome projects, that can engage and unite the community, beautify the landscape, sequester carbon (climate change mitigation), control erosion (climate change adaptation), reduce risks and impacts associated with floods AND wildfires (adaptation again: with the exceptions of manuka and kanuka, native trees are much less flammable than exotic species especially pines and eucalypts), create habitat for native birds, fish, invertebrates, create cultural and economic opportunities for future generations in the form of selective harvesting of premium timber and non-timber forest products, bring water back to hill country and hold water in the landscape, provide shade for livestock, the list goes on. Globally Aotearoa is one of a very small number of countries in the world internationally recognised as global biodiversity hotspots. This means very high levels of endemism of vascular plants (implicitly high levels of endemic animals), and overall habitat loss of over 70%. Hawke's Bay has lost 98% of its wetlands and 77% of its native forest cover, making the region an endangered habitat of global significance in its own right. https://www.conservation.org/priorities/biodiversity-hotspots • Biosecurity programmes Hawke's Bay is a national hotspot for a variety of highly invasive noxious weeds such as Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) and Old Man's Beard, not to mention our invasive insect and mammal predators including feral cats which have only recently (in the last few years) become such a threat to our biodiversity that HBRC has elevated them to priority target species alongside possums, rodents and mustelids (stoats, weasels etc.). Reducing funding for biosecurity (and regional parks maintenance) in the short term is guaranteed to end up costing us more in the long run, as it could easily take a decade to undo the damage caused by 3 years of cut funding. CNG and Old Man's Beard are not only a threat to our biodiversity, they are economic threats, doing untold damage to livestock (in the case of CNG) and commercial forests (in the case of Old Man's Beard).</p>
1116	Gren Christie		Continue at previous levels	I support option B for the biodiversity and biosecurity programs Better the money go to that than tourism which seems to be doing very well.
1139	Roger Mogford	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	Erosion Control , Biosecurity and Regional Parks should be paid for by those who benefit the most.
1140	Paul Johnston			<p>For MONEY OUT... - BIOSECURITY programmes must be maintained, and preferably increased. Possums, rats, stoats, and in particular feral cats provide a huge drain on native birds and wildlife. Short term funding cuts on proven efforts to control these determined predators , especially trapping, would be disastrous and require many times more years to undo the damage. - NATIVE Biodiversity restoration projects are a no brainer as everybody gains from them. From flood risk protection, to landscape water retention, to landscape beautification, to providing a carbon sink that resists climate change - continued funding for forest & wetland restoration/regeneration makes absolute sense , and must not be written off as 'back room'. - finally our</p>

1141	Richard Pentreath Ngai Tukairangi Trust	Other - tell us below	Continue at previous levels	<p>REGIONAL parks maintenance.....Much of the hard work to date at suppressing invasive plant species will be undone if funding is reduced . Enhancing native plant biodiversity is a win for all people of Aotearoa .</p> <p>Effective erosion control could be critical to help mitigate the impact of a future flooding event. Strengthening of flood protection systems should be the priority but erosion control should be considered important.</p>
1169	Trevor Le Lievre Wise Water Use HB			<p>Biodiversity and Biosecurity Programmes</p> <p>Wise Water Use HB commends Council's strategic priority to address biodiversity decline. We consider this is core-business and therefore support option 8 which proposes reinstating the environmental enhancement, biodiversity and biosecurity programmes to pre-cyclone levels from 2024-2025.</p>
1171	Richard Hilson Tukituki Land Care			<p>Background:</p> <p>Tukituki Land Care Inc (TLC) is a collective catchment group representing the majority (13 out of 17) of the sub-catchments of the wider Tukituki catchment. The Tukituki catchment covers approximately 250,000ha and has close to one thousand farms and larger lifestyle blocks within it.</p> <p>TLC was formed in 2022 and has funding from MPI to carry out its work plan across three years. TLC has endeavoured to remove or reduce the administration requirements of individual sub-catchment groups, as well as driving the formation and cohesion of new and existing groups. TLC has actively engaged landowners, local communities, iwi, scientists and scientific institutions, as well as enjoying a close working liaison with HBRC.TLC is active on social media and has an up-to-date website.</p> <p>The committee of TLC is made up of a number of Central Hawke's Bay landowners and business people, with a clear vision for the future of local catchment groups and the role of those groups within the local communities.</p> <p>General Comments</p> <p>Tukituki Land Care (TLC) welcomes the opportunity to submit to the Hawke's Bay Regional Council on the Three-Year Plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TLC supports the Three-Year Plan, insofar that much of the work required and spending forecast would appear necessary. 2. TLC does support the change from land value to capital value as it seems to be a more equitable calculation, as well as bringing the rating system in line with most other regional councils in New Zealand. 3. TLC does not support removing or decreasing erosion control and biodiversity funding from the plan as this directly effects on-farm and catchment wide initiatives. <p>In a wider context, TLC wishes to comment on HBRC behaviours that impact on the cost of many of the works and outputs of the regional authority, and similarly impinge upon the initiatives and outcomes of ratepayers and landowners involved in community groups such as TLC.</p> <p>Specific comments on high-cost and low-output HBRC activity</p> <p>Most CHB farmers enjoyed a close working relationship with HBRC through until maybe mid 2010's. The level of service and the connection between farmers and HBRC ground staff was to be lauded. However, this relationship</p>

				<p>has soured, alongside the poorly planned and executed Plan Change 6 and a deterioration of trust that has largely run in parallel with the growing ranks of HBRC staff.</p> <p>While most involved with TLC have experienced the cost and burden of this burgeoning bureaucracy as individual landowners, it has been astounding how hard it has been to get genuine engagement and positive answers for recent TLC and sub-catchment projects that stand to make significant and immediate impact on riparian outcomes and community engagement.</p> <p>Recent working examples, but certainly not limited to...</p> <p>a. Mangamahaki catchment (Omakere) with stream clearing. TLC has seen this important community project started, with significant advocacy, after several decades of complete neglect by both district and regional councils. That was a significant early "win" for TLC, yet the lack of haste and incredibly slow physical progress (estimated at maybe 20% of expected output) brings into question the inefficiencies within the works group. Accordingly, TLC questions the value for money experienced by ratepayers, when experienced local operators express dismay at the dawdling progress.</p> <p>b. Upper Tukituki catchment (Ongaonga, Hinerua and Ashley Clinton areas) with willow islands and choked riverbeds. This is an excellent example of a genuine large-scale riparian management issue being addressed with local willingness, knowledge and equipment... yet becoming completely stalled by the need for a simple answer "yes" from office-dwellers. Time delays have been significant, with considerable community effort and spending to reach a point where consent has been considered and works could begin.</p> <p>TLC considers these sorts of delays unacceptable when the community stands ready, willing and able. HBRC appears to have no direct lines of communication on issues of this nature and no mandate to make decisions that are socially acceptable and environmentally palatable.</p> <p>c. Maharakeke & Porangahau catchments (Takapau and Hatuma) have developed a riparian planting plan that is highly visible, involves the wider community (including the local primary school) and is sited on the land of the largest local business and employer, Silver Fern Farms Takapau plant. While some previous site selections were less than ideal, a very good site on Fraser Road was identified and HBRC commentary sought. In this case, a firm "no" very nearly stymied an entire year's work, as the ordering of plants and ground preparation and planting where effectively stopped.</p> <p>These examples indicate to TLC and ratepayers that not only is HBRC an inefficient user of funds, it is also an inefficient user of the time gifted to it by a willing community. This is reflected in the widely held perception that the council has become too focused on compliance and risk aversion, and, by its own actions, hindering practical solutions.</p> <p>In general, community groups that TLC interact with feel disconnected from the council's decision-making processes and that the Regional Council neither understands nor appreciates the efforts and contributions of community groups.</p> <p>With the background for this submission being the huge, proposed increase in Regional Council rates, TLC therefore respectfully suggests that the council looks within its own processes and policies at how to achieve expedient, efficient and cost-effective outcomes. TLC's experience thus far is that good work is being slowed by the handbrake that is HBRC itself.</p>
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				<p>TLC has a close working relationship with a number of HBRC staff, who are passionate about their work, just as our community is about the local environment. However, HBRC clearly has a culture issue where lack of activity, a culture of mediocrity by committee, and low output continue to erode HBRC's standing within one of the biggest communities that it is supposed to serve.</p> <p>Therefore, TLC suggests that HBRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explores opportunities for increased community involvement and delegation of responsibilities to community groups. • advocate for more transparency and accountability in the council's decisionmaking processes. • push for a more practical, on-the-ground approach to project delivery and problem-solving. • be encouraged to develop a clear long-term vision and strategy, with input from the community.
1174	Peter Tang			<p>I appreciate the opportunity to make a submission on Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Three-Year Plan. In general terms, I support the proposed actions of the Plan but some of the "tough choices" seem counter-productive and short-sighted. In particular, I am strongly opposed to HBRC's proposal to reduce funding in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity restoration projects • Biosecurity programmes • Maintenance of our regional parks • Erosion Control Scheme <p>Biodiversity restoration projects</p> <p>Sadly, Hawke's Bay has already lost 77% of its native forest and 98% of its wetlands and is in dire need of expanded Biodiversity restoration projects. These will generate multiple positive outcomes well beyond the obvious benefits to our native flora and fauna such as carbon sequestration (climate change mitigation), erosion control (climate change adaptation), a reduction in flood risk and impacts, and creating economic opportunities.</p> <p>Biosecurity programmes/Maintenance of our regional parks</p> <p>Hawke's Bay is rife with invasive predators (e.g. feral cats, possums, rodents, mustelids - all on HBRC's priority target list) as well as many aggressive noxious weeds (e.g. Old Man's Beard, Chilean Needle Grass, etc). The repercussions of cutting biosecurity funding now and neglecting park maintenance for the next three years will see the biosecurity gains made to date set back decades. All for a short term financial boost which will end up being so much more difficult and expensive to undo in the long run.</p> <p>Erosion Control</p> <p>After seeing the incredible number of devastating slips throughout Hawke's Bay after the Cyclone Gabrielle, this proposed cut back on erosion control assistance for landowners is incomprehensible. The Erosion Control Scheme was addressing the estimated "3 million tonnes of sediment" flowing into the region's waterways per year. This estimate was completely eclipsed by the deluge of mud and debris released during the cyclone. Instead of cutting back on erosion control, the Council needs to ramp things up, proactively supporting and encouraging landowners to participate in the Erosion Control Scheme. Surely these sorts of preventative actions will help to alleviate some of the burden on emergency services at the next severe weather event.</p>
1180	Troy Duncan	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	<p>ECS. If the funding for erosion control funding needs to be reduced as in option A, selection of appropriate projects needs to be a priority. No nice to do, large, funded projects which could be mistaken for beautification, or in areas that the real risk of impacting the environment is not as great as projects that might be missing out.</p>

			<p>Biosecurity and Biodiversity programmes The resuming of the funding, ratcheting back up is important in this. Assuming it is affordable in the future.</p> <p>Biosecurity & Biodiversity. As per comment for Erosion Control, the projects selected need to be warranted and not a waste of money or miss-spent. Projects on private land should be backed up but a QEII covenant or Nga Whenua Rahui kawenata, to protect ratepayer spend. Biosecurity spend needs to be well vetted to select the hierarchy of pest plants and animals and spent accordingly. Not of perceived important "things" Regional Parks and Te Mata Park funding These are separate items and should not be in the same question.</p> <p>Te Mata Park is a jewel in HB's crown and is co-funded across multiple streams, is charitable and held in trust for the people of HB, not a responsibility of HBRC and the liability ownership brings. The contribution is known and fixed. HBRC is one partner and should keep up it's contribution. The bang for buck from this contribution is probably one of the highest HBRC has, when where the \$120,000 ends up being spent is taken into the equation! And it fills an important role in the parks existence and presentation to visitors from outside the province and it's regular users. The funding of \$120,000 pa should be continued. Reduce maintenance budget of regional parks will probably come with a decline in presentation etc. Is there an expectation to increase over time? Development of regional parks should be stopped. This is a no brainer in light of the situation the region finds itself in. What is the \$100k of project management going to be spent on? The other partners in this nice to do project are in similar or worse situation than HBRC. Are they continuing on with the park development? Is it a good idea? In a low lying flood and Tsunami susceptible location? This needs some serious thought and reflection. Yes defer Wairoa Regional Park Yes defer capital works on cycleways.</p>
1181	Vanessa Moon		<p>(iii) Erosion Control Scheme</p> <p>I support Option A based on: the information that has been provided regarding: the diminished ability of farmers to take up the scheme following Cyclone Gabrielle; the work that HBRC will continue to do in this area i.e. assessing the outcomes of previous plantings; using staff to assist with expanding the pole nurseries; and also work on the Land for Life project. Given the increased flood damage which I understand was caused by debris from Poplar and Willow trees during Cyclone Gabrielle, I do wonder if the species used along river banks need to be reviewed.</p> <p>4. Slowing down Biodiversity and Biosecurity Programmes.</p> <p>Although I understand the reasoning, I cannot support the Council's preferred option in this case. All these programmes are absolutely essential to protecting and/or enhancing Earth's environment, ecosystem services and biodiversity. These have already been severely compromised – and human health and wellbeing is increasingly being compromised as well.</p> <p>This, at a time when climate change/breakdown is causing escalating damage, with increasingly violent and devastating weather events likely to occur again in the Hawke's Bay region in the not too distant future.</p> <p>Note: according to NIWA, the El Nino weather pattern is now fading and La Nina is already returning to our region bringing with it warmer and wetter conditions.</p> <p>Further, as I had lunch today, I heard reports on the radio, of "unprecedented" wild fires burning in Canada – unprecedented in ferocity and also the amount of forest that has been burnt before the Northern Hemisphere is officially in their summer season.</p> <p>The word "unprecedented" is being used with increasing frequency ...</p>

				Again, this is a situation where we need to have difficult conversations about funding (see above), and funding must be a priority for community organisations such as Biodiversity HB and Sustainable HB who can achieve so much by tapping into people in the community who care, to amplify the work their staff are doing. This is another area that HBRC could use it's investments to support.
1191	Carmen Morrell	Other - tell us below	Other - tell us below	I have concerns of the ECS & BBP proposed options and completely understand HBRC the economic changes are equal to our climate changes - they're all over the show with no indication where we are going. My concerns are if these activities are slowed or reduced over the next 3 years, what alternative support is available outside HBRC for landowners?

-ENDS-

Regional Parks and Te Mata Park funding - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on Regional Parks and Te Mata Park funding. Some commentary is an excerpt of the submitter's full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

	With comments	Without comments	Total
Option A (preferred) - Reduce or slow for 3 years	39	114	153
Option B – Continue at previous levels	191	119	310
Other – 'support reduction' sentiment	12	-	12
Other – 'support continuance' sentiment	85	-	85
Other	8	-	8
TOTAL	335	233	568

Of the 276 submissions, in favour of continuing (or increasing) funding for regional parks, around 203 wrote in support of Te Mata Park

At the hearing, two submitters talked about continued funding for Te Mata Park

Option A - Reduce or slow for 3 years

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
122	Peter Alexander	This is low order spending priority, and funding should be cut right back. Most horticultural operations can manage their own pest control programmes now...should pest occurrences spread from land areas typically under hbrc surveillance.
129	Josephine Moran	As a tourist who visited HB by cruise boat this year, I found the assistance of the people at the port and the tours of Te Mata Peak are well received by fellow passengers. On our Visit to Dunedin where such facilities were VERY expensive most passengers were not prepared to pay over the top prices for poor service. The clean green image of HB is too valuable to risk.
174	John Reilly	Need to cut spending on non essentials
189	Margaret Symons	Sort out the flood mess. So many bad plants like hemlock, fleabane, calamint are rampant. The cycle tracks re full of privets that have never been cutdown and poisoned. Help everyone stop the pests. It's disgusting the amount of rats and mice running around. Why are there ferrets?
258	Andrea Baikie	Erosion control is vital to maintain especially with changing weather patterns. Funding for parks and Te Mata, although important, could be reduced. Biodiversity is perhaps something community groups could be encouraged to do through the councils.
288	Julia Butler	Funding should be diverted to climate-related issues as a result of the cyclone.
309	Deena MacGregor	Money can be better spent elsewhere
325	Wendy Rapaea	Council contributions will help with this, double dipping on the money
341	Greg Donnison	Regional Parks – I'm comfortable with limiting the focus to existing parks. I'm not sure about the proposed drop in Te Mata Park funding. I think that more notice should have been given to allow TMP to consider its options and initiate a fundraising campaign to future proof their operations.
353	Ronald WILKINS	MY THEORY IS THAT IN THE LONG RUN IT IS BETTER TO CARRY ON AS WHEN THE WORK IS REQUIRED IT WILL BE MORE THAN DOBLE AND YOU HAVE GAINED NOTHING A BACKWOOD STEP IN MY OPINION
426	Leonie Bennett	Put other non essential schemes on hold

504	Ruth Holmes	Reg Park & Te Mata Park - I believe this should still be supported and could be targeted through usage, my biggest concern would be Health & Safety in Public Areas. Have you considered a Park Membership with a swipe card to let people enter like they use in the USA?
516	Tania Luscombe	Regional Parks - Maintain improvements and review in 3 year
532	Dean Hyde	Regional Parks and Te Mata Park Funding: I support Option A, it is my view that our Regional Parks should be allowed to be the 'wilder' places that nature intended. Beyond access, maintenance for Health and Safety and the integrity of our Regional Parks I don't believe that much more is desired. In respect to the Te Mata Peak Trust, unlike Council the Trust has the ability to seek third party funding for its purposes and should be encouraged to do so. Along with the potential for payment access by visitors, similar to rationale for those charges applied by the Department of Conservation.
535	George Spiers	We have to cut back expenditure in all areas until the region recovers
579	Penny Reynolds	Reduce all spending as quickly as possible
599	Peter McAlley	I think it is essential to maintain erosion schemes.
647	Andrew Pearce Kaiangaroa Residents Association	Parks maintenance, development and grants (page 28) We support Option A (Preferred) for the next three years of c. 20% reductions in annual maintenance, stopping the annual grant to Te Mata Park Trust, deferral of park developments at Ahuriri and Wairoa, and deferral of capital works on cycleways except for safety improvements and externally funded projects.
697	Bob Alkema	For the same reasons set out for the two previous items. Our priority above minimal levels of investment in these areas is one recovery from the floods and meeting the higher operational costs arising from inflation and increased cost of insurance
711	William Gray	Similarly maintenance of Regional Parks should be kept up to current levels. Nice to have capital improvements should be stopped now and for the foreseeable future.
717	Gabriela + Ralf Spindler	Regional Parks and Te Mata Park The proposed budget of \$1.7M in Y1, \$1.7M in Y2 and another \$1.8M in Y3 should be a maximum and not be committed upfront for three years. The goal must be review the impact after nine month of year one and to save additional funds for year two and three.
723	Jean McIver	These I see as core work for the regional council, but we need to reduce costs and as these are temporary reductions I am in favour of these.
742	Philip Wilcock	Defund the erosion control system. Farmers should be doing this and paying for it - it's their land, it's their responsibility.
744	Marie Taylor	We think the erosion control scheme and biodiversity scheme is exactly the kind of work that needs to continue. It seems counter-intuitive to reduce funding for these programmes when the focus of the council is to make Hawke's Bay more resilient to flood events. Instead of reducing the funding, the council could make it go further by reducing its percentage input to 50%. This would spread its funding over a wider area, so that more land can benefit from the erosion control work. Another way to make this programme go further would be to have a lower cap on project funding. We understand the council has to cut its cloth to suit, but landowners shouldn't be discouraged from going ahead with critical work to protect their environment. Page 37 of your consultation document refers to nature-based solutions: the erosion control scheme is just such a solution.
769	Kirsty Dinsdale	Te Mata Park funding and regional parks is an instant one to stop all funding to for at least 1 year and then slow it down over the others
787	Glenda Mawson	Regional parks should just take a back seat for a short period of time
819	Sam McLennan	There is no more money to go to go around. Time to reduce projects, cut staff and services.
825	Joanna Donovan	Regional Parks, will done do dumb stuff like you did up at Waitangi, (wetlands restoration) for it to be destroyed by Gabrielle. You believe this will happen again, think it through people
862	Sarah Wilson	If it going to cost the rate payer more then its common sense to leave it for awhile
896	Robyn Christiansen	We need to cut costs in all areas and reduce council staff and expenses

916	Tom Young FizzyPop Ltd	I reluctantly support the temporary reduction of funding for the Erosion Control Scheme, Biosecurity and Biodiversity programmes, and Regional Parks and Te Mata Park funding over the next three years. While these initiatives are crucial for our environmental health and community well-being. However, given the significant financial strain and the urgent need to prioritise cyclone recovery efforts, we must acknowledge the necessity of reducing costs in some areas. While it is regrettable to slow progress, a temporary adjustment allows us to address immediate recovery needs while still preserving the capacity to revisit and revitalise these initiatives in the future. Balancing these priorities is a difficult but necessary step to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of our region.
945	Stuart Kilmister Kilhaven Orchards	Time to tighten the belt
972	David Mackie	Regional parks have been well funded over recent years so can afford to be paused
984	Denise Bavidge	Happy to slow these activities for 3 years and then review
1105	Rose Stobie	I would have preferred to see this put on hold and revisited
1120	Eoin Carty	Agree with your preferred option
1133	Michael Davis Davis Orchards	please we don't need any more cycle lanes or walkways WE NEED ROADS
1183	Hamish & Joan Cameron	Regional Parks - Cut all new spend — just maintain
1191	Carmen Morrell	I completely support all of HBRC proposed options to maintenance and deferred development of all regional parks.

Option B - Continue at previous levels

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
23	Quentin Stewart	Te Mata peak is a major attraction for HB and holds significant cultural and well being value. It's value as a recreational and wellbeing retreat is exceptional and as such I would like to see continued funding for the Te mata peak trust.
24	Warwick Thomson	Doesn't the cyclone damage already answer this question? Spend less on prestige projects and more on creating a resilient future!!
25	Danny Smith	Failure to maintain Regional Parks and TeMata Park funding will jeopardise their future. Deterioration of tracks and other public facilities will lead to health and safety issues, reduced volunteer support and reduced usage by public.
33	Penny Joll	Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level \$120,000 annually is the equivalent of 65 cents per Hawke's Bay resident per year to maintain this amazing Park – minimal when you look at all the Park has to offer. Te Mata Park was generously gifted to the people of Hawke's Bay nearly one hundred years ago, so let's work together to ensure the Park is protected in perpetuity.
35	Kerri Goodwin	te Mata peak is a hub treasure and the work over the last few yrs has been amazing. Funding needs to continue at the same level.
36	Ian Lowe	Please keep funding Temata Park
37	David Trubridge	Biosecurity and biodiversity are essential for the well-being of both us and future generations. Te Mata Park is a vital part of our community and cannot operate without funding.

39	Bryan Smith	Surely \$120,000 is rather small compared to the budget of the council, I understand "watch the pennies the dollars look after themselves" mentality though will over 1,000,000 people a year using the park, \$120,000 is probably one of the better investments you could make? For the health and wellbeing, both physical and mental of the region, \$120,000 seems rather small price to pay,
43	Chris Birch	Te Mata Park is the most important tourist and resident asset in Hawkes Bay. It is the place you take visitors to the Bay and is so important for the Hauora of our residents. Funding for the park should only be going in one direction and that is up.
44	Jane Abel	Perhaps there should be a type of "user pays" system for Te Mata Park - or at the very least, a donation box near the toilet block
45	Matthew Ovenden	These activities are absolutely critical to maintaining the beautiful Hawkes Bay region and maintaining our parks so that everyone can enjoy some essential balance in our busy lives. Cutting these costs will create health and safety concerns and only increase long term costs
46	Deborah Mellors	As a council you are making absolutely ridiculous suggestions. I would actually suggest that you focus on improving environmental issues and actually look at ways to encourage more healthy activities!!
54	Oliver Welfare	If anything we should be funding Te Mata Park and other such outdoor spaces to a greater degree, they encourage exercise, engagement with nature and learning. It is an investment that provides longevity for the park, the region and the tangata, and is much better value than many other investments that require greater investment from council, but that benefit fewer both from the district and those who are brought from our if the region by Te Mata Park's beauty, majesty and opportunities.
55	Aileen Campbell	Te Mata Park is the single most significant landscape icon in Hawke's Bay, having district, regional and national significance. It is the most prominent landmark in the eastern Heretaunga Plains with a distinctive silhouette skyline. It is a source of identity for Hawke's Bay residents and Ngāti Kahungunu. It's also very important for local recreation, health, and biodiversity. Please choose Option B and continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level of \$120,000.
56	Nicki Young	Maintain funding to keep the park safe, accessible, and open. The hills are literally 'alive' week round. Our region needs this.
57	Kirsten Newton	I use Te Mata Park a lot in both a personal and professional capacity. I think removing funding has the potential to put people's safety at risk due to lack of maintenance and upkeep.
58	Joanne Eames	Te Mata Park, is been under funded for years and the recent improvements to the park are a direct consequence of recent support by HBRC and HDC. It is an important environmental Tonga to HB. It provides Essential physical and mental health well being for our whole community in so many ways. It is also a mum we one tourist attraction for HB and the funding is essential to maintain the park. In fact the funding needs increasing not decreasing. There are enormous numbers of people using the park everyday.
62	Renee Altham	Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Please continue to fund the Park at the current level so we can all continue to enjoy the space and learn from it. It is the most loved and visited place in Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current funding level of \$120,000. Its good for overall health and wellbeing promotes exercise. Its good for health and mental wellbeing for all the community.
65	Duncan Kinnear	Te Mata Peak Park is such an iconic part of Hawkes Bay and needs more, not less, funding to make sure it can survive the kinds of challenges like Cyclone Gabrielle.
81	Scott Griffith	You must maintain Te Mata Park funding. If you let Te Mata Park degrade it will cost you orders of magnitude more money to get it back to standard than what you propose to save. The Park is a unique and irreplaceable asset to Hawkes Bay.
90	John Wakeman	Although post cyclone repairs and maintenance require extra support, parks and reserves are an important asset and there. support should not be reduced. It eventually costs more to catch up.
95	Amy Earnshaw	After a wonderful trip to Napier, one of the highlights being our trip to Te Mata peak I just wanted to submit my appeal to continue to fund this wonderful asset. It is such a beautiful well managed area and is a real attraction to the area.

98	Thursday Ibbetson	These are critical activities to managing and maintaining a healthy, positive environment for Hawke's Bay - specifically biosecurity and biodiversity programmes would seem central to HBRC charter. Regional Parks and Te Mata Peak also must be considered central to your charter. If not then what is???
102	Floyd Bailey	Te Mata Park transcends mere parkland, it is a cherished treasure, a sanctuary for relaxation, recreation, and reflection. It holds pivotal significance in the narrative of our region's history, both cultural and geological. I personally, use the Mountain Bike Trails on a regular basis and I urge you to maintain funding for the park at its current level, enabling us all to cherish and benefit from this invaluable space. Failing this and in light of the annual allocation of \$120,000 which translates to just 65 cents per resident of Hawke's Bay per year, a nominal sum considering the park's remarkable offerings. I would also be fully supportive of a modest increase in my rates by this minuscule amount to safeguard all preservation aspects of this regional gem for generations to come by the HBRC.
103	Colin E Haipe	These are all necessary to the Taiao and the Tangata on the Whenua therefore. Why are these under consideration for funding cuts?? When wastage such as purchasing Fluoride (HDC) that harms people - is occurring - more transparency required from All Government incl Local govt departments.
107	Debbie Welsh	Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level (Option B). \$120,000 annually is the equivalent of 65 cents per Hawke's Bay resident per year to maintain this amazing Park - minimal when you look at all the Park has to offer. I am happy for my rates to increase by this minuscule amount to ensure the Park is protected in perpetuity. Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Please continue to fund the Park at the current level so we can all continue to enjoy the space. I would be happy for my rates to increase by this tiny amount, to ensure HBRC continues to fund this treasure.
157	Gus Black	Our regional parks are a huge attraction for locals and visitors. They provide a free activity for families, and are a key attraction to the area. Erosion control is nice but not necessary, much like biodiversity. Money better spent on safer road conditions, infrastructure security, and reducing environmental harm by more recycling depots/refuse facilities.
159	Sophie Moran	I am writing to appeal for your continued and, if possible, increased financial support for Te Mata Park. This extraordinary taonga not only serves as a vital recreational and social hub but also significantly contributes to our local economy. Given its growing popularity and the inherent value it offers the community, it would be most prudent to sustain—if not increase—its funding to ensure the engagement of two full-time maintenance staff. The importance of Te Mata Park as a meeting place and centre for outdoor activities cannot be overstated. Its well-maintained trails for biking and walking are increasingly frequented by residents and visitors alike, fostering a strong sense of community while promoting physical health and well-being. Moreover, the park is instrumental in attracting tourism revenue, thereby bolstering our local economy. Te Mata Park holds a special place in the local community. There is tremendous potential to expand its offerings by adding more trails and enhancing the restoration of native flora and fauna. Such developments would only further elevate its status as a premier destination and invaluable community resource. Please reconsider any planned reductions in funding for Te Mata Park. This is a worthwhile investment that I believe will continue to enrich our community and meet with the approval and appreciation of the ratepayers. Thank you for considering this appeal. I am confident that with your support, Te Mata Park will continue to thrive and serve as a beacon of natural beauty and community pride.
184	Nicky Solomon	Although it is difficult, we have an obligation to take a long-term view about investment in biodiversity and natural spaces. Reducing investment in these projects now is likely to require a disproportionate increase in funding for them in the future. Reducing investment in the erosion control scheme in the short term seems sensible for the reasons that you have outlined.
188	Paul Wilson	Te Mata park is a critical recreation and tourism asset for the region
194	June Cahill	I urge you to continue the modest funding of \$120K / year for the Te Mata Park. It is an incredible resource for large sectors of the community as an outdoor recreational area whether your are waking your dog or taking your kids to the cycle paths. It is also a significant attraction for visitors to the region. There is a committed trust and volunteers associated with the ongoing work to develop, enhance and maintain the diverse environments within the park. I understand the need to address the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle BUT you should not abandon the modest financial commitment to Te Mata.

200	Alanda Rafferty	Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level (Option B). \$120,000 annually is the equivalent of 65 cents per Hawke's Bay resident per year to maintain this amazing Park – minimal when you look at all the Park has to offer. I am happy for my rates to increase by this miniscule amount to ensure the Park is protected in perpetuity.
203	Adele Fitzgerald	Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a place to escape, a place of recreation and a beautiful place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Please continue to fund the Park at the current level so we can all continue to enjoy the space. I would be happy for my rates to increase by this tiny amount, to ensure HBRC continues to fund this treasure.
213	Toni Bye	Te Mata Park is central to the identity and history of our area. It is a key place for families, individuals, students and tourists to visit, exercise and appreciate our beautiful region. Te Mata Park is a key part of the curriculum for the many local schools and educational facilities that visit the Park every week. Whether it is planting trees, learning about the history, the geology, our culture, volunteering, or learning more about who we are in the world. The park still requires repair after the cyclone - some tracks are still dangerous after rain - cutting funding will make this almost impossible to rectify. Please continue to fund the Park at the current level so we can all continue to enjoy the space. I would be happy for my rates to increase to ensure HBRC continues to fund this treasure.
216	Neil Eagles	Regional parks should not be neglected. We must protect biodiversity at all costs. Tutira especially is a treasure that should have community input to develop and protect, erosion control etc. They belong to our children and their children.
232	Stephen Hensman	Each of these is too important to pause.
238	Emma Buttie	Having worked for Te Mata Park Trust for over 5 years (2017 - 2023), I have personally witnessed the immense value & influence that the two part time HBRC caretakers have on the effective management of the Park. Their input is absolutely critical to essential maintenance - this cannot be understated! There is no doubt that Te Mata Park is one of Hawke's Bay's greatest attractions. It is of great cultural and spiritual significance to Ngati Kahungunu; it is a taonga that simply cannot be poorly maintained. With over a million visitors a year - ranging from school groups, to tourists, to walkers & cyclists - it needs to have good operational management. Without the caretakers, I have no doubt that the substantial investments made in recent years, will fall in to a state of disrepair. This includes new tracks, new planted areas (that needs constant weed management), infrastructure, signage and fencing. Current caretakers, Alex Clare and Alex Tuffin, are integral to the successful operations of the Park and I implore you to re-consider this recommendation. To expect the burden to fall on the shoulders of volunteers, is simply unrealistic. To expect the funding to come from external sources is also unrealistic. The Park Trust already operates on a shoestring budget, and has heavy reliance on large numbers of volunteers (including the hard working Trustees). They are already stretched to the limit. Whilst times are certainly tough, and wallets need to be tightened, I hope that the HBRC will do what is right for the region and continue the funding for the caretakers who work in our beautiful award-winning Park.
250	Frances Blake	Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Please continue to fund the Park at the current level so we can all continue to enjoy the space. I have been involved from an education point of view with EnviroSchools programme linked to Te Mata Peak bringing students up to the peak and learning about its significance. I would be happy for my rates to increase by this tiny amount, to ensure HBRC continues to fund this treasure.
254	Hilton Taylor Te Mata Peak Mountain bike trail rebuilders	Te Mata Park is used every day by hundreds of people but requires work to keep it safe usable by locals and visitor. Please continue to fund the Park, at least at the current level of \$120,000 per year. Te Mata Park is a key part of the curriculum for the many local schools and educational facilities that visit the Park every week. Whether it is planting trees, learning about the history, the geology, our culture, volunteering, or learning more about who we are in the world. I would be prepared to pay the minor increase of 0.5% in HBRC rates to ensure Te Mata Park is available for our community.
281	Mike Lusk	Te Mata Park is a well loved and increasingly used treasure in Hawkes Bay. While some of the input to improve it has come from volunteer effort or donation the financial support of the local councils is vital and appropriate too. It would be most disappointing to see the management and proposed improvements suffer from lack of funding. I hope that this will not happen.

303	David Urieli	Erosion in NZ is already disastrous and will become worse if we don't take it seriously. Again if we don't care for this beautiful land we don't deserve to have it. Parks such as Te Mata Park are a very valuable resource and much used and appreciated by the local communities.
308	Raewyn Fowler	Te Mata Peak is a significant landmark and provides both locals and visitors an exceptional place to visit and explore in Hawke's Bay that all of Hawke's Bay residents are very proud to have on their back door-step. The exceptional work that the Te Mata Peak Trust does in ensuring this treasure is kept well maintained for all users of the park is essential which requires the continued funding from the Regional Council. Te Mata Park is a regional treasure that needs to be protected and maintained for future generations to enjoy. Please continue to fund Te Mata Peak Trust.
311	Damon Harvey	If you stop funding to the parks - especially Te Mata Park then those amazing regional assets will deteriorate and then more money will be needed into the future. Te Mata Park is the jewel in the crown of the region. Love it not neglect it. Also many of the parks are a way to showcase and educate people the importance of the environment and how it should be looked after (is that exactly the role you say you do?)
314	Matthew Bailey	Te mata peak is particularly important NOT to defund. It is a truly loved and iconic area, and I believe is an excellent example of council and community working together to protect what matters. Consider land acquisition, planting and developments, as well as how fast the park is as opened after Gabrielle, and contrast with other regional parks- this was significantly due to community input. Te Mata peak is an amazing success story, but it needs HBRC to commit to funding, or at least signal decreased funding over a much longer timeframe so the park trust can plan and fundraise.
318	Pii-tuulia Nikula	These programmes help mitigate and build resilience in the fight against climate heating. Parks also offer many positive well-being outcomes for citizens, especially when faced with the growing malaise over recent and ongoing environmental and social challenges.
322	Doreen Adams	I am particularly concerned about the proposal to stop funding for Te Mata Park. This is a huge drawcard attracting visitors to the region - indeed it was the main reason I and my partner moved here from Auckland. The battle with wilding pines and pest control must continue as otherwise all the hard work and finance over the last several years will have been wasted.
326	Sara Mata	Please keep funding for Te Mata Peak. Enjoyed greatly by people of all ages. Great asset for The Bay. Wonderful job done by the Trust. A place of pleasure and joy.
330	Bevan Jenkins	The parks in particular I support. I love visiting the parks and enjoy the native planting and work being done to improve the landscape.
331	Kowen Houston	Please don't reduce funding for te mata peak
333	Marla Duderco	Te Mata peak is a regional treasure that needs to be cared for and the funding is essential for this. Great progress has been made at Te Mata however there is still a long way to go
336	Tony Rasmussen	Te Mata Peak is a massive tourist attraction and a showpiece for our region. We need to maintain the high standards and continue to develop native plantings. Exercise is so important for maintaining mental and physical well being and it is used by so many people! Funding should not be reduced.
339	Stephanie Moore	Te Mata Park is a precious taonga and deserves to be protected. It is the most significant landscape icon in Hawkes Bay, attracting hundreds of people, both locals and visitors to the area. The park is used by walkers, runners, bikers, families, school children and tourists every day. It is a source of identity and cultural significance to locals and Ngāti Kahunga. In addition, the park is rich with natural history, home to a wide variety of plants, birds, bugs and even reptiles. The Trust have done an amazing job of protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of the park, while maintaining paths and walkways. However, they cannot do the vital job of safeguarding the stunning Peak for future generations without sufficient funding. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park to enable the Trust to carry on with their work. The minor addition to an already hefty rates rise is a small price to pay to continue to protect such a special part of Hawkes Bay.
343	Susan Garner	All essential needs for Hawke's Bay and needs to continue.

346	Ian Gold	Te Mata Park is a taonga for Hawkes Bay. The good work done over the past 10 years should not be wasted with a cut back of funding now. As a public we are aware the funding is returned to the councils coffers by way of charges for the caretakers so it is not a direct cost to the council. If rates have to rise by a small amount to fund the Park then so be it.
350	Steve White	I would urge the HBRC To reconsider its proposal to slow/stop its funding for Te Mata Peak Park. I accept the economic climate is tough and there are likely competing priorities for resources. I think the funding should continue based on the following. 1. The Peak is an Icon of our region, and it's also a very identifying feature--Withdrawing funds will only signal to the HB people and Iwi, that the HBRC is dismissive of these attributes. 2. Wedded to cultural significance it is a place of recreation and relaxation. All walks of life use the park on a daily basis, from early morn to late evening. 3. The Peak can be used to actually generate revenue--- I believe in User Pays. Mountain bikers/walkers could be canvassed to pay an annual sub to ride there. This model works all over the country and indeed world. (Rotorua/ Q'Town/ Cardrona/ Glendhu) 4. If funding is reduced now ---it won't take long for the park to decline in function/beautification and safety. This is based on the amount of people that are using it now (Heavy Usage). If the HBRC slow funds now temporarily --it will cost twice as much and take 3 times as long to get it back to where it would be, had the dollar resource been maintained. Essentially a false economy. 5. Another risk is weekend warriors taking it upon themselves to maintain the park, build, modify and titivate trails and tracks. Good luck policing that, people will likely get hurt, and the Peak will actually get carved up over time. I do not want this to happen. 6.Many businesses in the locality benefit from the Peak being on its doorstep. Coffee shops, pubs bike shops Supermarkets all have walk in custom from people who use the peak. This business community could be canvassed for more support here. (Sponsor a Trail) Thank you for taking the time to read my submission, in short the Peak is my happy place and one of the founding logics why i chose to live and work in the Bay. It's a huge part of my life.
356	Kevin Atkinson	I do not agree with the proposal to Reduce our current annual maintenance budget of \$1 million for our regional parks by 20% each year for the next three years – that's a saving of about \$200,000 per year.
370	Rachel Haydon	The comparatively small amount of funding given to biosecurity, biodiversity and the Te Mata Park and Regional Parks facilitates a much larger and more cost effective range of outcomes that have far reaching effects. Funding supports administration and infrastructure that encourages a huge amount of visitation and work being done - how will this be done without HBRC funding, or what will HBRC staff have to pick up? HBRC has a responsible to support better environment and biodiversity outcomes for our community. This signals they do not see nature or the environment as priorities at all.
373	Mandy Wilson	I use Te mata Parkvale every day and it is my place of peace and happiness also to run my dog The Tuis and Wood pigeons are one of the reasons i love the park it also is important to me it keeps me fit and healthy physically and mentally We need to keep planting native trees to keep the birds and to look after our beautiful province environment Please dont cut the funding
374	Simon Beale	Erosion control should be a partnership with landowners. Support should be provided at cost, not any costs to the rate payers. Biosecurity must be supported, the whole of Hawke's Bay needs it's primary industries protected, if we fail we will reduce options for the goods grown in our region. Te Mata Peak is a national iconic feature. The amount of international tourists who come to Hawke's Bay go to Te Mata Peak and support our region with accommodation, visiting our wineries and spending money in the restaurants and supporting local attractions. The Te Mata Peak trust has hundreds of volunteers, but still need funding to maintain and keep the park at a safe standard.
375	Sukhdeep Singh	Te Mata peak is a great part of our City and pride for our Hastings City. People are using the peak for various reason, and I go for a walk with family and some people do running and walking for their wellbeing purpose. it is only 65 cents per HB residents per year. Please keep the same funding model for Te Mata peak.
379	Joan McAsey	Te Mata Park is a taonga – it is the most loved and visited place in Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current funding level of \$120,000. I am happy for my rates to increase by a tiny 0.5% to ensure the Park is funded.
388	Daniel S	Te Mata Park is a Hawkes Bay treasure that is used extensively by both local Hawkes Bay residents and visitors to the region. The extensive network of walking and biking trails combined with scenic lookouts are extensively utilised. The continued investment by the park into restoring native flora and protecting native fauna are yielding noticeable results. However, this requires ongoing effort and investment to both protect and enhance the Park as a valuable asset for current and future generations. It would be disappointing to see reduced HBRC funding to Te Mata Park which could negatively impact

		upkeep and enhancement of this valuable asset. As a rate payer, I personally feel that the marginal HBRC rates increase required to maintain or even increase funding towards Te Mata Park greatly outweighs the potential negative impact of reduced funding.
399	Kathryn Young	Please do not cut funding for Te Mata Peak Park - this is such a community taonga which provides us - adults, kids and dogs a safe recreational and spiritual space - we are losing cultural events and if you take away Te Mata Peak funding you're further cutting the soul out of Hawkes Bay I understand competing demands for Cyclone Gabriel but if you remove everything but bridge and road and stop bank repair what are we left with to nurture and repair our souls? Nature does that best
402	JONELLE JARVIS	If these schemes are stopped or slowed everything deteriorates, I believe that all the past money spent would therefore have been a waste of \$\$\$. we have to maintain what we have.
412	Trevor Percy	Please continue to fund Te Mata Park, either at the current level, or ideally fund two maintenance caretakers. I have been a volunteer working on plantings, plant care and tracks at Te Mata Park for over 15 years and know how quickly the park plantings and general maintenance can regress if not continuously looked after.
415	Lauren Hudson	Te Mata Park is such an asset for all of us. Without ongoing care and protection it will not continue to offer the spaces in opportunities it does now. It would be very shortsighted to reduce funding given the investment that's been made over the past few years.
416	Kylee Dunkerley	At least continue to fund at present level if not more funding. I live right next to the Peak and see firsthand how many people use this special place for exercise, recreation and simply to enjoy the iconic scenery and views. The Trust do an amazing job, with limited resources keeping the Peak safe and well kept for such a diverse range of residents and tourists to enjoy and need all your support
417	Marcia Stork	I don't even understand how you could even think about reducing on these activities. It is short-sighted, without healthy nature there will be no future for future generations and perhaps not even for us.
430	Christine Ennis	Please keep funding Te Mata Park. It's an enormous asset to the Hawke's Bay community.
431	Natasha Macaulay	Stopping these things makes no long term sense. The cost of doing so will not justify any savings.
433	Judy Hunter	Te Mata Park is the single most significant landscape icon in Hawke's Bay, having district, regional and national significance. It is the most prominent landmark in the eastern Heretaunga Plains with a distinctive silhouette skyline. It is a source of identity for Hawke's Bay residents and Ngāti Kahungunu. Please choose Option B and continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level of \$120,000. The recent developments have made the Park more attractive and user-friendly than ever before and, as I visit often, I can see how popular it has become with a diverse range of people ... including tourists. It needs more investment (not less) to future-proof it for generations to come so they can enjoy it also. I would be prepared to pay the minor increase of 0.5% in HBRC rates to ensure Te Mata Park is available for our community.
442	Ellyn Banaag	Please keep the park fundings as-is or provide more. This kind of beautiful environment sets Hawke's Bay apart from other cities and even countries.
444	Julie Greene	I believe these are essential services and should be funded. I think some assets sales to support the upgraded flood schemes should occur instead of cutting funds to essential services.
445	KATE Field	Thank you for the opportunity to submit on your Long-Term Plan. Please continue to fund the Park, at least at the current level of \$120,000 per year. Te Mata Park is a key part of the curriculum for the many local schools and educational facilities that visit the Park every week. Whether it is planting trees, learning about the history, the geology, our culture, volunteering, or learning more about who we are in the world.
448	Michelle Bettany	Please do not reduce or remove temata parks funding. this is a extremely important place to me and many other local and visiting people.

449	Barbara Hansen	Te Mata Park is a beloved treasure for Hawke's Bay and enjoyed by so many locals daily. I for one use this park a minimum of 4-5 times a week. It is a unique and special resource for our people. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level (Option B). \$120,000 annually is the equivalent of 65 cents per Hawke's Bay resident per year to maintain this amazing Park – minimal when you look at all the Park has to offer. I am happy for my rates to increase by this miniscule amount to ensure the Park is protected in perpetuity. Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Please continue to fund the Park at the current level so we can all continue to enjoy the space.
450	Jordan Cotter	Te mata peak is a icon for the bay. It would be disappointing to see its quality go down from a lack of funding. HDC wouldn't need extra funds or the need to cut funds if you didn't spend so much undoing work that never got approved in the first place (Te mata track). I know money is needed in other areas but taking it from our icon that literally everyone from here has been to and sees everyday is not the one.
456	Kerry Preston	Te Mata Peak is a valuable resource for Hawkes Bay. This has significant use to both locals and visitors (both NZ and foreign) and should be supported by the council. The current amount contributed is not huge and should be continued to ensure /help provide adequate resources are available
459	Bruce Garner	Look after Te Maya park for everyone to enjoy now and in the future It's. a community asset and should be protected. Leave park with adequate funding for everyone to enjoy
461	Kurt Williamson	Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the HBRC Long Term Plan. While I appreciate times are tough, and cuts need to be made, I don't believe cutting funding for Te Mata Park Trust is the way to go. Te Mata Park is a taonga – it is the most loved and visited place in Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current funding level of \$120,000. I am happy for my rates to increase by a tiny 0.5% to ensure the Park is funded.
462	Patrick Dingemans	As a ratepayer of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, I submit that I do not agree that the funding from your Council should be cut totally by \$120 000 to the Te Mata Park Trust Board. I appreciate that you have a difficult task managing the budget, but I think your grant is essential to help maintain the iconic Regional Park.
471	Jack Holden	Thank you for the opportunity to submit on your Long-Term Plan. I ask you to please continue to fund Te Mata Park, at least at the current level of \$120,000 per year. I fear that with cuts to the funding of Te Mata Park, they will be unable to properly fund their maintenance contractors, resulting in closures to parts of the park due to health and safety issues. I also fear it will lead to the deterioration of the health, wairua and mana of Te Mata Peak. Te Mata Peak is a cultural, ecological, historical and personal tāonga. It is part of mine and countless others' Pepeha, and a huge tāonga to the tangata whenua of Ngāti Kahungunu. It is a place I go to to reset, rest, socialise and ground myself. I fear for my own wellbeing and the wellbeing of many others like me if Te Mata Park is to deteriorate due to funding cuts. Please do not set a precedent of prioritising economy over environment for the Tamariki of today and please reconsider this choice. \$120,000 annually is the equivalent of 65 cents per Hawke's Bay resident per year to maintain this amazing Park – minimal when you look at all the Park has to offer. I am happy for my rates to increase by this miniscule amount to ensure the Park is protected in perpetuity. Ngā mihi, Jack Holden
476	Blake Herbison	Te Mata peak is a community asset used by all and tourists. It needs our funding so it can stay as a attraction for HB people. I disagree with HBRC fund cutting to the parks maintenance.
484	Louise Sivertsen	The peak is a precious recreational and health promoting resource for the people of Hawkes bay - I personally use it multiple times a week
487	Brigitte Ovenden	Te Mata Park is the single most significant landscape icon in Hawke's Bay, having district, regional and national significance. It is the most prominent landmark in the eastern Heretaunga Plains with a distinctive silhouette skyline. It is a source of identity for Hawke's Bay residents and Ngāti Kahungunu. Please choose Option B and continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level of \$120,000.
488	Jon Eames	Te Mata park is the jewel in Hawke Bays crown Every effort should be done to maintain present funding

489	Eileen Bool	The Regional Parks and Te Mata Park are one of the greatest things about Hawkes Bay and Hastings, if you take it away, without having a plan in place to maintain it, then it may revert back to being unkept and uninviting. Te Mata needs some major upkeep because of Cyclone Gabriel and yes you have volunteers however even they cannot do everything for free, just so Councils can justify taking away funding. It's a drawcard for visitors from out of area and when you have a place that is a major asset in an area, it should be supported as such, it is far more beneficial to all those who visit the area local and out of towners. As a person that uses these facilities frequently. I can assure you they are to be treasured. When it comes to areas the require maintenance like trees, grassed planting and pathways and tracks, there is no such thing as slowing it down because Mother Nature does not understand that at all. its like not servicing your car eventually somethings going to happen and your costs are going to be even higher.
490	Rose Artemiev	Alternative funding sources for these activities have reduced under this government. Maintain funding until impact of these other reductions is better understood. I am in support of maintaining funding to Waitangi, Wairoa, and Te Mata Parks because of their significance. These are premier parks and core council business. other funders will not pick up something that they see as the responsibility of government. When times are tough financially for whanau, the free recreation resources become more important in the community. I am supportive of reduced funding to other parks.
491	William Smith	This is an important facility for both local residents and visitors, Encouraging exercise and fresh air and relating to the history of the area.
493	Bridget Jarvis	Te Mata Peak is a huge asset to Hawkes Bay. Not only do visitors from outside of the region come to see it or walk it so do thousands of people within the region every week. To let the peak go would be sacrilege. It is essential not only as a tourist attraction and for outdoor activity but also for peoples well being and mental health. Please don't let this go unfunded. Perhaps charge each person \$1 to use the peak
499	Lucy Nicoll	We pay our regional rates in the expectation that these services/ support will continue. Have you considered other ways you could save money that is not detrimental to the community ie reducing management personnel, administrative excess etc? You have a responsibility to keep supporting Te Mata and local sea fronts etc.
512	Natasha Cooke	Do not cut funding to Te Mata park this would be a huge loss and detrimental to our region. This is a significant asset to the community and how we identify ourselves as a region. Tourism, communities and health benefit across multiple levels.
519	Naomi Fergusson	Te Mata Peak is a very special place for cultural, social and environmental reasons. It's an easily accessible place for children to learn more about biodiversity, and should be supported to offer this educational element. It has always worked hard to find major investments in park improvement and it is extremely unlikely it will attract more grant funding to cover operating short falls.
522	Alan Passchier	Please Maintain funding for Te Mata Peak, I'm happy to pay an annual fee for using this amazing park, as an idea close the gate just past the Peak house and only make it accessible for emergency services and paid charters that way we'll keep the Peak sacred and beautiful
525	Robert Waldron	Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level. This an extremely valuable asset to our region and community that needs to be protected and maintained. Cutting funding would detrimentally effect the maintenance of the park and it's future. I would be happy for my rates to increase by what would be a relatively tiny amount in order to secure the on going current level of funding for the park.
526	Michael Nes	For Te Mata Peak - \$120k means a lot and will go a long way. For the collective rate payer, this cost is a matter of cents - part of a bill that is forever increasing each year. No household would notice the impact of less than a dollar on their invoice. Secondly, Te Mata peak is an icon of Hawke's Bay, and those who care for the park have done so in a way that it can be appreciated by everyone, in well kept surroundings. It is essential that this continues.
527	Sophie Bazzard	Thank you for the opportunity to submit on your Long-Term Plan. Please continue to fund the Park, at least at the current level of \$120,000 per year. Te Mata Park is a key part of the curriculum for the many local schools and educational facilities that visit the Park every week. Whether it is planting trees, learning about the history, the geology, our culture, volunteering, or learning more about who we are in the world. I would be prepared to pay the minor increase of 0.5% in HBRC rates to ensure Te Mata Park is available for our community.

530	Peter Cooke	Te Mata Park is an amazing asset for the region providing significant benefits to our community in the form of tourism, health and wellbeing and biodiversity
536	Sally Pike	Te Mata Park is the jewel in Hawke's Bay physically. From a tourism perspective, you should be supporting its growth, facilities and cultural significance, investing more over time to use it as a key pin in promoting Hawke's Bay nationally. When a visitor arrives in the region, the first place they are taken is the top of the peak to get a full view of the region. Then they are shown the walkways and mountain bike tracks. from the young kids on the bottom bike track, to every age and stage, there is something for everyone in the Park. As a family we have donated trees for the new plantings, done weeding programmes, where the community is brought together - we have never done this in other places. My husband passed away last year and spent every moment he could on the bike trails until shortly before his death - he requested all donations to go to the park at his funeral to support it and has left money in his will to the Park- the thought that our rates, and it's a tiny part of our rates, would not continue to help support such an important place in the future would truly break his heart. The thought that you would choose to ignore its significance is mind boggling. The need to cut your costs to fit your budgets is commendable but you have obviously no understanding of the significance of this park to more than just its immediate neighbours.
538	Hazel E Hudson	It is imperative that support for the environment continue, our land is all we truly have. Te Mata Peak is a fabulous well used resource that contributes to the Biodiversity of the area and is heavily used by the whole community. Reducing biosecurity risks pays for itself. Incursions cost more to manage than prevent.
546	Anne Epplett	I personally use the tracks once or twice a week and there are always many others enjoying the beautiful space. It is one of our most precious taonga in hawkes bay
554	Rachel Knight	Te Mata park and the regional parks are regional assets and tourist attraction. They protect our physical and mental health and are accessible for all Hawke's Bay residents and visitors regardless of ethnicity, age and health. With smaller homes and denser housing the accessibility of the park is invaluable for everyone's wellbeing.
558	Paul Barker	Lets look after our parks and plant life. So many people use parks, especially Te Mata Peak as a place to exercise and de-stress. Cuts in funding could see partial closure of these places due to lack of maintenance. Also Te Mata peak draws in lots of visitors as its a great place to look over Hawkes bay, not to mention the huge cultural significance it has to the people of Hawkes Bay.
559	Mary-anne Scott	the popularity and usage of the peak is increasing every day. I see so many people getting enjoyment from this shared space. Please keep up the funding for Te mata peak. thank you
565	Sharon Williamson	Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level (Option B). \$120,000 annually is the equivalent of 65 cents per Hawke's Bay resident per year to maintain this amazing Park – minimal when you look at all the Park has to offer. I am happy for my rates to increase by this miniscule amount to ensure the Park is protected in perpetuity.
571	Brendon Rope	Regional Parks and Te Mata Park funding: Similar to the Hawke's Bay Tourism proposal removing funding for Te Mata Peak Trust will be significantly detrimental to the park and the Trust's ability to perform its purpose. I cannot see any reference to this type of support in the consultation documentation. It is counterproductive to remove funding before alternative funding opportunities have been secured. To a lesser degree but still impactful will be the reduction in support for Mana Ahuriri Trust and Ahuriri Regional Park.
574	Greg Reynolds	I dont think you should reduce funding or core services.
575	Uta Benecke	Te Mata Park is a taonga – it is the most loved and visited place in Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current funding level of \$120,000. I am happy for my rates to increase by a tiny 0.5% to ensure the Park is funded.
580	Jeremy Rimene	Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposal to Change Status of Te Mata Park To the Hawkes Bay Regional Council, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposal to change the status of Te Mata Park. As a resident of Hawkes Bay and someone who holds a profound appreciation for the natural beauty and recreational opportunities that Te Mata Park offers, I find it difficult to comprehend how such a proposal could even be considered.

	Triathlon Hawkes Bay	Te Mata Park holds immense significance to the community, serving as a cherished recreational landscape that is enjoyed by many. Its vast expanses of greenery, picturesque views, and diverse flora and fauna make it a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, families, and individuals seeking solace in nature. The park not only provides a space for physical activity and leisure but also fosters a sense of connection to the land and a deep appreciation for our environment. The potential loss of Te Mata Park would not only deprive current generations of a beloved recreational space but also rob future generations of the opportunity to experience its wonders. Its cultural and historical value cannot be understated, as it stands as a testament to the rich heritage of Hawkes Bay and the importance of preserving our natural landscapes for generations to come. I urge the Regional Council to reconsider this proposal and to prioritize the preservation and protection of Te Mata Park for the benefit of the community and the environment. Any decision regarding the future of the park should be made with careful consideration of its significance and the profound impact it has on the people of Hawkes Bay. Thank you for considering my concerns regarding this matter. I trust that the Regional Council will make the right decision to safeguard the future of Te Mata Park and ensure that it remains a cherished asset for generations to come.
582	Sam Cullen	Thank you for the opportunity to submit on your Long-Term Plan. Please continue to fund the Park, at least at the current level of \$120,000 per year. Te Mata Park is a key part of the curriculum for the many local schools and educational facilities that visit the Park every week. Whether it is planting trees, learning about the history, the geology, our culture, volunteering, or learning more about who we are in the world. I would be prepared to pay the minor increase of 0.5% in HBRC rates to ensure Te Mata Park is available for our community. Letting the park get out of control with less funding will only increase the cost in the future to get it back to the pristine condition it is today.
587	Jos Buurmans	Te Mata Park is the single most significant landscape icon in Hawke's Bay, having district, regional and national significance. It, together with HB's wine and food image, is the face of Hawke's Bay attracting many locals as well as visitors to enjoy the park as well as the wider Hawke's Bay. It is essential that the park is maintained and enhanced to ensure that it remains a landmark and attraction to be proud of. Please choose to continue the funding of the park at the current level of \$120,000.
594	David Cormack	The park is an essential point of interest to most visitors and it should be maintained. We don't need to promote it. It promotes itself.
597	Michelle Evans	As a regular user of Pakowhai park and Te Mata Peak, it would be a real shame to see these parks (which are admired by out of towners) to not be maintained to at least the same level that they currently are.
616	Jenny Rogers	I have only dealt with Te Mata Peak Park on my submission. I feel it is a mistake to reduce financial help to this iconic and amazing park. 98% of visitors to the area drive up/walk in the Peak - it is a wonderful experience for all ages. So many people give of their time with no financial reward, I feel the council funding is not large but has a huge impact on the Park and those who use it.
617	Jon Lewin	Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Please continue to fund the Park at or above the current level so we can all continue to enjoy the space - ideally fund two maintenance caretakers. I would be happy for my rates to increase by this tiny amount, to ensure HBRC continues to fund this treasure. Te Mata Park is also a key part of the curriculum for the many local schools and educational facilities that visit the Park every week. Whether it is planting trees, learning about the history, the geology, our culture, volunteering, or learning more about who we are in the world. While I appreciate times are tough, and cuts need to be made, funding cuts be made elsewhere, such as HBRC's own headcount.
625	Natalie Beath	Please do not cut funding to Te Mata Park. This is an area of great significance to the region, used by locals and visitors. Given that imagery of the Peak is used on so much of your promotional material (tacitly acknowledging its importance to the region) it seems completely hypocritical to cut funding. Access to the walkways and mountain bike trails is vital to the physical and mental well-being of locals, many of whom feel a strong connection to the Peak. It is also important to the tourism industry. Furthermore, the unique ecology and biodiversity of the Park should also be retained, and this can only happen with ongoing maintenance, which funding cuts would jeopardise. Please don't ruin the beautiful asset the Hawke's Bay has with your short-sighted belt-tightening.

627	Fran Eaton	I am deeply concerned that finding us being cut to te mata park. This park provides free access for all citizens to undertake exercise benefitting mental and physical health. It is also a huge benefit to the region and brings in tourists every year
634	Zoe Solomon Environmental committee, Havelock North High School	I am writing on behalf of the Environmental committee at Havelock North High School to lodge our opposition to the proposed funding cut to Te Mata Park outlined in the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Three Year Plan 2024-2027. Havelock North High School is one of six local schools involved in Te Mata Park Trust's Schools for Trees initiative. We planted several hundred trees in 2021 and return to the Park throughout the year to care for the land and our plants. Acting as kaitiaki of the land in this way is important for a sense of place, and an understanding of the environment and local history, among other things. We see many benefits to the students and future students of our school and committee that come from our relationship to Te Mata Park such as the understanding of protecting and looking after our environment for future generations, and building a stronger sense of community in Havelock North from working with organisations outside of our school. We understand that a funding cut could impact the school's ability to visit the park, if it is not able to be maintained to a safe standard. The environmental committee at Havelock North High School and the wider Havelock North High School community is concerned to hear of a proposed funding cut to the Park and would like our submission to note that we are opposed to any such funding cut.
641	Simon Cartwright	Re Te Mata Park funding: 1. Environmental Conservation: Te Mata Park serves as a crucial green space, housing diverse ecosystems and indigenous flora and fauna. Reduced funding could impair conservation efforts and biodiversity. 2. Loss of Recreation Space: For many locals and visitors, Te Mata Park is a valued recreational area for hiking, biking, and outdoor activities. Cuts could limit maintenance and access, reducing quality of life and recreational opportunities. 3. Tourism Decline: The park is a significant tourist attraction, contributing to the regional tourism economy. Less funding may lead to a decrease in tourism, negatively impacting local businesses and the wider economy. 4. Community Engagement: Te Mata Park is a focal point for community events and education programs. Reduced funding might lead to fewer community engagement opportunities, weakening community bonds and cultural heritage awareness. 5. Health Impacts: Access to natural spaces like Te Mata Park is essential for mental and physical health. Funding cuts could result in decreased park quality and accessibility, directly impacting public health and well-being. 6. Increased Erosion and Degradation: Without adequate funding for maintenance and conservation, the park could face increased risk of erosion, land degradation, and habitat loss, potentially leading to long-term environmental damage. 7. Loss of Educational Resource: The park offers educational value through its natural environment and historical significance. Reduced funding could limit educational programs and research opportunities about local ecology and history. 8. Reduced Safety and Maintenance: Essential services such as trail maintenance, safety patrols, and upkeep of facilities may suffer, leading to potentially unsafe conditions for visitors and diminished park experiences. 9. Impact on Local Indigenous Culture: Te Mata Park holds cultural and historical significance for local Indigenous communities. Cutting funding risks undermining efforts to preserve and promote indigenous heritage and narratives. 10. Long-Term Economic Consequences: Initially, funding cuts might seem to save costs, but the long-term economic consequences of reduced tourism, community health issues, and environmental degradation could far outweigh immediate savings, leading to greater expenditures down the line.
651	Helen Richardson	My family and I use the park most days to exercise and walk our dogs. We think it's a huge treasure which needs it's funding continued as is if not more. It's a great tourist attraction.
656	Margaret Clarke	Te Mata Park is a stunning Hawkes Bay asset and needs your (our) contribution to help maintain it by dealing with weeds and pests, planting and nurturing trees and maintaining tracks. JUST DO IT --PLEASE! if funding is withdrawn the work done on weeds and pests will not just be much reduced. The current state of the Park will go backwards rapidly and will cost much more just to bring it back to 2024 state. Common sense shows this makes no sense financially. Just as buildings need regular maintenance so does a natural asset. please keep supporting Te Mata Park -the cost to each rate payer is minimal.
662	Claire Rolls	Continue funding for Te Mata Peak, this is a treasure to the region and used by the community and visitors to the area.
670	Henry Wedd	At 0.65c per resident per year. This is a very small cost to contribute to our most beautiful asset. Cutting funding sends the wrong message. This should be the last cent of the budget that is cut. Not the first. The return on Investment for this \$120k is substantial. Tourism, wellbeing through fitness, families walking, community, school visits, ecology, fire protection, the list goes on. If funding is cut then we could loose thousands of hours of investment that

		has gone onto protecting the natives. Native trees need protecting and ongoing releasing programmes, if not, the grass wins every time. We need to keep the maintenance going for future generations. Lets beautify the Park. The peak is on every poster of HB. We need to maintain and invest in Te Mata Peak.
678	Bruce Beaton	Te Mata Peak Park has to be the most used public space from what I see. HBRC should base its funding on use. Some parks or locations it owns would get far less visitor numbers compared to TMP. I supporting cutting least used facility funding and choosing to support the most used.
694	Carly Hopgood	The parks, in particular Te Mata Park, are a critical part of the attraction of living in the Bay, which is why we can have higher house prices - people from Auckland and overseas who have the money to feed into the real estate market here, and they won't be attracted to move here without the outdoor attractions. The outdoor attractions are what are so different from what they have in the city. The funding being pulled from Te Mata Park is small in the scheme of the whole LTP, but is huge in terms of the impact of the sustainability of the park. It is a small price for such a huge drawcard to the region and pulling the funding is incredibly short-sighted and disappointing.
714	Rebecca Northe Te Mata School Student Council	I am writing on behalf of the Te Mata School Student Council to lodge our opposition to the proposed funding cut to Te Mata Park outlined in the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Three Year Plan 2024-2027. Te Mata School is one of six local schools involved in Te Mata Park Trust's Schools for Trees initiative. Our Year 6 students all walk to the summit and the end of the year - this is a key/significant part of our learning journey, as we all aim to 'Seek our Heights'. Te Mata Park, Rongokako is part of our pepeha. We are proud of the park and we want to be a safe place that we can freely access. We have planted trees there, been on walks and loved using the park for different reasons. We understand that a funding cut could impact the school's ability to visit the Park, if it is not able to be maintained to a safe standard. The Te Mata School Student Council are concerned about the proposed funding cut to the Park and would like our submission to note that we are opposed to any such funding cut. Te Mata Park is part of our school pepeha. As a school our students access and use the park regularly. At the end of Year 6 they all walk to the top as they are individually 'seeking their height' our school goal/vision. We want the park to be maintained and to be safe for us to use, now and in the future.
718	Walter Breustedt	Parks are our green lungs and helping active against global warming by improving our microclimate
728	Mark Hundal	Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the HBRC Long Term Plan. While I appreciate times are tough, and cuts need to be made, I don't believe cutting funding for Te Mata Park Trust is the way to go. Te Mata Park is a regional and national treasure that needs to be protected and maintained for future generations to enjoy. As a regular (least once a year) domestic tourist to Hawks Bay Te Mata Peak is a regular highlight and one I know is also enjoyed by other Wellingtonians I know who visit the area. Again, I know there are plenty of financial pressures on other activity, but I would say that maintaining funding (on what is already a low budget) on this significant park that adds to the overall appeal of visiting Hastings, has to indirectly fund itself. Thanks for this opportunity to be heard. Mark Hundal
747	tessa Tylee	Submission for the Hawke's Bay Regional Council Three-Year Plan 2024-2027 Thank you for the opportunity to submit. I acknowledge how challenging it is for the HBRC to plan and set priorities when so much needs to be done within our region. Rebuilding our infrastructure after cyclone Gabrielle, as well as maintaining essential ongoing work, means difficult decisions need to be made about rates increases and cuts. While supporting much of the plan, I am strongly opposed to HBRC's proposal to slow funding in the following areas: • Biodiversity restoration projects • Biosecurity programmes • Maintenance of our regional parks Rather than reducing this funding, these programmes must continue at current or higher levels. • Reduce maintenance on our regional parks Reducing parks maintenance programs will exacerbate the problems outlined above: Tūtira (464Ha), Waitangi (300Ha), and Pekapeka (98Ha) are our largest regional parks. Full credit to HBRC for getting Tūtira to a swimmable water quality at most times of the year - that lake has the potential to be the inland jewel in the region's crown. But it is surrounded by invasive eucalypts, acacias, poplars, bindweed, convolvulus not to mention all the other toxic and noxious annual weeds that Council has worked so hard to suppress so that not only Council but iwi and hapū groups can restore the native biodiversity. Now is not the time for Council to take its foot off the gas/throat of the weeds. How long it will take to undo three years of neglect over 862Ha?
756	Petra Christie	Hi There, Te Mata Park is the single most significant landscape icon in Hawke's Bay, having district, regional and national significance. It is the most prominent landmark in the eastern Heretaunga Plains with a distinctive silhouette skyline. It is a source of identity for Hawke's Bay residents and Ngāti

		Kahungunu. Please choose Option B and continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level of \$120,000. Many thanks for your time, Petra Christie
760	Susie Devonshire	PLEASE keep supporting Te Mata Park. The regional council funding is invaluable for the positive running of this park resource. People from all walks of life in the bay love and use this greenspace every day. The park trust does a great job dovetailing its volunteers to support - but its the expertise of the council staff that sets the standard and has made a massive difference to peoples enjoyment of this park.
765	Val Morrison	How dare you!! Te Mata Peak is the jewel in the crown of H.B.!! How about you get rid of some of your top heavy paid employees? Their wages could go towards funding for the upkeep of the Park. People are waking up to the corruption within local governments every day so BEWARE!! Te Mata Park would be if not the main Tourist attraction to Hawkes Bay. You've put the rates up by a hell of a lot so I find it impossible you want to cut funding for the Park. It is definitely the biggest jewel in the crown of Hakes Bay.
767	Hayley Rose	Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level (Option B). \$120,000 annually is the equivalent of 65 cents per Hawke's Bay resident per year to maintain this amazing Park – minimal when you look at all the Park has to offer. I am happy for my rates to increase by this miniscule amount to ensure the Park is protected in perpetuity.
770	Angela Mccamish	Please continue to fund Te Mata peak. It is an important regional icon. It is also a huge source of biodiversity for the region. I recently saw a skink on the peak. This is the first I had seen one in the wild and my children were amazed by it. As a physiotherapist it is also a source of many of my clients regular recreational walking and cycling. It would be a shame if it was not maintained to the same standards. I would be concerned it could become more hazardous to walk or cycle around. My family enjoys walking the peak every weekend with our dog. Please continue to fund it!
771	Susan Marsh	My particular concern is the proposal to reduce funding for Te Mata Park. Te Mata Park is the single most significant landscape icon in Hawke's Bay, having district, regional and national significance. It is the most prominent landmark in the eastern Heretaunga Plains with a distinctive silhouette skyline. It is a source of identity for Hawke's Bay residents and Ngāti Kahungunu. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level of \$120,000. I am happy for a slight rate increase to occur to fund the continuation of adequate maintenance programs of the Te Mata Park. I am also concerned that due to the Climate Emergency, it is more critical than ever that all biosecurity and Biodiversity programs are maintained. Thank you.
774	Sylvia Jones	I am yet another elderly Hawke's Bay resident who is concerned about the impact of possible cuts to the funding of the Trust. This Park has been a major feature in the district for so many years – used, supported, admired, cared for – it is an asset that so many of the community have valued for so long. My own family have been regular users over the years, always appreciating and recognising the treasure we have in our back yard. I, like so many others, take every out-of-town visitor to the park to walk, drive through and explore. Their invariable reaction is respect for the way the park has been cared for and maintained over such a long time. My major concern is that without regular maintenance all the years of dedicated work by professionals and volunteers will very quickly count for little as tracks and planting deteriorate. Please do not be the ones who fail to recognise the significance of what you are proposing. There must be another way to find that money even if it does involve a very small increase in rates.
778	Malcolm Dixon	Your mission statement needs to be revisited by all councillors prior to making any of these proposed decisions. " HBRC is the regions environmental leader protecting and enhancing our remarkable natural environment and resources." All of the above three clearly fit within this statement. I find it totally abhorrent that the HB Regional Council that has an Investment arm (HBRIC) in June 2023 had a total equity of \$344.4 million put aside for a rainy day and is not prepared to spend a portion of it after Cyclone Gabrielle on any of the above three schemes. Te Mata Park Trust Board currently receives the minute amount of \$120,000 per annum from HBRC to assist in the maintenance of Te Mata Park the regions Tourist and Photographic Icon to keep in in a safe condition for visitors local, regional and international. I urge you to continue this funding or even better increase the quantum . If you follow your intended plan the wider region of Hawkes Bay will be contributing nothing to the Regions most Prestigious Landmark .
781	Jane Beardmore	Te Mata park is an absolute asset to Hawkes Bay. It has multiple benefits to society and the greater Hawkes Bay area and it must be protected and preserved. Please maintain funding for this precious asset.
783	Kate Gower-James	Te Mata Park is a taonga – it is the most loved and visited place in Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current funding level of \$120,000. I am happy for my rates to increase by a tiny 0.5% to ensure the Park is funded. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park

		Trust at the current level (Option B). \$120,000 annually is the equivalent of 65 cents per Hawke's Bay resident per year to maintain this amazing Park – minimal when you look at all the Park has to offer. I am happy for my rates to increase by this miniscule amount to ensure the Park is protected in perpetuity. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the HBRC Long Term Plan. While I appreciate times are tough, and cuts need to be made, I don't believe cutting funding for Te Mata Park Trust is the way to go. Te Mata Park is a regional and national treasure that needs to be protected and maintained for future generations to enjoy.
785	Patrick McInnes	Te Mata Park is a taonga – it is the most loved and visited place in Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current funding level of \$120,000. I am happy for my rates to increase by a tiny 0.5% to ensure the Park is funded. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level (Option B). \$120,000 annually is the equivalent of 65 cents per Hawke's Bay resident per year to maintain this amazing Park – minimal when you look at all the Park has to offer. I am happy for my rates to increase by this miniscule amount to ensure the Park is protected in perpetuity. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the HBRC Long Term Plan. While I appreciate times are tough, and cuts need to be made, I don't believe cutting funding for Te Mata Park Trust is the way to go. Te Mata Park is a regional and national treasure that needs to be protected and maintained for future generations to enjoy.
786	Alison Francis	Please do not cut funding to Te Mata Park, this is such a vital part of our community. Funding will allow the Trust to continue to the good work that it does, maintaining and keeping the Park open for the community. The Trust have stated that the total cost of the funding that they currently get (\$120,000 pa) is equivalent to 65c per Hawke's Bay resident. Please retain the status quo and continue to fund the Te Mata Park Trust so that our beautiful Park can be enjoyed by our community.
796	Bruce Yarnold	Te Mata Park is a taonga – it is the most loved and visited place in Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current funding level of \$120,000. I am happy for my rates to increase by a tiny 0.5% to ensure the Park is funded.
798	Jenny Elliott	I support much of the plan however I am strongly opposed to HBRC's proposal to slow funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity restoration projects • Biosecurity programmes • Maintenance of our regional parks Rather than reducing this funding, these programmes should be boosted to continue at current or higher levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity programmes Hawke's Bay is a national hotspot for a variety of highly invasive noxious weeds such as Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) and Old Man's Beard, not to mention our invasive insect and mammal predators including feral cats which have only recently (in the last few years) become such a threat to our biodiversity that HBRC has elevated them to priority target species alongside possums, rodents and mustelids (stoats, weasels etc.). Reducing funding for biosecurity (and regional parks maintenance) in the short term is guaranteed to end up costing us more in the long run, as it could easily take a decade to undo the damage caused by 3 years of cut funding. CNG and Old Man's Beard are not only a threat to our biodiversity, they are economic threats, doing untold damage to livestock (in the case of CNG) and commercial forests (in the case of Old Man's Beard). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce maintenance on our regional parks Reducing parks maintenance programs will exacerbate the problems outlined above: Tūtira (464Ha), Waitangi (300Ha), and Pekapeka (98Ha) are our largest regional parks. Full credit to HBRC for getting Tūtira to a swimmable water quality at most times of the year - that lake has the potential to be the inland jewel in the region's crown. But it is surrounded by invasive eucalypts, acacias, poplars, bindweed, convolvulus not to mention all the other toxic and noxious annual weeds that Council has worked so hard to suppress so that not only Council but iwi and hapū groups can restore the native biodiversity. Now is not the time for Council to take its foot off the gas/throat of the weeds. How long it will take to undo three years of neglect over 862Ha?
800	Coralie Curtis	Te Mata Peak is Hawke's Bay's most superior park and the one that serves locals of all ages, to enjoy the exercise, the views and the beauty of its natural environment. So much voluntary work has been carried out over the years, and with the help of HBRC funding, we have an asset that is the envy of other provinces and international visitors. Such a facility cannot be allowed to decline. The hundreds of HB folk who use it daily should not be denied this treasure because HBRC decides to cease funding. Locals are already contributing to the upkeep through their rates (due to be greatly increased) so please continuing with HBRC funding.
802	Michael Bate	Please accept this as a submission in favour of HBRC continuing to fund Te Mata Park. Te Mata Park is one of the best parts of HB and is used by people from all over HB and beyond. HBRC funds other regional parks. It is essential it receives public support and funding!!

806	Helen Fitzpatrick	We are devastated to read that HBRC are planning to cut funding to Te Mata Park Trust. This area is of huge importance in connecting people from the surrounding and wider communities. Our children regularly meet their mates to ride their bikes down the peak and spend time together. Our family lives in Haumoana, but we regularly go to Havelock to walk the dogs or walk up and around the peak with friends. This area is important and valuable and its upkeep is essential. Please keep the existing funding to preserve the beauty and upkeep of this area.
808	Brian Martin	Regional Park Maintenance I see this decision in the same light as HB Tourism context. Unless we maintain our "treasures" and promote them then there is little point in a lot of the other environmental work we do. Te Mata Park is one of our standout attractions and to stop helping fund the great work the Te Mata Trust Board does would be ill-based in my view. The decision to continue with the \$100k annual funding of the Ahuriri Regional Park needs to be set alongside this decision.
814	Lindsay Bates	This funding is an investment in resilience that will help the region and the ratepayers survive future climate events. It will save our ratepayers money in the medium and long term.
816	Roger Hooker	Parks are necessary for wellbeing of residents. In many cases they act as pockets of ecology protection. They need to be repaired and maintained. Parks and reserves need to be protected. They aren't optional things to turn off then turn back on in a couple of years.
821	James Wright	I understand Te Mata Peak is the most utilised recreational facility in the Bay. Our family use it at least three times a week. It is renowned nationally as one of the gems, and a must do if visiting the Bay. For a meager \$120,000 you are withdrawing your support. This is criminal, how hard would it be to find back-office savings of this level, your policy and regulation budgeted plan is \$11,946m (up \$400k on last year), could you not find \$120,000 in that bucketless pool?
824	Lisa Wilson	Our environment should be high on our list of priorities. The Peak in particular has a huge influence on our communities well-being. Personally, I was born in Hastings and whenever I have moved away, I always return to the Hawkes Bay. Currently I am in Havelock North and have never felt more settled. I don't plan to move again, my connection to Te Mata Peak is hard to explain. It's spiritual. My children now feel connected to it. I would like my children's children to witness the Peak with all of the new plantings in full growth with bustling bird life. Keep funding the peak, there has been a lot of division in our communities due to the covid response and the economy, but the Peak keeps everyone united, we all enjoy it together. Look up at the scars on our Peak from the cyclone, we still feel the pain from the lack of warning of the disaster we would face... Look after it and you will be looking after our community and our future.
837	Jessica Gillespie	Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Please continue to fund the Park at the current level so we can all continue to enjoy the space. I would be happy for my rates to increase by this tiny amount, to ensure HBRC continues to fund this treasure.
840	Vaughan Cooper	The HBRC has put forward five "Tough Choices" in draft consultation documents for the 2024-2027 Three-Year Plan, which are cost-cutting measures to help manage rates increases while paying for recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle. The Council has a multitude of increasing/decreasing spending items but I wish to confine my inputs to Te Mata Park Trust funding of \$120,000 which is to be suspended for three years. Te Mata Park Trust chair Mike Devonshire said, "the huge growth in use of the park requires more money, not less". In the media it says, "the current HBRC funding level, it's 65 cents per resident per year to look after the park to its current standard". The trust board said "and we think it should be \$1.30, which will cover the cost of two full-time maintenance contractors." I am a regular (2nd Saturday of the month) volunteer and have seen a tremendous growth in visitor numbers over the nearly 20 years I have been volunteering. It's notable that many of the visitors are from outside Hastings and obviously include Napier, Waipukurau and yes, the world. It's notable how many Motorhomes are to be seen. The Park is a Tourist destination! According to the Trust "It has a million visitors a year", and I believe them! Us volunteers cannot alone maintain the paths/tracks and to keep the place open and be a safe environment for all the users that now are seen at the Park. We were a small part of the efforts to clean up after the cyclone and it needed money, resources well beyond the volunteers and the current paid labour force to re-open the park within five days. It had a huge impact on the park with many trees destroyed but the Te Mata Trust at the time had the financial ability to quickly do some work clearing tracks and reopen in five days." Again, I note from the media and the Manager of the Park, I note some areas that the Trust Board needs money for? 1. "Since 2018 the park has been awarded the Green Flag international award for well-

		managed parks and green spaces five times, ranking it one of the best maintained and managed parks in the world. 2. Nearly 60,000 native trees have been planted in the past four years as part of the Trust's native revegetation programme. 3. Key projects over recent yearsupgrading and building new walking and cycling trails, upgrading the park's water and effluent infrastructure, and significant felling of dangerous trees." I say, these facilities require regular maintenance to ensure that the Park remains accessible to all the visitors that it hosts. That means money is needed to maintain it to keep it open, safe and functional. The Park is a great amenity for the region and attracts tourists who spend money in our region. Why undermine that by stopping the funding? It doesn't make sense.
844	Ange Ward Lucknow School	I am writing on behalf of Lucknow School to lodge our opposition to the proposed funding cut to Te Mata Park outlined in the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Three Year Plan 2024-2027. Lucknow School is one of six local schools involved in Te Mata Park Trust's Schools for Trees initiative. We planted several hundred trees in 2021 and return to the Park throughout the year to care for the land and our plants. Acting as kaitiaki of the land in this way is important for a sense of place, and an understanding of the environment and local history, among other things. We see many benefits to our children that come from our relationship with Te Mata Park. Some of these benefits include nurturing a care for our environment, understanding the requirements of plants, a healthy hands outdoors activity, enabling a positive vegetative footprint and fostering community accountability. We understand that a funding cut could impact the school's ability to visit the Park, if it is not able to be maintained to a safe standard. Lucknow School is concerned to hear of a proposed funding cut to the Park and would like our submission to note that we are opposed to any such funding cut.
845	Bruce Reay	I wish to make a submission to the Council regarding the proposed cut of funding to the Park. I have lived in Havelock North since 2023 and raised our family here. Te Mata Peak in that time has seen a huge increase in local people using the Park for exercise and recreation. My wife and I regularly (often 2 mornings a weekend) walk the park to the Peak and return to Tauroa Carpark. The evidence of the increase is seen in the tracks made bare and widened by the many more walkers/runners using the Park. I believe the funding and other work supported by the Regional Council including native re-planting program has had a super return on investment with people getting a great healthy exercise. I fully support retention of the annual funding program.
848	Clint Beckett	My name is Miss Clint Beckett and I am writing to you HBRC ,to please please not cut the funding for Te Mata Park. I am regular user of the tracks on Te Mata Park for many years. I also am a volunteer — with Friends Of Te Mata Park, any working bees the park holds, PLUS I also have permission as a volunteer to independently cut the long grass with the Brushcutter on all the tracks. I have been cutting the grass for 2-3 years now. This is a big job & I would normally do it on my days off, anything up to 10 hours each day. I have done many many hours of cutting the long grass Alex & Alex truly are an asset to Te Mata Park ! They work very hard , are passionate about Te Mata Park & know the Park inside and out. Alex & Alex help me by sharpening the brush cutter blades & getting the fuel for me. They also help if the machine breaks down etc Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Please continue to fund the Park at the current level at least of \$120,000 per year so we can all continue to enjoy the space. I would be happy for my rates to increase by this tiny amount, to ensure HBRC continues to fund this treasure. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park, ideally fund two maintenance caretakers. Te Mata Park is important to me because I love nature. To walk the tracks , be among all the trees & have beautiful views of Hawkes Bay.
849	Maggie Poll	Have you ever walked run or cycled up Te Mata Peak? Or driven tourists up to give a spectacular view of the area. Of course you have! Likely multiple multiple times! It draws in visitors to the region on an average day let alone for activities such as Triple Peaks, Peak Trail Blazer etc. Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history. You need to keep funding at the same level - approx 65c per resident to maintain this taonga.
851	Anthony Nixon	Te Mata Park has been a longstanding feature of Hawkes Bay. In terms of tourism, it represents the single largest draw card for the region. With the proposed cuts in the Hawkes Bay tourism budget, Te Mata Park stands out as a leader in generating organic tourism. With all public outdoor spaces, it's important to acknowledge the costs of upkeep. Given the huge demand for public funds due to Cyclone Gabrielle budgets need to be adjusted or cut. However, in the case of funding for Te Mata Park, I see more tangible benefits in keeping the existing funding to allow its upkeep. The money invested into the park in my opinion would be far exceeded in terms of the revenue and beneficial returns generated from visitors coming to the area. People domestic and foreign come to walk, mountain bike and generally enjoy what is on offer. It provides health benefits to everyone. Develops a stronger

		sense of community and is something to be proud of. Not many countries have this kind of access to such a special resource. In addition, it achieved the coveted and globally recognised Green Flag accreditation showing the level of effort that has gone into developing a world-class destination. Children of the area have for generations used the Park to grow, inspire and keep healthy providing the best start they could have in early development. My family and myself have been strong users of the park for over 40 years and with a growing family I expect to take my children there to help nurture them through the early years of life. The Peak is something that is a part of Hawkes Bay. People use it every day rain or shine. It's something that has been here since the first settlers came to New Zealand and it will remain. It doesn't need to be built and it will endure forever, but in order for people to utilise this resource it needs your support through continued funding.
855	Kelly Phelps	Regional parks and Te Mata Park are part of what makes Hawkes Bay special. We have such incredible parks on our doorstep that are widely used, and hugely valued. I walk a different track up Te Mata Peak every week and always encounter lots of friendly people making good use of the track. We take our kids to our local parks and reserves to let them see the nature on our doorstep but also to see what games we can play using just nature. Hide and seek in the Giant Redwoods and fairy tree hunting in Tauroa Reserve are a few of our favourites. Protect what makes HB special.
858	Matheus Boaretto	Te Mata is an important park regionally, the budget for this park is an investment in quality of life for the community, likely resulting in reduced health expenditure for the individuals that use it, and therefore, reduced government expenses with healthcare
861	Mitchell Wolting	Te Mata Park is an amazing local resource for residents to enjoy recreationally. There are not many other natural areas nearby town centres with such diverse landscape and outdoor activities. The council should maintain its responsibility to conserve the parks natural integrity.
865	Clayton Hairs	EVERYONE without exception, who visits Hawkes Bay, WILL travel up Te Mata Peak - it's just 'what you do'. To gouge into the crown jewel of the region is myopic and lacks any sense of relative importance of our region. There are very real safety concerns when the employment of the ONE full time position at Te Mata Park is threatened, to rely on volunteer initiatives is insulting and dangerous. slips VERY regularly occur in the park and with the number of physical exercise events held there someone is going to get hurt when those slips are not dealt with in a professional and sensible manner.
869	Rachael Nicholls	Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Please continue to fund the Park at the current level so we can all continue to enjoy the space. I would be happy for my rates to increase by this tiny amount, to ensure HBRC continues to fund this treasure.
872	Tessa Luxton	Te Mata Peak is a Tonga, we need to protect it and continue to fund the work that is currently being done. As a community we cannot allow this beautiful, historical and tourist destination to fall below par. We need to give it the respect and aroha this landmark deserves. To cut the funding is a easy out to save money but will end up costing the government and council beyond millions to restore it to its current state again when it is seen the need is there to do so, save money now by continuing the current funding
875	Megan Harris	Te Mata Park is iconic and ongoing maintenance is important. In all 3 areas above its important work is maintained so that what has already been undertaken is not wasted or needs to be repeated.
880	Lucinda Perry	Te Mata Park is a regional and national treasure that needs to be protected and maintained for future generations to enjoy. As a family, we take all our national and international visitors up the Peak to showcase our beautiful region. We take our small children up most weeks to embrace nature, and share with them the importance of protecting our beautiful land. And personally I walk up there regularly, alongside many others, to soak in the incredible tracks, keep fit, maintain mental health and embrace the unique surroundings.
885	Guy Morris	Please continue to fund Te Mata Park, either at the current level, or ideally fund two maintenance caretakers.
908	Lauren Jenner	Please keep the funding for Te Mata peak. This is such a treasure- we as locals NEED this beautiful place to come to not only for ourselves but for our children to enjoy. I am a kiwi, and When I first moved back here about 4 years ago from living in australia for 9 years- this was one of the first places I visited! It's BEAUTIFUL! It is so important to everyone, not only locals and people who live in New Zealand who visit but for tourists and people moving here from overseas. Please do not cut funding to this beautiful treasure that we have here. Thank you so much

917	Robert Tomlinson	Keeping our Regional Parks & Te Mata Park funded is important to/ for Tourism plus an enhancement of recreational environment = leading to population growth = more rates - more \$ for debit repayment
922	Sonya Earley	Such a fantastic park that is enjoyed by the HB
925	Gavin Ashcroft	Regional Parks and Te Mata Park. Funding should continue to be allocated to committees and Boards associated with these especially Te Mata Park. Non funding for these areas will result in the Parks deteriorate over a period of time. Visitors from outside the District and from all around the world, appreciate these Parks.
936	Hugh Findlay Cherry Gold Orchards Ltd	To do that would risk going from the frying pan into the fire.
943	Susan Mends	Please don't slow funding on any of these projects. I believe doing so will reduce the wellbeing of our region's people, land and biodiversity which is already fragile so a loss we may never recover from. Recreationally, Te Mata Park is a vital hilly area and a loved regional landmark in our otherwise significantly flat district. I've volunteered each month with Friends of Te Mata Park for 4 years to plant and weed and do a little bit to care for the Park and I've discovered it's a big place. I'm deeply concerned that reducing the financial investment in maintenance will hinder park users, that the Park will become an unsafe embarrassment requiring more money to 'catch up'. Please don't stop investing in these projects, I'm happy to pay extra rates 0.5%? to cover the cost.
948	Fenton Wilson	I don't know enough on the 'current' programmes to comment. I do know the regional parks are a very important part of getting people to HB to live work and play. Important fabric and community building assets for our region.
959	Jessie Brillard	Te Mata Park an extremely special place, and is becoming a major attraction. Keeps everyone active and healthy. Needs more funding not less!
964	Karen Wedd	It is well used by a great deal of people. It is a place for socializing, fitness and mental health, as well as a major tourist destination - why would you want to diminish this amazing resource
982	Hans Doevendans	On what exactly does the HBRC intend to spend the increased rates if it reduces funding of all long term programmes. Be Leaner, not Meaner.
985	Anna Inglis	Once again if funding is removed for these programmes just like house maintenance if stopped your house will be worthless in a few years time. Te Mata peak must be maintained! One million visitors a year says it all!
996	Veronica Drexel	The natural environment is a precious resource and must be maintained and improved
998	Robbie Darby	I fully support funding for Te Mata Peak as well. Reducing maintenance of our Regional Parks also shows a lack of clarity for the extraordinary visions that manifest from wise planning and controlling of pests like possums and wild cats than in turn helps keep the balance of diversity of our natural habitats and endemic species.
1000	Laraine Russell	Our parks and wild places need to be preserved and replanted with native species. I belong to a care group that works in our local reserve, we don't expect to be remunerated, but some funding for native plants would be good.
1025	Eleanor .	Thank you for inviting submissions on your Three Year Plan. I am concerned to hear of the proposal to stop funding Te Mata Park. I visit the Park often with my family, and rely on it as a place for exercise, community, and overall wellbeing. I am also aware that the Park is a significant area for biodiversity in the region, particularly with the Trust's native planting vision. I am supportive of the Council continuing to fund the Park, and understand that my annual rates would rise by a small amount to cover this and the funding of other regional Parks.

1059	Silke Moenchmeier	These three are investments into the future and the future of our children. The first two are essential and you will overall end up with much higher cost to repair the damage that will be done, if this is not taken care of now! Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level (Option B). \$120,000 annually is the equivalent of 65 cents per Hawke's Bay resident per year to maintain this amazing Park – minimal when you look at all the Park has to offer. I am happy for my rates to increase by this miniscule amount to ensure the Park is protected in perpetuity. Te Mata Park is a taonga – it is the most loved and visited place in Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay and it attracts many visitors to the Bay!
1071	Chris Bain	I'm submitting upon one issue only. I object most strongly to Councils proposal to cut Te Mata Park Trust's annual funding of \$120,000. Notwithstanding its high level of regular use by thousands of HB residents, Te Mata Peak and Park is also one of HB's prime visitor attractions. It is essential that it be maintained and enhanced. I'm sure Council can find an offset elsewhere in the - for instance, increasing the level of fare box recovery of (loss-making) public transport services.
1102	Kevin Bayley	Keep all of these things going they are important - cost save as previously mentioned
1106	Stacey Bayley Produce Ltd / Bayley Family Trust Baxter	The local natural environment - wildlife and flora - are far too important to risk letting predators and other factors create damage for three years. Especially when the actual running cost for these services at a ratepayer level is arguably minimal and the potential impacts for our world and our future generations is immense.
1111	Kate Lindsay QEII National Trust – Ngā Kairauhi Papa	Te Mata Park Stopping HBRC's contribution to Te Mata Park for three years would have significant impact on the work being achieved at this iconic Hawkes Bay site and QEII does not support this. Te Mata Park has a QEII covenant over the 95-hectare title of Te Mata Park, established in 1996, and our QEII rep takes an active role in ongoing protection and management of the park. The purpose of the covenant is to: • Protect and maintain open space values of the land. • Protect native flora and fauna on the land. • Assist in protecting the landscape integrity of Te Mata Peak. Our QEII regional rep Troy sits on the Operations Committee and the Landscape sub-committee of the Te Mata Park Trust Board, and has a good knowledge of the workings of the park at both a strategic and operational level having played a key role in the project to harvest the pine plantation in 2020 and re-plant the 8-hectare area in native species. The funding the Te Mata Park receives from HBRC goes directly back into caretaking of the park via staff supplied by HBRC's Works Group. Te Mata Park has significant recreational values for a wide range of Hawkes Bay residents and visitors to the region. It plays a significant role in the health and wellbeing of many; and ongoing maintenance and improvement of the landscape, recreation and indigenous biodiversity values is critical. Te Mata Park directly contributes to HBRC's vision of "A healthy environment, and a resilient and prosperous community", and is a highly visible landscape in the region for both the council and QEII. The investment made by the council is relatively small proportionate to the community and environmental benefits gained, and QEII hopes to see funding to Te Mata Park retained.
1126	Roger Coleman	I do not support reducing funding of the cycleways in Hawkes Bay as proposed. Cycle tourism is a massive opportunity for the Hawkes Bay region and without ongoing development of our trail network our region is going to be left behind.
1127	Nigel Bickle Hastings District Council	Te Mata Park Funding Hastings District Council is all too aware of the cost pressures HBRC is facing and the need to look for savings across all of the activities it funds. However we suggest that pulling funding from Te Mata Park is not an area that should be sacrificed. Two thirds of Te Mata Park Trusts funding comes from both the Hastings District Council and HBRC, a clear demonstration of the importance of this regional park. Council would like to request that through your LTP deliberations you reconsider the proposed funding reduction to the Te Mata Park Trust. Te Mata Park is truly a regional park and with the management oversight of the Te Mata Park Trust, the region gets a nationally renowned regional park at a fraction of the cost to ratepayers. The contributions from both Hastings District Council and HBRC are vital to ensure this regional park is maintained and developed further. The proposed reduction of HBRC funding of \$120,000 will have significant impacts on the Trust and will result in reduced levels of service unless the Trust Board can substitute funding from alternative sources. Our understanding of the current HBRC funding is that it is provided through in-kind support with the contractors who provide valuable upkeep of the park and as-such is extremely important.

1146	Elizabeth Johnston	Parks have had a lot of input from the region but if neglected there will be rapid resurgence of non native invasive plants. Letting this develop will be a massive job to restore again
1150	Pip Thompson	I wish to support the funding to stay the same for the regional parks and te Mata park

Other - 'support reduction' sentiment

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
5	Sam Hartree	Reduce them all, in your consultation document you are saying they will be reduced but the amount going in is increasing.
204	brian webby	do not need erosion control my property has issues which i am mitigating without your help I see your silt still comes down doesnt matter what you do biosecurity the horse has bolted, fund mitigating issues with the aliens paying huge entry fees into the country and imprisonment if breached regional parks only for dreamers and idle people so remove the funding
292	Martyn Gyde	Stop all the above programs now, we can't afford if.
653	Robert Gardiner	Regional Parks and Te Mata Park funding should be stopped. Savings from this can be used to reduce debt and reduce the burden on rate payers who have already been raped by Regional and City Councils.
671	Linda Crabtree	Halt all NEW developmen. Stop Te Mata Park funding. Keep current funding to maintain existing parks.
730	Don Ryder	Another area where the council has been doing a pretty good job to date but all of these good things should now be deferred for a few years in an effort to achieve a more reasonable rate increase. The council needs to take much tougher decisions in order to help those who just cannot afford to pay a 19% rate increase.
753	Karena Sutherland	Stop all they are extras
795	Garth Eyles	Option B 4.5 Reduce maintenance on the Parks. Maintain funding levels for the existing regional parks Maintain Te Mata Peak funding. Defer funding for Ahuriri RP Defer funding for the Wairoa RP Defer new cycleway funding
856	Paul Baker	Regional Parks and Te Mata Park funding. Regional Park funding needs to be minimised unless it is for erosion control. Te Mata Park funding needs to stop entirely from HBRC sources. If Havelock North residents wish to act to develop / fund and enhance Te Mata Park, then they should be allowed to do so entirely at their own expense. HBRC has bigger and more important things to deal with on a regional scale than a small land parcel accessible to a very small population in a very small community.
1036	Sue MACDONALD Ahuriri Estuary Protection Society	We have grave concerns that the slowing down of Biodiversity funding will negatively impact some of your ongoing projects especially the problem of Tubeworm infestation of the upper estuary. We submit to you that the tubeworm problem is dangerously close to being so severe that it may not successfully eradicated. We urge the HBRC to make this a priority for funding. We do understand the pressures you are facing and also the massive increases in rates over this 3 year plan period that our ratepayers face. BUT our Ahuriri Estuary deserves more attention than it has received in the past. Our Society conditionally supports the delay in funding for the setting up of the "Regional Park" This is a project that can wait for a little while, as more information is gathered. It is a project that must be carried out with the utmost care.
1038	sharleen baird	REGIONAL PARKS - stop funding. Like Tourism, Te Mata Trust can self fund, Regional Parks could use volunteers, grants, etc.
1139	Roger Mogford	Erosion Control , Biosecurity and Regional Parks should be paid for by those who benefit the most.

Other – 'support continuation' sentiment

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
14	Sarah Reddish	The Park needs more funding, not less.
27	Dale Prebble	The proposal to cut funding to Te Mata Peak is backward thinking. The park is used by soooo many people, not just tourists for a whole range of activities which are keeping people healthier. It is a "jewel in the crown" of Hawkes Bay. Please do not cut funding, but in fact increase it.
29	Ian Massie	I would like to see more funding for Te Mata Park. The park is an amazing asset for our region, and it needs a lot of maintenance. An increase would help keep it in a safe condition for all those who enjoy the wonderful tracks and scenery.
30	Caleb Arrowsmith	Now is the time to help grow the environment not take its funding away. We as a region have an opportunity to help grow the natural environment and lead the country by example but by taking away funding is showing support against it. We should be supporting regional parks more and we want future generations to enjoy them as we have been. But by cutting funding for them is risking all of the hard work that we have all put in for years. It's taken a lot to get to where we are now. Cutting the funding is letting all of the hard work go to waste.
41	Michael Bush	Te Mata Park is a taonga – it is the most loved and visited place in Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current funding level of \$120,000.
42	Tanja Klumpers	Te Mata o Rongokako has a huge number of visitors daily - this influx just keeps growing for recreation and tourism. It is vital - as our region's arguably most treasured taonga - that we protect and maintain this place. I would argue that more funding is required, currently we only fund for 1 FTE maintenance caretaker; given the scope of the park I would think 2 be more appropriate. As a parent whose partner and 3 of 4 children have assisted in volunteering with planting and maintenance (the 4th will in future years), I can say the volunteering community is already there pulling their weight with this park. Please don't decrease funding; I would support paying more on my rates for Te Mata Park.
48	Carina Chambers	What funding has been put where! Clearly not in the correct place as erosion is fairly substantial at present! Planting of the waterways a lovely idea however as seen in Gabrielle it created massive flooding by slowing some rivers down. Te Mata Peak, 120,000 a drop in the ocean for a beautiful local and tourist attraction. And there are thousands of volunteer hours and will continue to be. If you are cutting and slowing down expenditure I think you should be cutting your staff numbers also! Our books should be open to the public and we should know WHERE our money is ACTUALLY being SPENT! Not happy with our councils
51	Helen White	Please continue funding the beautiful Te Mata Park. Not only do the locals enjoy it and love showing visitors the special vistas, but it is an iconic landmark. Tourists flock there every week, especially if there is a cruise ship visiting. Imagine their disappointment turning up to such an iconic destination and it is unkept, weedy, and embarrassing. Why bother trying to attract tourists to our region if all we can offer is run down old walking tracks and poor facilities? Aside from being a special taonga, it is an incredibly busy place for active people. We should be encouraging people to be active for both mental and physical health reasons. If funding is cut, then the park will deteriorate quickly and all the walking tracks, the mountain bike tracks and general facilities will need huge amounts of money to try and get them back up to scratch. Please don't let one of our greatest assets fall into disgrace.
52	Michelle Hicks	If you reduce funding now it will cost even more in the future, to get back. It might be about money for the council, but even more valuable is time. Find another way
60	Sven Herselman	Increase funding to Te Mata Park ensure the region's most popular and symbolic tourist attraction can remain as such. Not supporting Te Mata Park, and other regional parks, should simply not be an option.
63	Peter Young	We appreciate the cost pressures right now, but Te Mata Peak is an important attraction to HB and attracting more people each year. It is essential the services are at least maintained.

92	Owen Trimmer	Te Mata Park is a treasure and is heavily used. It is often difficult to get a car parking space! Funding should be increased as it is very modest at the moment on a cost per head of population in the region.
111	Christopher K Phiri	Regional Parks and Te Mata Park Funding. This is cardinal, it is heritage for the Country and especially the young ones who are to carry on the "Button". In any case Funding must be increased a double times or even more. When resources are available it helps and enhances better management, management goals and plans are accomplished to the benefit of the nation and its citizens. Reducing funding is making things difficult for Te Mata Park management and the kill of the Tale of the Park.
133	Keith Carran	Temata Peak is iconic and unsurpassed as a visitor attraction and recreational resource. Accordingly I think the Park funding should be maintained short term and increase so as possible
143	Scott Purser	Te mata peak is the only local free recreational mtb park and walking running area on a hill, if anything it needs increased funding
147	David Booth	I do not believe it is appropriate to slow funding in any of the above, in fact the opposite. All three activities require greater funding levels
149	Roslyn Thomas	Restoration and revegetation in our natural environment is crucial to help mitigate climate change and should continue previous levels and more. Education in these area's is also a key input to bring entire communities along in the efforts.
155	Dean Moran	I am writing to earnestly appeal for your continued and, if possible, enhanced financial support for Te Mata Park. This extraordinary local treasure not only serves as a vital recreational and social hub but also significantly contributes to our local economy. Given its growing popularity and the inherent value it offers the community, it would be most prudent to sustain—if not increase—its funding to ensure the engagement of two full-time maintenance staff. The importance of Te Mata Park as a vibrant meeting place and center for outdoor activities cannot be overstated. Its well-maintained trails for biking and walking are increasingly frequented by residents and visitors alike, fostering a strong sense of community while promoting physical health and well-being. Moreover, the park is instrumental in attracting tourism revenue, thereby bolstering our local economy. From personal experience residing in the UK, I have observed the detrimental effects of funding cuts on local recreational services. It is clear that investment in such facilities yields substantial returns, both financially and socially. The upkeep of Te Mata Park is essential to prevent erosion, manage overgrowth, and maintain the area's natural beauty and accessibility. Te Mata Park holds a special place in my heart and in the hearts of many others. There is tremendous potential to expand its offerings by adding more trails and enhancing the restoration of native flora and fauna. Such developments would only further elevate its status as a premier destination and invaluable community resource. Please reconsider any planned reductions in funding for Te Mata Park. This is a worthwhile investment that I believe will continue to enrich our community and meet with the approval and appreciation of the ratepayers. Thank you for considering this appeal. I am confident that with your support, Te Mata Park will continue to thrive and serve as a beacon of natural beauty and community pride.
167	Murray Cowan	Te Mata Park is very well utilised by a huge range of people. They are able to enjoy the stunning views, visit the redwoods and get a good dose of healthy exercise. Numerous school groups also visit the park. It is a major asset for Hawke's Bay and I'm sure significantly impacts the health and well-being of many. Ideally there would be 2 fulltime HBRC employees working in the park given the expanded park footprint. The current two part timers make an appreciable difference to the park experience but they don't really have enough time to fully trim track edges and otherwise maintain tracks, keep weeds, etc, under control. I'd be very supportive of a modest rates increase to have more HBRC worker time at Te Mata Peak Park
214	Jordarne Wiggins	Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Please continue to fund the Park at the current level so we can all continue to enjoy the space. I would be happy for my rates to increase by this tiny amount, to ensure HBRC continues to fund this treasure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on your Long-Term Plan. Please continue to fund the Park, at least at the current level of \$120,000 per year. Te Mata Park is a key part of the curriculum for the many local schools and educational facilities that visit the Park every week. Whether it is planting trees, learning about the history, the geology, our culture, volunteering, or learning more about who we are in the world. I would be prepared to pay the minor increase of 0.5% in HBRC rates to ensure Te Mata Park is available for our community.

226	Catherine Mueller	What will this funding be directed towards instead? All of the above are essential if we are to protect and enjoy our whenua for generations to come. Inflation has driven cost increases across all sectors, it makes sense that rates have to increase each year and ratepayers need to understand that we have to collectively pay for catastrophic events like Cyclone Gabrielle, so rates should increase accordingly, in order to pay for reparations etc, then could be reduced again. If rates were increased for a period of three years, with the promise that they would decrease again, that would perhaps be easier to digest for ratepayers.
227	Jessie Smith	HBRC should not be reducing funding for any of these programmes; if anything, funding should be increased for all of them, but particularly for the erosion control scheme. We saw the soil slide straight off the land during Cyclone Gabrielle; soil conservation is even more important now than ever. Likewise, our precious ecosystems are more at risk than ever, and we can't afford even a reduction in efforts to protect them. This includes Regional Parks and Te Mata Park, as well as biosecurity and biodiversity work on private land. We need nature-based solutions, not more engineering.
270	Michael Fowler	Most councils throughout New Zealand are under financial pressure, and are closely looking at expenses - which is what you are doing. I believe HBRC's assistance to Te Mata Park is part of your core responsibility to the environment, and your present funding supports this. It meets your stated objectives of • Biosecurity – pest plants & animals. • Biodiversity. • Environmental education. • Land management Pulling funding from this regional asset would be a big mistake in my opinion, and this proposal - and I've studied many of them - would be I believe of the most short-sighted decisions in your local government history. I am sure the public would never forgive you if the park falls into disrepair because of you pulling such a significant amount of money to the Te Mata Park Trust - but insignificant to the HBRC's ratepayers at 65 cents. I urge you to show some leadership and continue to fund the park, and moreover, look at increasing this amount in the future.
271	Greg Porcer	communities are already doing a lot of park maintenance on behalf of the council. all the above are a waste of money. negotiate bulk deal e.g. purchase of tree and let volunteer group do the work. include a program for offender and correction facilities and use that unused resources to do the work
283	David Gordon	Keep current funding for Te Mata Peak, the amount of users of this facility around the Hastings areas is significant and the lack of funding with greatly reduce the quality of the trails.
293	David Fisher	Thank you for the opportunity to submit on your Long-Term Plan. Please continue to fund the Park, at least at the current level of \$120,000 per year. Te Mata Park is a key part of the curriculum for the many local schools and educational facilities that visit the Park every week. Whether it is planting trees, learning about the history, the geology, our culture, volunteering, or learning more about who we are in the world. I would be prepared to pay the minor increase of 0.5% in HBRC rates to ensure Te Mata Park is available for our community.
296	Gerrit Raichle	The proposal to reduce or stop funding for The Mata Park is unacceptable. It is the most single visited recreational area in Hawkes Bay. It provides Hawke's Bay residence with a beautiful nature experience and an excellent exercise opportunity. I use the park on a daily basis and I find this proposal quite insulting, especially in view of my 43% HBRC rate increase last year and another unacceptably high proposed rates increase this year. People on fixed incomes like pensioners cannot sustain these increases and it makes me wonder how far removed from reality people are who come up with these proposals?
315	Mark Scofield	Some erosion control must be necessary. Cost to mitigate will only go up if nothing is done. Regional Parks are an asset to the whole community. We can not allow these important assets to deteriorate over next three years as for the above will only incur extra costs to catch up in 3 years time. Some reduction is responsible but not to the level where there will be increased costs to bring back to suitable standard in three years
344	Gary Kimber	You should be increasing spending at Te Mata Park. It is the most iconic Hawkes Bay landmark. Over the last 10 years the park has increased in popularity, a lot I am sure is due to all of the hard work and effort put in by everybody involved. I feel it would be a travesty for the HBRC to withdraw funding from the park. The amount of money we are talking about is a drop in the ocean from your budget. You should be increasing funding for the park and pushing forward to make it even more enjoyable for today's and future generations. Thank you
361	Sarah Abrehamson	Te mata peak needs more funding as all the damage done from the cyclone has made a lot of tracks not walkable or worn down and they need help to redo them and keep them maintained as Te mata peak is a well known place and a very tourist attracting place and known for its tracks for regular

		walkers, runners and bikers. If you take away the funding it will end up like the Tongioio white pine track which before the cyclone was very overgrown and in need of major maintenance and now it's gone washed away and destroyed by the cyclone. Please do not take away the funding for a major mental health place for so many people and for fitness people too. Even for the dog walkers and bikers. It's a local necessity and needed for various reasons.
406	Mark von Dadelszen	Te Mata Peak is an iconic landscape feature now in public ownership because of the generosity of the donor family. The VERY small contribution by each ratepayer towards the HBRC funding of the Peak's landscape and facilities is a very small price for ratepayers. PLEASE continue the existing funding!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
409	Dianne Bullef	Te Mata Peak is such an important recreation site for so many people of all ages. It is also one of the spots most tourists to the area visit. To reduce the funding for maintenance at all would be a backward step for all the people of this region. The work that has been done in recent years has made Te Mata Peak an outstanding FREE resource for anyone and everyone to enjoy. Please please reconsider cutting the funding. As a rate payer I am more than happy to contribute to the maintenance of this special place
413	Shelley Hanna	Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the HBRC Long Term Plan. While I appreciate times are tough, and cuts need to be made, I don't believe cutting funding for Te Mata Park Trust is the way to go. Te Mata Park is a regional and national treasure that needs to be protected and maintained for future generations to enjoy. Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. Personally, I walk up the Peak once or twice every week and it is an essential part of my health and well being. I have been very impressed with all the work that has been done there over the past 26 years that I have been living in Hastings. Te Mata Park is central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Te Mata Park is a key part of the curriculum for the many local schools and educational facilities that visit the Park every week. Whether it is planting trees, learning about the history, the geology, our culture, volunteering, or learning more about who we are in the world. Further, Te Mata Park is the single most significant landscape icon in Hawke's Bay, having district, regional and national significance. It is the most prominent landmark in the eastern Heretaunga Plains with a distinctive silhouette skyline. It is a source of identity for Hawke's Bay residents and Ngāti Kahungunu. Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at least at the current level of \$120,000 if not more, so we can all continue to enjoy the space. I would be happy for my rates to increase, to ensure HBRC continues to fund this treasure.
428	Monique Webster & Jonathan Kerry-Tyerman	While we understand that the cyclone has greatly impacted funding region-wide, we urge you to continue funding the Te Mata Park Trust! Te Mata is a wonderful and important resource to locals and visitors. It's one of the reasons that my family moved to Havelock North in January 2024! \$120,000 annual funding is the equivalent of only 65 cents per Hawke's Bay resident per year – we are more than happy to pay for this miniscule rate increase to ensure the Park is protected in perpetuity.
457	Kate Parker	Bio diversity, erosion control and funding regional parks help protect hawkes bay from flooding etc. bio diversity and native act as sinks to absorb water. and take in carbon. we will be going backwards if we stop this.
458	Michelle Yvette O'Sullivan	Funding for Te Mata Park is essential! Te Mata Peak would be number one on most visitors to Hawkes bays list of entertainment and an essential part of our local landscape and the many many activities re walking and cycling. We need this Park funded as our region is struggling to move forward and the deterioration of the Peak would be devastating.
460	Tim Nowell-Usticke	Please continue to fund Te Mata Park, either at the current level, or ideally fund two maintenance caretakers. Te Mata Park is important to me because it is a spiritually uplifting place to take ourselves and visitors and showcases our best natural feature brilliantly
466	Burn	Maintain indefinitely as Te Mata Peak is a essential part of Hawkes Bay tourism
473	Amber Morrison	Please continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level (Option B). \$120,000 annually is the equivalent of 65 cents per Hawke's Bay resident per year to maintain this amazing Park – minimal when you look at all the Park has to offer. I am happy for my rates to increase by this miniscule amount to ensure the Park is protected in perpetuity.

483	Fleur Bary	Do not cut funding for Te Mata Peak, it is a landmark tourist attraction. It is an essential part of us and important to everyone's lives. It is used by so many from not only NZ but those travelling here from other countries.
485	Lynne Adams	Please so not stop funding Regional parks and Te Mata Park
494	Chris Jarvis	Te Mata peak is the #1 natural asset HB has. Every tourist ventures up it, hundreds if not thousands of local walk, ride, or drive through the park each week. Already its run on shoestring budget, you bark on about kaitiakitanga, yet when tested you show no belief in your words, tell your grandchildren about the loss and justify it. In no way it should be reduced, it should be increased, it's our most valuable taonga.
495	Tim Walton	I have lived and taught in Havelock North for nearly 40 years. Te Mata Park has been an integral park of my life and the village for all that time. I walk up to the peak at least three times most weeks despite now being in my seventies. It is a huge part of what gives Havelock North its special character, as well as being a key visitation point for people coming to Hawkes Bay. Funding should be increased rather than reduced, the park is an asset to both Havelock North and the wider Hawkes Bay community. As a ratepayer I would be extremely disappointed should the minimal funding that is currently given to this asset be reduced.
508	Jo Lucas	Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your Long Term Plan. Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Please continue to fund the Park at the current level so we can all continue to enjoy the space. I would understand that rates would need to increase, to ensure HBRC continues to fund this treasure.
521	Winifred Hide	I use the Peak 3x's aweek. It's sad walking the Peak from Tauroa Parking seeing all the big trees

		or biking the trails up the peak are enormous, not confined to physical benefits. The walking and biking experience is simply good for the soul and given the strenuous exercise opportunities the peak provides is also greatly beneficial for mental health resulting from the release of endorphins (spelling?). The peak is also used regularly by groups running work-ready programmes in getting people off the couch and into doing some exercise to prepare them for gaining employment. I'm advocating for additional spend by HBRC in the ongoing development of and maintenance of tracks and surrounds (such as overgrown or dangerous trees). The park has grown after the purchase of a neighbouring piece of land so that in itself warrants more rather than less dedicated HBRC workers. Should HBRC stop funding the dedicated workers, this would undoubtedly have a significant detrimental impact on the safety of peak users. The peak is a great asset for the HB community and should be well maintained.
590	Janine Couchman	I just wanted to add my voice to the many I am sure you are hearing from who are appalled that the council are proposing to discontinue the funding of Te Mata Park Trust \$120k a year. This is a tiny cost for a huge service and investment in a HB treasure. As an avid park user I'm well aware of how special this park is and the opportunities it provides for many people of all ages to enjoy an active lifestyle and get outdoors with their families. Please listen to the public outcry over this and take sensible action.
601	Larisa Kellett	Te Mata Peak should not have funding pulled either. It's a taonga and a real highlight of the region that tourists love.
604	Brad Donovan	Te Mata Park is more than a Park, it is a taonga, a place to escape, a place of recreation and a place to be. It is also central to the history of the region, our cultural history, and the geological history of the region. Please continue to fund the Park at the current level so we can all continue to enjoy the space. I would be happy for my rates to increase by this tiny amount, to ensure HBRC continues to fund this treasure.
630	Rachel Cameron	In regards to regional parks and Te Mata Peak funding-parks are free, open and accessible community spaces that need to be safe and well looked after. Specifically, Te Mata Peak funding is essential to maintain the entirety of the Peak, and is one of the most frequented and popular tourist spots in the Bay. As a regular walker on the Peak, I find it mortifying to have seen gang members take over and hold initiations at the top on a Saturday morning. Again this space is meant to be safe, accessible to all and well respected.
700	Catherine Reeves	In relation to the biodiversity & maintenance of our regional parks, particularly concerning Pakowhai Regional Park, we note that there is now some pretty fierce ownership of this space by the dog owners. And they are strong voice (this regional park was never originally intended to be purposed for dog walkers only) but in the early days we would walk in this park as "walkers" & there was a wildness about it that was just wonderful. So we would like to invite a more inclusive approach in the emphasis of purpose, as surely we are all welcome in this place as walkers, families on outings, lovers of the land, foragers & those who walk dogs. Somewhere along the line in our visits we began to notice a heavy handed approach had crept in to the "maintenance programme"- overt signs of heavy spray use and a mowing plan that seems more in line with urban park up-keep. There is simply no need (nor is it beneficial to the ecology of the space) for this environment to be so heavily curated, therefore a reduction in spray use & over-mowing would potentially save a great deal in costs. A query we still have concerns the chemical spraying programme being used in this particular park- we would like to have solid information on the particulars of what is being sprayed, where & how often. It's of no use to us being aware that spraying might take place. Honestly no one is going to look up the HBRC website to find out if they are spraying today. However, once sprays have been applied in a locality it is no longer safe for anyone to forage food or medicine from that area again eg puha, watercress, nettles, wild onion, Verbena officinalis, mullein, lesser calamint, chickweed, red clover, burdock, paewhenua (yellow dock) & fiddle dock, cottonwood etc- all found in this environment. We used to come across the perennial nettle Urtica dioica in various spots & we were always delighted to see it as it's a nutritious (free) wild edible & medicinal foragable plant & it is a vital/preferred host plant for our endemic red & yellow admiral butterflies, but we note the gradual reduction in the presence of this important wild plant. Having said that, there is a rebound strip of it along the orchard boundary of late, which we are delighted to see. Our concern is that as foragers (we belong to Foraging New Zealand on facebook, 4900 members to date, many from Hawke's Bay) if we cannot safely gather from a park like Pakowhai, where are we going to be able to? This over-maintenance practice that we have observed, leads to a reduction in biodiversity & therefore effects the ecological health of the park in multiple imperceptible ways. We would have to say that there is a similar story going on up at Te Mata Park- although obviously not the over-mowing bit. I think we would all be quite happy to see less fleabane everywhere! Some wild plants are just plain annoying, granted.

707	Gill Tracy	The current issue that we are facing in Hawke's Bay is responding to the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle. With continued climate uncertainty we cannot just focus on repairing the damage that has already happened. We must also invest in activities that will prevent further damage from future climate induced events. Sustainable heating and biodiversity are contributions towards this goal.
743	Greta Harvey	The Regional Parks and Te Mata Park provide the perfect opportunity for the council to promote what it does in caring for our environment. Why would you stop this? Te Mata Park is the jewel in the crown and our most iconic landmark - why would you turn your back on all the hard work that has been done by many parties including HBRC.
762	Duncan Darroch	Te Mata Park is one of the only places in the whole region where locals and visitors can experience nature. To limit Te Mata Park funding, will undermine the access to taiao (the natural world) and the efforts to protect and restore the small area that is left. Please retain or even improve on current funding levels.
775	Cam McLeay	Thank for you the opportunity to make a submission. Te Mata Park is iconic and extremely important in the mental health of our communities. Post cyclone and covid, it is a sanctuary essential to our well-being as a community. Te Mata Park is the single most significant landscape icon in Hawke's Bay, having district, regional and national significance. It is the most prominent landmark in the eastern Heretaunga Plains with a distinctive silhouette skyline. It is a source of identity for Hawke's Bay residents and Ngāti Kahungunu. Please choose Option B and continue to fund Te Mata Park Trust at the current level of \$120,000.
792	Floyd Pepper	Reducing parks maintenance programs will exacerbate the problems outlined above: Tūtira (464Ha), Waitangi (300Ha), and Pekapeka (98Ha) are our largest regional parks. Full credit to HBRC for getting Tūtira to a swimmable water quality at most times of the year - that lake has the potential to be the inland jewel in the region's crown. But it is surrounded by invasive eucalypts, acacias, poplars, bindweed, convolvulus not to mention all the other toxic and noxious annual weeds that Council has worked so hard to suppress so that not only Council but iwi and hapū groups can restore the native biodiversity. Now is not the time for Council to take its foot off the gas/throat of the weeds. How long it will take to undo three years of neglect over 862Ha?
799	Ashton Ireland	I would like to submit my objection to the proposed funding cuts to Te Mata Peak.
805	Mike Knobloch	Thank you for the opportunity to submit on your Long-Term Plan. Please continue to fund the Park, at least at the current level of \$120,000 per year, and preferably more than that. I would be prepared to pay more rates to see this community asset maintained and improved into the future. Doing so would be in line with the HBRC mission, vision and purpose:- Our Mission Statement Enhancing our Environment together Te Whakapakari Tahi I Tō Tātau Taiao Our Vision: We Want A healthy environment, and a resilient and prosperous community. Our Purpose: We Work With our community to protect and manage the region's precious taonga of rivers, lakes, soils, air, coast and biodiversity for health, wellbeing and connectivity. Te Mata Park is a taonga to the people of Hawkes Bay, and is invaluable for exercise and recreation, education and biodiversity. Please help us continue to be proud of this iconic landmark and all that it represents.
809	Ann Redstone	I think it's vital to ensure Te Mata Park funding is retained. The park is regionally and nationally significant, an important tourist and visitor destination and ongoing funding is necessary to ensure the native plantings and work started over the past few years can be maintained and continued. Please continue to support a healthy Hawkes bay environment.
810	Megan McBride	Firstly, thank you to HBRC for all the hard mahi that happens both on the ground and in the now famous, but all too important, 'back offices'. It is dedicated people who make the work happen, often under very trying circumstances. I believe the current economic and political circumstances are very trying for all at the moment, not least of all for our elected representatives at HBRC - especially post cyclone Gabrielle. Just wanted to acknowledge you all. I also believe that part of ongoing healing from the cyclone has been seeing the gradual restoration of te taiao, the natural environment, all around us. Little by little, raw scars on the hill sides have been replanted either by people or nature. Trees that have fallen have been replaced by saplings. Waterways have been cleared and planted - and looking down from Te Mata o Rongokako just over a year since the cyclone, it is hard to believe all the earlier destruction. For me, post cyclone, Te Mata Park provided both a place of healing and a vision of hope for the future - those elevated views make your heart soar! Standing on top of the jewel that is Te Mata Peak - also known by many other names reflecting the

		history and mana that is Te Mata - I am so grateful for the partnerships that have allowed the people of Te Matau-a-Māui the privilege of being able to freely explore the pathways in peace, wonder and delight and always safely. The park staff and trust enable this to happen. They do amazing mahi. The Rongoā area is tūmeke. The education resources are fantastic. The signage is comprehensive and helpful. The tracks well maintained. The toilet blocks most welcome. I know there is so much good will from folk willing to continue to support the mahi by volunteering, but there has to be actual staff employed to coordinate and keep track of such a vast and precious taonga. Us volunteers are great - but we don't always turn up! I'm sure it is not just me, but my wairua is always uplifted even long after I return from a visit to Te Mata Park... It's hard to put a dollar value on that. So best not to try. Please rank the funding for Te Mata Park as a must continue - not a nice to continue.
828	Bettina Driscoll	This is our number 1 Tourist attraction in Hawkes Bay and keeps our community healthy and happy. It is an asset that is accessible and available to everyone in the community. We need to be investing more, NOT less into Te Mata Peak!! Te Mata Peak is the jewel in Hawkes Bays crown. It is one of the most highly used assets of this community keeping us all healthy and happy. An outdoor gym that is accessible, inclusive and important to ALL of the Hawkes Bay community. It is also the no 1 tourist attraction in Hawkes Bay. We need to be investing in Te Mata Peak, not taking funds away...This is an absolute no brainer to invest in Te Mata Peak. It needs to be the number 1 investment priority for our council!!
863	Anna Lorck	Cutting back will see investment to date go to waste - retain the maintenance and look to actually enhance - very basic core work that council is responsible for
874	Chris Nimon	We need to Keep Te Mata Park open and operating all existing tracks. This area is so well used and loved. Ring fence some of our rates payments for this. You don't need to keep increasing our rates. Stop your entertaining budget first!!!
877	Liv Worsnop	TE MATA PARK NEEDS FUNDING!!!! I spend 90% of my time living on, working at, roaming and adoring Te Mata Park. I see the incredible web of people who enjoy this space. Daily walkers, tourists, mountain bikers, Sunday drivers, nature enthusiasts, tangata whenua, photographers, and sunset / sunrise worshippers all get Infinite benefits from our maunga. The ancestral and historic legacy is long and nuanced. The incredible clean up post Gabrielle, predator protection, beautification, native plantings MUST NOT BE IN VAIN! Please continue to fund the maintenance of the park. The Alex's do a vital and necessary job. They care for the basic safety of the park which, if lost, will have untold and devastating ramifications for the land and the safety of YOUR constituents. I consent to my rates being increased by mere dollars to care for this taonga. I encourage you to INCREASE FUNDING to the park. It is so special and absolutely harrowing to think that the powers who think they are (YOU) would deem it ok to NOT CARE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE! PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE LET US NOT GO BACKWARDS. LETS MOVE FORWARD TO A WORLD WHERE DIVERSITY, HUMAN WELL-BEING AND SAFETY ARE PARAMOUNT!
911	Ewan McGregor	I am vitally interested in the environmental protection of Hawke's Bay, and always have been. My concern is focused on the Hawkes Bay, (and New Zealand too, of course) of the future, after my inevitable departure. It takes many forms. One is a concern I have had for at least 30 years, and in which the HBRC bears a primary responsibility. To me it is glaringly obvious that the mass-plantings of untended poplars over our precious pastureland is to create a landuse and landscape problem for future generations of landowners; a problem that will likely to be beyond their means to effectively rectify. You will know of my concerns of this as a few months ago I personally sent a print-out of a paper on the subject. In response I received a prompt and agreeable email from Cr Harding, but that was all. Not so much as an email with a single word of acknowledgement. (It is my long-held belief that responding to correspondence is a fundamental courtesy; if holding a public office, an obligation. In an age of email, such is instant and costless.) I note that in your introduction to inviting submissions to the Plan you say this: Your ideas matter and we'd love to hear them. Share your thoughts to make the Hawke's Bay region an even better place to live - for generations. (My emphasis.) I take this as reassuring. My submission is attached. It is that printout already sent, unchanged. I fully understand the enormous and costly pressures that your council is under, as is the case with other councils, and, indeed, central government, but what I advocate can be managed with negligible, if any, cost. In fact, it emphasizes the commercialization of poplar, now with the addition of carbon trading, as well as the vital social benefit of a vibrant family-owned rural infrastructure rather than great swaths of pine trees.

924	Alex clare	i am making this submission in regards to the proposed funding cuts to te mata park. instead of cutting funding i believe it should be increased because of the huge health social economic and environmental benefits i understand some tough choices need to be made but given the minimal saving that would be gained from these cuts i do not think it would be worth it. thanks for your time
926	Paul Atkins	Regional park development should definitely cease altogether. We have enough parks currently for the need. Te Mata parks funding is a drop in the ocean, come on \$120k! Thousands get a benefit from this park. Also bike trails need to be maintained around the district and continue to be developed. These are also used by thousands and a big tourist attraction let alone healthy living for all that use them.
931	Kevin Layton	Regional Parks are one of the main attractions to Tourists in HB. Cycle ways and Walks are what the Tourist is seeking, getting their families out in the fresh air. If this funding is reduced why would the Tourist come to HB??
951	Kristin Busher	Save Te Mata Peak. Don't cut funding.
953	Courtney Lean	Don't stop te mata peak funding. The peak needs to stay open
993	Bruno Chambers	I am Bruno Chambers and have been on the Te Mata Park Trust Board for over 30 years and Chairman for approximately half that time. My great grandfather and his two brothers created the trust and gifted the land for the people of Hawkes Bay in 1927. As a result of this long association with Te Mata Park I feel well qualified to comment on the issue of funding. For many decades after its formation the Trust relied on volunteers and private donations to keep the wheels turning. There was some funding from Councils for certain projects, the most notable being Peak House, but largely the operational expenses were met by the Trust alone. The park was almost wholly reliant on the commitment of volunteers and a trust board of up to seven persons. There was also a regular work contribution from the periodic detention people, (now known as the community workers,) who built tracks and did some heavy lifting. Not always with the right direction I might add This continued till the mid 1990s, and it was then, that Eileen von Dadelszen as the Havelock Nth councillor on the Regional Council noted our extreme lack of op funding from any of the HB councils and helped facilitate an annual contribution from the council to TMP Trust. Hence an important milestone was achieved and we were able to employ a part-time care taker. You can imagine that we were still hugely under funded, but a partnership had been formed, for which the Trust was extremely grateful. It was very apparent that the park was becoming extremely popular and the numbers of visitors from Hawkes Bay, wider NZ and overseas was increasing dramatically. This trend has continued unabated, and shown no sign of slowing down. In more recent times the Hastings Council committed to annual operational funding and the park has through prudent management kept abreast of the extra demands from increased usage and the increasing responsibilities of management and operation. The network of mountain bike and walking tracks is considerable and the on going maintenance of these tracks and the health and safety obligations is huge. The funding of 1 full time worker equivalent has been a god send and the 2 Alexs (HBRC council staff) who work in the park, have become a pivotal and important ingredient in the running of the park. The range of jobs and responsibilities they have is considerable and they have become very knowledgeable and are essential contributors to the successful operation of the park. To lose them would be unthinkable. I realise the demands on money, ie. HBRC rates, since the cyclone has increased hugely and I appreciate the need for prudent expenditure, however to consider cutting the funding to the park is unconscionable. The park is arguably the Bays greatest single asset and one that Hawkes Bay people,(both Maori and Pakeha,) whakapapa back to. It is important to so many of us, and has relied on the philanthropic contribution of countless people since its inception. Those days are over now and to operate successfully today and going forward we need your support and partnership to continue at least at the current rate. I do believe that extra funding is merited and even a small increase will help the park continue to function effectively.
1007	Christine Scott	Te Mata Peak Park. Te Mata Peak Park is the biggest natural environment park within easy reach of most of the population of Hawkes Bay. It has the most diverse range of walking tracks, bike tracks and vehicle access of any park in Hawkes Bay. Consequently, it offers opportunity to enjoy the bush, the views and the exercise to the most diverse range of people from the physically fit to the mobility impaired, from the frequent locals to international visitors of huge range of ethnicities. But mostly on the tracks it is locals of all ages. I want to acknowledge the amazing work done by Te Mata Peak volunteers and our HBRC Parks staff (from the Works Group) who did an outstanding job on the restoration work following Cyclone Gabrielle. The Park was terribly damaged yet after such a short period they started to reopen tracks. Thank you to all those workers! This Park

		<p>delivers the service to the community only through the Trust, the people who support it with donations and the support of the volunteers, with only a comparative small contribution from the ratepayer. This has been a matter of consultation in the past and very well supported. Unfortunately, your consultation documents do not give sufficient breakdown to know what the cost per ratepayer is as it is included in the general rate. But by my last rates bill the general rate formed just under 32% of my total rates bill. And, from your last Annual Report I quote, General rates fund the remaining cost of Council activities excluding that portion funded by targeted rates and the UAGC. Activities funded include: - Consents and Compliance - Integrated Catchment Management - Governance and Partnerships - Catchment works (part) - Erosion Control Scheme The proportion of that that goes to Te Mata Park is very small. The biggest single item I pay rates for is public transport (25% of my last rates bill) which probably benefits the fewest people of any HBRC function. To cut this funding to Te Mata Park who have explored and continue to explore all avenues of funding, would mean a drastic reduction in maintenance, ongoing redevelopment of areas needing attention and accessibility to many areas of the park. Te Mata Park is an icon of Hawkes Bay. The Regional Council works group input has been essential to its success and to cut this would be hugely detrimental to the park and public with making little impact in savings for the ratepayer. I oppose the reduction in maintenance of our Regional Parks. We worked hard to get these parks established and properly funded as a function of a regional council (previously only Auckland & Wellington had this ability). Again, a lot of work was done by the public in assisting with the planting of these nature reserves, with the biodiversity they preserve, and for the public benefits for education and the enjoyment they deliver. Again, the comparison with the cost benefit ratio of Regional Parks and Public Transport shows this to be a low impact activity with a high benefit. Erosion Control funding reduction. Erosion control has been a huge issue in Hawkes Bay for the lifespan of the HBRC. We have been through many disastrous storms and cyclones including Bola and Gabrielle and our hill country instability has been a major contributing factor to enormous land slips affecting usable land, road damage, water quality, and flooding. Given the impact of climate change we should be putting more into erosion control not less. The only aspect of HBRC that has increased at a greater rate than our rates bill is staff numbers which has trebled over the past 3 terms. If this had resulted in the dramatic stabilisation of our erodible hill country we might have weathered Gabrielle a little better. But not enough change has occurred quickly enough. We cannot take this risk into a future of increased extreme events. Again the amount spent of or rate dollar on this aspect of essential HBRC responsibility pales into insignificance compared to the cost benefit of public transport and its use. Biodiversity and Pest Control To slow down our work on biodiversity is bad enough as we watch the list of endangered, threatened and extinct native New Zealand species grow. We owe it to future generations of New Zealanders to leave them something of their heritage. We had reduced our biodiversity, often through inappropriate land use, to a state that not only lost so many interesting plants, birds and, as the "bug man" would point out, insects, vital to the well being of our bush. Many of our farming community have contributed enthusiastically to this change. But to take the foot off pest control is going to have a huge impact on not only the biodiversity (which will suffer) but agricultural animal health. I will remind you of the danger of possums as a vector in bovine TB.</p>
1014	Rowan Manhire-Heath Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora	<p>Topic 5: Reduce maintenance on regional parks, defer development of new parks, and stop grant funding Te Mata Park</p> <p>While recognising cost pressures faced by Council, Health NZ is concerned about the proposal to defer all new capital works on cycleways, aside from \$50,000 per year for safety improvements and existing externally-funded projects.</p> <p>Safe and accessible cycleway infrastructure that provides for recreational cycling use and promotes a shift from car travel into active transport is critical for supporting health and wellbeing.</p> <p>This occurs through improved levels of physical activity, better mental health, reduced air pollution and reduced road traffic injuries.⁵ Finally, green and blue spaces, particularly in urban areas, are an important contributor to health and wellbeing by way of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing opportunities for physical activity • enabling social engagement by providing space for interaction • strengthening community attachment to the natural environment • directly improving mental health and wellbeing through the restorative effects of nature.

		Health NZ maintains a position of support for restoring the Ahuriri Estuary and hopes both Hawke's Bay Regional and Napier Councils can prioritise this investment.
1018	Luke Merson	This brief submission focuses on Te Mata Park and the proposal to cut funding. Please continue to fund the Park, at least at the current level of \$120,000 per year. Te Mata Park is a vital Taonga to the area and offers a location for people to connect with nature. There's a distinct lack of 'third places' in the community for families enjoy the natural environment. Te Mata park is a huge asset in this regard. I would be prepared to pay the minor increase of 0.5% in HBRC rates to ensure Te Mata Park is available for our community.
1045	Adam Dunkerley	Te Mata Peak is an iconic part of our region, which is so well used by a hugely diverse group of residents and tourists. It is currently well looked after by a dedicated group of Trust members and volunteer groups and any cuts to funding will necessarily effect the visitor experience and should be avoided. I am very happy to continue to pay the miniscule amount via our rates, which goes towards the peaks maintenance and upkeep and would be happy to pay more to ensure the current high standards are maintained.
1052	Liliana Theyer	Te Mata Peak is a sacred mountain for the Māori people of Heretaunga and should be treated as such, more funding should be put in to preserve its natural splendour and to increase the biodiversity of the Peak.
1067	Emma McRobbie Havelock North Business Association	Te Mata Park is a key asset for the Hawke's Bay region, drawing well over a million users annually and is a significant attraction for visitors. It is imperative that the Regional Council continues to provide robust support for its on-going care and maintenance. Cutting a third of their operating budget, especially when they've expressed the need for more assistance to address rising costs, endangers the Te Mata Park Trust's sustainability. This could put the preservation of the region's key recreational, historical, and cultural taonga at risk. Such actions also threaten to negate the considerable investments and volunteer contributions made to the park in recent years.
1068	Chantel Pagel Forest & Bird	<p>Forest & Bird would like to see investment in regional parks and planting, and significant investment in pest control (predators and browsers), including the control of terrestrial and aquatic weeds. Healthy natural ecosystems are much more resilient, by absorbing shocks of weather extremes that can harm native species and human communities, in a rapidly changing climate. Healthy ecosystems are vital to turning the tide on indigenous biodiversity loss and for a climate-safe future. While we appreciate council is trying to save costs and prioritise 'rebuild' costs, now is not the time to cut back on funding for biodiversity programmes. These are essential pre-emptive actions that will ensure you are more resilient to future extreme weather. For example, it is critical to keep managing deer and other browsing species that are undermining the ability of forests to slow water down on steep slopes (by destroying their undergrowth) and preventing forests from regenerating.</p> <p>Reduce maintenance on our regional parks, defer development of new parks and stop funding Te Mata Park</p> <p>17. Regional parks deliver a plethora of environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits to communities in the Hawke's Bay through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased protection for biodiversity and water quality through land use change • Reduced erosion and sedimentation into bodies of water through planting back into native bush • Carbon sequestration • Providing new opportunities for recreation and boosting local tourism • Safeguarding culturally significant sites <p>Hence we oppose Council's intent to reduce maintenance work in our regional parks. Tūtira, Waitangi and Pekapeka are valued ecological hotspots and ongoing riparian planting will significantly contribute to much needed flood control and soil conservation.</p>
1083	Karen Greenslade Tākaro Trails Cycle Tours	HBRC say "Defer all new capital works on cycleways aside from \$50,000 per year for safety improvements, and existing projects that are externally funded." NOT A GOOD OPTION - I say invest more. Cycle Tourism is booming in New Zealand - if the HB Trails are developed there will be a 3 Day Loop Track here in HB which would become a HUGE asset to the region and attract many visitors. There are two projects sitting in the pipeline which should be actioned to create the cycle pathway loop and provide increased visitor economy income for Hawke's Bay. We have been waiting for 10 years for action on these new cycle pathways and fighting mismanagement of funds. Pathway One - Havelock North to Bridge Pa along the drainways

		Pathway Two - Fernhill to Taradale along the Ngaruroro River stopbank. Te Mata Park is a regional asset and needs funding support. Do more in this space.
1115	Roy Boonen	<p>While supporting much of the plan, I am strongly opposed to HBRC's proposal to slow funding in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity restoration projects • Biosecurity programmes • Maintenance of our regional parks <p>Rather than reducing this funding, these programmes must continue at current or higher levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce maintenance on our regional parks <p>Reducing parks maintenance programs will exacerbate the problems outlined above: Tūtira (464Ha), Waitangi (300Ha), and Pekapeka (98Ha) are our largest regional parks. Full credit to HBRC for getting Tūtira to a swimmable water quality at most times of the year - that lake has the potential to be the inland jewel in the region's crown. But it is surrounded by invasive eucalypts, acacias, poplars, bindweed, convolvulus not to mention all the other toxic and noxious annual weeds that Council has worked so hard to suppress so that not only Council but iwi and hapū groups can restore the native biodiversity. Now is not the time for Council to take its foot off the gas/throat of the weeds. How long it will take to undo three years of neglect over 862Ha? I fervently disagree with the proposal to reduce the funding to Te Mata Peak Trust. They work being on this HB taonga, much of it by volunteers is absolutely essential and the financial support from HBRC is critical to restoring the biodiversity of this community asset.</p>
1174	Peter Tang	<p>I appreciate the opportunity to make a submission on Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Three-Year Plan. In general terms, I support the proposed actions of the Plan but some of the "tough choices" seem counter-productive and short-sighted. In particular, I am strongly opposed to HBRC's proposal to reduce funding in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity restoration projects • Biosecurity programmes • Maintenance of our regional parks • Erosion Control Scheme <p>Biosecurity programmes/Maintenance of our regional parks</p> <p>Hawke's Bay is rife with invasive predators (e.g. feral cats, possums, rodents, mustelids - all on HBRC's priority target list) as well as many aggressive noxious weeds (e.g. Old Man's Beard, Chilean Needle Grass, etc). The repercussions of cutting biosecurity funding now and neglecting park maintenance for the next three years will see the biosecurity gains made to date set back decades. All for a short term financial boost which will end up being so much more difficult and expensive to undo in the long run.</p>
1180	Troy Duncan	<p>Te Mata Park is a jewel in HB's crown and is co-funded across multiple streams, is charitable and held in trust for the people of HB, not a responsibility of HBRC and the liability ownership brings. The contribution is known and fixed. HBRC is one partner and should keep up it's contribution. The bang for buck from this contribution is probably one of the highest HBRC has, when where the \$120,000 ends up being spent is taken into the equation! And it fills an important role in the parks existence and presentation to visitors from outside the province and it's regular users. The funding of \$120,000 pa should be continued. Reduce maintenance budget of regional parks will probably come with a decline in presentation etc. Is there an expectation to increase over time? Development of regional parks should be stopped. This is a no brainer in light of the situation the region finds itself in. What is the \$100k of project management going to be spent on? The other partners in this nice to do project are in similar or worse situation than HBRC. Are they continuing on with the park development? Is it a good idea? In a low lying flood and Tsunami susceptible location? This needs some serious thought and reflection. Yes defer Wairoa Regional Park Yes defer capital works on cycleways.</p>
1181	Vanessa Moon	<p>4. Slowing down Biodiversity and Biosecurity Programmes.</p> <p>Although I understand the reasoning, I cannot support the Council's preferred option in this case. All these programmes are absolutely essential to protecting and/or enhancing Earth's environment, ecosystem services and biodiversity. These have already been severely compromised – and human health and wellbeing is increasingly being compromised as well.</p> <p>This, at a time when climate change/breakdown is causing escalating damage, with increasingly violent and devastating weather events likely to occur again in the Hawke's Bay region in the not too distant future.</p>

		<p>Note: according to NIWA, the El Nino weather pattern is now fading and La Nina is already returning to our region bringing with it warmer and wetter conditions.</p> <p>Further, as I had lunch today, I heard reports on the radio, of “unprecedented” wild fires burning in Canada – unprecedented in ferocity and also the amount of forest that has been burnt before the Northern Hemisphere is officially in their summer season.</p> <p>The word “unprecedented” is being used with increasing frequency ...</p> <p>Again, this is a situation where we need to have difficult conversations about funding (see above), and funding must be a priority for community organisations such as Biodiversity HB and Sustainable HB who can achieve so much by tapping into people in the community who care, to amplify the work their staff are doing. This is another area that HBRC could use its investments to support.</p> <p>5. Reducing maintenance in Regional Parks/deferring development of new Parks/stopping grant funding to Te Mata Park.</p> <p>I cannot support the Council's preferred option here either. See my response above under (Item 4).</p>
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Other

Id	Name	Please tell us more below
127	Roslyn Thomas	<p>Submission into Hawkes Bay Regional Council LTP 2024 in support of the implementation, restoration, protection and enhancement for the Wairoa River (referred to as The Wairoa Regional Park).</p> <p>Revegetation and protection is paramount for the Wairoa awa, and now is the time to take urgent action and reinvigorate and reinforce the aroha for this awa.</p> <p>The “Wairoa Regional Park” is a real opportunity to attract people to the township through a range of recreational and tourism opportunities, while enhancing our river ecology and river restoration initiatives that will showcase and honour Te Wairoa's Maori settlement and acknowledge the mana whenua histories.</p> <p>The Wairoa River has the region's largest catchment of around 660km2 in size.</p> <p>The water quality of the Wairoa River has degraded over time due to many factors such as failing septic tanks, rising levels of sediment, contaminants and pollutants', all which affect native aquatic species, the values of mana whenua and the ability of people to enjoy the river.</p> <p>Despite significant modifications and discharges, the Wairoa River estuary has high fisheries and wildlife values, and is listed as a significant Conservation area in the Hawkes Bay Regional Coastal Environment Plan. The Wairoa River has been identified as one of six “environmental hotspots” by Hawkes Bay Regional Council.</p> <p>Revegetation, enhancement and protection of the natural wetland environment along the riverbank should be the first priority and has the potential to be nationally recognised, as significant sites of the wetland habitat many of New Zealand's endemic species.</p> <p>The Wairoa River Estuary is part of a much larger wetlands complex which includes Ngamotu, Ohuia, Wahoratuna, Wairau, Te Paeroa, Patangata and Whakiki Lagoons. Collectively these wetlands constitute the largest such system on the east coast of the North Island. The Wairoa River is the discharge area for a number of non – point and point source discharges which severely impacts on its ecological values. The town's stormwaters and wastewater flow directly into the river at certain times. Elevated bacteria levels are generally observed after heavy and prolonged rainfall.</p> <p>The Wairoa River Estuary and its associated wetland areas, provide an important habitat for short finned eel and whitebait spawning. The area is also an important access point into inland waters for a number of native freshwater species including long finned eel, smelt, koaro, redfin bull, bluegill bully, torrent fish, lamprey and cran's bully.</p>

The Hawkes Bay Regional Coastal Environment Plan identifies the Wairoa River Estuary, and it's associated coastal wetlands as having regionally important fisheries values.

The Wairoa River Estuary is part of a much larger wetlands complex which includes Ngamotu, Ohuia, Wahoratuna, Wairau, Te Paeroa, Patangata and Whakiki Lagoons. Collectively these wetland's constitute the largest such system on the east coast of the North Island. The Wairoa River is the discharge area for a number of non – point and point source discharges which severely impacts on it's ecological values. The town's stormwaters and wastewater flow directly into the river at certain times. Elevated bacteria levels are generally observed after heavy and prolonged rainfall.

THE CURRENT STATUS

Currently Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Wairoa District Council and Tatau Tatau (The Tripartite partners) are investigating options for future flood protection scheme for Wairoa and there is funding of \$70 M ringfenced from the government to undertake this work. The outcome will deliver a new flood scheme to prevent flooding to the North Clyde during future severe weather events.

While the purpose of the scheme is river management, flood control and the safety of those who live in the area, the scheme does not place a high weighting on the ecological values, restoring and sustaining natural habitat and improving resilience and adaptability to climate change

PAST CONTEXT

Discussions have been in place for a number of years between Wairoa District Council and Hawkes Bay Regional Council to restore, improve and enhance the health of the Wairoa River in a partnership between Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Tatau Tatau o Te Wairoa, Wairoa District Council and the Wairoa community.

Hawkes Bay Regional Council engaged Boffier Miskell to develop an initial comprehensive plan for the Wairoa riverfront area in 2014, and further developed these with comprehensive costings in 2019.

Hawkes Bay Regional Council included the park development along the Wairoa River as per consent plan completed in 2017 of \$580,000 over 3 years with an expected delivery between 2023 –2025 and this should remain in their LTP and a commitment needs to be made to begin this work.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

There are measurable financial, asset management, collaborative, and importantly, community welfare benefits, associated with developing the Wairoa Regional Park. The park will:

- Enhance connection to the businesses on the main street (commercial retail, café, leisure).
- Enhance connections to the water with paths and steps to maintain high amenity.
- Enhance access to the river allowing the community and visitors to connect with the river.
- Recognise historic pā and other significant sites along the Wairoa River.
- Strengthen Wairoa's cultural and historical connections to the area through sculptures, artworks, and interpretive signage. Giving mana to those acknowledged and to the descendants today.
- Develop a connection to Wairoa's historic past times – i.e. Flax mill wharf.
- Restore and enhance the riverbank by stabilising and protecting banks with structural stabilisation measures.
- Accommodate local recreational activities such as whitebaiting, fishing, and recreational water activities.
- Enhance the river ecology by undertaking planting of the bank stabilisation vegetation, native trees, and amenity species.
- Create an amenity space that attracts and retains people.
- Through project funding take the area to a purpose designed stage that meets the requirements of river ecology, bank stabilisation and high amenity.
- Enhance the CBD which can entice and increase visitor input into local economy.
- Positively influence social, health and community wellbeing by providing an improved natural environment.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Wairoa Central Business District Heritage and Cultural Assessment – Michael Spedding and Nigel How August 2020

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawkes Bay Regional Council - Wairoa River Summary of Values 2020 Wairoa Waterfront Enhancement 2014 – Boffir Miskell Wairoa Regional Park Opportunity Plan 2019 Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Climate Crisis Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031)
347	Ann Tod	Planting of small natives e.g. Flaxes have proved to be efficient along waterways in flooding. Looking at less willows and pines would be beneficial. Embracing native plantings - prime example Peka peka swamp south of Hastings. Other positives of moving away from willows and pines less pollens which cause havoc to humans and animals with respiratory issues
563	Lauren Jones	Give Wairoa a park: spend some of your rates revenue on these residents. Last time we were supposed to get a park only Ahuriri got one. You are not even giving the fines from AFFCO back to our district. We pay rates and it seems like it's all spent on projects down in Napier/Hastings.
636	Phoebe Bormann	I think the cyclone repair work needs have some strategic thinking if it hasn't already. While HBRC are repairing thoughts are going into ? lets create a parking area while we are here, lets put in a bike gate or a horse gate while this is underway. Lets plant a tree to prevent this in the future. There are piles of silt along the dartmoor river bank, where is this going? where can we utilise what we already have and try and promote some investment somehow
688	Janet Campbell	Include Horse trails in the development of Ahuriri Regional Park
702	Faye Te Nahu	REGIONAL PARKS AND TE MATA PEAK. TE MATA PEAK WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE BUILT ON IN THE FIRST PLACE THE KORERE ON THOSE PLAQUES UP THE MAUNGA ARE INCORRECT. YOU NEED TO DO YOUR RESEARCH INTO HOW AND WHY THIS MAUNGA WAS GIFTED. AS FOR REGIONAL PARKS THEY ARE TRASHED ON THE REGULAR BY MANY WHO ARE FROM WHAT I HAVE SEEN VISITORS AND OR OUR HOMELESS WHERE ELSE HAVE THEY GOT TO GO.
832	Sue Wilson	Regional Parks in Wairoa?
1160	Judi Godbold Hawke's Bay Airport	<p>Ahuriri Regional Park</p> <p>Hawke's Bay Airport (HBAL) is unusual insofar it is located on whenua of historical and environmental significance; bounded by DoC protected wetlands, swamps and marshes and the Ahuriri Estuary.</p> <p>At HBAL we are committed to kaitiakitanga and this is reflected in our sustainability priorities, our partnerships with Mana Ahuriri Trust and Biodiversity Hawke's Bay and in our ongoing commitment to airport development that is sympathetic to the natural environment.</p> <p>In principle we support the restoration and enhancement of regional biodiversity, however environmental prosperity must not compromise regional connectivity or aircraft safety; and must be balanced with regional economic and social prosperity.</p> <p>In 2021 Hawke's Bay Airport submitted to the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Long-term Plan highlighting a number of impacts that the proposed Ahuriri Regional Park would have on airport operations and aircraft safety (appended, page 3).</p> <p>We note HBRC intends to defer participation in the joint committee but continue to contribute to project management. We would appreciate Regional Council support for the project's joint committee to consult more closely with us before any further progress is made.</p>

-ENDS-

Infrastructure Strategy - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on Infrastructure Strategy. Some commentary is an exert of the submitter’s full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

Verbal submissions – 17 submitters addressed topics covered under the Infrastructure Strategy at the Hearings on 29 and 30 May 2024

Submissions (41)

Id	Name	Feedback
153	Central Hawke’s Bay District Council	<p>The approach to our Three Year Plan has been around balancing our current situation while ensuring we prioritise and keep investing in our infrastructure for the future.</p> <p>We want to take this opportunity to highlight some of our priority and trade-off areas which we have mutual interests in. In particular our vital Wastewater Investment Strategy.</p> <p>Four of our five wastewater treatment sites were flooded and damaged with the long-term impacts on these sites not yet known. With changes to flood modelling, catchment reviews, flood reviews and possible changes to flood protection schemes, it is impossible for us continue significant capital investment in the projected upgrades to these sites. We are taking the three years of this recovery plan to re-assess the business cases and plans to ensure we are able to make the best intergenerational investments for this infrastructure. Our vision is still the same. But the timing and nuancing of location and investment needs to be reviewed in the light of the significant new information which we are presented with following the Cyclone.</p> <p>As a Council we have a continued focus on prioritising the most critical water and wastewater projects in our Three Year Plan. We have also increased our investment in storm water catchments – another recovery priority from our community.</p> <p>Wider Flood Resilience Planning</p> <p>We would like to acknowledge the work that has been led to date by Hawke’s Bay Regional Council since Cyclone Gabrielle on repairing flood mitigation schemes across the Hawke’s Bay region and in particular in Central Hawke’s Bay.</p> <p>This work has been critical in restoring a level of protection to the majority of communities that were most-severely affected by the flooding, in particular in Waipawa where the rapid repairs to the stopbanks have been welcomed by the community. We however also acknowledge that there is still more urgent work required in Pōrangahau, as discussed further below.</p> <p>Council also notes that further work is required following the publication of the NIWA Report on the return periods from Cyclone Gabrielle, and as a result of the upcoming findings from the independent Upper Tukituki Scheme review later this year.</p> <p>Council urges Hawke’s Bay Regional Council to engage early and transparently with the Central Hawke’s Bay community should any additional capital and/or operational work be required to be carried out as a result of these reviews, in particular on how this work will be funded.</p> <p>It is critically important that community is made aware of what the work would entail and how it would be funded. This would enable communities to decide what trade-offs they are prepared to make (e.g., level of protection vs cost), ensure that a public voice supports decision-making, and to help ensure no one segment of community is disproportionately affected financially.</p> <p>It is critical that we as councils continue to work together through the outcomes of these reviews for the benefit of our communities.</p> <p>Water Security</p> <p>The challenge of water security, the health of our rivers and tributaries and the impacts of climate change, are continuing to play out with serious consequences in Central Hawke’s Bay.</p>

		<p>The Tukituki catchment remains the only part of the Hawke's Bay region with a functioning Catchment Plan and the impacts of minimum flows and water restrictions after nearly ten years of implementation are an important lesson for the rest of the region to learn from.</p> <p>Water security is the greatest obstacle and opportunity to addressing the environmental, social and economic challenges our Central Hawke's Bay community is facing. It is also the number one priority for creating a thriving future across Hawke's Bay. We must ensure that all future environmental, business and social aspirations of our community can be met in a sustainable and environmentally focused way, and having secure access to water across our catchments, communities and food-producing land is critically important to achieving this.</p> <p>We thank Hawke's Bay Regional Council for their leadership of the Regional Water Security package over the last few years, and in particular their support of MAR in the Tukituki catchment, their re-evaluation of storage sites across Tukituki, and their work to map out the Regional Water Assessment. All of these pieces of work continue to add weight to the compelling narrative of the priority of water security and storage initiatives in both Central Hawke's Bay and the entire region.</p> <p>We therefore wish to reaffirm our commitment to water security initiatives and storage across Central Hawke's Bay, and in particular to ensure that minimum flows as set out in the Hawke's Bay Regional Council Tukituki Catchment Plan can be reinstated.</p>
204	Brian Webby	<p>the wairoa river is to blame for all the issues around here, so think big and long term, a breakwater wall out sea to keep the river moving around create other benefits also removing the railway line to pre construction elevations lowering Carroll St at least 600mm and maybe at several other places between the wairoa river rail bridge and northe clyde you would hardly notice that do not build stop banks as they cause worse disasters</p>
216	Neil Eagles	<p>Doing a good job so far. Improved water control is essential including widening of water channels. Increased storm events in future must be provided for. We cannot allow another Gabrielle to devastate our farmland and residential areas as last time. Compliments to existing staff on work to date in the recovery but we must be vigilant and be prepared. We are improving water resources and side dams on Ngaruroro is a good option. No to Ruataniwha as they should have on farm dams to supply own needs. Large farmers are sucking off water that should be available to small towns like Onga Onga and Tikokino. Monitoring of on farm wells is working and permits should continue to be monitored.</p>
305	Awatoto Industry Action Group (AIAG)	<p>The Awatoto Industry Action Group (AIAG) was formed to improve the resiliency of Awatoto to rain and flood events. We have been working closely with HBRC in both upgrading the level of service of the stormwater drainage and pumping infrastructure, as well as the flood protection from severe flooding of the Tutaekuri/Ngaruroro Rivers.</p> <p>We have reviewed the HBRC Three-Year Plan 2024-2027 and the associated Infrastructure Strategy, and we offer the following feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support additional funding directed toward civil defence and the upgrade of the telemetry network. These efforts will improve the region's ability to manage flood risks. • We support including the upgrades to the Mission/Brookfields/Pakowhai pumpstations and associated infrastructure including drains and culverts in the financial commitment for the period. In order to increase the level of service, we emphasise the need to upgrade the pumping capacity of the Mission pumping station, provide reliable backup generation, and ensure the drainage system performs adequately to direct water to the pump station. We encourage HBRC to submit the business case to Crown Infrastructure Partners as a high priority and to establish a completion timeframe with the community. • We support the review of the Heretaunga Plains Flood Control Scheme and await the results. We encourage HBRC to increase the Level of Service of this scheme to 1:500 return period and at the same time evaluate how to effectively mitigate the effects of an over-design storm. We note that no financial commitment to these necessary improvements has been identified in the 3 year plan. Future plans will need to include these commitments. • We note there is no mention of the proposed Awatoto secondary containment scheme in the three-year plan. AIAG is working with HBRC to design and consent a system that would protect Awatoto from future inundation in the event of another over-design flood such as what occurred with Cyclone Gabrielle. We request that HBRC includes this project in the three-year plan as our goal is to construct the scheme in the 2024/25 summer period. This scheme is important to the businesses in Awatoto, and their insurers, including the Napier City Council wastewater treatment plant- a key piece of infrastructure which is not currently adequately protected from severe flooding (i.e., a storm over a 1:100 return period).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support your goal to build up staff capacity, and encourage staff to be able to engage with us in a timely fashion and make timely decisions. We support the application of the Order-In-Council process to the Awatoto projects to speed up decision-making.
315	Mark Scofield	Stop banks are critical infrastructure and should have the highest priority.
343	Susan Garner	Coastal defense needs to be continued. Funding needs to be required for updating Civil Defense plans in the future, after Cyclone Gabrielle. More warnings, sirens, evacuation notices, etc, etc.
347	Ann Tod	<p>Rebuilding of stop banks especially regard to recreational use.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure trails rebuilt are able to be multi use trails. With a little foresight only need an extra metre of grass verge in many areas to allow those people riding horses to use. Benefits - less reliance on using transport to cart horses from the many different equestrian venues in the area. Could look at using those existing pathways to ride to the different venues. 2. Educational signage to users of "trail etiquette." 3. Planting of pathways - attention to having low growing vegetation. Not a lot of need for pruning. 4. Relooking at river grazing. At present the fencing off to prevent stock onto stop banks and waterways seems excessive. Creating need for extra mowing - arguably creating more harmful emission than cattle dung. High ongoing cost for mowing. Close to rivers long grass and Wilding silver poplars, present fire risk. 5. Maybe looking into Stateline control collars for cattle to prevent them from grazing too close to water ways and trails. Not sure of the exact technology ...but could be a revenue source. Just an idea perhaps Council has collars then hires to grazers?
506	Jude Roberts, HB Horse Trails Advocacy Group Inc	The horse riding community is keen to be included in the rebuild of the HB district regarding horse trails. We are very self sufficient and once the trails have been made official (alot of the trails already exist) we are capable of doing alot of the funding and maintaining of the trails ourselves.
509	Daphne Gregory	More horse friendly . Safe horse trails . Good parking
515	Yvonne Steers	On another subject I would like to see more horse trails with safe parking in hawkes bay.
522	Alan Passchier	I think HBRC does a great job , but since Gabrielle things have changed and you guys have to partly to pay the price , personally I think there should be an awareness program that outlines' buying in a flood/tsunami prone zone. All the risks but also what to expect from the regional council and district council in case it happens again . This way people can make an informed choice and charge rates accordingly , higher risks , higher rates . Often land and dwellings are cheaper in these areas
643	Ken Rowe	The new repairs to stopbanks also need groins to protect them from localized floods. The borrow pit takes water away and the groin takes higher waters away. Without protection the repairs could collapse with higher costs to repair again. A groin and borrow pit is quick to build with good operators ie bulldozer or diggers.
677	Marcel van Hooijdonk	Happy with a general increase across the board BUT only if in Haumoana the replenishment of the Groyne is done the replenishment of the sea crest is done The Haumoana pump station is made resilient (generator) and pumping capacity to suit.
688	Janet Campbell	I am a member of the HB Horse Trails Advocacy group. We made a presentation to a number of Councillors in October following a significant number of submissions to the 23/24 Annual plan asking that HBRC include repair and maintenance of existing horse trails and provision for establishing new trails in the budget and planning. At the suggestion of Councillors we sent a Business Plan to Council in January.oth our presentation and the business case

		demonstrate the benefits of horse trails and the very low cost of maintenance of existing trails and establishment of new ones - far less than a cycle trail. Currently there are very limited trails available for safe riding in Hawkes Bay (and CHB). Those that were available were damaged in the cyclone. Our group has worked with HBRC staff on clean up and will continue to be involved in maintenance. I ask that you include provision for and consideration of horse trails in any Open Spaces planning and budget provision in the same way that cycleways are provided for. I note in the HBRC Infrastructure Strategy document there is no mention of Horse Trails. This can easily be remedied by changing 5.3 Cycleways (page9) to 5.3 Cycleways and Trails for Recreational Use. And 8. Key Work planned: Open Spaces - include Horse Trails in development of Ahuriri Regional Park -Repairs to Cycleways should be changed to Repairs to Cycleways and Horse Trails -Regional Cycling Development change to Regional Cycling and Trails for Recreational use (Horses and Walkers/Runners). Include Horse Trails in the Ngaruroro trails feasibility study. NB A number of Councils around the country have successfully developed shared use trails - New Plymouth DC, Kapiti Coast DC. I am a keen recreational horse rider and am very appreciative of being able to ride safely in our beautiful area and look forward to new opportunities and previous trails like Awatoto to Puketapu being restored.
694	Carly Hopgood	We live on a floodplain - it is going to flood, and as our climate changes it is likely to flood more than ever before. Instead of spending millions trying to tame the river with stopbanks, which is an ancient technology, you should be taking a more modern view where you work with local government to control where people live appropriately, and work with farmers about the types of crops to farm. Then we can use the funds to invest in a sustainable future for the whole region, with things like more tourist attractions, more livable cities, etc so the region grows. There are so many examples of this transformational approach in China, Australia, and Europe. We need to catch up with the rest of the world in the way we plan and build our towns. Your LTP shows that you have no vision in this space, and are showing no leadership, it's very disappointing.
707	Gill Tracy	The focus for flood remediation should be on making room for rivers, so that we are working with rivers instead of building higher and higher stop banks, causing more devastation when they fail.
729	Kim van Hooijdonk	Agreeable to an increase in rates, if it includes a more proactive implementation of flood protection measures for Haumoana Pump Station and Locals. The flood victims have requested the Cyclone Damaged Sea Crest be rebuilt. To achieve this Consents need to be re-worded and shingle needs to be supplied as part of the Cyclone Recovery Fund. The works group needs to re-use the shingle from opening the river mouth for rebuilding the Sea Crest as agreed with locals. The Water Retention Stock Bank in Haumoana Domain needs the Height raised to prevent flooding of infrastructure and overloading the Pump Station. The drains and estuaries feeding the Pump Station need Cyclone debris removed, maintaining and widening. The Pump Station needs a permanent generator, instead of relying on staff to transport a generator from the hub. The pump station need a one way valve to prevent storm water returning to residence. The stock bank by the Tuki Tuki River estuary needs repairing, where the sea took a chunk out of it. Shingle supply should be FREE for Sea Crest repair. Shingle protects the Hawkes Bay coastline. e.g. The Cape Coast Community.
731	Mark Oldershaw	According to a HDC web page referring to NIWA's post cyclone Gabrielle risk assessments, they (NIWA) assessed the risk pre-Gabrielle as being a one in 1000 year event. Post Gabrielle their risk probability assessment for the 20 HB sites surveyed has reduced to being a one in 550 year event. That being the case, I consider that flooding mitigation works can reasonably be extended out beyond the current period for which such work is being budgeted and rated. The cost of this mitigation work should be borne by future ratepayers throughout perhaps the next 50 years as they will equally be beneficiaries for such works.
809	Ann Redstone	I am categorically opposed to deferring the Clive River dredging for a further 6 years. The River is in a shocking state and is an embarrassment to an entity whose mandate is about healthy, clean waterways. The dredging has already been deferred for a number of years and now to add insult to



		injury you are proposing to redirect targeted rate funding elsewhere. I question the legality of charging a targeted rate but not using the funds for the intended purpose. Please just dredge the River and send the sediment to the ocean as it will seem like a drop in the bucket considering the huge amount of silt sent to sea during the cyclone. Then consider other options for disposal next time. Land based disposal is always a preference so why not consider stockpiling the material until dry and spreading it over the low riverbank areas at Waitangi park.
825	Joanna Donovan	I am a category 3 homeowner. The level of empathy shown by yourselves is callous. Whilst as a Cat3, I can move on, yet you have people in Cat 2 who cannot get insurance while you decide what you are going to do. i.e. build a stopbank for example. These people need you to get out of there lives. You believe that in Pakowhai the risk of life is too great. Honestly I have never heard such an absurd statement, if, Yes if the stopbanks had broken on the other side the level of loss and damage would have been beyond belief. If you feel you have had a get out of jail card, you have. Seriously, I find it astounding that you have wasted money on re limestoning the walkways, yet where the Ngaruroro river is double stopbank at the chesterhope Bridge, you have not removed the silt, Irresponsible of yourselves. It is now nearly 2 metres higher than it was 10 years ago. You have decided to "fill the gap" in the stopbank at Redclyffe Bridge, that hole let so much water to flow through to Pakowhai, again the residents on Pakowhai are paying the price for the councils retrospect fixes. Please do not quote that stupid 5 metre line, go over the brookfields bridge and Brookfields sits around 3.5 metres. All roads, bridges etc have been fixed albeit temporary in some cases in exactly the same place, so to mitigate risk for future events has not happened. Again a case of complete stupidity on your behalf Next elections we can vote off the councillors, but sadly the employees remain. Am I bitter, Yes I am, I lost my home, so many possessions, I dug my late partners ashes out of the mud and still to this day struggle to comprehend how so many people got it so very wrong.
856	Paul Baker	I could not see any reference to work to upgrade the Tangoio Forest Wetland Drain to the Pacific Ocean. This is necessary as the wetland floods, the drain is too small - inadequate, and the stop banks opposite North Shore Road proved ineffective, as did several other measures, during the floods of 13 February 2024. Stop banks from the existing ones across to the Esk River mouth will only be partially effective as some flood at some future date will overtop these as well! The criteria of what constitutes a 100 year flood need to be revised smartly as 100 year flood periodicity is approximately every 32 years. (1897, 1938, 1988 and 2023 floods were all 100+ year floods and all did major damage.) This 100 year flood review will result in more substantial infrastructure, upgraded infrastructure and higher infrastructure costs. Perhaps that's why Local Authorities and Central Government are reticent to pursue it?
864	Peter Montaperto	The dredging of the. Clive river bead .As far as I know we as rate payers have been paying a Levi in our rates toward this being done for many years now and the river bed is at the worst hight its ever been why is this not being addressed.and where are the funds the rate payers have already contributed toward this project which was meant to happen years back but keeps being put off the silt processing plants are already in place since cyclone Gabriel so there should be no reason for this not to be carried out with it not. being done it puts Clive area at high risk for future flood events please address this.
957	Tim Averill	You speak of the age of our flood protection schemes. In the meantime we have vastly increased our "hard surfaces" which leads to flooding and stress on infrastructure. Technology has moved forward so there should be additional remedies to allow people to live safely on the land. Where is the problem solving kiwi in which we held so much kudos. Has he become buried under bureaucracy where common sense cannot survive. As a Pakowhai resident our community has been totally decimated , evicted by flawed reasoning, and has left a mistrust and a feeling that they were not listened to as many were asked to voice their situation while still traumatised and the mistrust that you can have your say but its not going to make any difference. You need to listen to people that know the land. Its fine to tell us that science tells us but the only truth that comes out of that is the man with the biggest chequebook can pay/buy for the science that supports his side of the argument and please stop quoting modelling tells us while sitting at a computer. Speaking to people from around the world who have experienced weather events of similar magnitude Australia, UK they worked together to find solutions not kicking people out of their homes and off their land.
994	Angie Rawlinson	can you please tell me why the Whirinaki river mouth was closed again at the weekend??? From the video I've received - you could get through Bay View along the beach. How can we agree to these massive cost increases - and yet the proposed maintenance work agreed on six months ago isn't

		happening? If we have such a high level of threat to life in that area - why isn't this being monitored? Why do we have to keep bringing this to HBRC's attention?
998	Robbie Darby	Waterways, stockbanks, pumpstations, all need to be maintained and looked after by elected members of The Councils. Moving forward we hope for a positive future for our wonderful area, that it is well looked after and with vision, results that will in turn result in a vibrant geographical area of the North Island
999	Ross Webb, East Coast Rowing	<p>Clive River Dredging Submission.</p> <p>The initial reasons for dredging the Clive River on a regular basis informed the decision makers to apply a ten year cycle.. The Regional Council set this timeline and the means to fund it but now finds it is unable to meet its commitment.</p> <p>The LTDP 2024 has set a new date for dredging to occur. 2030 is now considered suitable for a variety of reasons none of which have anything to do with the river's diminished capacity to carry water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ HBRC has been unable to achieve resource consent for the most viable financial option previously used of depositing waste above the high water mark on the Beach Front East of the river mouth. ❖ The solution as to what to do with the dredged waste has yet to be determined but a land based collection and removal option has been suggested as the solution most supported by the community. This is the stated reason however the published results show the community is against increasing rates to achieve the work which suggests the results are at odds with each other. As the land collection option adds Millions to the cost and will no doubt increase rates. ❖ The cost to achieve both the dredging and the removal of the waste has dramatically increased from the 1.2m three years ago to a predicted 5m plus in 2030. <p>Our questions are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ How can the Regional Council double the length of the cycle they set, knowing there has been an event that has added to the need to dredge. ❖ How can the Regional Councils Flood Protection Scheme not include keeping the Clive River clean to the desired depth and capacity set by the Council when ratepayers have been charged annually for the last 13 years for the service. ❖ If Dredging is not going to occur, what is the withdrawal of funds (855,000) from the Clive River Dredging Reserve (Note 8 HBRC Annual Plan 2023 - 24) going towards and how many other withdrawals have occurred over the years? <p>What we know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Clive River has been getting shallower over the last decade as expected from normal silt deposits attributed to the agricultural activities on its banks and this was expected when the dredging cycle was set. ❖ The Cyclone Gabriel Event added an unexpected additional layer of silt sufficient to almost break the surface of the water mid river behind the Farndon Domain at low tide and formed banks underwater in locations lower down the river. ❖ Weed is playing its part in catching the silt from a normal flow path to the sea. Some of this weed growth we attribute to the weed cutting activities from which much makes it to the ocean while a some reconnects with the river bottom and margins and becomes part of the silt holding problem ❖ The presence of a Tasmanian Tube worm in the water way, most noticeable around the bridge, has almost reached the point of preventing craft traveling under the bridge at low water. This issue was addressed to authorities approx three years ago and no action has yet been taken. ❖ Given 13 to 14 years has passed since the last dredging and the annual contribution to the Dredging Reserve appears to be around \$240,000 it would be reasonable to expect there is a balance of approx 3 million. This is certainly sufficient to do the job and if there is a deposit to land option that does not require land purchase making the project achievable in a speedier time frame than waiting another six years. However the real balance of the Dredging Reserve account noted in the Annual Plan is only around 700,000 as a withdrawal was signaled from the Dredging Reserve Fund for 2024 and may well have occurred previously.

Community Impact

❖ Catchment Area. A collection of drains and streams feed the Clive River.



➤ The Clive River is the drainage outlet for the area outline and is part of the Heretaunga Plains Flood Control Scheme. While not a large catchment as we might have from ranges runoff into our larger rivers it does include large populated areas. If the River is blocked or operating below capacity, where will the backed up water spill over?

➤ Louisa Stream, Awanui Stream, Karewarewa Stream, Irongate Stream, Southland Drain, Awahou Stream, Karituwhenua Stream, Tekahiuka Stream, Mangarau Stream, Herehere Stream, Ruahapia Stream, Raupare Stream, Karamu Stream

❖ Rates

➤ The Clive community has a targeted portion of their Rates put aside to pay for the dredging cycle listed as River Care.

➤ That the extension of time to 2030 will impact the project cost and therefore a larger rates contribution will be required to achieve a result, if that is possible given the current constraints, will be less than popular with the community.

➤ It appears the best solution is to find a solution now rather than later and be actively working on a solution that does not require perhaps 5 times the original cost to be found in the next six years.

❖ Community Activities on the Clive River are already impacted.

➤ As the tide goes out the usable width of river becomes narrower and river users are pushed closer together causing frustration and many near misses


➤ The Ceremonial Waka and its Tourist offering has had to cease operations and is also no longer part of the Waitangi Celebrations.

➤ Rowing Regattas used to be able to race under the bridge even on a low water. Today these events have to cease for approx 90 min's each side of a low tide.

➤ The costs of repair to craft, props and water cooling systems that encounter the bottom of the river is on the increase.

❖ Summation

❖ 2030 is unacceptable for the reasons previously stated. In addition

		<p>➤ Ratepayers have already contributed and should expect the Regional Council to find a way to meet its own timeline no matter what the circumstances may be rather than simply applying a new date and more rates to the equation.</p> <p>➤ Weather is unpredictable and who knows what catchment will be under pressure next time. If the maintenance has been put on hold and a disaster occurs again how will the HBRC address their position to those affected?</p> <p>➤ Three years ago Regional Council Representatives tabled a plan to secure the corner paddock of the Hohepa Farm as a space where dredged material could be deposited then removed. Clearly there is an area of land between the walkway and the river far greater than the suggested paddock that could be used and is not privately owned. Could this be part of an immediate solution?</p> <p>➤ Given the Councils intent was to action the Dredging of the Clive River in 2021, preparations should perhaps have begun in 2018.</p>
		 <p>Possible site for depositing Dredged Material</p> <p>Previous site for dredged Material above the high water line</p>
1005	Kathryn Bayliss	<p>I think the Maharakeke Stream should be taken out of the Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme and managed under the Rivers and Streams Maintenance Category. Rivers and stream maintenance are paid by a different rate category. Please get this considered in the post cyclone Gabrielle review of the flood control schemes and as part of the long term plan. The Maharakeke Stream is smaller than the Porangahau and the Wairoa Rivers, both of which are in the Rivers and Streams Maintenance Category. The Maharakeke Stream has no hard engineering structure south of Highway 2. It probably has less maintenance work done on it than the these rivers. HBRC stated: 'Rivers and stream maintenance schemes typically have no infrastructure and can involve planned or reactive interventions. Stream maintenance schemes are proposed to be moved to the general rate.' Any indirect benefits we get are rated by the general rate portion. There are no stopbanks on the Maharakeke Stream and no flood control works are done for it south of State Highway 2. The only flood control structures for the Maharakeke Stream is at the Maharakeke Stream - Makaretu confluence at the bottom of the Maharakeke Stream, north of SH2. It's totally unfair to rate the entire catchment upstream for them when we get no benefit. HBRC does nothing for the Maharakeke Stream which prevents flooding. Indeed we need a flood through it occasionally to clear the river of weeds. My neighbours land got flooded. (I have given photos to HBRC officers to prove this.) My upstream neighbour has large flood plains and wetland areas which helps slow the flood waters down. Only part of the Maharakeke Stream is in the Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme footprint. My house has never flooded nor was it flooded during Cyclone Gabrielle and my house paddock has never flooded in living memory. The water has not even reach my pump shed which is lower down on the river bank. Only a small portion of land in the north-west corner of my second paddock was slightly flooded for a short time</p>

during Cyclone Gabrielle. Craig Goodier gave me the details from the UTTFCS maintenance schedule for the last 3 years for the Maharakeke. He said 'I don't have the previous 10 years readily available, but they would be of similar scope. Each year an inspection is made to determine the scope of required works.' 2023-24: MAHARAKEKE STREAM - STATION ROAD H5 Tree Clearing (600m), 5 Days 2022-23: MAHARAKEKE STREAM - STATION ROAD, Tree Clearing (600m) 5 Days 2021-22: MAHARAKEKE STREAM - Makaretu confluence to Oruawhoro Road (11.9km), Willow regrowth/plant pest spraying, 6 Days HBRC has said "Many rates charges such as drainage and flood control can be applied geographically. For example – flood protection activities throughout the region are funded by those properties which are directly impacted, and therefore receive the benefit." This has not been done correctly for my property. My property has unlikely to have been inspected to check if it had been placed in the correct rating class for the Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme when my land was subdivided in 1994. From maps one can't see the high bank above the Maharakeke Stream which protects me from floods. My closest neighbours are both in Class F. When the 11 class from the Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme where proposed to be condensed to 3 rating classes - A, B, C, it appears to have been done with a broad-brush and not researched properly. In the Upper Tukituki Catchment Control Scheme the original 1986 rating classification notice, U4 is stated as being the equivalent of Classes E & F. This proves E is more akin to F than Class D. Class D included the area between the Makaretu and Tukipo Rivers which is a flood hazard zone. There are some stopbanks on the Makaretu and Tukipo Rivers and more maintenance is done on them. In the Tukituki Catchment Rivers Ecological Management and Enhancement Plan - May 2017 Maharakeke Stream is not mentioned, the Makaretu and Tukipo Rivers are included. Even the maps showing the Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme the Maharakeke Stream is not shown as part of the Scheme. The Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme Asset Management Plan 2021 shows there are no assets on the Maharakeke Stream though there is on the Makaretu and Tukipo Rivers. Gravel is taken out of Makaretu and Tukipo Rivers as part of the Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme maintenance work. Much more maintenance work is done on the Makaretu and Tukipo Rivers. Class E should not be put in the same new class B with former class D and charged the same rating factor. It feels a rip-off for the amount of rates paid by rate payers in the Maharakeke Stream catchment and the amount of work that is done on our streams. We do not receive any direct benefit from the Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme Asset Management and any indirect benefit should be paid under the general rate. To change the category of the Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme Class F which is classified as 'indirect' to the new Class C and describe them as receiving 'direct' benefit is wrong and dishonest. No properties on the Maharakeke Stream south of State Highway 2 receive benefit from stopbanks and river control works. The Maharakeke Stream would be a good waterway to continue to manage in a more natural state and working with Te Taiao.

6. Nature-based solutions, Making room for rivers. We need to work with nature as the top priority. We need to restore, protect and care for our indigenous environments, habitats, flora and fauna. Our rivers should be given room to move, flow and flood naturally. HBRC should stop building stopbanks. Damming waterways should be opposed. Wetlands should be restored. Increasing numbers of river scientists, environmental groups and people are advocating for allowing rivers to flow naturally.

7. Pause the CHB Managed Aquifer Recharge Trial and HB 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.

11. HBRC needs to oppose the "green-washed" Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme / Tukituki Water Security Project / Makaroro Storage Scheme. It is a high risk, divisive and environmentally destructive. It needs to be terminated. We need to put the natural and indigenous environment. We should become adaptable and resilient to an unknown future. Many other HB rivers and streams will be affected by intensification and won't get any benefits from large dams and water storage for irrigation water. It puts our indigenous environment and biodiversity which is already in peril at more risk. It risks NZ to more disasters. It risks NZ's international reputation and agreements, and our tourism industry. There is a large earthquake risk to the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme / Tukituki Water Security Project / Makaroro Storage Scheme dam and reservoir. There is an active fault-line across RWSS / MSS reservoir and more in the area. The closest earthquake fault line to the proposed Makaroro River dam site is the Mohaka fault which is

about 800m away. That fault runs beneath the proposed reservoir. The Wakarara Fault is also present within approximately 4.0 km of the dam site. There are other known and maybe unknown earthquake fault lines in the vicinity. And there is increasingly certainty earthquakes can also be triggered by the dams themselves. Earthquakes are just one of the many risks of the Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme / Tukituki Water Security Project / Makaroro Storage Scheme. The report by Tonkin & Taylor February 2011 rated the active faulting of the Makaroro Reservoir A7 as "High" (on a scale Minor, Moderate, High, and Severe for seriousness of issues and risks). There has been so much research done over the last 10 years, especially after the earthquakes in Christchurch and Kaikoura earthquakes. The 1855 Wairarapa earthquake and the Kaikoura earthquake are particularly worth reading up about. Also there is research being done for the Hikurangi Subduction Earthquakes & Slip Behaviour. Scientists say there is 26% chance of a magnitude 8 or larger earthquake occurring on the southern portion of the Hikurangi Subduction Zone, beneath the lower North Island, within the next 50 years. The Hikurangi Subduction Zone has an 1 in 4 chance of a magnitude 8 earthquake in the next fifty years. No-one can foresee or foretell when and where future big earthquakes will be and how big. (Just like the recent floods most natural forces are out of our control). It is easy to understand why since 2016 (the year the RWSS Project was procured and contracted) risk allocation and contractual arrangements have shifted unpriceable geotechnical risk away from constructors to clients. It is foolish to place undue danger on many people, infrastructure and land in Hawke's Bay. The tiny hydroelectricity addition that is planned to include in the Makaroro Water Storage scheme is a green wash. One wind turbine in Meridian's new wind farm produces 4.2 MW of electricity. So a 6.5 MW hydro station is equal to less than 2 wind turbines! At least half of the power produced by the original RWSS hydro station was stated to be used for the scheme. The surplus was to be sold to raise revenue. The hydro station was removed from the RWSS plans in 2016 because it wasn't financially viable. I doubt the Makaroro Dam and reservoir would have decreased the floods from Cyclone Gabrielle. With all the rain we've had over the year prior to the Cyclone Gabrielle flood the Makaroro reservoir would have been quickly filled and have to spill most of the inflows of water. Floods are needed to move gravel down river and out to the coast. The Makaroro Reservoir could quickly full with flood debris. A landslide in the water storage area or the sudden build up of gravel and wood would impose a high risk to the dam. If the Makaroro Dam did decrease flood lows then it could cause a build up of gravel in the rivers which would increase the chances of flooding in the surrounding areas. The Makaroro Dam and reservoir would increase the risks of flooding. 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, 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 burning and deer and possum browsing. There are also increasing examples of dams failures during floods. Read the attached document. There was the Waitangi Day, 6 February, 1997 when 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. A different 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. On 8 Apr 2024 Flood waters were rising in two cities in Russia's Ural mountains on Sunday after Europe's third-longest river burst through a dam, flooding at least 6,000 homes and forcing thousands of people to flee. In May 2024 during floods in Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil a Dam collapsed. The hydroelectric dam collapsed in southern Brazil after days of heavy rains that triggered massive flooding, killing more than 30 people. Officials say another 60 people are missing in Rio Grande do Sul state. About 15,000 residents had left their homes. At least 500,000 people are without power and clean water across the state. The burst dam triggered a two-metre (6.6ft) wave, causing panic and further damage in the already flooded areas. The dam is located between

		the municipality of Cotiporã and the city of Bento Gonçalves. The Makaroro Storage Scheme 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 recent climate summit in 2021 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. We must protect existing forests, restore forests and plant trees to help stop climate change and loss of biodiversity. The value of intact forests is seldom highlighted.
1038	Sharleen Baird	WATER SECURITY -Please don't waste any more than the \$20 m and Water Holdings money ratepayers already paid on largescale schemes like Ruataniwha. Plenty of national/international evidence on unfeasibility of these. RMA - Rather than your improved policy how about improved action on freshwater management to actually improve - you can do this despite governmental inaction.
1068	Chantel Pagel Forest & Bird	<p>Introduction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest & Bird wish to be heard in support of this submission. 2. This submission is made to Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) on behalf of the national office and the local branches of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society New Zealand Incorporated (viz. the Napier, Hastings-Havelock North, and Central Hawke's Bay branches). 3. Forest & Bird is New Zealand's leading independent conservation organisation. We have played an important role in preserving New Zealand's environment and native species for over 100 years, since 1923. We are independently funded by private subscription, donations, and bequests. Our mission is to protect and restore New Zealand's unique ecological values, flora and fauna, and natural habitat through the sustainable management of indigenous biodiversity, natural landscapes, rivers, lakes, and coastal environments. 4. Forest & Bird has three branches and a long history of conservation in Hawke's Bay. We have contributed significantly—and continue to contribute significantly—to conservation in the area as an educator through our Kiwi Conservation Club; and in action through on-the ground conservation work within our community. Our reserves and projects you might know of include the Pukahu Project, Blowhard Bush, Poukawa Stream, and a Native Plant Nursery (Hastings Branch); Waitangi Reserve, Lake Tūtira, and Ahuriri Estuary projects, as well as Little Bush Reserve (Napier Branch); and Lindsay Bush, and the protection of an endangered bittern colony living on Lake Hatuma (CHB Branch). 5. HBRC has the responsibility of sustainably managing the natural and physical resources in its region to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; to safeguard the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and to avoid, remedy, or mitigate any adverse effects of activities on the environment. 6. We appreciate HBRC's endeavor to recover from Cyclone Gabrielle while building resilience in their communities and the challenging decisions that comes with it. 7. When nature thrives, our communities thrive. Healthy native forests, wetlands, and rivers sequester carbon, provide habitat for native species, filter freshwater, and protect us from floods and droughts. Yet we continue to lose these ecosystems and species at an alarming rate, as reiterated by the Ministry for the Environment's 'Our Land' 2024 report¹. It is important to understand these ecosystems and species are not 'nice to haves'— these are vital components of our world, which we are inherently connected to and without which we cannot survive. We cannot emphasise this enough.

8. HBRC has made many commitments to the community on protecting and restoring nature, on minimising our contribution to and effects of climate change, and enhancing community wellbeing. It has a strong mandate to follow through with those commitments in this long-term planning round.

9. We appreciate the proposals in the proposed LTP for how these commitments can be delivered. We have suggestions as to how more can be achieved, and on what needs to be adjusted to ensure progress on the commitments isn't compromised.

General comments

10. Climate change and biodiversity considerations need to be at the core of every local council's decision as they are in line with holistic well-being across the rohe.

11. Forest & Bird support council's commitment to the long-term approach for flood mitigation and acknowledgement that risk for stopbanks being overtopped in the future will remain. Including the concepts and aspirations of nature-based solutions, and making room for rivers, and prioritising wetlands, biodiversity, carbon reduction, and Te Mana o Te Taiao in council's long-term planning will support its endeavor to build a resilient Hawke's Bay. We acknowledge that HBRC have specific considerations that encompass much of those considerations but would like to make the following comments:

12. Forest & Bird would like to see investment in regional parks and planting, and significant investment in pest control (predators and browsers), including the control of terrestrial and aquatic weeds. Healthy natural ecosystems are much more resilient, by absorbing shocks of weather extremes that can harm native species and human communities, in a rapidly changing climate. Healthy ecosystems are vital to turning the tide on indigenous biodiversity loss and for a climate-safe future. While we appreciate council is trying to save costs and prioritise 'rebuild' costs, now is not the time to cut back on funding for biodiversity programmes. These are essential pre-emptive actions that will ensure you are more resilient to future extreme weather. For example, it is critical to keep managing deer and other browsing species that are undermining the ability of forests to slow water down on steep slopes (by destroying their undergrowth) and preventing forests from regenerating.

13. In line with this, we feel more nature-based solutions to managing risks of natural hazards are required. For example, managed retreat and giving rivers 'room to move' to protect local communities in the rohe. 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. For example, making room for the Ngaruroro River near Roy's Hill would increase flood capacity, while enabling faster natural groundwater recharge – creating drought resilience by ensuring aquifers are recharged. This is also the best outcome for native species and the environment.

Nature-based Solutions

18. Nature-based Solutions (NBS) are approaches that utilise the inherent power of nature to address various environmental challenges while providing co-benefits to human societies. As the world faces complex environmental problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and natural resource depletion, nature-based solutions offer a promising avenue for sustainable and holistic solutions.

19. NBS play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide. Forests, wetlands, and other natural ecosystems act as carbon sinks, sequestering large amounts of carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Replanting farmland in indigenous forest, harnessing the benefits of deep-rooting and soil stabilizing native trees such as kānuka, instead of shallow-rooted pine trees subject to rotational harvesting, will help to future-proof the whenua against the impacts of climate change.

20. Restoring and conserving indigenous forests, implementing indigenous afforestation and reforestation projects, and protecting coastal ecosystems like estuaries all contribute to carbon sequestration, helping to stabilise the climate.

21. NBS in urbanised/township areas improve resilience and livability by creating green spaces, enhancing air quality and mitigating urban noise. Urban forests, parks, green roofs, and vertical gardens enhance biodiversity, absorb pollutants, and provide cooling/shading effects, making cities more sustainable and enjoyable for residents. NBS also contribute to mental and physical well-being, offering recreational spaces and connecting people with nature.

22. The proposed National Policy Statement on Natural Hazard Decision Making includes a policy directing a preference for nature-based solutions over hard-engineered solutions². Forest & Bird would like to see Council invest in nature-based solutions now as a “no regrets” approach, whereby nature-based solutions are implemented now to ‘get ahead’ of potential climate adaptation policies, as well as often being a preferable option to engineering with many co-benefits for wildlife, emissions reductions, and communities, often at lower initial (and ongoing) cost. We would also like to see you advocate to Central Government for this NPS to be brought into effect.

Policy 6: The most effective natural hazard mitigation measures are adopted to reduce natural hazard risk over the life of any proposed new development, provided the natural hazard mitigation measures do not exacerbate natural hazard risks in other areas, and where possible: (a) nature-based solutions are preferred over hard-engineering solutions

Tukua Ngā Awa Kia Rere/Making Room for Rivers

23. 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.

24. 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 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 (e.g., zoning) and bylaws (on issues like stormwater management).
- Prioritise investment in nature-based solutions and ‘green infrastructure’ (such as wetland and forest restoration) as a way to mitigate flood risk, rather than investing in hard-engineered “solutions” (which are often not long-term solutions).

25. 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 such schemes to build our resilience. 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.

26. International studies show that allowing a river to self-adjust is cheaper and more effective than active interventions that force a river into a particular place.

27. Europe and Japan have a long history of confining rivers. Once management practices start on this path, they become locked into progressively building more and more expensive hard engineering structures. Many rivers in Aotearoa New Zealand are less modified than those in other parts of the world. Changing management practices now can have a significant positive effect.

28. Working with the processes that create and rework a river channel and its floodplain will reduce the impacts of future disasters. Recognising the links between sections of a river and the whole catchment will help us assess how likely it is that the river will adjust to accommodate larger and more frequent future floods.

29. An honest discussion now could save us the direct and indirect costs of future clean-up and repair. Reanimating rivers seeks to respect the rights of healthy, living rivers that erode and flood in the right place and at the right rate.

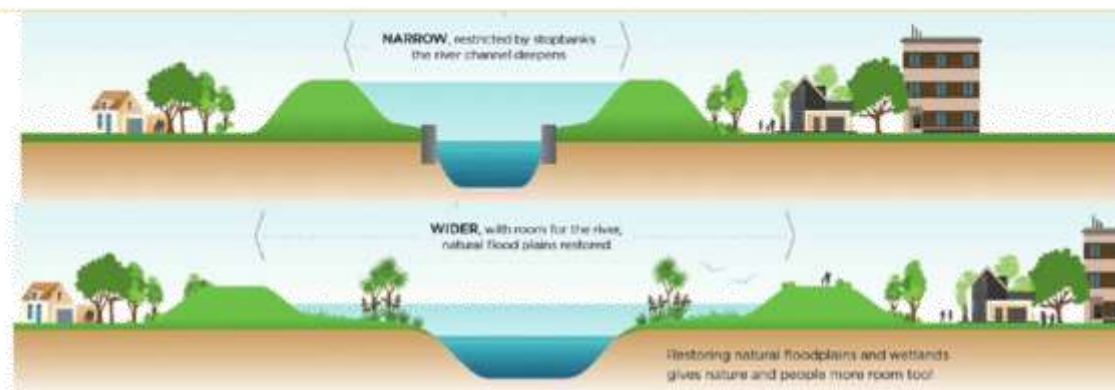


Figure 1: Wider river corridors provide space for rivers to flood safely, where floodwaters don't get as deep and stopbanks don't have as much pressure put on them (and therefore the likelihood of failure is decreased). Wider corridors also provide space for riparian planting, wetlands, and recreational areas, as well as improving rivers connection to and recharge of groundwater (increasing drought resilience).

30. International and local evidence shows that trying to 'engineer' our way to resilience against the impacts of climate change through the expansion or strengthening of flood protection infrastructure doesn't work. For example, reinforcing a riverbank often just enables erosion elsewhere—usually on the other side of the river or downstream, if not immediately around or under the reinforcement. While this 'reinforcement' might give us some time before a river bank erodes to a road, in the end the river will 'get the better of' the engineering. This creates significant ongoing maintenance costs and can create safety risks when failure of reinforcement eventually occurs.

31. In Aotearoa, including Hawke's Bay, we have tried to straighten and contain rivers in an effort to stabilize them, but that has potentially increased the risks we face from flooding, particularly when considering the size of flood flows with climate change. It has also destroyed habitat for birds and fish, removed areas of riverbed that may have recharged our aquifers, and reduced our ability to connect to these beautiful places that we're inherently connected to.

32. We acknowledge providing more room for rivers to safely flood is an extremely difficult issue to address, because a long-term solution likely involves 'retreating' from the edges of the river. While 'buying back' the floodplain might seem like an expensive proposal, in the long term it could cost less than continued gravel extraction, riverbank reinforcement, willow planting, and stopbank maintenance. International research suggests this sort of approach to 'river management' is cheaper than an engineering-based approach.

33. Further, Council needs to ensure that no further development takes place in areas with an increased risk of flooding through their consenting process. Council should be prepared to fight questionable proposals through to the Environment Court. **We note that it is a misconception that councils have lost cases in the Environment Court when trying to fight development on floodplains, for example. To our knowledge, and based on recent correspondence with MfE, this is not true. You should have confidence that you can oppose development on natural hazard risk grounds.**

34. Looking after our wai and restoring its mauri will also benefit biodiversity. In te ao Māori, different water bodies are home to different taonga species and kaitiaki, protecting the mauri of the wai.⁷ 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.)

		<p>35. We urge you to continue on with your proposed Kotahi plan change to address the freshwater pollution and over-allocation issues in the region. Regardless of where the wording of the NPSFM lands, you have issues that need to be addressed and communities that expect to have safe and clean water where people can swim and that can be used for drinking, without significant treatment to remove pollutants.</p>
1083	Karen Greenslade Tākaro Trails Cycle Tours	<p>HBRC say "Defer all new capital works on cycleways aside from \$50,000 per year for safety improvements, and existing projects that are externally funded." NOT A GOOD OPTION - I say invest more. Cycle Tourism is booming in New Zealand - if the HB Trails are developed there will be a 3 Day Loop Track here in HB which would become a HUGE asset to the region and attract many visitors. There are two projects sitting in the pipeline which should be actioned to create the cycle pathway loop and provide increased visitor economy income for Hawke's Bay. We have been waiting for 10 years for action on these new cycle pathways and fighting mismanagement of funds. Pathway One - Havelock North to Bridge Pa along the drainways Pathway Two - Fernhill to Taradale along the Ngaruroro River stopbank. Te Mata Park is a regional asset and needs funding support. Do more in this space.</p>
1103	Bob Solomon, Whakakī Marae	<p>Whakakī Marae would like to be included in the scope of work for flood resilience activities that will be undertaken within the Wairoa area.</p> <p>Ānei ā mātau mihi nui mai ngā kaitaki o tō tātau marae ko Whakakī.</p> <p>We write in regard to the 3-Year plan currently under review, and the marae's tone to be included in the scope of the work for flood resilience activities that will be undertaken with the Wairoa area.</p> <p>In response to the marae being used as our community resilience hub during and after Cyclone Gabrielle, we have been undertaking a feasibility study to upgrade our wharekai facilities. This has included a detailed flood risk assessment, and the results of that point to the need to increase the height of the existing stopbank to meet long-term flood projections. This will allow the marae to maintain existing building heights for our planned upgrade. Attached is a copy of the detailed flood risk assessment and recommendations.</p> <p>The marae trustees have met with HBRC engineering staff to discuss the work and effort involved in increasing the height of the stopbank. Council staff have estimated costs of \$300,000.00, and we seek councillors' support in progressing this initiative.</p> <p>As proven during and after Cyclone Gabrielle, the marae played a key part in ensuring that our local community of Whakakī was able to look after itself, and then be able to reach out to others who needed assistance. We would like to see this continue well into the future.</p> <p>[See Engineers report in Submissions Report – part 3]</p>
1114	Roy Boonen Flood Protection sub-committee of the Cape Coast Community Group	<p>Te Awanga Storm Water system Cyclone Gabrielle brought us to the brink of a total collapse of the Te Awanga Storm Water system. There has been a temporary stop gap solution to fill a breach into the lagoon but we are one major storm, or storm surge, away from a total collapse which would then necessitate the HBRC to install a new pump station and new drainage system – all done under emergency. This has been underpinned just in the last week as the gravel at the river mouth has shifted and at High Tide the sea is now overflowing into the storm water drain that flows between the lagoon and the outlet to the Maraetotara River. While acknowledging the urgency of other cyclone-affected areas in Hawkes Bay, and that a lot of emergency work has now been completed, the imminent destruction of the Te Awanga storm water system needs to be prioritised in the LTP. There is an immediate solution available which has been used successfully in other coastal areas of NZ, which is the installation of an EcoReef seawall which would run the length of the stormwater-system from the lagoon to the outlet. There is no mention of any funding for preventative work to protect the Te Awanga storm water system in the LTP, yet the cost of an emergency construction of a new pump station would have to be funded in the first instance by HBRC, and it would be far better to invest such monies into a planned solution which would produce a much better outcome. There are the following references on page 18 of the HBRC Three-Year Plan 2024 – 2027 Infrastructure Strategy: Scheme Reviews to build resilience: Te Awanga is included, but it must be made a first priority – the decision to undertake a Level of Service for this area was made at a meeting of the leadership of HDC and HBRC on 12 September 2023 and to date nothing has happened. \$30 million for Drainage and pumpstation repairs/upgrades: The Te Awanga Storm water system is not included in the details of this section, though presumably these funds it would need to cover the cost of a new pump station at Te Awanga when the current system fails, and allocating funds to the protection of the drainage system proactively via a sea-wall should be specified in this section.</p>

1141	Richard Pentreath Ngai Tukairangi Trust	Maintenance of council drains should remain a high priority to help mitigate risk of localised flooding and loss productive trees and vines.
1165	Maurice Smith	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I submit that under the Capital Projects and other initiatives, that the likely failure of the stormwater infrastructure at Te Awanga, should be considered under the Flood Resilience Programme. 2. The lagoon at Te Awanga is critical to the stormwater infrastructure. The sea has eroded the beach crest to within 4m of the lagoon. 3. If nothing is done, we are only one major storm event from the total collapse of the stormwater system, necessitating a pump station to be constructed under emergency. 4. Under the Clifton to Tongioio Coastal Strategy, a protection pathway was established for Te Awanga prior to Cyclone Gabrielle. Since that cyclone the attempt of renourishment failed to protect the beach crest ~ the shingle groyne created by the flooded Maraetotara River, redirected the sea current directly towards the lagoon and subsequently caused major erosion of the beach crest. This has demonstrated the original pathway will be ineffective and cause further erosion damage. To be an effective pathway will require a Seawall. 5. The pathway from the Coastal Hazards Strategy, (that may or may not be implemented by HBRC) will be at least four years away. 6. It is submitted that protection is required NOW and the funds should be directed from the Recovery Funding Cost Allocation of \$30M. It cannot wait for the Coastal Hazards process. The cost of prevention will be significantly cheaper than the installation of a pump station in emergency after the event. Damage to stormwater infrastructure, Roading and housing is likely to exceed a conservative estimate of \$5M once the sea enters the lagoon.
1166	Stu Burden	<p>Catchment</p> <p>My property borders the Tuki Tuki river stop-bank. These structures appear to be made of basic materials, shingle and silt, probably just from local sources. The people who designed and constructed them in the 1950s and early 1960s should be proud that they were able to contain a monster storm in 2023. Water flowed against these banks for more than 12 hours reaching less than a meter from the top but they survived with little sign of damage. A report has since suggested we are "doing stop-banks wrong". Hawkes Bay catchments empty out fairly quickly from floods so infiltration isn't such a problem. If they can be cost-effectively made more resilient to erosion when over-topped, then all the better.</p> <p>The HBRC inherited these stop-banks from the dissolution of the Catchment Boards. The Council doesn't appear to have done a lot to future proof them given the huge increase in capital value and investment that they have been asked to protect. I have always had faith in the capacity of my local system but it was apparent from past floods that protection on rivers like the Ngararoro had less reserve.</p> <p>Future of flood control.</p> <p>It has been suggested we revise the way we look at rivers, that we make room for rivers and even "let rivers wander". In the past there were some measures in place in case of stop-bank failure and permanent housing was kept away from rivers. However, in the change to a Regional and Hastings District Council, bolstered by periods of little flood danger, a lot of these measures were forgotten. District Plans along with rules in the RMA allowed housing to be positioned without too much heed to potential flooding.</p> <p>One of the problems with making room for rivers is water has to be directed to and flow under bridges. To expand river systems you would have to build much wider bridges and/or rebuild bridge approaches that block water flow. Bridges are very expensive and councils are loath to build or replace them.</p> <p>My preference would be to let engineers make pragmatic improvements around the existing system with the possibility of flood relief areas where practical and affordable.</p>
1169	Trevor Le Lievre Wise	Introduction

Water Use Hawkes Bay	<p>Wise Water Use Hawkes Bay is an environmental group formed in 2021 in response to water issues across Hawkes Bay. Our members comprise a collaboration of Hawke's Bay residents interested in the sustainable and fair use of water in our district. We believe that this finite resource should be utilised more wisely before considering expensive rate-payer funded engineered water storage projects, as have been proposed in recent years. Specifically, we recognise the legacy issue of over-allocation of our precious water resource by successive Regional Councils, and propose that excessively large and wasteful consents be clawed back and reallocated based on most environmentally sustainable use and highest economic return. For more information about Wise Water Use Hawkes Bay please visit our website https://www.wisewateruse.org.nz/ .</p> <p>Wise Water Use Hawkes Bay submit the comments below with reference to the proposals set out in the 'Have Your Say Hawke's Bay' document.</p> <p>1. Economic Benefits from Better Water Management</p> <p>Council collects a targeted rate on behalf of Hawke's Bay's five councils to promote economic development for the region. The underlying reason is that positive economic development helps our communities thrive as a whole, thereby broadening the rate base and enabling work to enhance our environment to occur.</p> <p>Our question to Council is that now money is short and costs are high why don't they investigate other ways to stimulate economic development that do not involve large rate increases of reportedly up to 500%?</p> <p>Council is responsible for some of our most important natural resources, specifically water. Better management and use of this resource could bring millions of dollars into our region, as well as reduce pollution, to the benefit of all.</p> <p>According to the report <i>Hawkes Bay Regional Water Assessment</i> (2023)¹ we in Central Hawkes Bay (CHB) have the highest water use per capita for the lowest return (refer schematic below). Extrapolating from the figures provided in the report the CHB economy could be \$961.8 million better off if we could match the return achieved in the Wairoa district.</p> <div><p>Water Use and GDP</p><p>This shows how much is earned in GDP for every 1 million cubic metres of water used.</p><table><tr><th>Region</th><th>GDP per 1000 people</th><th>Water use per 1000 people</th></tr><tr><td>CHB</td><td>\$14.33m</td><td>4100</td></tr><tr><td>Wairoa</td><td>\$37.79m</td><td>2000</td></tr><tr><td>Hastings</td><td>\$43.40m</td><td>1450</td></tr><tr><td>Napier</td><td>\$87.37m</td><td>500</td></tr></table></div> <p><i>Hawkes Bay Regional Water Assessment</i> (2023), p. 42</p> <p>Locally, the agri-businesses which hold the largest water consents utilise this resource to irrigate pasture, largely for intensive dairy enterprises. This clearly represents very high water use for low returns compared to other businesses with different land use. Further, the dairy industry is a major cause of nitrate pollution in our waterways, including of rural bores used for household consumption.²</p> <p>The Council report <i>Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme Review</i> (2017)³ states the following:</p> <p><i>"The PC6 Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) limit of 0.8 mg/L is currently exceeded by between 130% and 420% at 6 monitoring sites, all within the Ruataniwha Plains area".</i>(p. 11)</p> <p>Given the documented time lag for nitrogen to permeate our waterways this situation is likely to get much worse.</p> <p>The report further states that:</p>	Region	GDP per 1000 people	Water use per 1000 people	CHB	\$14.33m	4100	Wairoa	\$37.79m	2000	Hastings	\$43.40m	1450	Napier	\$87.37m	500
Region	GDP per 1000 people	Water use per 1000 people														
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Napier	\$87.37m	500														

		<p><i>"The Land Use Capability leaching rates mechanism in PC6 to control nitrogen gives considerable headroom (30-50%) for further nitrogen losses across the catchment and is not considered an effective means to manage nitrogen where the levels need to be significantly reduced."</i> (p. 11)</p> <p>Council has the legislative power to do something about this situation and bring about a win-win for our local ratepayers and environment, rather than the lose-lose we now have. Section 128 of the Resource Management Act (1991) provides Council jurisdiction to review consents, which could then be reallocated based on most sustainable use and highest economic return. Wise Water Use HB urges Council to exercise this power. By maintaining the status quo we as a community are suffering a massive loss of opportunity to realise both financial return and environmental enhancement.</p>
1180	Vanessa Moon	<p>From reading the section on "Infrastructure Strategy Overview"</p> <p>I look forward to "healthy, challenging debate" in respect of a new long-term approach for flood mitigation, and also want the same for climate change/breakdown mitigation. However, I would choose the word "dialogue" rather than "debate". Dialogue I understand to mean people listening to, and understanding each other's point of view before coming to a consensus based decision. Whereas, a debate is more about an argument that each "side" tries to win (e.g. parliamentary debates), often resulting in a less than ideal outcome.</p> <p>I am also encouraged that the Council is thinking about solutions to prevent/lessen future flooding such as "alternative flow paths/floodways", "detention features", "nature based solutions" and "making room for rivers", rather than just hard infrastructure.</p>
1193	Ross Culver	<p>I feel you just wasred \$250.000 writing of the consent fees for the dam in the sky in Central hawkes bay,there was 20 million spent and the poor rate payer has to stump up wit the poor decisions made by a few. the dam was in a quake prone area po river of Hastings which is on afflo plane ,have you learnt nothing, bad bad idea.</p> <p>Build better stop banks if you dont know how get some Dutch dyke builders over to show you and get rid of the willows they grow and break down the river banks(falacy the roots hold the banks together ,no they grow and split the bank ,aussies have been doing it on the Murry river for years.</p> <p>No more polutting pines we have enough asthma and respitary problems from pine problems.</p> <p>No more hand outs for coastal erosion we could not afford to live near the sea 30years ago so left the coast to the sea,you will never stop it.</p> <p>Locals know not to build there if Aucklanders want to buy do so at their own risk.</p> <p>Get the people who removed the trees from the ranges to replace them with native trees, As pensioners we have run out of cotributions to your cause.</p>
1194	Hana and Alex	<p>We also ask please</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That you hastily implement a robust monitoring alarm and alert system. This needs to be in situ NOW. <p>Robust fit for purpose river monitoring alarm systems, I imagine that they would be, set at pump stations or critical points in rivers – they go off (like a frost alarm in vineyards) and send an alert to everyone's cell phone (like the pandemic alerts) This is to fire before it gets too high these would be proactive alert.</p> <p>Complemented with Clear Immediate Communication streams from those at the top and on the front-line Emergency services (with an unmistakable hierarchy of control) fed directly to the communities with fit for purpose radios and cell phone apps.</p> <p>If we have learnt anything from February 14 we need these to roll out now.</p> <p>Again hindsight is marvelous.</p> <p>We do thank you for aid you gave us in the initial recovery stage of our flooded whare and for what you have done for many post cyclone.</p> <p>However, We are now forced to rebuild our first home at 3.95rl our floor boards will be 2.4mt from the ground. We were insured for a one story home.</p> <p>Again this is life. We see HBRC calculations here and respect them.</p> <p>Though, we find it a hard pill to swallow, that we must abide by and respect HBRC rules and governance, and protect ourselves as per legislation, if HBRC have no definitive plans to follow suit with solid and immediate flood protection for the surrounds we are rebuilding in and reside in.</p> <p>A thank you must go to Ant Rewcastle and his team and Jerf van Beek for their support and empathy to Haumoana and Te Awanga and their practical boots on the ground approach in helping strive for resilient buoyant communities. Tautoko.</p>

		We have other thoughts and ideas on other areas you have highlighted, and we are keen to share if there is another opportunity, though the aforementioned was the most important for our household in this moment on this day.
1196	Michaela and Peter Johnstone	<p>We as a House and property owner in pakowhai are still in category 2C. As one of the few in Allen road that would have preferred to have been left as a 3 (as we submitted) now find ourselves still here, still battling, still aching,still footing bills that we wouldn't have incurred,still moaning,still scared,still having lost our retirement money,still wondering what the hell to do and still attending meetings to hear what's going to supposedly happen here.</p> <p>If the HBRC thinks for one moment,one nano speck of time, that we are going to be footing any rates bill associated with this god forsaken piece of land , then I'm afraid to say you will be sadly mistaken.</p> <p>We aren't paying anymore money towards rates when our land isn't the land that we started with.</p> <p>This entire event was not our fault.</p> <p>We not only have to listen to all the 'good intentioned' people standing up at meetings saying how they can only imagine how we felt, but we are still living this on a property we were once proud to call home. Now it's a chore redoing what we already did 22 years ago. Only now we are 22 years older, 22 years weaker and 22 years wiser.</p> <p>Wise enough to know now when we are being duped.</p> <p>We are on shitty land covered in silt/ clay. Not worthy of paying rates for. Let alone paying rates dealing with flood mitigation!!</p> <p>The councils, along with the government and civil defence owe us big time.</p> <p>You have not repaired or kept the stopbanks adequately as the report stated they were in poor condition. You haven't kept shingle etc out of the river ways. The slash problem wasn't dealt with in your long term plan.</p> <p>You decommissioned a stopbank on the tutaekuri-wai mate stream , yet you are now reinstating it???? Who didn't do their job??</p> <p>You people are paid to do your job. So do it , as our lives could have all been lost last year.</p> <p>We wouldn't wish this existence on anyone ,but maybe some of you need to come and spend a few months living in our shed and garage? We would be happy to stay in your home and have an inside loo- luxury.</p> <p>I'd actually like to charge the council for all the items we are now buying that insurance doesn't cover. The council would still out on top.</p>
1200	John Bostock	<p>Lastly the council needs to look at a flood protection to provide a significant improvement in HB flood protection infrastructure and systems. It will require significant funds which need to be funded by selling assets and leveraged with central government.</p> <p>In my view we need proper international consultants as the experience and skill are not available in NZ,</p>

-ENDS-



Chief Executive – Dr Nic Peet
Hawkes Bay Regional Council
Private Bag 6006
Napier 4142
New Zealand

14 February 2024

**Long-term Plan Submission on behalf of Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga - Te Manaaki Taiao:
Funding for continued Mātauranga Māori monitoring – Ngā Pou Mataara Hou**

Tēnā koe Nic,

I roto i te manaakitanga a te Kaihanga, nāna nei i hōmai te timatanga, nāna nei i homai te mutunga, nāna nei i homai ngā mea pai, kia puta mātou ki te whai ao ki te ao mārama. Tihei mauri ora.

Please find below a proposal for LTP funding for annual and ongoing mātauranga Māori monitoring of the Tukituki, Te Karamū and Ngaruroro River catchments and their associated groundwaters.

Context and project background

The requirement to understand the mauri of the Tukituki River came from the implementation of Policy TT16 of Plan Change 6. The framework for monitoring mauri in the Tukituki catchment was established under contract with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) in 2017 with co-funding and in-kind support from Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga (TToH). Here, multiple seasonal wananga were held with different hapū groups at marae across the Tukituki catchment. Hapū collectively explored significant sites across their rohe and developed potential proxy indicators for mauri (tohu) relevant to each place and hapū for long-term monitoring by the whānau. The name 'Ngā Pou Mataara Hou' was given to the project by our kaumātua in recognition of the historical significance this name has regarding environmental guardianship and collectively throughout Heretaunga and its relevance to this work.

The project continued through 2018/19 funded by TToH to complete the development of tohu for the Tukituki and the process methods, with the view to being able to extend the framework out across Heretaunga hapū. The project was prorogued during the COVID-19 pandemic due to hapū and marae prioritising the health and well-being of their communities which meant our kaupapa Māori, kanohi-ki-te-kanohi and marae-based approach was not appropriate.

In early 2022, TToH secured funding through Te Mana o te Wai (TMOTW) fund, administered by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE), to continue the project from 2022 to 2024 to complete the

Tukituki project work and then roll out the project to Te Karamū and Ngaruroro catchments and associated groundwater sites. The TMOTW timeline has since been extended to Autumn 2025 to reflect disruptions to field work resulting from inclement weather events (including Cyclone Gabrielle). TMOTW funding allows for training of kaimahi to build their capabilities thus positioning them to assume the monitoring from mid-2025, to trial and implement methods for monitoring the mauri of groundwater and to trial and adopt new monitoring technologies, consistent with the evolving nature of mātauranga-ā-hapū.

Funding justification

The requirement to understand mauri and the use of mātauranga Māori tools is already embedded in HBRC regional plans, including Plan Changes 5, 6, and 9 and is signalled in early drafts of the Kotahi Plan. The current LTP (2021-2031) has a commitment for cultural monitoring tools to be up and running for all catchments by 2025.¹

Furthermore, under the NPS FM (2020) Councils are required to apply Te Mana o te Wai principles, recognise systems of knowledge including mātauranga Māori, identify Māori freshwater values and the compulsory value of mahinga kai, and enable tangata whenua to participate at every level within the national objectives framework (NOF). Ngā Pou Mataara Hou and the hapū-led monitoring of the Tukituki, Te Karamū and Ngaruroro catchments will greatly assist Council in meeting these obligations for Heretaunga. The monitoring results will also assist in identifying Māori freshwater values, environmental aspirations, and outcomes as part of the NOF process.

Funding to continue Ngā Pou Mataara Hou through the next LTP phase will benefit the region because it:

1. Builds on previous funding commitments and the body of work it has supported.
2. Provides consistent approaches to monitoring and methods across the three catchments, whilst still allowing for marae and hapū to express their mana Motuhake.
3. Improves whānau capacity and capability to both monitor their own environments in their own way.
4. Enabling tangata whenua to equitably contribute, as Treaty Partners, to freshwater planning and policy processes.

LTP funding estimate 2025/26 to 2026/27

Funding estimates outlined in the table below consider the current funding status of the project through MfE and timeline through to mid-2025, including the current and projected investments made in monitoring equipment by the close of the MfE funded project phase. The estimates below allow for funding of identified significant sites and indicators of mauri in each catchment and in their associated groundwaters twice per year. Funding will resource hapū to undertake this monitoring and will allow for the transfer of knowledge from the project providers to whānau. We expect, given the significant commitments and contributions from local and central government alongside the Taiwhenua, that this monitoring will create longevity and consistency into the future, and this is reflected in the funding estimate below.

¹ LTP 2021-2031 Water: water quality, safety, and climate-resilient security.

Year	Estimate of funding required	Activities
2024/25	Nil	MfE funding available to complete monitoring protocols
2025/26	\$225,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whānau undertake monitoring at 14 sites twice a year across the Tukituki, Karamū and Ngaruroro catchments - Collation and storage of data in online database (includes staff training and infrastructure) - annual review of methods and technologies available for the coming year - Annual reporting to marae representatives and whānau - Annual reporting to Council
2026/27	\$225,500 (inflation adjusted)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whānau undertake monitoring at 14 sites twice a year across the Tukituki, Karamū and Ngaruroro catchments - Collation and storage of data in online database (includes staff training) - Annual review of methods and technologies available for the coming year - Annual reporting to marae representatives and whānau - Annual reporting to Council
Future annual funding	Base funding of-\$225,500 plus annual inflation adjustment from 2027/28	

We wish to be heard in respect of this submission. The primary contact is Marei Apatu – Te Kaihautū Te Manaaki Taiao, Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga marei.apatu@ttoh.iwi.nz

Nō reira

Unuhia ki te uru tapu nui, kia wātea kia māmā, te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua, i te ara tangata, koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga

Mauri ora e!

Marei Apatu – Te Kaihautū





Submission for the HBRC LTP 2024

Achieving sustainable land use in Hawke's Bay

Hawkes Bay Future Farming Charitable Trust Submission

HBFFCT was set up originally with seed funding from HBRC to serve as an independent voice to champion sustainable and future farming systems, challenge convention and help build resilience on Hawkes Bay farms.

HBFFCT acts as a catalyst to bring together projects with public and private partnerships such as the Carbon Positive Project focused on regenerating cropping soils on the Heretaunga Plains and partnering with MPI, HBRC, McCains, Kraft Heinz.

Farming for Carbon is a parallel developing project focused on growing soil health/soil carbon in pastoral farms in Hawkes Bay.

Both projects are examples of building science and knowledge for the farming community and challenging thinking for the future.

The Trust hosts an annual Healthy Soils...Healthy Profits conference connecting world class presenters with the farming community and agri-business leaders and showcasing exemplar farmers and people who are making a difference in our farming communities.

HBFFCT also holds workshops on farm working with catchment groups and farmers to demonstrate practical solutions for farming systems and has an active outreach program with monthly newsletters.

Looking forward HBFFCT wants to highlight the importance of erosion control, climate resilience and biodiversity work, up for discussion in the current LTP round. We support such work undertaken by the council as it is essential for the region's resilience to future severe weather events.

Healthy Soils play a critical role preventing soil erosion control and promoting biodiversity. The Trust urges HBRC to continue funding these areas and to allocate sufficient funding to enable the Trust to support such work on the ground.

To date, the Trust has been able to leverage HBRC's support and funding and has successfully gaining funding from private sector partners such as Heinz Watties, McCains, Port of Napier, Pan Pac and Bayleys, as well as Public Sector funding from Hastings District Council and significant funding from MPI SFFF fund.

For every dollar of support from HBRC, HBFFCT has been able to deliver well over double the value back to the Hawke's Bay Community.

Programs such as the Carbon Positive and Farming for Carbon projects and Healthy Soils...Healthy Profits conference can add an essential 'third party' voice with independent

evidence in support of HBRC's work with farmers and catchment groups around climate resilience, soil health, water quality, biodiversity. But these projects require seed funding from HBRC.

Following the Trust's letter to councilors, and executive dated 14th November 2023, HBFFCT specifically requests for each of the following three fiscal years:

Continued support for Phase 2 of Carbon Positive Project – \$30K per annum (HBRC has provided the same level of support for Phase 1 of the project),

Seed funding for the Farming for Carbon project – \$50k per annum, and

General support of \$20k per annum for general support as a contribution to administrative overheads.

This request aligns to the Trust's strategic plan which focuses 80% of its effort to project work and 20% to support functions.

In each case, this request aligns with the Trust expects to match the value by participating farmers/growers and support partner organisations.

We appreciate your ongoing support.

About Hawkes Bay Future Farming Charitable Trust (HBFFCT)

Mission

Promote, inspire and celebrate profitable farming systems that enrich the environment and the community.

Scope of the Trust:

To promote resilient farming practices including better use of technology, genetics, energy & strategic nutrition plus recognize the importance of healthy soils to improve productivity that minimizes input and environmental footprint.

To achieve this the trust will:

- Understand the threats/challenges and opportunities to farming within our HB region.
- Identify viable innovative primary production systems and proven pathways to help farmers and growers transition to more resilient farming and growing systems.
- Educate farmers and growers on what innovation and technology are available and how they can be used within their farming systems to enable sustainable and productive farming.
- Aim for continuous science-based and measurable improvement in the eco-systems and biodiversity of farms to recognise the importance of

- Soil is fundamental.
- Water is key.

HBFFCT is developing a strong governance structure with an independent board of trustees and has demonstrated an ability to develop and manage significant projects.

Website <https://www.hbfuturefarming.org/>

About Carbon Positive Project



The Carbon Positive Project is a joint project between Hawkes Bay Future Farming Trust and LandWISE, and key project partners including MPI, HBRC, HDC, Heinz Watties and McCains aimed at restoring soil health and regenerating soil carbon in Hawkes Bay soils used for intensive field cropping on the Heretaunga plains by comparing conventional vs. regenerative and hybrid growing systems over a six-year trial.

Where conventional systems are typical of best practice systems currently used by partners Watties and McCains, the regenerative system aims to improve soil health, structure, and microbial activity by incorporate no/reduced tillage, reduced chemical and synthetic fertiliser use, and focus on the importance of winter cover crops rotations and transition to crops.

The trials compare the three growing systems taking into account inputs, costs based on commercial growing scenarios and outs including yields and quality grading.

About Farming for Carbon Project

This project aims to grow soil carbon to improve soils health and resilience on New Zealand pastoral farms by applying internationally accepted protocols to assess, verify and monitor soil health improvements on whole farm systems over time.

Create baseline measurements through manual soil carbon core sampling and lab analysis. Align records with new technologies to expand testing capabilities, reduce costs, and certify soil carbon to meet global standards that might enter a future Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) or similar International Voluntary Market systems.

Outcomes

- Increase farmers knowledge about how to implement management systems to improve soil carbon sequestration on their farms.
- Produce scientific evidence to give confidence that farming systems can demonstrate soil carbon additionality and permanence.
- Align certified validation with the latest technology developments (such as satellite imagery, soil probes and AI)
- Improve the understanding amongst stakeholders how soil carbon sequestration can contribute to improving soil health, retain more moisture/nutrients and improving biodiversity translating into advantages for their businesses.
- Produce extension material to help farmers understand the challenges associated with transitioning to soil carbon farming systems.
- Showcase cost benefit analysis to demonstrate study results, increase project buy-in from farmers and increasing confidence for adoption.
- Test pathways for soil carbon credits that can potentially be traded and generate value for farmers.



Submission on the Hawke's Bay Regional Council Three-Year Plan 2024 – 2027 May 2024

Overview

Biodiversity Hawke's Bay (BioHB) is concerned that the proposal to decrease funding towards biodiversity action is counter to Hawke's Bay Regional Council's (HBRC) stated environmental priorities and objectives. Specifically, we do not support the slowdown of the HBRC biodiversity and biosecurity programmes (Tough Choices 4) and believe that proposed Tough Choices 3 and 5 will also negatively impact biodiversity outcomes.

As the regional Biodiversity Hub, we can harness our network of community groups, individuals, and others to assist HBRC to achieve its biodiversity goals. However, we need HBRC's support to do this work, and thus request operational funding in Year 2 (\$150,000) and Year 3 (\$250,000) of the Plan.

Comments

BioHB welcomes HBRC's comment (Three-Year Plan 2024–2027, page 27) that addressing the decline of indigenous biodiversity remains a strategic priority for Council. We stress that biodiversity is essential for human wellbeing and the health of our ecosystems, it supports key economic sectors such as agriculture and tourism, and is crucial to recovery from, and resilience to, natural disasters and mitigating the long-term effects of climate change.

We believe that HBRC is the appropriate funder for our ongoing activities. Council was instrumental in our creation, arising from the Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy 2015–2050 (the Strategy) and the resulting Action Plans across 2017–2025. HBRC previously funded us until 2021, when Covid 19 impacted budgets. We believe operational support from HBRC should be reinstated as our work directly aligns with, and contributes to, its statutory responsibilities and environment pou (priority strategy area). It would also be consistent with funding provided by other regional councils such as Waikato and Taranaki that are supporting their hubs and increasing biodiversity funding as a core mechanism for achieving climate resilience and biodiversity protection.

We strengthen Hawke's Bay's efforts to protect and enhance native biodiversity by supporting and enabling community groups and individuals to focus on "doing the doing" on environmental projects and initiatives. Examples of projects supported include those involving long tailed bats, dotterels, pest control, riparian planting and ecosystem restoration. The infographic below illustrates the range of our community-focused activities; we also partner with HBRC by administering the Environmental Enhancement Contestable Fund (EECF) grant. In 2024, this grant is again oversubscribed by over 300% and over half of those applying took advantage of our Biodiversity Community Facilitator in assisting them with their applications.

BioHB will cease to operate in mid-2025 if it fails to secure committed operational funding from HBRC. Whilst there are other sources of funding, they are limited for operational expenses, the amounts are typically small and will not significantly alter our financial situation and hence our longevity. Should we close, HBRC will need to pick up these activities, or these activities will cease to be offered to community members, thus endangering multiple habitat regeneration and species protection projects in our region. There are no feasible alternatives for delivering these types of supports.



More information about BioHB's activities and impacts in Hawke's Bay is available at <https://www.biodiversityhb.org/assets/Uploads/BiodiversityHB.pdf>.

Our work is showing benefits with community groups and individuals increasingly engaging with us and with biodiversity projects. This is evidenced by the high numbers of EECF applications and strong demand for registrations to the two forums we have organised so far this year. With our current funding situation, those same individuals and community groups will be left without a key support network right when Hawke's Bay needs them and their projects more than ever.

Conclusion

BioHB acknowledges the financial constraints HBRC is currently experiencing but considers that recent events demonstrate the importance of continuing to protect and restore our environment. We encourage HBRC to reconsider its biodiversity spending outlined in Tough Choice 4, and also those of Tough Choices 3 and 5, and make a further commitment to financially support BioHB so we can work in partnership with HBRC to meet the objectives of the Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss our submission with you.

Bruce Wills
Chair
Biodiversity Hawke's Bay Inc

Biodiversity Hawke's Bay | PO Box 246, Napier 4140

www.biodiversityhb.org

Fees and User Charges Policy - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on the Fees and User Charges Policy. Some commentary is an excerpt of the submitter's full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

Areas of feedback	Total
Consent and Compliance Charges	4
Gravel Extraction	1
Harbourmaster	18
Section 36 charges	1
User charges	40
Other	17
TOTAL	81

Submissions with commentary (80)

Id	Name	Feedback	Category
37	David Trubridge	The people of HB are paying disproportionately for services from which businesses are benefiting, especially big corporates. Heavier user charges should be applied for big business such as forestry for clearing up the mess in our rivers and beaches and the damage to our roads.	user charges
48	Carina Chambers	There is way too much compliance charging, especially when the 'experts' get it wrong.... Leaky homes, housing consents in flood zones!! I know we need some compliance however just like the Government you councils are OVERREACHING.	consent & compliance charges
111	Christopher K Phiri	A timely review according to the policy is welcome, as well as a review of the policy itself with time to conform to current trends.	user charges
128	I Fraser Clark	Proceed with the proposed two new Harbourmaster fees. In NZ we use the UK English language version, so Harbourmaster is a real word, not Harbormaster.	Harbourmaster
129	Josephine Moran	A moderate increase would be tolerated by the public, more enforcement of the fees would be a better idea.	user charges
134	Matthew Harman	The proposed burden on ratepayers is unsustainable and unreasonable. More experienced cost managers are needed to reset the cost base of the organisation.	other
140	Blair Smith	To local councils	other
174	John Reilly	Fees should be user pays for services used	user charges
186	Mark Scofield	Keep at current levels given cost of living crisis.	user charges
187	Josh Lovie	Resource and building consents are already expensive enough, keeping the same will encourage more people to build and renovate their homes.	consent & compliance charges

189	Margaret Symons	As is	user charges
204	brian webby	do not charge fees on the rest for the benefit of the dreamers and idle people and the tree huggers why let people build in flood risk places, I know that is because increasing rates trumps eroding property rights	user charges
211	Val Mitchell	Maintain existing	user charges
216	Neil Eagles	The cost of many servies results in high fees. This should be carefully monitored to ensure that they are reasonable.	user charges
256	Andrew Flint	Not sure if this is in your remit, but as an ex Aucklander, all of urban Hawkes pay should go to a user pays for water. Supplying high quality water is expensive and it needs to be used wisely.	other
259	Kayla Knibb	Too expensive	user charges
268	John Paton	Make sure fees are fair and everyone is treated equal	user charges
297	Blair Hamilton	User pays unfairly disadvantages lower socioeconomic communities.	user charges
315	Mark Scofield	Reasonable increases for user pays but efficiencies must be made to find cost savings for both parties.	user charges
318	Pii-tuulia Nikula	Agree with fees and user chargers that are targeted towards encouraging and building low carbon initiatives such as efficient, widespread and user-friendly public transport systems.	user charges
337	Dianne Cameron	Should be more user pays and a household with multiple people should pay more than a household with one person in it, should be a sliding ecale	user charges
353	Ronald Wilkins	I support both proposal of the two harbourmasters fees after your consultation with Napier City Council and shipping agents and Napier Port	Harbourmaster
366	Phil Lascelles	User pays, reflecting true cost of providing the service	user charges
374	Simon Beale	Charge the user of each service the full costs pl;us a small admin margin 1. The Harbour master charges the maritime user for their services. e.g. Boating club for ramps or shipping companies a anchoring fee, port users a fee for their costs. 2. Resource consents to the person applying	user charges
394	Bruce Browne Quadrant Pacific Limited as agents only	I am unsure where you have obtained your information in respect of your comment. Introduction of an Anchorage fee: Currently there are no charges levied to commercial vessels that anchor in the Hawkes Bay region. In line with the Regional Council's user/beneficiary pays approach, we are proposing to introduce a new fee from 1 July 2024 to help recover the costs of maintaining the anchorage areas and the region's maritime safety management systems. The new Anchorage Fee proposed is to be levied to commercial vessels greater than 40 metres in length overall, anchoring within the Hawke's Bay regional waters. The proposed fee is \$1 per metre of length overall per day or part of a day. This is a similar type of fee as charged in other regions of New Zealand. I have spoken to all our appointed agents in the following ports MPT/AKL/TRG/NPL/WLG/NEL/LYT/TIM/DUN, and this is not the case there is no Anchorage Fee applicable. Am sure all our principles will not be happy to pay more charges on already what Napier Port Charge which HBRC being the majority shareholder. Ship owners/operators already face delays in congestion at Napier Port and you want to charge us to wait for a berth? You only have to look over the last couple of weeks the ships at Anchor awaiting berths. So some more questions that you may need to consider. Who does the charge apply to? Ships that are arriving at Napier, ships kicked out, vessels departing but choosing not to proceed immediately to next port, any other vessel sheltering i.e. sailing from Hay Point to S America? Can you also confirm when the last maintenance of the Anchorage Area was undertaken? These are only a few points, and I am sure other agents will provide feedback.	Harbourmaster

395	Belinda Snell Nautilus Shipping Agency	I support all the comments Bruce has made regarding the proposed anchorage and other permit fees by HBRC. I have also checked with our local agents at other NZ ports and there are no fees charged for vessels using a port anchorage area. The only exclusions I am aware of are for Cloudy Bay if used by a vessel which is not calling at Picton, and Auckland explosives anchorage. It is concerning that HBRC seem of the belief that other NZ ports charge for vessels using their anchorage area. Could you please advise which ports you are referring to? I have also spoken with some of our overseas vessel owners and they are surprised this fee would be proposed, and advise this is not common internationally either. We also note, like Bruce, that Napier Port is still 60% owned by HBRC. The cost to the ship owners and the charterers (local importers and exporters) is already borne by them when they must wait at anchorage. Would HBRC still charge this cost when Napier Port is closed due to weather? When a vessel is removed from a berth to allow a cruise vessel or container vessel in/out of the port? And what about vessels sheltering or using the anchorage if in some form of distress? Can you please advise what services the proposed fee is intended to cover, and when the last maintenance of the anchorage area was undertaken? In regard to the fees for any permit issued by the Harbour Master, this does raise a concern as to what services you plan to start charging for? Just to note - currently only Picton and Napier charge for Hot Work Permits. We would appreciate HBRC re-assess their proposal, and would like to see no fee charged for anchorage or Hot Work permits.	Harbourmaster
396	Erik van der Hout Inchcape Shipping Services - Mckay	Bruce and Belinda, thanks for your comprehensive comments and fully agree. According to our local offices this is not being charged now. This will affect most of our principals due to the frequent congestion and port required shifting, which is a situation that is beyond their control. We would be obliged if this charge can be avoided.	Harbourmaster
426	Leonie Bennett	Stay the same for those not affected	user charges
432	PETER MISSEN	keep to existing plans	user charges
475	val morrison	Over the top	user charges
488	Jon Eames	There should be more user pay charges	user charges
493	Bridget Jarvis	Perhaps charge each person \$1 to use the peak	other
504	Ruth Holmes	I would have thought these would be reviewed annually?	other
516	Tania Luscombe	Increase on suggested user pays is good business	user charges
518	Maree Price	If you use it than you pay for it, so this means that people that do not use things should not have to pay	user charges
522	Alan Passchier	High risk zones eg flooding /tsunami zones should pay a premium ,	other
535	George Spiers	Minimal	other
550	Luke Goodwin	Increase the berthage fee for cruise ships. Fully support the new Harbourmaster fees.	Harbourmaster

571	Brendon Rope	Seems reasonable. It will be interesting to hear what NNC, the shipping agents and Napier Port's views are.	Harbourmaster
574	Greg Reynolds	Sorry have not read the supporting docs.	other
653	Robert Gardiner	Pay before you use, can't afford it go without. Regional Council should stop funding projects or subsidise projects were costs are not recovered User pays before you use. Can't afford it, go without.	user charges
664	Peter Robson	Must increase user charges to meet the actual costs not be subsidised by the ratepayers.	user charges
683	Elizabeth Wallis	More user charges for amenities	user charges
697	Bob Alkema	Not reviewed	other
711	William Gray	Careful scrutiny needed to prevent future shocks, poorer outcomes and backward steps. Fees and user charges should fairly recognise the costs incurred, and not be subsidised.	user charges
717	Gabriela + Ralf Spindler	The proposed policy makes sense. Reducing administration costs/work is a must. Paying for risks and usage through vessel owners is just fair and should be consisted across all New Zealand harbours. These additional costs will probably passed on to the consumers/businesses through increased product prices.	Harbourmaster
730	Don Ryder	Ditto above. Reduce fees and charges as much as possible.	user charges
765	Val Morrison	Over the top	user charges
769	Kirsty Dinsdale	Fees should be increased for those that use them and not subsidised by rate payers who never use these resources. Harbour master fees is a good one plus increasing fees like resource consents and building fees as those that want to build clearly have the money needed in order to do this.	Harbourmaster
825	joanna Donovan	Keep them as they are, live within your means	user charges
827	Sera	Council need to confirm how will the fixed Harbourmaster charge and Anchorage levy be administered? If a new role needs to be created for this, that could cancel out the amount recouped and make these additional charges that the ratepayers are paying for. Please look into obtaining more central government funding to cover costs where possible to alleviate the burden to Hawke's Bay Regional Council ratepayers.	Harbourmaster
856	Paul Baker	Let the user pay. Keep charges to a minimum as some Regional Councils charge excessively for resource consents which add little value to a project or a property.	consent & compliance charges
874	Chris Nimon	Don't keep levying the rate payer for your inability to live within your budget.	other
875	Megan Harris	Changes seem fair in principle.	user charges
896	Robyn Christiansen	We provide our own water and our own sewerage schemes What services do you provide?	other
907	Andrew Common	As HBRC operates as a monopoly, its Fees and charges should be a cost recovery only. As with comments to costs below, it is incumbent on HBRC to ensure that it is operating as efficiently as possible in the delivery of its core services.	user charges
917	Robert Tomlinson	Proposal 1- should this not be responsibility of all Hawkes Bay rate payers as Maritime safety is a concern for all Hawkes Bay residents Proposal 2-OK with Anchorage leverage	Harbourmaster

918	Johanna Rodgers	I understand that council has to increase fees each year, but I think it is increasingly more difficult for people to apply to renew their consents. I agree with the Harbour Master and Anchorage fees.	Harbourmaster
929	Oliver Ryan	Many fees you charge are unlawful	user charges
930	Scott Lawson	generally Ok, but domestic low volume septic tank discharges are becoming very expensive for consent holders, to not only install a modern system, but to monitor, service and pay HBRC costs. a large expense for many landowners without access to a community scheme.	consent & compliance charges
934	Phil Alison	Reduce costs and reuse the savings in high priority areas	other
936	Hugh Findlay Cherry Gold Orchards Ltd	Inadequate information provided in the consultation document to comment productively.	user charges
938	Carolina van Seventer	I am in favour of remissions policy as proposed.	other
957	Tim Averill	Resource consents compliance and monitoring has become part of the bureaucracy. How many people are involved to what end? These areas seem to have become bogged down achieving less. Consents are taking longer to get which equates with increased costs. The problem is the unrealistic expectations from Wellington, people who are completely disconnected from reality. Bring back the practical approach of the old Catchment board when people came from within the catchment.	other
984	Denise Bavidge	Support Councils proposal	user charges
1005	Kathryn Bayliss	I agree with the two new Harbourmaster fees. I disagree with changes to Freshwater Science charges, and new targeted rate proposal. Discharge consent holders should continue to pay at least 35% as section 36 charges for water quality and water quantity. It is simpler to keep Freshwater Science charges for water quality and water quantity as they are. Urban areas also affect the water quality. They discharge sewerage and storm water that can enter our water bodies so they could pay their share. Consented discharges can exacerbate impacts on water quality more so holders should pay at least 35% of water quality science activity via section 36 charges. There should be no more fee remissions to Water Holdings Hawke's Bay. In their sales agreement for the sale by HBRC Ltd of the RWSS Intellectual Property and assets to Water Holdings CHB Limited (WHCHB) they had agreed to accept all ongoing costs associated with the IP and assets, including consent charges. This needs to be enforced.	Harbourmaster, S.36 charges
1009	Alastair Chalmers	In times of austerity, any fees and charges to rate payers should be based on absolute necessity and all unnecessary and frivolous spending should be halted to accommodate this.	user charges
1033	Brydon Nisbet	Fees should continue to stay as land value	other
1034	Richard Marshall	Be flexible and take into account different circumstances, offer different ways of paying perhaps?	other
1038	sharleen baird	Agree levies	user charges
1083	Karen Greenslade Tākaro Trails Cycle Tours	Yes agree with the proposed changes	Harbourmaster

1085	Syd & Annie King	good luck with the harbourmaster and anchorage fees i.e. please proceed	Harbourmaster
1086	Trent Mabbett	Increase user fees and user charges including Harbourmaster fees.	harbourmaster
1105	Rose Stobie	Anchorage levy could be higher Variable fee better, can fluctuate with changes and charge a base rate annual fee	Harbourmaster
1120	Eoin Carty	Agree with your suggestions	Harbourmaster
1133	Michael Davis Davis Orchards Ltd	Charges and fees are getting way out of hand and to us is just another unjustified tax, people dreaming up barriers to create a charge to justify their jobs, there are unnecessary charges and to sustain a future in food production this is going to need a major reset for an example royal gala the world's most popular apple is now becoming uneconomical to grow in NZ a good block will produce 4000 tce a Ha with an average return of 30\$ and a growing cost 29\$ work out the math on that an see how much fat is left	user charges
1135	Stephen Brookes	this is rather fraught from what i can decipher. really needs to look closer across the board	user charges
1168	Callum Ross Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' Association	Furthermore, we oppose the Fees and User Charges Policy, as it fails to consider the financial constraints faced by cyclone-impacted growers, potentially burdening them unfairly under the user-pays principle. The policy also overlooks the broader societal benefits of addressing market challenges and does not account for situations where growers face circumstances beyond their control, such as increased labor costs, insurance charges, and reduced market entry due to climate-related impacts.	user charges
1169	Wise Water Use HB	<p>Opportunities to Raise New Revenue</p> <p>The 'Have Your Say Hawke's Bay' document is heavily weighted towards balancing the budget by way of cuts to services; however, is light on proposals to increase revenue. Wise Water Use HB believes that Council has been remiss in not exploring opportunities to raise new revenue.</p> <p>One such opportunity is for Council to levy a substantial charge to a new property owner who acquires a right to take water for irrigation under a consented permit at the time of a property sale. An existing water permit can be transferred directly to a new property owner (i.e. from one consent holder to another) at the time of a property sale by way of straightforward administrative process, which Wise Water Use HB understand currently attracts a nominal administrative fee.</p> <p>Yet, a consented water permit represents massive value to a new property owner. While not shown on the balance sheet, a water consent can represent up to half the value of the business.</p> <p>This suggestion is both fair and reasonable, and would not impose undue financial burden on a new consent holder given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The financial return they stand to reap from use of the water, which itself is free; and - The financial windfall which some rural landowners have recently gained under changes to Council's rating formula that will reportedly see average rate reductions for pastoral farmers of between 24% - 50%. <p>Accordingly, Wise Water Use HB recommends that a substantial fee be levied on the new holder of a water consent permit at the time of transfer.</p>	other
1189	Tom Yule	<p>I wish to submit on the proposed changes to the HBRC Fees and User Charges Policy, specifically Section 1.5b, relating to charges for gravel extraction taken via individual resource consent.</p> <p>My wife and I are involved in the aggregate supply industry. We have recently purchased a property at 404 Omapere Road to secure our future as the short-term allocations off the Ngaruroro, Tutaekuri and Tukituki rivers expose our business to too much risk. We employ many staff and have significant investment in plant and machinery. Therefore, we purchased our own property to secure our supply. We will still extract off local rivers when it makes sense however our private property means we can plan for</p>	Gravel Extraction

	<p>the future.</p> <p>I do not understand how a royalty is justified on private property for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The stream bed is owned by us (all in our title) and is not crown land.2. To extract aggregate off the Kikowhero Stream that flows entirely within our property we have gone through an extensive consenting exercise. This has involved extensive engineering and survey expertise to understand what an appropriate annual volume of extraction is, to avoid over extraction.3. There are consent conditions to ensure our extraction is sustainable, including monitoring conditions where HBRC Consents/Compliance staff will be able to recoup the cost of monitoring the conditions of our consent. This will be done at my cost. We see the additional charges on a per cubic metre basis as set out in the Fees and User Charges documents as unfair and unduly onerous.4. The boundary of what HBRC considers to be part of the active stream bed is uncertain on this property. To date we have yet to receive confirmation from HBRC's consents team on where the 'bank' of the river ceases, as this is an important factor in understanding what is river based or land-based gravel extraction.	
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-ENDS-

Rates Remission and Postponement Policies - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on the Rates Remission and Postponement Policies. Some commentary is an exert of the submitter’s full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

In this analysis of submissions, we have only counted those submissions clearly supporting a consultation topic option. All other are in the ‘other feedback’

Areas of feedback	Total
Utilities	
Option A	4
Option B	24
Option C	5
Other feedback	41
TOTAL	74

Verbal submissions – 2 submitters addressed this consultation topics at the Hearings on 29 and 30 May 2024.

Submissions on Utilities Option A (no remission)

Id	Name	Feedback
532	Dean Hyde	I support Option A, that there be no remission; this will be consistent with the decision by Council to move from Land Value to Capital Value rating.
769	Kirsty Dinsdale	There should be no remission as those that have large rates or land values high can afford to pay the increase in rates, its the general rate payer who is actually struggling more right now.
1005	Kathryn Bayliss	I think Councils and utility companies should pay their utility rolls rates invoices on the full general rate calculated on capital value, in line with the new Revenue and Financing Policy. There should be a remission or rebate policy for properties who have rate rises of over 100% and for Lifestyle land properties under 5 hectares in a rural areas where the predominant land use it for a residence.
1083	Karen Greenslade Tākaro Trails Cycle Tours	Option A no remission

Submissions on Utilities Option B (50% remission for one year, outliers only) Preferred Option

Id	Name	Feedback
121	Jeremy Smith	Option B: 50% remission for one year, outliers only
128	I Fraser Clark	Go for the preferred submission of Option B: 50% remission for one year, outliers only.
187	Josh Lovie	Option B sounds the best.

322	Doreen Adams	option B
330	Bevan Jenkins	Option B
516	Tania Luscombe	Agree with 50% remission
518	Maree Price	Option B looks the best
571	Brendon Rope	Seems reasonable.
757	Dennis Hall	We support Option B (Preferred option) of 50% remission in rates payable for one year.
647	Andrew Pearce Kaiangaroa Residents Assoc	Support Option B on page 33 of 50% remission in rates payable for one year for Outliers Only (Hastings District and Napier City Councils and one utility company) under a new remission called "Significant Impact Remission resulting from changes to the Rating Policy"
697	Bob Alkema	Support the significant impact remission resulting from changing the rating policy for ratepayers on utility rolls, option B
717	Gabriela + Ralf Spindler	Option B, as proposed sounds the most applicable proposal. However it is not clear how to proceed in year two and three. As mentioned in in option A, the local councils will pass on their increased rates.
875	Megan Harris	Option B. is okay - NCC & HDC Ratepayers and consumers of utility services will eventually pay anyway.
916	Tom Young FizzyPop Ltd.	The introduction of a Significant Impact Remission under the Rates Remission and Postponement Policies is a sensible approach to address the disproportionate impact on certain ratepayers due to the policy change. Option B's one-year, 50% remission provides immediate relief and allows for a smoother transition period. This policy should be reviewed after one year to assess its effectiveness and make any necessary adjustments based on feedback and financial impact. I recommend supporting Option B, which provides a 50% remission for one year to the most affected outlier ratepayers. This balanced approach helps mitigate the immediate financial impact on utility companies and local councils while distributing the cost across the general ratepayers in a manageable way.
932	Tracey Brookes	It would have made sense to not change to Capital Value. As all you are doing is charging the other councils etc who will pass this on to their rate payers or clients. Just another cost for everyone to pay. Option B, if you have to.
938	Carolina van Seventer	In favour of this policy as proposed.
957	Tim Averill	Option B appears to be the preferred option
981	Chris Hope	approve of
984	Denise Bavidge	Support Councils proposal
1055	Jennifer Carty	Option B 50% remission for one year, outliers only.
1085	Syd & Annie King	your preferred option B i.e. '50% remission for one year, outliers only' seems sensible
1086	Trent Mabbett	Option B: 50% remission for one year, outliers only
1120	Eoin Carty	Agree option B
1127	Nigel Bickle, Hastings District Council	<p>The attached submission provides commentary to our position on remissions for utility assets.</p> <p>Proposed Rates Remissions Policy – Utilities</p> <p>19. We ask that you reconsider your proposed remission policy for rates on Utility properties.</p> <p>20. Due to the stand out nature of these assessments an ongoing remission needs to be applied.</p> <p>21. Our suggestion is that either the proposed remission in your consultation document is extended beyond just one year or you amend the proposed remission policy. Our suggestion of an alternative approach is for the remission to be amended to effectively cap the value used to assess rates for any single assessment. (Recommended cap of \$100m in capital value).</p>

22. Along with the other Councils in the region Hastings District Council submitted on the proposed change to the HBRC rating system. We understand that the proposed remission for utilities in the draft LTP is HBRC's proposed response to the impact to Council utilities highlighted through the submissions by the districts TLAs.

23. The reason for the submissions on HBRC's change to Capital value rating HDC ratepayers are being asked to pay almost 10 times as much as they previously would have paid under land value rating for our three large utility assessments. The impact from the change to capital value rating means an extra \$200,000 is required to fund the proposed increase in HBRC rates. The TLA's utility assessments are unique in that they have disproportionately high capital values relative to other assessments.

24. While it can be argued that HDC utilities do have some impact on HBRC's environmental monitoring activities our ratepayers are already funding a large share of HBRC general rates through their own direct per property rates. HDC conducts extensive monitoring as part of its consent requirements. As an example, close to \$200,000 per annum is spent on monitoring for Council's wastewater discharge consent.

25. The wastewater network has a combined Capital Value of \$432m. This is by far the largest assessment, by value, in the HBRC rating database. The Value of HDC Stormwater network is not far behind in value at \$306m. The third HDC utility network assessment for our water supply network has a value of \$162m. At a combined Capital Value of \$900m the value of these HDC utility assessments are multiples of the size of other large assessments in the HBRC database.

26. HBRC has correctly recognised the impact on standout, utility assessments, in its proposal to include a new remission policy. HDC fully supports the logic being applied in the introduction of the proposed remission policy. We do not, however, follow the logic of only applying this remission for one year only.

We submit that given the disproportionately large value of utility assessments that a value cap should be applied to the quantum payable through the proposed remission policy.

27. We submit that a reasonable cap should be set at \$100m in Capital value with the cap adjusted by CPI each year and that HBRC remit the amount of rates calculated on any value above \$100m each year.

28. This will still impose a significant increase in rates payable on HDC utility properties.

Submissions on Utilities Option C (50% remission for one year, local councils only)

Id	Name	Feedback
153	Brent Chamberlain, Central Hawkes Bay District Council	My submission is on behalf of the Central Hawkes Bay District Council and its ratepayers, and is in support of option C. As identified in your consultation document, HBRC's decision to move from Land Value to Capital value has had a significant impact on the 4 District Councils and the local Electricity Lines companies. Central Hawkes Bay District Council has 3 rating units which have no land, but contain the "deemed value" of Councils Drinking Water, Wastewater, and Storm Water networks. These three networks have a deemed capital value of \$86.1m, but a land value of \$0. This change in rating methodology will see the HBRC's rates on these 3 rating units go from \$103 per year to \$23,643 per year. While your consultation document identifies Hastings, Napier, and the Electricity Lines companies as outliers, I would argue that a 22,954% rate increase for Central Hawkes Bay District Council is also an outlier. Given these 3 rating units are only related to 3 waters assets, Central Hawkes Bay District Council will only pass these costs onto its connected ratepayers through a targeted rate, of which there are only approximately 4,200. These urban rate payers are also the ratepayers who are personally impacted the most by HBRC's switch to capital value as their improvements (house values) make up a higher proportion of their overall valuation than the rural sector's improvements so in effect they are being hurt twice by this decision. I would also argue that HBRC should be treating all 4 district Councils equally, and under option B HBRC is offering the 2 larger Councils rates relief, but is offering no relief to the 2 smaller Councils who operate in the 2 Hawkes Bay Districts with the greatest economic deprivation. This is unfair. Therefore I support Option C as the only morally and equitable option available to HBRC.

		<p>Rates Remission and Postponement Policies – Impact on Capital to Land Value transfer</p> <p>As mentioned above, our Chief Financial Officer has already provided feedback on this particular topic, however we want to reiterate the significant impact that moving from land value to capital value will have on not only our ratepayers but also for Council owned land which hosts assets and infrastructure. As an example, our three-waters (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater) networks would have a total deemed capital value of \$86.1m, but a land value of \$0.</p> <p>The proposed change in rating methodology will see the Hawke's Bay Regional Council rates on these rating units go from \$103 per year to \$23,643 per year.</p> <p>While the consultation document identifies Hastings, Napier, and the Electricity Lines companies as outliers, Central Hawke's Bay District Council would argue that a 22,954% rates increase for Central Hawke's Bay District Council also makes our Council an outlier.</p> <p>Given these three rating units are only related to three waters assets, Central Hawke's Bay District Council will only pass these costs onto its connected ratepayers through a targeted rate, of which there are only approximately 4,200.</p> <p>These urban rate payers are also the ratepayers who are personally impacted the most by Hawke's Bay Regional Council's switch to capital value as their improvements (house values) make up a higher proportion of their overall valuation than the rural sector's improvements so in effect they are being hurt twice by this decision.</p> <p>We also argue that Hawke's Bay Regional Council should be treating all four district councils equally, and under option B Hawke's Bay Regional Council is offering the two larger councils' rates relief but is offering no relief to the two smaller councils, who operate in the two Hawke's Bay Districts, with the greatest economic deprivation Wairoa and Central Hawke's Bay.</p> <p>We therefore support Option C for this policy.</p>
550	Luke Goodwin	Option C for the remission
563	Lauren Jones	Remission for local Councils only and FOREVER. This benefits your ratepayers otherwise you are just shuffling the deck chairs (increased rates revenue for you reduces our total bill but then our local Council costs increase which increases our bill with them).
606	Heather Sharp	Prefer Remission on local council only for more than the first year. Other companies can pay their share.
1038	Sharleen Baird	Councils only option

Other feedback

Id	Name	Feedback
37	David Trubridge	Poorer people, especially Gabrielle victims, should be given more leniency and generosity.
111	Christopher K Phiri	Much encouragement must be emphasised in this area. Timely settlements of rates ensures achievement of set plans and goals within planned timeframe. Postponement and delays surely affects the whole plan and program.
122	Peter Alexander	Maintain the status quo.
140	Blair Smith	Government issue
174	John	Keep existing
186	Mark Reilly Scofield	Everyone should pay their share this should include Marae
189	Margaret Symons	As is
211	Val Mitchell	Maintain existing
216	Neil Eagles	Not sure of existing policies. If a fee is due it should be paid.

258	Andrea Baikie	We thank you for the rates remission for us in Eskdale. This will make a huge difference to us as we not only lost infrastructure, 13,000 trees and had 100,000 tons of silt but the apple companies we leased to have done a runner leaving us to remove everything without any remuneration. Not a great outcome for us so thank you for the remission.
259	Kayla Knibb	Too hard to get and apply for.
297	Blair Hamilton	Rates are always not popular. They are an important revenue stream but more should be done to increase rates for empty properties and land.
315	Mark Scofield	Only in very special circumstances. Do churches and Marae pay rates? Answer please
319	Kate Atkinson	Rates remission should be expanded to include more income levels, everyone is struggling not just low income brackets. These rates increases are crippling people on top of high inflation and interest
337	Dianne Cameron	Should be more Remissions for smaller number of people in the household and for less income per household
353	Ronald Wilkins	As i have stated under revenue and financing policy i believe rates have to be increased yearly. I disagree on your postponing policies as when the work is required it will be twice as much or even more. So i maintain we keep up the maintenance
366	Phil Lascelles	All property should be rateable and there should be no exemption of churches and maori owned land. Postponement for hardship or during major development could be considered.
426	Leonie Bennett	Stay the same for those not affected
432	Peter Missen	keep to existing plans
574	Greg Reynolds	Looks like a money go round to me, with rate payers getting the bill in the end. But if money is owed you need to get it.
653	Robert Gardiner	If rates were reasonable with CPI adjusted increases, plus rate payers money was not wasted, you would not need Remission or Postponement Policies.
683	Elizabeth Wallis	Keep that
730	Don Ryder	These are policies that have recently become all the more necessary to try to support those in need but postponing the inevitable is not really an acceptable option for most of them. The proposed rate increases need to be significantly trimmed to be of any help in the long term.
787	Glenda Mawson	This could be an option alot of residents like me are facing due to the 100% rise in my rates
816	Roger Hooker	Review remission policies and postpone non urgent expenditure
825	Joanna Donovan	Why? Youll ask for the payment eventually. If people cant afford it now they sure cant afford it in the future. Honestly to even suggest it is stupidity and arrogance on your behalf
856	Paul Baker	The rate remission provisions of the Maori Land Act should be abolished. All ratepayers should be treated equally. Postponement charges or late payments should incur penalty interest if charged rates are more than three months overdue. Rates Postponement did incur penalty interest; fair enough during Covid but it should not be a regular repeat. Once in 10 years is too much, once in a lifetime is acceptable.
874	Chris Nimon	People affected by flooding should have their rates, rated zero meanwhile .. not put on hold. They are already under enormous pressure.
896	Robyn Christiansen	Should not be necessary if you stop the massive increase you are proposing
907	Andrew Common	HBRC should amend its policy to ensure rates are collected equally from all rate payers, including Maori Freehold title. Holders of Maori Freehold title are equal beneficiaries of HBRC services, along with all other HB residents. All HB landowners should have obligation to pay rates.
918	Johanna Rodgers	I don't think you should rate the TLA's and utility companies at all. The council is not performing any more service than it did under the old system where they weren't charged.
936	Hugh Findlay, Cherry Gold Orchards Ltd	Not explained in the consultation document.

945	Stuart Kilmister, Kilhaven Orchards	For anyone that has suffered financial hardship due to the cyclone there needs to be some remission of their property rates. Rates levels should be adjusted quickly if their capital value of their property has changed due to the cyclone
972	David Mackie	Cyclone affected horticulture businesses deserve ongoing remission as well. We lost our income in 2023 and its going to take us a long time to recover. Horticulture rate payers are also disproportionately affected by the change to CV (which 90% of people voted against). The values of fruit licences should not be included in CV and have been over inflated in the CV calculation by the councils. Farmers and forestry should not be paying less. The slash and debris that affected the rivers and caused damage, debris and silt down stream has had a huge cost for clean up and so their rates should not reduce.
1034	Richard Marshall	Be flexible and take into account different circumstances ,offer different ways of paying perhaps?
1079	Tom Belford	Clearly there will be some ratepayers very uniquely affected by proposed policies. Example would be being rated today for land/capital values where those values were wiped out or compromised by cyclone. Provision should be made for situations like this to be treated with flexibility.
1105	Rose Stobie	preferred option B or C
1135	Stephen Brookes	this should be on everyone in the same boat policy so if good to charge one group- charge everyone the same
1168	Callum Ross, Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' Association	Lastly, we believe our growers should be given access to rate relief due to the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle. The circumstances for our growers to be burdened and unfairly disadvantaged from other ratepayers who were not affected and did not have the costs and delays to rebuild put on them. Providing rate relief is essential to support growers who have faced significant challenges over the past two years, exacerbated by the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle.
1196	Michaela and Peter Johnstone	We as a House and property owner in pakowhai are still in category 2C. We don't think we should have to pay rates to either council. All properties in the flooded areas that aren't back to their original state prior to the flood should be exempt whether a category 1,2 or 3.

-ENDS-

Revenue and Financing Policy - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on the Revenue and Financing Policy. Some commentary is an excerpt of the submitter's full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

Submissions with commentary (60)

Id	Name	Feedback	Category
48	Carina Chambers	Who has devised these proposals, What of the forestry's impact on the flooding 'General works' what is this? How about getting a large handful of local people from all walks of life and consult with them on these proposals. A random collection of our public tour employers! Like Sweden have a referendum on almost everything, a democracy!	R&F
111	Christopher K Phiri	It is important to have a revenue and financing policy as it opens doors to legal ways of financial resource mobilisation and controls.	R&F
116	E deB00rder	What is the actual breakdown of the General Rate Hastings in this Regional Rate as we already pay Hastings Rates? What is the actual breakdown of the Uniform Annual General Charge ? Seems to be Double dipping here!!!!!!	R&F
122	Peter Alexander	Do not change the basis for calculating rates. Maintain the status quo. Stagger/ defer/ cull HBRC projects based on perceived hbrc core functions and project priorities relative to current affordability. As the HBRC 's very top priority, it should (must) be ensuring that private landowners remain feeling compelled to develop their land for productive purposes. The "only" way in which New Zealand will manage to dig itself out of our current dire fiscal situation is through generating heightened productivity over time. As a country/ region, we are best able to do this via our primary industries. So make sure that these critical industries continue to feel able and encouraged to invest in capex for productivity gains to be realised. Please do not ignore public feedback via this consultation process. Particularly if the majority of public feedback is in opposition to the HBRC proceeding to implement the proposal to base rates calculations on the capital value of privately owned properties. Democracy must prevail.	LV vs CV
132	John Owens	We submitted on the HBRC proposal to charge rates on the capital value of properties rather than land value, with a NO vote. We had believed this would be a democratic vote, however the overwhelming vote to keep using land value to determine rates was ignored by HBRC. We fear that it is a waste of time submitting our concerns, as it appears it is already a foregone conclusion for HBRC to go against ratepayers concerns & make their decision to the contrary.	LV vs CV
138	Cameron Jones	The decision of HBRC councillors to vote against the will of 90% of responders, in their decision to change the rating system was so egregious, that from my perspective, it drained the credibility from future consultation processes, including this one. Thus, I have no confidence that the result of this process will in any way reflect the will of those who are being 'consulted,' and believe that current councillors (esp. those who voted for the rates change) need to take proactive steps to regain the trust of those they claim to represent.	LV vs CV
140	Blair Smith	To local councils	
204	Brian Webby	the burden of rates should be targeted to those who benefit or potentially benefit and people should learn to be accountable for their own choices and if they build on the coast or low lying land and then if its a hand out they always will repeat the	R&F

		same its well known human nature if we are to believe in the doomsday issues of the climate than the council stepping in every time then the council should cease to exist in its present form	
260	Benjamin VAN'T SANT	The rates should not be calculated on property value. PV fluctuates so much, and has gone up disproportionately in the last 5 years.	LV vs CV
263	Matt Landkroon	The rates should not be calculated on property value. PV fluctuates so much, and has gone up disproportionately in the last 5 years.	LV vs CV
265	Madeleine Landkroon	The rates should not be calculated on property value. PV fluctuates so much, and has gone up disproportionately in the last 5 years.	LV vs CV
296	Gerrit Raichle	To change from land to capital value as a basis for rating is obviously designed to increase your income. People on fixed incomes cannot sustain ever increasing rates especially not by such huge amounts. My HBRC rates increase last year was 43%. On top of a HDC rate increase of 25%, a combined increase of \$1,000 p.a. This has to stop.	LV vs CV
311	damon Harvey	No point - you made your decision - which was to ignore ratepayers	LV vs CV
374	Simon Beale	The forestry industry gets off lightly with their rate increases. They are part of the major incidents effecting regions, e.g. Slash and Destroying the roads.	R&F
380	Sue Coppinger	We thought you must of made an error in calculating our proposed rate increase. But it appears NOT..You advertised that the average rate increase would be 19%..please try and imagine our shock when it turns out ours is to be 200% from \$453 to a whopping \$1167..how do you justify this. (I know you have decided to rate us on CV rather than LV...and that is your supposed justifiable reason.)	R&F LV vs CV
490	Rose Artemiev	I do not support any changes to rating which involve replacing LV with CV.	LV vs CV
504	Ruth Holmes	This would make sense if there are problems with financial flow.	R&F
529	Darren Cooper	Your rating process change is undemocratic. You have lied about the impacts on households. Reducing farm rates is good for farmers but they use most of the services offered. Households with massive increases even upto 200 percent is nothing other than utter BS. You need to do better.	R&F
531	Jeff & Jane Gray	We are quite ok with the uniform annual charge and indeed quite happy with the concept of targeted rating. Our complaint relates to a 300% increase in our General rate which has no apparent specified purpose other than the general running of the HBRC which to put it mildly is a juggernaut of inefficiency. Any submission we make via "have your say" will make no difference to the wildly excessive increase in rates that we face. We note that the coastal hazards strategy rate has gone from a whopping \$3.27 to \$4.01. That goes nowhere towards protecting our HB coastlines which explains why they in such poor state. We understand HBRC is commissioning yet another "expert" report on the HB coastline, why?	LV vs CV
574	Greg Reynolds	Your correspondence on the rates increases led us to believe we were in for a 25% increase, partly due to the new valuation and partly due to your move from calculating rates on LV to calculating them on CV. We put in a submission in this, stating our objections along with about 90% of the other submissions. These were over ruled, one of your councillors even had the temerity to state "we have to consider the views of those that did not put in a submission". Crikey, you do understand democracy don't you? Perhaps we should count the votes of those that don't vote.	R&F
653	Robert Gardiner	Your model for computing property ratings is clearly wrong and needs someone with common sense to fix this issue. Rates should be fixed so all properties have same percentage increases. Your actions have destroyed our cosy retirement, caused anxiety and endless sleepless nights. Your actions show you are incompetent to do your job. Your legacy is failure to serve	R&F

		your rate payers, if you don't correct these unbelievable, unrealistic, unsustainable and unaffordable WRONGS. I have no trust and confidence left in you.	
688	Janet Campbell	I was opposed to the change to rating on property on capital value as it disproportionately affects lifestyle properties like mine.	LV vs CV
711	William Gray	Careful scrutiny needed to prevent future shocks, poorer outcomes and backward steps.	R&F
723	Jean McIver	You have given us your options, but you haven't taken any notice of submissions on how you are rating us. Are you listening or just, as I suspect, saying that you have consulted with your constituents and then of course, as with the rates, ignoring that consultation (some Councillors excepted). I want to again state that changing from land value to capital value is making those of us who live in residential areas, who mostly don't use your services, pay for those who do. It is not fair or equitable and should be ditched. Those who should be paying more are those who caused much of the problem in Cyclone Gabrielle, and that was not the people in residential areas. I also want to state that my rates are going up by just under 49% and I really get very little from the regional council.	
777	Kerry Marshall	I have previously commented on changes to rates policies but it seems the decision has already been made.	
856	Paul Baker	It was difficult to find the relevant consultation document and could have been hyperlinked to this submission. My views is that the "user should pay". No cross subsidies, financing for the life of the resource and costs to be met by the direct beneficiaries of that resource. Use targeted rates and amortised loans. The proposed rates increases of 19.6%, 18.1% and 9% are excessive over the next few years. Amortising costs would help spread financial loads. Cutting back on non-core expenditure should also be seen as a key priority for organisational survival or else a Commission could be requested to run HBRC.	R&F/Affordability
863	Anna Lorck	Reverse the switch to capital values and listen to ratepayers. The council has been completely disingenuous with its approach to forcing through capital value rating switches and hitting people twice as hard. This decision must be reversed. I am told that in making your decision Councillors were provided with examples of properties in Camberley and Flaxmere as part of a report - please release this information and explain how this works, now that increases are based on capital value.	LV to CV
883	Emma Chambers	I used the HBRC rates calculator to get an estimate of what I can expect to pay in 24/25. To my shock it estimated that my rates will increase from about \$550 to just under \$3000/yr. As far as I can tell this is almost entirely attributed to the Makara flood protection scheme. Supposedly my little 5 acres is at high benefit from the scheme. Yet under what must be considered a worst case scenario of Cyclone Gabrielle our property was minimally affected with a few square meters of paddock being the only productive area flooded and no damage at all to buildings or fences. When I input the addresses of neighbors I can see noone whose rates are forecast to rise by anything like as much. We will be expected to pay more than nearby properties valued at five times what our property is. Can you please explain why the change is so drastic, why it affects us so much more than properties that are more at risk of flooding and erosion than ours and most importantly how you expect a disabled couple to pay an extra \$2500 per year?	
896	Robyn Christiansen	You need to listen to the ratepayers Changing the policy to charging by capital value was rejected by ratepayers and you ignored us	LV to CV
900	Jaclyn Hankin	I submit that the increase in HBRC is unfair and inequitable on a significant number of Hawkes Bay rate payers. An HBRC spokesperson was quoted saying the following: "While the scale of change between years is a consideration, so is fairness and equity of who pays for what," "Rates vary according to the distribution of services and how the rates are apportioned. For example, if you benefit from flood control scheme or are within an area covered by passenger transport." You mention fairness and equity as well as distribution of services for who pays for what, can I ask you to then clarify the in excess of \$300	

		we will subsidise your bus service yet we need to drive 5km to get to the first bus stop, which has a bus that is not a viable option due to the limited frequency and scope of service. I would welcome your figures on the number of people who use the bus from Bay View township and the cost to operate this service. Why am I subsidising a service which one can only assume is not financially viable, as well as propping up all other bus services that aren't even available for my use. I also request clarification on why Hastings District Council property owners that live in closer proximity to the bus stop, do not pay the targeted Public Transport Rate – once again this is against your fairness and equity quote from your spokesperson. The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfil their goals in property ownership. 90% of submitters voiced this concern at the time, but to no avail. Transparency of staff numbers between 2013/14 (the base year) and what is proposed for 2024/25 would be welcomed, further the Total Remuneration as a figure and as a percentage of Total Rates Revenue as I am sure this has also climbed significantly for that same period. Your ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of 90% to 150% - unbelievable!!! Talking specifically of the area in which I reside, you have chosen to penalise a subdivision of some 50 households at Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of the proposed total average HBRC rates increase of 19.6%.	
902	Brendon Taylor	All these proposals on rates are very hard to understand to the general population. As I interpret it, the HBRC is proposing to change the rating across to Capital Valuation, while claiming an average increase of 19.6% when inflation nationally is running at 4.7%. I have done a calculation for my home and the rates are to rise 65%. This is definitely not acceptable. I oppose changing the rating to Capital Valuation. A cap of 25% maximum increase needs to be applied to all household rates. This needs to be actioned by the HBRC immediately. You have to remember here that householders are also being hit with high interest rates, huge insurance premium increases and also local council rates are set to rise 27%.	
907	Andrew Common	Firstly, the decision by HBRC to move from a land-based charge to a capital model is reprehensible. It is understood that 500+ submissions were received, with an overwhelming majority opposing the change. HBRC's blatant disregard of rate payers submissions is unacceptable and it should immediately reverse this decision.	LV to CV
930	Scott Lawson	Reverse the decision made to change from LV to CV.	LV to CV
932	Tracey Brookes	Flood Resilience Programme should be funded by 100% general rates. Everyone should be paying for this. We should be using some of the investment money to cover the Flood Resilience Programme.	R&F
936	Hugh Findlay Cherry Gold Orchards Ltd	Rates policy changes not mentioned in the consultation document. Are they hidden to avoid challenge?	R&F that was adopted
949	Leroy Hill	I do not support the change in rates calculation from land value to capital value. I do not support the proposed percentage increases to rates. I do not support regional council and local council rates increasing at the same time.	LV to CV
950	Jonathan Brookes	This looks like a lot of charges that have been created due to the change to capital value rate assessment. This was significantly opposed by public feedback but once again ignored by those that say they care about the general population.	LV to CV
957	Tim Averill	It is a flawed premise to change from LV to CV. for general rates. When the "poor P were considered and then it was discovered it was the landlords to pay. What does that do to rental costs? Who will pay, the tenant. Regardless that 90+% of submissions opposed the change they were disregarded assuming silence is acquiescence. Why are we continuing to run empty buses? Buses work within intense urban populations/ big cities. In our local area where we are so distanced there is no way a workable timetable can provide service. It is not family friendly and what are the economic rewards as an investor??	LV to CV

		Would it survive as a business? An investment with no returns or negative? We pay rates to have work done eg drainage lets see the work done.	
971	Robert Joe	Rating using capital value would increase lease rates on land considerably as these are often part of the lease agreement. This is unfair as it is the land that the rates are connected to, not the house that is on the land! This could make esp smaller blocks with high capital investment uneconomical to lease making financial hardship for these people connected to these blocks.. I am totally against this proposed move!	LV to CV
981	Chris Hope	Land value versus Capital value has increased our total rates by 60%. We are totally apposed to this double move of increasing our rates by stacking CV rates on top of a 19.6 rate increase. Due to cyclone related issues our capital value has reduced in reality but QV ratings will remain in place for the next 2 to 3 years. Public transport rate is proposed to be included and for our rural property is going to be \$676.00 annually. We and our staff never have or will use public transport. This I see is just a rate take for the sake of collecting revenue. As council you have changed your rating take from user pay to who can afford to pay the rates which believe is not inline with the type of activity you undertake.	LV to CV
1000	Laraine Russell	Why has the Council decided to now rate on the capital value of properties. This is just a cynical move to gouge a bit more out of the long suffering public. How does this happen without public consultation? I'm very angry about this.	LV to CV
1005	Kathryn Bayliss	Category 2 flood schemes costs should be the same as other flood protection and control works: 30% general rate and 70% targeted rate.	R&F
1033	Brydon Nisbet	Fees should continue to stay as land value	LV vs CV
1034	Richard Marshall	Spread the load and have the larger business owners pay more. They can afford it.	Differential
1035	Brydon Nisbet	Leave the rates at a land only tax not capital tax.	LV to CV
1038	Sharleen Baird	CAPITAL VALUE rating change - Devastating - please rethink what you're doing to people. It benefits large landowners (who can make money off that land) at the expense of poorer residential/small lifestylers. Deceptive marketing meant "averages" fooled people into thinking only 19% rise for them. So emotional. People are crying, angry outbursts, planning how to sell their property, etc. There are other ways to save/create money.	LV to CV
1050	Andrew Torrens	Talking specifically of the area in which I reside, you have chosen to penalise a subdivision of some 50 households at Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of the proposed total average HBRC rates increase of 19.6%. Further proposed increases of 18.1% and 9.0% are also unacceptable. The original discussions on increases were a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers. Although this would be significant, I think all ratepayers understood the enormity of damage to infrastructure caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and would reluctantly accept a one-off adjustment. How any fair-minded council could propose an increase of around 200% is mindboggling. Your ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of 90% to 150%. Being more specific an increase of \$891 for us, a young family with two children is astronomical and financially unsustainable. I fear the consequence of this decision will be an exodus of the people HBRC should be working to actively retain within their area. I submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates for my property is an unfair burden, when all HBRC residents should pay a uniform rate for many of the services and amenities provided by HBRC. I further submit that the HBRC should cap the maximum rate increase for an individual household to 30% from the rates levied in 2023/24. The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfil their goals in property ownership. 90% of submitters voiced this concern at the time, but to no avail.	LV vs CV

1054	Gary Jones Mr Apple Ltd	More equitable: The assumption that capital value relates to an "ability to pay" is inconsistent with the fundamental principle of equity. Equity relates to use and access to a service and the HBRC has not provided a persuasive argument that this modal is equitable. More stable: Capital values of horticultural properties fluctuate and the impacts of the cyclone, cost increases, and changes in global trade conditions will all result in downward pressures. There is no agreed way of evaluating the value of PVR protected varieties. Many will not be successful in the long-term despite some short-term success. Fairer: From a horticultural orchard perspective the modal of "exacerbator-pays" is a poor fit. Modern orchards enhance their ecosystems. Takes and discharges are monitored and attract fees. International environmental assurance systems must be independently audited to meet global supply-chain requirements. These meet New Zealand and international regulatory requirements, but regional Governments are slow to accept them. With a cost of \$2000 per orchard it would be well received to have HBRC recognise and reward the robustness of these assurance systems	LV vs CV
1057 & 1060	John Evans, RJ Flowers Ltd & Gilbert Orchard	I do not agree with the policy regarding rates to be changed from land value to capital value. This would have a large impact on horticultural organisations which are already feeling the pressure from cost increases and weather events.	LV to CV
1076	Nicholas Aiken	See submission on rates below. I oppose the change to capital value rating and my rates increasing by 289%.	LV to CV
1082	Graham Kidd	Council has proved to be poor managers of ratepayers money in the past and we are having to carry the cost. Too much wastage on Pet Projects, not enough scrutiny of contractors and Council staff. The Forestry Industry should shoulder more of the cost of Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery as they are responsible for much of the damage, along with poor river maintenance by Council. We rate payers were not consulted on change from Land Value to Capitol Value! How are we as Pensioners are able to afford a possible 50% Rate Increase?	LV vs CV
1086	Trent Mabbett	Apply existing policy settings to flood and coastal hazard financing. This is fair.	R&F
1101	Johnny Milmine	The new method of working out rates is unfair and should never have been approved. 90% of submissions were against so HBRC should have listen to them, not made decisions based on their individual opinions. Council needs to reduce wasteful spending and focus on the rate payers, the owners of HBRC.	LV vs CV
1115	Roy Boonen	As it has been reported in recent days the combination of a 19% average rate rise and the implementation of a system shift of rating on land to capital has produced some extreme results for some local ratepayers – with some people seeing increases of double, and even 500%.. While the logic of shifting from land to capital-based apparently was compelling to the HBRC councillors when they ignored the vast majority of ratepayers who voted No to this proposal, surely now that the effect of combining the two changes at the same time is known and proves that the timing for this change is wrong, the councillors will re-consider and defer any change to the Rating scheme until we are through the challenges that the Cyclone (and Covid) has caused.	LV vs CV
1135	Stephen Brookes	this should not be based on capital value but based on land value as per 90% of public submissions supplied. as you are working for us you should learn to listen to what people say and not go off on a whim	LV vs CV
1168	Callum Ross Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' Association	Additionally, we do not support the guiding principles in the Revenue and Financing Policy, as they lack specificity and fail to address key concerns for our growers, such as accountability, transparency, and equity in funding allocation. The principles do not adequately prioritize the needs and interests of the horticultural industry, particularly regarding the current post-cyclone economic market and the wellbeing of our members.	R&F
1185	John Agnew	I am currently running approx. 35 hectares of horticulture land in apples. With the current state of the nation, I strongly disagree with the way the HBRC has taken rates values from capital values. It is totally unfair.	LV vs CV

		I thought with 95% votes against it with the last submission that should have never been passed. We build up an asset over years and then we get slammed with rates on our improvements.	
1188	Jos Dames Dames Limited	<p>I submit to you that:</p> <p>1) Your proposal to move the property Rating methodology from a Land Value only basis to a combined Land Value AND Improvements (Capital Value) basis is too blunt in the case of Cyclone affected farms.</p> <p>§ Whilst I accept that valuations, as a basis of assessment, are reasonable to form a platform of rate determinations, my view is that the Cyclone disaster distorts this premis. Valuations are derived from the basis of comparable sales and in the absence of such sales, are an Opinion only. The true worth of any asset (property) is only fixed at the time of a sale or lease agreement.</p> <p>§ Given that your current rate increase proposal is based upon an uplifted pre cyclone determination of value (for the next three years), this now becomes an additional burden to us as we begin the rebuilding of our orchard.</p> <p>§ The lead time for new apple plantings to reach economic production is some three to seven years and requires a significant investment resource.</p> <p>§ Unlike an annual ground crop or other fixed expenditure events (Stop Bank Breach repairs) the orchard replacement recovery time for us will not be quick.</p> <p>2) Your concurrent policy (sinking lid on water extraction rights) is another yet unquantified risk to us and I worry that these polices by you collectively will have the unintended outcome of forcing us to abandon our property as it reverts to a dust bowl.</p>	LV vs CV
1193	Ross Culver	PS.your boss said rating on capital value would make very little difference, fork tonge polition comes to mind.	LV vs CV
1194	Hana & Alex	<p>I fear apathy is rife as previous submissions from public were not listened to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates calculations (capital/land) need to be revisited, they make no sense whatsoever and have had an adverse effect on those you had set out to help. <p>A majority also ruled opposing.</p>	LV vs CV

-ENDS-

Consolidated 3-Year Plan - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on this deliberations paper. Some commentary is an excerpt of the submitter's full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

	Total
Submissions on 3-Year Plan	150
Submissions from Revenue & Financing Policy review (February 2024)	70

Verbal submissions – 14 out of the 60 submitters addressed rates affordability, HBRC cost-efficiencies and other relevant topics at the Hearings on 29 and 30 May 2024

Submissions on 3-Year Plan

Id	Name	Please tell us your thoughts below
5	Sam Hartree	Over the past two years my rates have increased by a combined 105% and I am looking at another 50% or more increase over the next 3 years, if they were a business nobody would use them. The HBRC needs to better use they current funding and stop wasting money on stupid projects and concentrate on their core services given the current economy. Stop wasting our money and concentrate on the core services.
24	Warwick Thomson	Council reforms. If you are looking for efficiencies, then start with visiting the productivity of the councils; people, procedures, systems and investment plans. More transparency. More accountability. Start with your Engineer; unhealthy relationship with developers and raiding companies? Corrupt or just negligent?
37	David Trubridge	We just HAVE to pay more NOW for the environment, for reducing carbon emissions, for protecting biodiversity, for preventing pollution and degradation of nature. Because if we don't it will cost us a whole lot more in the future and not just in \$\$ terms.
65	Duncan Kinnear	The region's funding either needs to come from central government or from our rates. Since this particular government wants to stop funding of lots of things, then we just need to step up and pay more in rates.
91	William Roberts	Can we afford 5 x Chief Exec salary? Auckland does fine with a unitary council - amalgamate!
96	Madison Pullen	The cost of living is hitting familys, with the price increases in food, petrol, insurances we are unable to buy warm clothing because we need to make the choice between feeding our children or clothing them. With rates increases this will hit us even more and we will need reevaluate petrol to get our children to school.
116	E deB00rder	The Regional Council needs to stick to its proper maintenance role.... Main priority of >>>>>>> River water control / storage for drought, coastal water /flood control. Forestry waste. Efficient management of back office & staff Put on the back burner / Walk away from.....(Until the main priorities are under control) The effects that people and animals have on freshwater, land, air and coastal water, as well as biodiversity, regional parks, emergency management, environmental education and regional transport. (The primary remedial actions of the back-burner issues are adequately covered by central govt. legislation, industry & district communities)
125	Robert McLean	Kia ora to whom this may concern, Businesses, and now our New Government are making great inroads into cost cutting ... in many departments. My question is to the CEO and his financial Team ...? Where is this very large HBRC making similar cost cutting ...? If no? Then why Not? Sincerely

129	Josephine Moran	AMALGAMATE. We don't need three councils in Hawkes Bay. As a pensioner i cannot afford the additional rates and will need to ask for some form of remission. People on fixed incomes are disadvantaged																																								
134	Matthew Harman	The proposed burden on ratepayers is unsustainable and unreasonable. More experienced cost managers are needed to reset the cost base of the organisation. I see very little in the documentation to suggest there's been any deep thinking around how to fund new costs by aggressively cutting the existing cost base for the council. The proposed 'tough choices' are tinkering at the edges and frankly an embarrassment given the level of organisation reset that appears to be required, based on the proposed increases.																																								
143	Scott Purser	Napier and Hastings should have joint rates and be run by one council, itd be more work needing a slightly larger council but would be less overall councillors. Recycling bins should be wheelie bins like most other regions, not open topped like they are so whenever its windy it all blows all over the streets																																								
153	Central Hawke's Bay District Council	<p>As we continue this work, we are overtly aware of the overall impact our proposed Three Year Plan, as well as that of Hawke's Bay Regional Council and other material cost impacts, are having on our community in Central Hawke's Bay.</p> <p>Like many communities, ours is already facing an unprecedented increase in rates for the next three financial years. This will only be compounded by the changes in Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Revenue and Financing Policy.</p> <p>Below are two examples of where Central Hawkes Bay District Ratepayers are already facing significant increases from our own Council, but the shift from Hawke's Bay Regional Council from land value to capital value is exacerbating the increases.</p> <table><tr><th>Urban, Waipawa</th><th>2023/24</th><th>2024/25</th><th>Change \$</th><th>Change %</th></tr><tr><td>CHBDC Rates</td><td>3,913.48</td><td>4,719.11</td><td>805.63</td><td>20.6%</td></tr><tr><td>HBRC Rates</td><td>237.70</td><td>393.60</td><td>155.90</td><td>65.6%</td></tr><tr><td>Total Rates</td><td>4,151.48</td><td>5,112.71</td><td>961.23</td><td>23.2%</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th>Lifestyle, Takapau</th><th>2023/24</th><th>2024/25</th><th>Change \$</th><th>Change %</th></tr><tr><td>CHBDC Rates</td><td>1,997.08</td><td>2,340.39</td><td>343.31</td><td>17.2%</td></tr><tr><td>HBRC Rates</td><td>486.35</td><td>1,219.54</td><td>733.19</td><td>150.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Total Rates</td><td>2,483.43</td><td>3,559.93</td><td>1,076.50</td><td>43.3%</td></tr></table>	Urban, Waipawa	2023/24	2024/25	Change \$	Change %	CHBDC Rates	3,913.48	4,719.11	805.63	20.6%	HBRC Rates	237.70	393.60	155.90	65.6%	Total Rates	4,151.48	5,112.71	961.23	23.2%	Lifestyle, Takapau	2023/24	2024/25	Change \$	Change %	CHBDC Rates	1,997.08	2,340.39	343.31	17.2%	HBRC Rates	486.35	1,219.54	733.19	150.8%	Total Rates	2,483.43	3,559.93	1,076.50	43.3%
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168	Chris Green	You need to stop funding for public transport and look at staffing levels within the HBRC																																								
174	John Reilly	Need to cut spending on non essentials. Cyclone related expenses were a 1 in 100 year event. The cost should be spread over 10-15 years																																								
189	Margaret Symons	Don't spend money on playgrounds. That is ridiculous when people will just wreck them and take the shade sales etc. Instead spend the money on fixing our roads and access. Some are unaware of what rural people are struggling with after the floods. It must be nice to have one's lifestyle minimally impacted. Others of us are still in caravans and sheds. Daily we have to manage what we have, the hoses, limited electricity options, the silt and mess on our properties. There needs to be 'No shooting' signs put up where there are cycle tracks. It's unsafe for walkers and cyclists to have to run from this.																																								
204	Brian Webby	councils and councils time to reform the lot																																								
208	Roger Wakefield	Where do I start. I have absolutely no faith in the HBRC. You have proved to be incompetent on a huge scale. Stick to your knitting dredge rivers, build infrastructure including dams and get your house in order. I would not bother to come and talk to you as you never listen. Your public consultation is a tick box exercise to make you feel good and is of zero value. I agree that you have to pay rates and we have a cyclone to pay for and																																								

		that where the concentration needs to be. So your answer is to cut funding tourism. Dumb. Toss out subsidised buses, cut half your staff and run an organisation that works for the region. You people make Robin Hood like a choir boy. Part of our problem has been that we have far too many so called experts who think they know it all. Listen to the people who live and work in the area not a back room bureaucrat. Investments have been poorly managed and that also results in a loss of revenue.
220	Andrew Pattullo	<p>I am growing quite concerned about the proposed rate increases for the next rating year; I assume this rate increase will be calculated after the switch from land value to capital value is made, so someone living in town who owns their own home is in for a significant increase, well beyond the 19% floated in the media. Whilst there has been commentary around the rates increase and the switch in rating systems as separate news items, I have not seen a lot of commentary around what the final impact will be for rate payers once those 2 factors are combined. Is this correct? I urge the HBRC to live within its means; as we all must do. I would therefore ask the council to cease subsidy for the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All park maintenance including Te Mata Peak • Any new cycle ways • All subsidy / loan arrangement for new electric generating solar systems and new efficient water heating systems • All funding of HB Tourism • All funding of public transport including the minibus collection service <p>I totally appreciate that the council has incurred significant cost during the cyclone Gabrielle and must now proceed to make our region more resilient for when the next flood comes, as we all know it will. On a personal level, I work for a business that is a supplier to the agricultural industry, and we are simply not achieving our sales and margins that we normally achieve due to the downturn in the farming sector; as a consequence, we are looking at making provisions to maintain a sustainable business. Basically we will be cutting all costs to the bone, and if we can do it to live within our means, why can't the HBRC? Consequently I would consider myself lucky if I get a 2% pay increase this year....so rate increases of the magnitude that you are proposing clearly suggests that I need make allowances elsewhere to pay rates!! The level of rate increases has been over and above my salary increase for several years now, and at some point local Governments across all of NZ will need to accept that a whole section of rate payers will struggle to pay their rates; I have to ask, is that fair? But rate increases of this magnitude are also hurting the wider economy more than just individual rate payers; the non tradeable portion of inflation that is not responding to interest rate increases are, as I understand it, rates and insurance. In a nutshell, these unsustainable rate increases are also keeping our mortgages higher for longer. Can I suggest that the HBRC set itself a rate increase of 10% for this year and then work from that point to make all of your costs fit into that new number; it is what I am doing on a personal level and what my employer will be doing for the business that I work in.</p>
221	Karen Howie	<p>we feel this is so unfair this huge rate increase on our homes we really don't own them outright as the council may as well own our home with the amount of rate increases we are supposed to pay the district plus regional rates what's next water rates. WE ARE PENSIONERS WHERE DO U THINK WE CAN COME UP WITH ALL THIS EXTRA MONEY FROM INSURANCE GOES UP EVERY YEAR AS WELL SO HELLO OK WE KNOW THEIR BEEN A CYCLONE AND ALOT OF PEOPLE SUFFERING THROUGH IT BUT WE WOULD LIKE OUR SAY AS TO SUCH A BIG NCREASE WE MAY AS WELL SELL UP OUR HOME WHICH WE LOVE AND GO INTO A HOME AND LET THEM PAY THE RATES</p>

259	Kayla Knibb	Poor. Rich get richer. Not even looking after the people that live here. Spread out the cyclone costs over 10 years. An increase in rates is expected but you also need to come to the party to help everybody get through.
260	Benjamin VAN'T SANT	The rates should not be calculated on property value. PV fluctuates so much, and has gone up disproportionately in the last 5 years. We also feel very strongly that passing on the increase in insurance costs to rate payers is wrong. Other costs need to be cut, specifically in environmental programmers and staff/contractors working on environmental projects for the council. Every household is facing a similar increase in insurance premiums and rate payers have to make cuts in other areas order to pay insurance and so should the council. On a positive note, we are pleased to see improvements to public transport being proposed. Unsure what they are exactly, it would be good to get more information on this please.
263	Matt Landkroon	We also feel very strongly that passing on the increase in insurance costs to rate payers is wrong. Other costs need to be cut, specifically in environmental programmers and staff/contractors working on environmental projects for the council. Every household is facing a similar increase in insurance premiums and rate payers have to make cuts in other areas order to pay insurance and so should the council.
265	Madeleine Landkroon	We also feel very strongly that passing on the increase in insurance costs to rate payers is wrong. Other costs need to be cut, specifically in environmental programmers and staff/contractors working on environmental projects for the council. Every household is facing a similar increase in insurance premiums and rate payers have to make cuts in other areas order to pay insurance and so should the council.
268	John Paton	Stop wasting tax payers money with inefficient work ethic, adopt the can do attitude and encourage people to work properly. I feel any time bureaucratic influence is applied it all becomes ineffective and slow and wasteful. Lead effectively please. Make good use of funds and then those things that have to be slowed will be back on again faster
269	Lester Jarrett	Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my families views on regional rates .over the years this contribution has been increasing considerably and is a burden on rate payers families per year .just another drop of blood from our already dried up rock .but someone has to pay .and yes we require alot of projects fixed in and around our district . I still feel we pay way too much taxes in our country for what we actually all get from it .I have absolutely no confidence in the govt of the day .more needs to be done helping our cities and towns . Regional rates has gone up!! Local rates have gone up !! All insurances have gone up !! And yet you propose massive burdens on us all with your 3 yearly planned prospectus .has any thoughts gone into Decreasing the burden from families or Do you send the debt collectors around when we all can't afford your increases How about a massive restructure within all of your departments .starting at the top office jobs right down to the hands on jobs .this also needs to be done in local council departments also . The way things are going with all these price hikes from councils and insurances are starting to change my view on owning a home .possibly selling up and buying another motorhome . I don't really want to do that .but I need options to be open as the increases you all are putting forward are putting alot of pressure on families incomes . So with this I ask you to really look hard at what cost cutting measures you will be doing to offset your regional rates increases .
273	Chris Jones	you guys need to have a good look at yourselves and see how many people you have employed in the last two or three years and realise now that rates are quite high and putting them up 18% adds a lot of money , i am struggling to pay them now and i am free hold
278	Michael Koch	I don't believe you would listen to the ratepayers anyway. Maybe reduce useless public servants and consultants and invest more into people who do the work.
288	Julia Butler	All measures to reduce the huge hikes in payments must be sought. Wages have not increased in line with the proposed rate increases. This will impact homeowners on fixed and limited incomes. Business responsible for destroying or damaging infrastructure should be targeted for payment towards repairs e.g., any forestry activities that led to the slash smashing bridges as clearly seen in footage from the cyclones. Businesses damaging roads through truck movements should be charged for repairing the road surfaces; an example of this is the corner of Toop St. in Havelock North. This has been chewed up by trucks reversing on this section of the road in connection to deliveries to the Greenstone housing project site nearby.
292	Martyn Gyde	My HBRC rates have a proposed increase from \$1423.68 to \$2493.38: about \$20/week. As I am solely reliant on a fixed income, superannuation. My recent \$23/week, increase is almost swallowed up by this outrageous rate increase. Are you guys deaf or something, stop putting up the rates, cut your cloth accordingly. Slash CEOs salary, slash staff numbers, sell off the obscene number of branded vehicles. Save money. Charge all buildings

		rates including church's, Māori land and Marae hospitals, schools etc. I am in a similar position with HDC rates. A 75.14% INCREASE IS ABSOLUTELY OVER THE TOP. Yes I am aware of the rates rebate scheme, and have claimed this ever since I retired.
299	Carmen Testa	I just wanted to say that our rates went up rapidly in these last years. They are too high already. I live in a 80m sq unit, one of four on our plot 807. It is over \$700 quarterly plus the Regional rates. It is too much for a person with cancer who lives alone on a minimum wage.
311	Damon Harvey	You need to look at your investments and how they can best provide rate relief in these difficult times. You can't always lump on the rate payer. It will be interesting to see the reasons many years ago to establishing an investment portfolio and I'm pretty sure one reason would have been to use into the future should it be needed.
315	Mark Scofield	Stop banks are critical infrastructure and should have the highest priority. Loss making activities should be halted. Staff numbers should be capped and reduced where possible to pre-covid levels. Core services should be maintained All rate payors incomes are under pressure. Adjust your budget to your income like households have to.
316	Sharon Sutton	Dear Sir/Madam In reply to your proposed rates increases I would like to submit the following: 2014 District Council Rates for our address \$1939.88 2014 Regional Council Rates for our address \$205.73 Compared to a mere decade later: 2024 District Council Rates \$3619.14 2024 Regional Council Rates \$576.57 That is an increase of 86.5% for District Council rates and a whopping 180% for Regional Council rates over those ten years - with very little discernible increase in any benefit to ratepayers. With the proposed increase in rates our family will be paying over \$100 every single week in District and Regional rates. That amount is obscene and is unsustainable for any Hawke's Bay family long term. Councils need to address their spending and/or find other forms of government funding, and stop pushing their already burdened families to financial breaking point. The once proud dream of owning a home has become a nightmare.
325	Wendy Rapaea	Stop putting rates up. Be more accountable to the money being paid out, stop wasting money
329	K Painter	Proposed rates hikes are exorbitant. Internal cuts should be looked at, as, well as, wasteful spending before passing off council debt to the ratepayers.
330	Bevan Jenkins	Hawke's Bay has a lot of recovery to pay for, but it has also been growing and improving in the last few years. I support continuing the programmes to improve our region, rather than defer for a few years. I'm happy to pay more rates to help continue the good work.
337	Dianne Cameron	Why are rates increasing faster than incomes
348	Paul	Have read your proposal and bitterly disappointed in what the increases are for us here in Waipukurau! Not only are we proposed to receive the 2nd highest increase (only second to Havelock North by 2.4%!) But we have the 2nd lowest CV (only Wairoa is lower by \$29,000, yet their increase is 12.1% less and they were hit harder than us by Cyclone Gabrielle). In addition we do not receive any public transport services here, so the majority of us that commute to either Napier or Hastings have to drive and, somehow, we have the highest petrol rates in Waipukurau too! Roading infrastructure in Waipawa is very poor, recent changes have meant roads have been left in a shocking state and the crews making changes do not appear to have been made accountable to ensure roads are left in a good state for us commuters (potential damage to our vehicles is a high risk) So based on your plans you seem to be favouring certain areas and using CHB areas to recoup money that you are "saving" elsewhere! Seems very biased to me and none of the Regional Councillors live here either so no surprise CHB seems easy pickings for increases. I await a response but won't hold my breath as general consensus is that you will implement these increases regardless of public opinion!
372	Don & Helen Hastings	I have attached my submission to Napier City Council regarding our proposed increase in rates of 127%. You are proposing a rates increase of 220% for my property. Both these rates increases are inequitable and outrageous. In additions to the above, I want to highlight to you is that we manage and maintain our own storm water in detention dams at our own costs. In addition to that we do our own pest control on the 37 hectares that is part of our subdivision and we do our own plantings with natives. These reserves and walk ways are accessible to the public. We take responsibility for an

		area a lot greater than our own sections in this subdivision, yet for some reason your 6% average rate increase pales in significance to our eye watering 220% increase in your rates. We would encourage you to consider a more equitable and fair distribution of rates increases.
374	Simon Beale	The forestry industry gets off lightly with their rate increases. They are part of the major incidents effecting regions, e.g. Slash and Destroying the roads. I think the rate increases are too high, a less than 10% rise is acceptable. The HBRC needs to dip into the ratepayers money invested from the sale of the port shares, and use the money for the extra costs, not burden the ratepayers with borrowed money, while an investment team are mucking around with the rate payers money, it does not belong to the HBRC. Again, use the money for the extra costs from the port sales investments, not burden the ratepayers with borrowed money, while an investment team are mucking around with the rate payers money, it does not belong to the HBRC!
383	Wayne and Janet Smith	Considering the current financial downturn, including the after effects of the cyclone, the rate increases are unacceptably high. HBRC should make more cuts to expenditure than are being proposed.
480	George Roberts	Rates cannot go up by the amount proposed as we will see a serious decrease in people's wellness. Remove the aquarium, do not upgrade the library and postpone new council buildings. How much will this save the rate payers?
529	Darren Cooper	Your rating process change is undemocratic. You have lied about the impacts on households. Reducing farm rates is good for farmers but they use most of the services offered. Households with massive increases even upto 200 percent is nothing other than utter BS. You need to do better. Listen to your rate payers. Get back to basics. Strip out the social expenditure and do what the council was set up to do. Manage the environment and impacts.
531	Jeff & Jane Gray	Our submission is simply for the HBRC to follow the lead from Wayne Brown (Auckland Mayor) and start cutting waste instead of cutting things like support for Te Mata peak and HB tourism etc. Approximately 100 of the 300 staff at HBRC won't be employed there next year but sadly not through better productivity or improved efficiency, more so disillusionment.
535	George Spiers	Cut back
542	Scott Bentley	The proposals are a great way to make living more unaffordable and drive people out of the region
574	Greg Reynolds	<p>Comments on Proposed Rates Increase</p> <p>Referring to the table below (copied from your web site). We purchased the land in approx. 2017 when the HBRC rates were \$300. You have proposed them to be over \$4000 in 2024/2025 so you can see why we have written a submission. Your rates used to be a small fraction of the HDC rates, now they are going to be a third. Are you really doing that much more work?</p> <p>In the first three years when the valuation was stable our rates doubled. In the second three years when the valuation was mostly stable our rates more than doubled. Now you are proposing to more than double them again in one year! In 2020/2021 you took out a loan to keep the rates increase at 0%, not so for us (perhaps due to LV increase) so I can only imagine the loan was spent on other properties rates subsidy – we received no benefit from this loan of yours but we appear to be expected to help repay it for you. In the year after our rates increased 57% with no increase in LV, so much for holding the rates increase at 0%.</p> <p>Your correspondence on the rates increases led us to believe we were in for a 25% increase, partly due to the new valuation and partly due to your move from calculating rates on LV to calculating them on CV. We put in a submission in this, stating our objections along with about 90% of the other submissions. These were over ruled, one of your councillors even had the temerity to state “we have to consider the views of those that did not put in a submission”. Crikey, you do understand democracy don't you? Perhaps we should count the votes of those that don't vote.</p> <p>Notes</p> <p>1 Our LV and CV was grossly overexaggerated so we put in a submission to have it redone, the new figures are shown for 2024 and 2025.</p> <p>2 A credit was issued for \$481.54 which I have shown here.</p>

		<p>3 Your valuation figures in the rates calculator are correct, though you have used the wrong figures for the previous year, so our rates increase is not \$2017, which is bad enough, it is in fact \$2500 which represents a 159% increase on the previous year. Just what are you smoking if you think that is acceptable.</p> <p>Can you confirm what rates increases you are proposing for our property in the remaining years of the three-year plan? I dread to ask, but we need a business plan just like you do.</p> <p>The Cyclone</p> <p>We were mildly affected by the cyclone, approx. 20 trees down, damaged drive way and fences and some flooded vine netting in storage. We have received no cyclone support, I asked if there was somewhere to dump the damage netting and was told by your council to contact our insurance company. We have spent approx. \$50K of our own money to date on the cleanup and are still working on it. At least we are not digging our house out of silt and we do not begrudge these families getting all the support you can give them.</p> <p>I have checked the rates calculator for our neighbours and they also seem to be getting gouged by your proposed increases. Like us they were mainly unaffected by the cyclone and have just simply handled it as we have - as business as usual. I note you are proposing a rates decrease for some rural areas, really, these are the areas that were hammered by the cyclone and they get a decrease in rates. What happened to users pays? Rates are determined by the benefit the rate payer receives from the services you provide. We get less HBRC support than those in rural areas yet are getting the worst of the increases. It looks to me like you are targeting the increases in our area to pay for the decreases in other areas. So I will be asking for an independent review from the Minister of Local Government to check that everything is above board.</p> <p>We have poured of life savings into this property, building accommodation villas (for some income in our retirement) a new primary and secondary house and getting the property back into a workable unit. As such the LV and CV have risen and as such we are paying more rates which is par for the course. One of the few benefits we receive from the HBRC rates is your contribution to regional tourism. Yet this is one of the services you are proposing to cut. What a catastrophically bad decision. We host visitors on our property, they eat out, they shop, they hire bikes, they visit vineyards. All their spending is in the local economy, we should be encouraging this not sloping shoulders and saying "the sector should have the momentum to sustain strong visitor numbers". Who the heck gave you this claptrap, momentum needs a push to keep it going, remove the push and it slows down and eventually stops. What brilliant vision you are showing. We are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, people will be choosing very carefully where they holiday, if at all. Businesses like ours need your support in attracting these visitors but your plans will put a black hole over the bay.</p> <p>Part 2: These averages certainly don't work for our property. The rates calculator only estimates the rates for the first year of the three-year plan.</p> <p>If you ar To summarise</p> <p>I find your proposed rates increase indigestible and will not be paying it until there has been an independent review of your rates calculations across the region. The terms user pays and equity seem to be missing. Do you really expect us to digest these figures...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A rates increase of 159% in one year • A rates increase of 1265% in 7 years • Rates increase for last 2 years of the plan - unknown <p>The unknowns in the plan imply that a lot could change and that your plans and budgets are in the guesstimate territory.</p> <p>e hitting us with a 159% increase in the first year just what are you proposing for the other two years.</p>
579	Penny Reynolds	<p>Firstly, I support all council proposals to reduce its spending on the items listed in your three year plan. There are very few HB businesses and households that are not having to reduce their spending and/or rearrange their financial affairs in order to survive right now. The HBRC appears to be operating in a vacuum where it is oblivious to the difficult challenges facing the community they serve. The HBRC itself has exploded in recent years with a large increase in staff employed. Yet last year, it was found wanting on all counts during Cyclone Gabrielle. It is time the council returned to the basic fundamentals of managing our resources and Infrastructure only. Instead of treating its rate payers like children, why not</p>

		leave some responsibility with the community and let them be accountable for the choices they make. The energy and expenses going into HR and Health and Safety for example has drowned out any ability to get anything done in a timely and cost efficient manner. This is an unsustainable approach for the district and endlessly expecting the rate payers to fund a swollen local bureaucracy has to stop. I would like to see the HBRC revisit their plans and identify all the fundamentally essential items or services required for the efficient operation of our districts resources and infrastructure. Anything that is not essential should be treated separately and presented to the rate payers for approval before any expense is undertaken. There are huge projects of work ahead costing an enormous amount of money. Has the council the required business skills and experience to complete this work efficiently and to a high standard that will last for generations to come? How will it manage the costs of these projects to ensure they are completed on budget ? Many rate payers do not have the confidence that the HBRC has these skills and therefore their hard earned income that is spent on ever increasing rate demands hurts badly. Thank you Penny Reynolds																																																							
592	Miriam Jardine	Consider 2024/2025 regioa rates lower in times when low & middle income learners are already struggling & given food bank increases . Basic needs for family first & avoid people loosing their home s given current mortgage lending rates etc																																																							
626	Shane Overend	There needs to be cost cut at council no more lunches employees cuts and any other cuts to reduce costs																																																							
647	Andrew Pearce, Kaiangaroa Residents Association	<p>SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED RATES INCREASES FOR 2024-25</p> <p>As residents of Kaiangaroa Place, Bay View, we accept that rates increases are needed to generate sufficient revenue to deal with the range of issues that are raised in the Draft Three-Year Plan.</p> <p>Our individual and collective concern is about the extreme, highly differential, grossly inequitable rates increases proposed for our properties, which we believe are out of all proportion to the increases proposed elsewhere in Hawkes Bay. These increases, when combined with proposed increases of \$3-4,000 per property in Napier City Council rates, will likely be financially unsustainable for some residents.</p> <p>We make a specific proposal about how our concerns might be remedied within the context of broadly maintaining the revenue for Hawkes Bay Regional Council to achieve its proposed Three-Year plan.</p> <p>KEY ISSUES REGARDING THE PROPOSED RATES INCREASES</p> <p>The proposed 2024-25 rates increases of 201% for 32 Kaiangaroa Place (used as a specific example in this submission and bolded in Table 1), and an average increase of 194% for properties 18-36 Kaiangaroa Place, are shown in Table 1 below, together with comparisons to the rates increases set out on page 42 of the draft 3-year Plan.</p> <p>Table 1 Proposed rates changes for 202/25 18 to 36 Kaiangaroa Place</p> <table><tr><th></th><th>2023/24 Rates</th><th>\$ Increase and</th><th>2024/25 Rates</th><th>Percentage increase</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>\$/week</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>\$481</td><td>\$989</td><td>\$1,470</td><td>206%</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>\$19.02/week</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>\$358</td><td>\$694</td><td>\$1,052</td><td>194%</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>\$13.34/week</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>22</td><td>\$405</td><td>\$679</td><td>\$1,084</td><td>168%</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>\$13.05/week</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>\$352</td><td>\$639</td><td>\$992</td><td>182%</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>\$12.30/week</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>\$373</td><td>\$715</td><td>\$1,088</td><td>192%</td></tr></table>		2023/24 Rates	\$ Increase and	2024/25 Rates	Percentage increase			\$/week			18	\$481	\$989	\$1,470	206%			\$19.02/week			20	\$358	\$694	\$1,052	194%			\$13.34/week			22	\$405	\$679	\$1,084	168%			\$13.05/week			24	\$352	\$639	\$992	182%			\$12.30/week			26	\$373	\$715	\$1,088	192%
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		\$13.76/week		
28	\$368	\$630	\$998	171%
		\$12.12/week		
30	\$391	\$866	\$1,257	221%
		\$16.65/week		
32	\$365	\$734	\$1,099	201%
		\$14.11/week		
32A	\$327	\$690	\$1,017	211%
		\$13.69/week		
34	\$423	\$886	\$1,309	209%
		\$17.04/week		
36	\$429	\$769	\$1,192	179%
		\$14.79/week		
Kaiangaroa Place Average	\$388	\$754 \$14.53/week	\$1,027	194%
Range of Residential examples in Plan		\$0.51/week to \$2.87/week		9.9% to 24.4%
Average of page 42 Residential examples in Plan	\$472	\$1.69/week	\$560 (cf. \$587 stated on page 6)	18.6%
Ratio Kaiangaroa average to Plan average		8.6 X Plan average	1.83 x Plan average	10.4 X Plan average

These proposed increases for our properties, individually and collectively, are unjustifiably large, extremely disproportionate and grossly inequitable in the light of:

- an average proposed increase of 194% that is 9.9 times the overall average of 19.6% (page 6);
- an average proposed increase of 194% that is 10.4 times the average increase of 18.6% for the eight residential examples (page 42);
- an average weekly increase of \$14.53, that is 8.6 times the average weekly increase of \$1.69 for the 8 residential examples (page 42);
- commercial rates (page 43) increasing by 3.6% to 28.4%, averaging 11.5% increase – our increase is 16.9 times greater;
- rural rates (page 43) ranging from a decrease of 7.3 % to an increase of 19.4%, averaging a 2.2% increase – our increase is 88 times greater, and,
- industrial rates decreasing by 6.2% (page 43).

There can be no justification for 9-fold to 10-fold differential in rates increases such as these among residential property owners, nor for 17-fold to 88-fold differences between different property classes, in different parts of Hawkes Bay, especially when some property classes have proposed decreases in rates.

Hawkes Bay Regional Council should not “wash its hands” of these inequities by taking a position that these differences are simply an outcome of the recent large increase in land and capital values for our properties, and a change to capital value as the rating base. This is especially true for our

rural residential properties, where the increased value can not be monetised either by productive activities, or by the addition of another rentable dwelling or by subdivision, both of which are prevented by Napier City Council District Plan rules.

We are also concerned that the 10-fold ratio of rates increases at our properties compared to the average rates increases may also apply in 2025-26 and 2026-27. If that were to be the case, then we would suffer another 180% rates increase in 2025-26, and another 90% increase in 2026-27. For 32 Kaiangaroa Place, as an example, that would increase the proposed rates of \$1,099 (1.87 times the residential average of \$587 shown on page 6) in 2024-25 to \$1,989 in 2025-26, and then to \$3,780 in 2026-27, whereas the residential average will increase to \$693 and then to \$756.

Even if the forecast increases shown on pages 3 and 6 apply, average rates for 32 Kaiangaroa Place will be \$1,099 (3 x 2023-24) in 2024-25, then \$1,298 (3.6 x 2023-24) in 2025-26, and \$1,415 (3.9 x 2023-24) in 2026-27.

This is in stark contrast to the average of eight example residential properties on page 42 with 2023-24 average rates of \$472, increasing by 18.6% to \$560 in 2024-25, then by 18.1% to \$661 in 2024-26 (1.4 x 2023-24) and finally by a further 9% to \$720 in 2026-27 (1.53 x 2023-24).

As well as the huge disparity in the increase from 2023-24 to 2024-25, we suffer an ongoing disparity of increases in 2025-26 and 2026-27 relative to 2023-24 that are 2.5 times greater than the typical increases for the eight example residential properties.

REMEDIES PROPOSED

We note, and have supported, the proposed new rates remission policy (pages 32 and 33) "*Significant Impact Remission resulting from changes to the Rating Policy*" which will remit 50% of rates payable, in 2024-25 only, applicable only to "Outliers", such as Napier City and Hastings District Councils.

We submit that our properties and those similarly affected in Esk Hills and Kaimata Heights, and perhaps elsewhere where there have been extreme property value increases are definitely "Outliers" in terms of Significant Impacts on rates, as demonstrated in Table 1 and the paragraphs following Table 1.

We considered submitting that:

- as "Outliers", our properties and those similarly affected should also have 50% of rates payable in 2024-25 remitted (which would make the average rate for our properties \$513.5 for that year);
 - and, to address the ongoing "Outlier" disparity in 2025-26 and 2026-27; that,
 - a new remissions policy limiting rates increases for residential properties to 33% per year be adopted to apply from 2025-26 onwards.

In evaluating the figures for such a combination we found that a 33% limit on rates for all years will provide a slightly higher average rates amount for our properties in 2024-25 (\$516) than a 50% remission (\$513.5). Thus it would be simpler to have a single policy limiting rates increase to 33%/year for all three years.

Accordingly, we submit that another new remission policy limiting annual rates increases for residential properties to no more than 33% per year should be adopted by Council and applied from 2024-25 onwards.

We submit that a limit on annual rates increases could be quite simply provided via a specific additional element of Council's Rates Remissions Policy, which would meet the requirements of S 109 (1) of the Local Government Act 2002, by:

- setting out the Policy Objective in words to the effect of "To mitigate unreasonably large, disproportionate or seriously inequitable rates increases that can not adequately be mitigated by other means available to Council "; and
- the Policy Conditions and Criteria in words to the effect of "That increases in rates payable on any residential property in excess of 33% more than the rates payable in the immediately preceding year, will be remitted so as to limit the increase in rates payable compared to the preceding year to a maximum of 33%".

The effect of such a policy is shown in Table 2

Table 2 – Effect of proposed policy on limiting rate increases to 33%/year

	2023-4		2024-5		2025-6		2026-7

Kaiangaroa Place average	\$388	+33% ->	\$516	+33% ->	\$686	+33% ->	\$913
Average of examples page 42	\$472	+18.6%->	\$560	+18.1% ->	\$661	+9% ->	\$720
Without remission	\$388	+194% ->	\$1,027	+18.1% ->	\$1,298	+9% ->	\$1,415

Under the proposed policy, over the three years of the plan, the average rates for Kaiangaroa Place properties would increase from 82% of the average in 2023-24, to 92% in 2024-25, to 104% in 2025-26 and then to 127% of the average in 2026-27.

Without the proposed remission, over the three years, the average rates for Kaiangaroa Place properties would increase from 82% of average to 183% of average in 2024-25, to 196% of average in 2025-26, and to 197% of average in 2026-27.

It may be that there are procedural issues that may hinder the creation of an additional rates remission policy of the kind we propose above. In that event, we request that "Outlier" properties such as ours, and all other similarly affected properties, receive a 50% remission of rates under the *Significant Impact Remission..... Policy* (pages 32-33) for 2024-25 and 2025-26. Extending this remission for a second year would be justified by the ongoing 2.5 X disparity in rates increases noted earlier. This remission would have an effect of reducing rates similar to our proposed policy, and would allow Council sufficient time to prepare and consult on an ongoing policy that would provide rates remissions for any rate increase greater than 33% between any successive pair of years.

What would be the impact of our proposed remission policy on Council's revenue objectives in the Plan?

The proposed remission policy limiting rates increases to 33%/year would reduce rates by c. \$500/year, in each of the three years, for each of our 11 properties. We estimate that there would be similar reductions for around 60 properties in Esk Hills and 20-30 properties in Kaimata Heights and adjacent areas. That amounts to approximately 100 properties around Bay View, and a total rate-revenue reduction of c. \$50,000 to Council. That would be 0.1% reduction in rates revenue, which could be accommodated by a very minor, revenue-neutral, increase in the rating factor for General Rates.

There may be a similar number of properties in other locations with similar rates increases, in which case the loss of rate revenue to Council could be \$100,000, which would be 0.2% reduction in rates revenue, and could also be accommodated by a minor increase in the rating factor for General Rates. The total number of properties affected in a similar way to ours must be small, otherwise the average rates increase for residential properties, and all properties, would be significantly greater than what is shown on pages 6 and 42.

DECISION-MAKING

We submit that the proposed additional Rates Remission policy to limit annual rates increases to 33% per year, with a compensating, revenue-neutral, very minor or minor increase in the Rating Factor for General Rates is a "reasonably practicable option" for achieving the rates revenue objective of the proposed three-year plan. Accordingly, under S 71 (1) (a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 2002, Council "must" [our emphasis] "assess" this "option in terms of its advantages and disadvantages" relative to other options.

We submit that the proposal we make for a new rates remission policy has the advantage of greatly reducing the gross inequities of the proposed rates increases for our properties and other like them, whereby rate-payers such as ourselves face rates increases that are 8-10 times those faced by other residential rate-payers; 17 times the average rates increases faced by commercial rate-payers; 88 times the average rates increases for rural rate-payers; and where industrial rate-payers are receiving a rates reduction.

We also submit that there are no disadvantages to our proposed policy, as the proposed changes can be made revenue-neutral for Council with a very minor or minor increase in the Rating Factor for General Rates to cover the likely 0.1 to 0.2% reduction in rates revenue, or compensated for by very minor reductions in expenditures.

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

What is driving rates increases?

Noting the quite small increase in General rates required to fund flood protection works for all the Category 2 areas (\$30/year on average compared with the many hundreds of dollars rates increases for our properties), the total increase in rates proposed of 19.6% in 2024-5, a further 18.1% in 2025-6, and a final 9% in 2026-7 seems surprising.

The financial components of the Annual Reports from 2016-7 to 2022-23 (those easily available on the HBRC website), reveal some disturbing trends shown in Table 3 below

Table 3. Growth in rates revenue and personnel costs 2016-17 to 2022-23

	Rates revenue (rounded)	Increase from prior year	Personnel cost (rounded)	Increase from prior year	Personnel cost/Rates revenue
2016-17	\$17,661,000		\$16,330,000		92.5%
2017-18	\$19,475,000	+ 10.3%	\$17,449,000	+ 6.8%	89.6%
2018-19	\$23,186,000	+ 19.1%	\$20,394,000	+ 16.9%	88.0%
2019-20	\$25,154,000	+ 8.5%	\$23,327,000	+ 14.4%	92.7%
2020-21	\$26,178,000	+ 4.1%	\$25,700,000	+ 10.2%	98.2%
2021-22	\$30,789,000	+ 17.6%	\$28,838,00	+ 12.2%	93.7%
2022-23	\$35,071,000	+ 13.8%	\$32,251,000	+ 11.8%	92.0%
2016-17 to 2022-23	Average	+ 98.6% +14.1%/yr		+ 97.5% +13.9%/yr	92.4% on average
2023-24 (estimate)	\$41,000,000 (p 11 of Plan)	+ 16.9%	c.\$36,100,000 (projected)	+ 12%	88%

Table 3 shows what looks like a runaway train of personnel costs and rates increases. Annual increases of 14% can NOT be sustained, even over the period of the current three-year plan.

Personnel costs are a very clear driver of rates increases over the last seven years. It is not surprising that personnel costs are a large fraction of total costs in a service organisation like HBRC. Over the last seven years personnel costs have doubled and so have rates.

For the \$32+ million personnel costs in 2022-23, we estimate head count (staff numbers) as being in the order of 400 (assuming \$80,000 average salary costs). Assuming that there has been a 20% increase in salaries of the last 6 years (3%/year increase compounded), average salary in 2016-17 would be \$65,000. We thus estimate head count in 2016-17 to be in the order of 245. This would suggest that headcount has increased by 64% since 2016-7. We would be very surprised if Council's nature and scope of activities has increased by 64%.

For context and comparison, staff numbers in the core Public Sector rose by 16% over the period from 2017 to 2022. HBRC staff numbers appear to have increased 4 times faster than the core Public Sector! What is the reason for these continuous high increases in personnel and rates at HBRC? Councillors might argue that under the previous two Chairs and the previous CEO there was unconstrained "scope creep", and unsustainable increases in staff numbers. Perhaps that is correct. But the trend in the last two years under the current councillors and Chair is not significantly different – an average of 12% increase in staff costs over those two years.

In Table 4 we show how rates would have increased had they grown at inflation rate over the same 7-year period. (The 4% rate used is the mid-point between the Reserve Bank's compound average growth rate for CPI and that for wages from mid 2016 to mid 2023). The right-hand column shows the cumulative difference (\$39 million) between the actual growth in rates versus if rates had grown at inflation.

Table 4. Counterfactual comparison if rates had grown at inflation rate

	Actual Rates revenue (rounded)	Rates at 4% annual growth (rounded)	Cumulative increment in rates at 4%	Cumulative increment in actual rates	Cumulative difference between Actual and 4% growth in rates
2016-17	\$17,661,000				
2017-18	\$19,475,000	\$18,364,000	\$703,000	\$1,814,000	\$1,111,000
2018-19	\$23,186,000	\$19,102,000	\$2,144,000	\$7,339,000	\$5,195,000
2019-20	\$25,154,000	\$19,866,000	\$4,349,000	\$15,864,000	\$11,515,000
2020-21	\$26,178,000	\$20,661,000	\$7,349,000	\$24,381,000	\$17,032,000
2021-22	\$30,789,000	\$21,487,000	\$11,175,000	\$37,509,000	\$26,334,000
2022-23	\$35,071,000	\$22,347,000	\$15,861,000	\$54,919,000	\$39,058,000
Average 2016-17 to 22-23	14.1%	4.0%			

The difficult question that arises from this table is "What did ratepayers get for this \$39 million extra in rates?", given that Table 3 shows that personnel costs amount to 92.4% of the total rates over the 7-year period.

We submit that the ever-expanding growth in staff numbers and costs is unsustainable and that Council must act strongly over the three-plan period to curb that growth, and in fact to cut staff numbers back.

If central government's fiscal discipline approach was applied to HBRC, i.e. a 6.5% budget cut, there would need to a similar cut in staff numbers and cost. That would be a reduction in head count in the order of 25 with a reduction in personnel costs in the order of \$2 million from the 2023-24 costs (c \$36 million projecting the trend of the previous two years). We suggest that a minimum reduction in head count of 25 needs to be applied in each of the three years, with a target over three years to reduce head count by at least 75, aiming for personnel costs at around \$33 million at the end of the three-year plan. Without such action, personnel costs and rates will continue to increase in a highly unsustainable manner.

Reductions in staff are painful, costly and unfortunate for the people involved. Councillors must grasp this nettle now and command action in this direction by management, or they will have a bigger problem/crisis that is even harder to deal with in future.

If council were to reduce staff by 25 each year at an average employee cost of \$80,000, that would save c. \$2 million in personnel costs, and \$6 million (gross) over three years. Assuming employees have reasonable redundancy provisions of 6 weeks for year 1 plus 2 weeks/year ongoing, and an average service of 3 years (half the duration of the period of growth), on average they would have 12 weeks of severance payment, or around \$20,000 each. The cost of severance pay would be around \$500,000/year; net costs savings would be \$1.5 million/year; and total costs savings over 3 years would be \$4.5 million.

If personnel costs are c \$36 million in 2023-24 (as projected above), the reductions in numbers we propose could take costs back to \$34.5 million in 2024-25, \$33 million in 2025-26, and \$31.5 million in 2026-27, before any inflation in salaries. Adjusting for 3% inflation/year would increase costs to \$34 million in 2025-26, and \$33.5 million in 2026-27.

That seems hard but achievable.

Continuing the trends of the last 7 years of 12% to 14% annual growth in personnel costs is shown in Table 5 compared with the projected rates increases in the 3-year plan, and also with the personnel cost reductions that we propose.

Table 5. Rates revenue increases as per Plan compared with projected personnel costs without staff reductions and with proposed personnel cost reductions

	Rates as per plan increases	Projected personnel costs	Personnel costs as % of rates	Reduced Personnel costs as in text	Potential savings
2023-24	\$41 million	\$36.1 million (+12%)	88%		
2024-25	\$49 million (+19.6%)	\$40.4 to \$41 million (+12 to +14%)	82.5% to 84%	\$34 million	\$6.5 to \$7 million
2025-26	\$58 million (+18.1%)	\$45 to \$46.8 million (+12 to +14%)	77.5% to 81%	\$34.5 million	\$10.5 to \$12.3 million
2026-27	\$63 million (+9%)	\$50.5 to \$53.3 million (+12 to +14%)	80% to 84.6%	\$33.5 million	\$17 to \$20 million

Undoubtedly, it will not be as simple as the comparisons in Table 5 suggest. But even if the savings are only half of the cumulative \$34 to \$39 million that Table 5 suggests are possible, that is equivalent to a very large fraction of the proposed increase in rates revenue over the three-year plan.

Accordingly, we submit that Council must investigate and implement a planned, significant reduction in staff numbers and personnel cost over the three-year plan period, similar to what we have outlined, seeking to reduce and constrain personnel costs to \$33 million/year by 2026-27.

653	Robert Gardiner	You need to drastically reduce your spending and stop the institutional waste of rate payers money. Your proposed rate increases for our property for the next 3 years is over the f--ken top, unbelievable, unrealistic, unsustainable and unaffordable. You have targeted our area with astronomical rate increases (our rates 1st year will see an approximate 135% increase, year 2-3 will also see huge increases) F--ken unbelievable, unrealistic, unsustainable, and unaffordable. Our income is solely NZ Superannuation with increases linked to CPI, how the f--k do you think we are going to pay for these f--ken unbelievable, unrealistic, unsustainable and unaffordable increases. Your model for computing property ratings is clearly wrong and needs someone with common sense to fix this issue. Rates should be fixed so all properties have same percentage increases. Your actions have destroyed our cosy retirement, caused anxiety and endless sleepless nights. Your actions show you are incompetent to do your job. Your legacy is failure to serve your rate payers, if you don't correct these unbelievable, unrealistic, unsustainable and unaffordable WRONGS. I have no trust and confidence left in you. RG
671	Linda Crabtree	Possible option is cap rates at 10% of capital value of property.
681	Emil Driessen	I feel that in this recession and current climate making people pay higher rates of 25% is totally not called for, 10% is suffice over a longer period of time if necessary Also pensioners only 5%. The cost of living is out of control and only going to get harder. I feel areas like sculptures for the town are unnecessary. Putting in islands in the middle of the rd at intersections is obstructive to traffic flow and unnecessary. I feel that a slightly higher rate should have been in place long before the cyclone. Now that the cyclone has happened suddenly residents are being hit with 25% higher rates. This is unfair. Prices have gone up everywhere but now on our rates? Why not reduce recycling to fortnightly. Stop spending money on sculptures and put it to better use on necessary projects. Local road repair, drainage and general maintenance 1st.
696	Peter Williamson	The proposed increase in rates over three years seems tough to accept and especially when on fixed income with any increase being contained to the CPI. I appreciate the options presented and have responded. The CEO needs to stay conscious that the rate of cumulative increase is high and the ratepayers, this one especially, wants to be sure a tight and efficient operation is maintained with cost consciousness and value for ratepayers a constant.
697	Bob Alkema	I do not support the rating increase set out. HBRC should consider using all its levers, such as using its borrowing headroom, to change the direction of the rating increase to ramp up over the period of the LTP and not just lump the impact of the issues in the first three years of the plan. Ratepayers

		have already been hit hard facing similar issues to those facing council, whereas it has more levers and capability to manage these issues. I doubt too that the significant capital programme will be delivered within the proposed timeframe given demands across the country on the contracting resources.
702	Faye Te Nahu	I think the above is not priority. What matters is the people and CHB and regional council just don't seem to see that. With all these increases in everything user pays etc I have no faith in the future and what it means for my whanau, we will not survive if you keep putting rises on everything
706	Helen Pirihi	These rates increases on top of council rates massive increases and insurance increases are just unachievable for the average household. Just where do you think middle to lower income families or those on a fixed income are going to find the extra to pay all these?? Cut your costs...from the very top!!!! Councilor's are out of touch...we are in a cost of living crisis and simply cannot come up with all the extra money you are wanting!
711	William Gray	The HBRC, HDC, WDC, NCC and CHBDC should have been amalgamated when we had the chance. However, I doubt this question will be revisited in the foreseeable future. These Council's MUST work better together to mitigate against doing the same thing and expecting to get a different answer. For example, the Havelock North streams and flood retention dams. Years of inaction and at best piecemeal maintenance meant that in Cyclone Gabrielle some areas of Havelock North did not stand a chance. Even now poorly planned and executed subdivision development around and below the Mangarau Stream in Havelock North is likely to make the current situation worse. Similarly in Napier alongside Te Awa and Awatoto. HBRC and other Council's MUST confirm with Government what legislation changes are needed to allow them to work together to fix what is currently broken, notably in Three Waters. Comments like "We have no power beyond our compliance monitoring function to investigate the operations of another entity" (with respect to the Havelock North Stream) make NO sense. It appears that Auckland Council have lead the way in discussions with Minister Simeon Brown, and you must do the same and quickly.
716	Maurice Field	Cut wasteful spending within council admin. Some residents simply live on national superannuation even owning a nice home
717	Gabriela + Ralf Spindler	Overall the HBRC needs to work smarter and more efficiently. Improving internal processes, streamlining the council's organization and most importantly reviewing spendings and achievements should be the focus. Part of the HBRC LTP is a proposed rates increase of 19.6% year one, 18.1% year two and 9% year three. After looking at the results of the rate calculator, our rate would increase by 121.9% just for year one. Just the change from LV based rate calculation to CV based can't be the main reason for this, as we only have a 3/4 acre section. Why isn't there a cap of maybe 25% or 30% in order to distribute the rate increase more evenly across all rate payers?
730	Don Ryder	I submit that a 19% rate rise is unacceptable in the current financial climate. Whilst accepting that the council finds itself in a very difficult position, in the interests of ratepayers, there are more really tough decisions required. Please reduce all expenditure that is not absolutely essential. Tough decisions but necessary ones!
731	Mark Oldershaw	I am strongly in favour of retaining land value as the basis for rates. As a retiree of modest means living in Havelock North, our proposed 2024/25 rates will increase by 45.6% and based on council's proposed increases for the following years 25/26 and 26/27, assuming the proposed increases of 18.1% and 9.0% (which I don't believe will apply to our residential address given the documented proposed increase for 24/25 of 19.6% will actually be 45.6%) will result in at least an increase of 87.41% on the 23/24 year. This on top of a similar District Council increase. Council should be concentrating on core business and financing cyclone recovery issues over an extended period rather than over 3 or 4 years.
734	Gary & Kaye Pollock	My concern is regarding the unexplained and hugely significant proposed increase in my HBRC Rates for 2024-2025. I am a ratepayer of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and live at [REDACTED] Esk View Road, Eskdale, 4182 in the Esk Hills Subdivision. Firstly, let me say that the facilities and the lifestyle afforded residents of this region are second to none nationally. As a resident of the Esk Hills Residents Society (EHRS), I pay a levy that contributes to the upkeep of reserves and walking tracks and a tennis court in the subdivision that are available to all HBRC ratepayers and visitors to our subdivision. Please find below my submission in respect to the draft Three-Year Plan of the HBRC for the period 2024 – 2027. The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners who have worked hard and saved hard to fulfill their goals of property ownership.

		<p>Looking at our Rates History on the HBRC website the rates paid in 2013/2014 were \$118.66 per annum. The rates in 2013/14 were reasonable and affordable and many residents would have expected only modest increases (perhaps CPI adjusted) to this level of rating and therefore would have factored that in as part of their cash flow requirements for the longer term.</p> <p>However, your proposal to increase our rates from the current level of \$434.28 per annum to \$1,208 per annum is alarming. This is an increase of \$178% in one year!!!</p> <p>This cost increase is unconscionable and inequitable and viewed as an obscene increase by HBRC to residents in our subdivision.</p> <p>Your ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of close to 90%.</p> <p>When I look at many other properties in the HBRC catchment the rate increases are modest and therefore affordable.</p> <p>It appears that you have chosen to penalise a subdivision of some 54 households at Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of the proposed total average HBRC rates increase of 19.6%. Further proposed increases of 18.1% and 9.0% are also unacceptable.</p> <p>The original discussions on rates increases were a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers.</p> <p>Although this would be significant, I think all ratepayers understood the enormity of damage to infrastructure caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and would reluctantly accept a one-off adjustment.</p> <p>A proposal to increase rates up to 180% is disappointing. If the increase had been capped to say 30% per household, it would have seen an increase in the proposed rates for EHRS residents of approximately \$165 per annum.</p> <p>If we look at this simplistically for the maths to illustrate the inequity and by example only:</p> <p>Let's say 50 EHRS households pay an additional \$1,100 p.a (proposed) \$ 55,000</p> <p>If this was capped at say 30% \$ 165 p.a \$ 8,250</p> <p>Additional rates to be recovered from all HBRC rateable households \$ 46,750</p> <p>According to page 7 of your Consultation Document Financial Strategy there are 73,381 rateable households in the HBRC catchment therefore:</p> <p>\$46,750 ÷ 73,381 households would mean an additional \$0.64 per annum per rateable household – I suggest this is not a huge cost impost.</p> <p>Alternatively, HBRC could find a way to save \$46,750 from your projected increase in the rates take.</p> <p>In your Consultation Document, you reference Residential Napier Hill and Residential Taradale on page 42 of the Consultation document as sample increases of 21.3% and 17.1% respectively. What category of Residential is Esk Hills that proposes an average increase of close to 200%.</p> <p>I submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates for my property is an unfair burden on me when all HBRC residents should pay a uniform rate for many of the services and amenities provided by the HBRC.</p> <p>I further submit that the HBRC should cap the maximum rate increase for an individual household to 30% from the rates levied in 2023/24.</p>
752	Alison Ritchie	<p>I support the submission by Dennis Hall of Esk Hills, and have asked him to talk on my behalf. We have been hit by obscene increases by Napier City Council, and now large increases by the Regional Council. These increases seem out of proportion compared with other people and areas. I entreat the Council to spread the financial burden more fairly. A small amount for every rateable household perhaps, instead of a huge amount for a few.</p>
757	Dennis Hall	<p>My wife and I have lived in Hawke's Bay since 1981 when we relocated from the Manawatu. We have always enjoyed living in the Bay. The facilities and the lifestyle afforded residents of this region are second to none nationally.</p> <p>My wife and I are ratepayers of HBRC and have owned land in the Esk Hills Subdivision since 2007. We have resided in the Esk Hills Subdivision at 37 Esk View Road, Eskdale since 2012 upon completion of our build project.</p> <p>You may not be aware but the Esk Hills Rural Residential Subdivision is a 100km/hr zoned suburb with no street marking, no street lighting, no footpaths, no sewerage system, no water supply (which is supplied by HDC and metered), no mail delivery, no courier delivery, no council road sweeper, no council mower mowing our reserves and no public transport links.</p>

On our section we also collect all of our rainwater and stormwater to tanks situated on our property. There is adequate permeable area as NCC dictated that no more than 10% of our total land area could be non-permeable surface.

We also, as residents of the Esk Hills Residents Society, pay levies that contribute to the upkeep of reserves and walking tracks and a tennis court in the subdivision that are available to all HBRC Ratepayers and visitors to our little slice of heaven.

Please find below my submission in respect to the draft Three-Year Plan of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) for the period 2024 – 2027. The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfill their goals in property ownership.

Looking at our Rates History on the HBRC website the rates paid in 2013/2014 were \$150.45 per annum. In subsequent years rates have increased by 7.21%, 7.55%, 2.88%, 18.49%, 44.60%, 15.75%, -5.26%, 20.89%, 17.9% in 2022/23 and 14.33% in 2023/24. The 2022/23 increase of 17.9% and the 2023/24 increase of 14.33% were significant in respect to the previous 9 years escalation (please see spreadsheet below).

Schedule 6 - 2023 Rates Information

2020-2021			2021-2022			2022-2023			2023-2024			2024-2025			2025-2026			2026-2027			2027-2028			2028-2029			2029-2030			2030-2031			2031-2032			2032-2033			2033-2034			2034-2035			2035-2036			2036-2037			2037-2038			2038-2039			2039-2040			2040-2041			2041-2042			2042-2043			2043-2044			2044-2045			2045-2046			2046-2047			2047-2048			2048-2049			2049-2050			2050-2051			2051-2052			2052-2053			2053-2054			2054-2055			2055-2056			2056-2057			2057-2058			2058-2059			2059-2060			2060-2061			2061-2062			2062-2063			2063-2064			2064-2065			2065-2066			2066-2067			2067-2068			2068-2069			2069-2070			2070-2071			2071-2072			2072-2073			2073-2074			2074-2075			2075-2076			2076-2077			2077-2078			2078-2079			2079-2080			2080-2081			2081-2082			2082-2083			2083-2084			2084-2085			2085-2086			2086-2087			2087-2088			2088-2089			2089-2090			2090-2091			2091-2092			2092-2093			2093-2094			2094-2095			2095-2096			2096-2097			2097-2098			2098-2099			2099-2100			2100-2101			2101-2102			2102-2103			2103-2104			2104-2105			2105-2106			2106-2107			2107-2108			2108-2109			2109-2110			2110-2111			2111-2112			2112-2113			2113-2114			2114-2115			2115-2116			2116-2117			2117-2118			2118-2119			2119-2120			2120-2121			2121-2122			2122-2123			2123-2124			2124-2125			2125-2126			2126-2127			2127-2128			2128-2129			2129-2130			2130-2131			2131-2132			2132-2133			2133-2134			2134-2135			2135-2136			2136-2137			2137-2138			2138-2139			2139-2140			2140-2141			2141-2142			2142-2143			2143-2144			2144-2145			2145-2146			2146-2147			2147-2148			2148-2149			2149-2150			2150-2151			2151-2152			2152-2153			2153-2154			2154-2155			2155-2156			2156-2157			2157-2158			2158-2159			2159-2160			2160-2161			2161-2162			2162-2163			2163-2164			2164-2165			2165-2166			2166-2167			2167-2168			2168-2169			2169-2170			2170-2171			2171-2172			2172-2173			2173-2174			2174-2175			2175-2176			2176-2177			2177-2178			2178-2179			2179-2180			2180-2181			2181-2182			2182-2183			2183-2184			2184-2185			2185-2186			2186-2187			2187-2188			2188-2189			2189-2190			2190-2191			2191-2192			2192-2193			2193-2194			2194-2195			2195-2196			2196-2197			2197-2198			2198-2199			2199-2200			2200-2201			2201-2202			2202-2203			2203-2204			2204-2205			2205-2206			2206-2207			2207-2208			2208-2209			2209-2210			2210-2211			2211-2212			2212-2213			2213-2214			2214-2215			2215-2216			2216-2217			2217-2218			2218-2219			2219-2220			2220-2221			2221-2222			2222-2223			2223-2224			2224-2225			2225-2226			2226-2227			2227-2228			2228-2229			2229-2230			2230-2231			2231-2232			2232-2233			2233-2234			2234-2235			2235-2236			2236-2237			2237-2238			2238-2239			2239-2240			2240-2241			2241-2242			2242-2243			2243-2244			2244-2245			2245-2246			2246-2247			2247-2248			2248-2249			2249-2250			2250-2251			2251-2252			2252-2253			2253-2254			2254-2255			2255-2256			2256-2257			2257-2258			2258-2259			2259-2260			2260-2261			2261-2262			2262-2263			2263-2264			2264-2265			2265-2266			2266-2267			2267-2268			2268-2269			2269-2270			2270-2271			2271-2272			2272-2273			2273-2274			2274-2275			2275-2276			2276-2277			2277-2278			2278-2279			2279-2280			2280-2281			2281-2282			2282-2283			2283-2284			2284-2285			2285-2286			2286-2287			2287-2288			2288-2289			2289-2290			2290-2291			2291-2292			2292-2293			2293-2294			2294-2295			2295-2296			2296-2297			2297-2298			2298-2299			2299-2300			2300-2301			2301-2302			2302-2303			2303-2304			2304-2305			2305-2306			2306-2307			2307-2308			2308-2309			2309-2310			2310-2311			2311-2312			2312-2313			2313-2314			2314-2315			2315-2316			2316-2317			2317-2318			2318-2319			2319-2320			2320-2321			2321-2322			2322-2323			2323-2324			2324-2325			2325-2326			2326-2327			2327-2328			2328-2329			2329-2330			2330-2331			2331-2332			2332-2333			2333-2334			2334-2335			2335-2336			2336-2337			2337-2338			2338-2339			2339-2340			2340-2341			2341-2342			2342-2343			2343-2344			2344-2345			2345-2346			2346-2347			2347-2348			2348-2349			2349-2350			2350-2351			2351-2352			2352-2353			2353-2354			2354-2355			2355-2356			2356-2357			2357-2358			2358-2359			2359-2360			2360-2361			2361-2362			2362-2363			2363-2364			2364-2365			2365-2366			2366-2367			2367-2368			2368-2369			2369-2370			2370-2371			2371-2372			2372-2373			2373-2374			2374-2375			2375-2376			2376-2377			2377-2378			2378-2379			2379-2380			2380-2381			2381-2382			2382-2383			2383-2384			2384-2385			2385-2386			2386-2387			2387-2388			2388-2389			2389-2390			2390-2391			2391-2392			2392-2393			2393-2394			2394-2395			2395-2396			2396-2397			2397-2398			2398-2399			2399-2400			2400-2401			2401-2402			2402-2403			2403-2404			2404-2405			2405-2406			2406-2407			2407-2408			2408-2409			2409-2410			2410-2411			2411-2412			2412-2413			2413-2414			2414-2415			2415-2416			2416-2417			2417-2418			2418-2419			2419-2420			2420-2421			2421-2422			2422-2423			2423-2424			2424-2425			2425-2426			2426-2427			2427-2428			2428-2429			2429-2430			2430-2431			2431-2432			2432-2433			2433-2434			2434-2435			2435-2436			2436-243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	<p>Many of these residents are or are near to retirement with limited disposable incomes and what is being proposed will only drive hard-working people out of their homes. This is a form of wealth discrimination – “if they have a nice home in a nice suburb, they can afford it.”</p> <p>We would be most interested in your full disclosure of staff numbers between 2013/14 (the base year) and what is proposed for 2024/25. We would be further interested in the Total Remuneration as a figure and as a percentage of Total Rates Revenue as we are sure this has also climbed significantly for that same period.</p> <p>Your ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of 90% to 150% - unbelievable!!!</p> <p>When we look at many other properties in the HBRC catchment the rate increases are modest and therefore affordable. Rates in some of the more desirable suburbs of Napier and Havelock North with a similar Capital Value to my property have moved by greater than the average as well – we are sure you will be receiving submissions from them as well.</p> <p>The original discussions on increases were a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers.</p> <p>Although this would be significant, we think all ratepayers understood the enormity of damage to infrastructure caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and would reluctantly accept a one-off adjustment.</p> <p>How any fair-minded council could propose an increase of around 200% is mindboggling. If the increase had been capped to say 30% per household, it would have seen an increase in the proposed rates for EHRS residents of about \$165 per annum.</p> <p>We understand that HBRC does not set Land Value or Capital Value – that is the domain of QV. HBRC simply uses those values to set the rates. We also understand that rates are to be considered by HBRC by following the provisions of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.</p> <p>As we read this legislation as non-lawyer's, we believe it provides adequate opportunity within the Act to allow HBRC to apply a differential rating system or indeed to cap rates.</p> <p>If our bush lawyer logic follows the train of the Act then:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Section 3 Purpose. This section requires the HBRC to adhere to S3(a)(i-iii). We emphasise the word flexible in S3(a)(i). 2. Section 13 – General Rate. We point you to S13(2)(b) as this permits HBRC to consider differential or capped rating. 3. Section 14 – Categories. 4. Schedule 2 – We believe this is a good reason why HBRC can apply differential or capped rates to EHRS residents. <p>Please see extracts below:</p>
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Local Government (Rating) Act 2002

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• Warning: Some amendments have not yet been incorporated

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3 Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to—

- (a) promote the purpose of local government set out in the [Local Government Act 2002](#) by—
 - (i) providing local authorities with flexible powers to set, assess, and collect rates to fund local government activities;
 - (ii) ensuring that rates are set in accordance with decisions that are made in a transparent and consultative manner;
 - (iii) providing for processes and information to enable ratepayers to identify and understand their liability for rates; and
- (b) facilitate the administration of rates in a manner that supports the principles set out in the Preamble to [Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993](#).

Section 3 replaced, on 13 April 2021, by [section 4](#) of the [Local Government \(Rating of Whenua Māori\) Amendment Act 2021](#) (2021 No 12).

*What kinds of rates may be set?***13 General rate**

- (1) A local authority may set a general rate for all rateable land within its district.
- (2) A general rate may be set—
 - (a) at a uniform rate in the dollar of rateable value for all rateable land; or
 - (b) at different rates in the dollar of rateable value for different categories of rateable land under [section 14](#).
- (3) For the purposes of this section, the **rateable value** of the land—
 - (a) must be—
 - (i) the annual value of the land; or
 - (ii) the capital value of the land; or
 - (iii) the land value of the land; and
 - (b) must be identified in the local authority's funding impact statement as the value for setting a general rate.

Compare: 1988 No 97 ss 12–15, 33, 43, 48

Section 13(3)(b): amended, on 1 July 2003, by [section 262](#) of the Local Government Act 2002 (2002 No 84).

14 Categories of rateable land for setting general rate differentially

For the purposes of [section 13\(2\)\(b\)](#), categories of rateable land are categories that—

- (a) are identified in the local authority's funding impact statement as categories for setting the general rate differentially; and
- (b) are defined in terms of 1 or more of the matters listed in [Schedule 2](#).

Compare: 1988 No 97 Part 5

Section 14(a): amended, on 1 July 2003, by [section 262](#) of the Local Government Act 2002 (2002 No 84).

Schedule 2

Matters that may be used to define categories of rateable land

m 14, 17

- 1 The use to which the land is put.
- 2 The activities that are permitted, controlled, or discretionary for the area in which the land is situated, and the rules to which the land is subject under an operative district plan or regional plan under the [Resource Management Act 1991](#).
- 3 The activities that are proposed to be permitted, controlled, or discretionary activities, and the proposed rules for the area in which the land is situated under a proposed district plan or proposed regional plan under the [Resource Management Act 1991](#), but only if—
 - (a) no submissions in opposition have been made under [clause 6](#) of Schedule 1 of that Act on those proposed activities or rules, and the time for making submissions has expired, or
 - (b) all submissions in opposition, and any appeals, have been determined, withdrawn, or dismissed.
- 4 The area of land within each rating unit.
- 5 The provision or availability to the land of a service provided by, or on behalf of, the local authority.
- 6 Where the land is situated.
- 7 The annual value of the land.
- 8 The capital value of the land.
- 9 The land value of the land.

Schedule 2 item 2 replaced, on 23 December 2023, by [section 6](#) of the Resource Management (Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning) Regulated Interim Fast-track Consenting) Act 2023 (2023 No 68).

Schedule 2 item 3 replaced, on 23 December 2023, by [section 6](#) of the Resource Management (Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning) Regulated Interim Fast-track Consenting) Act 2023 (2023 No 68).

Accordingly, under S 71 (1) (a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 2002, Council “must” [our emphasis] “assess” this “option in terms of its advantages and disadvantages “relative to other options.

If we look at this simplistically for the maths to illustrate the inequity and by example only:

Let’s say 50 EHRS households pay an additional \$1,100 p.a (proposed) \$ 55,000

If this was capped at say 30% \$ 165 p.a \$ 8,250

Additional rates to be recovered from all HBRC rateable households \$ 46,750

According to page 7 of your Consultation Document Financial Strategy there are 73,381 rateable households in the HBRC catchment therefore:

\$46,750 ÷ 73,381 households would mean an additional \$0.64 per annum per rateable household – not a huge cost impost. Or perhaps HBRC could suck this up and find a way to save \$46,750 from your projected increase in the rates take.

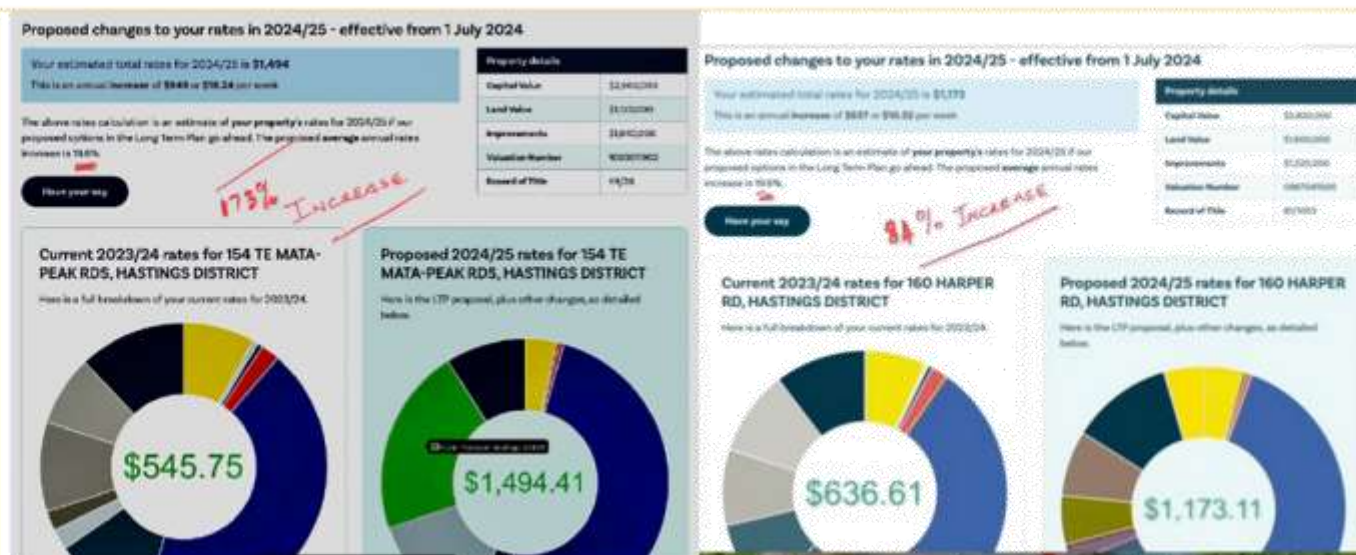
Speaking of your glossy Consultation Document you have done an admirable job of window dressing the impact of rates increases on the Esk Hills subdivision to the general populace of HBRC ratepayers.

You reference Residential Napier Hill and Residential Taradale on page 42 of the Consultation document as sample increase of 21.3% and 17.1% respectively. What category of Residential is Esk Hills in that proposes a change of about 200%.

Perhaps the Councilors’ could all voluntarily match the maximum increase being proposed for their ratepayers – after all it is only for example an additional \$1,100 per year.

Rating for public transport is on a capital value basis and adds \$340 to the rates for each of our properties.

		<p>We submit that this is an inappropriate basis for rating for public transport on Residential property. Public transport should be rated on a unit basis per property (similar to the UAGC) for residential properties, as the occupants of each property are provided (theoretically) with the opportunity to use the same or similar services. It may be appropriate to rate commercial properties on a capital value basis for public transport, on the basis that businesses are beneficiaries of the delivery of customers and employees to their premises by public transport.</p> <p>We submit that the rating basis for public transport in the three-year plan should be changed to a unit charge per residential property.</p> <p>We submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates for my property is an unfair burden on me when all HBRC residents should pay a uniform rate for many of the services and amenities provided by the HBRC.</p> <p>We further submit that the HBRC should cap the maximum rate increase for an individual household to 30% from the rates levied in 2023/24.</p> <p>If the proposed increase was reasonable and equitable then your ratepayers would be more understanding of the need to increase their rates.</p>
765	Val Morrison	<p>Just remember we the rate payers ARE your employers.....without us you have no job!!</p> <p>Te Mata Park is more than a Park it is a place to escape, a place of recreation, and a place to just be. It is also a main part of HB history, geological and cultural history. You must continue to fund it at the current level so everyone can enjoy the space as it is truly a treasure to the area. Maybe CEOs and a few of the higher paid admin staff could take wage cuts? Yeah exactly.....when the shoe is on the other foot eh??? People ARE waking up to the tyranny that is Councils. Well...as said earlier if the rates are going up that much perhaps you could cut back on admin staff and put that money into maintaining Te Mata Peak Park.....sounds simple or better still praps CEOs and the like could take pay cuts?? Not going to happen eh?? People are beginning to wake up to the tyranny that is councils I hope.</p>
787	Glenda Mawson	My rates calculator has shown a 100% rise that is unfair and councilors need to be aware there are more people like me who this is happening to
794	Christine Hay	I can't believe you aren't listening to the public. No one can afford these ludicrous price increases. It's not like we are earning more to pay for it just because you decide to value our properties differently. Come up with options and then ask for feedback
808	Brian Martin	<p>3 Whats Happening to Rates</p> <p>I want to record that (unless the Rates Calculator is inaccurate) the level of proposed rates increases shows anomalies substantively beyond the average increase of 19.6% publicly cited.</p> <p>I believe it is very misleading to ratepayers to not have a note to say what the extremity bounds of the span that the average is based on.</p> <p>Two property holdings I have show increases of 173% and 84%</p>



These large increases reflect the change to the rating base from land value to capital value.

I would have thought the HBRC systems would have run a test to ensure that there were not anomalies vastly beyond the level of the average increase.

We certainly have not enjoyed any disproportionate benefits from our long standing holding in property improvements and which being in an elevated position will never be subject to flood events.

There needs to be a reasonability test undertaken to ensure that the Council maintains a responsible approach to its rating systems.

811 Glenn Marshall Please start running our council and spending ratepayer money by way of treating it look running a house. Currently our house needs a new roof, rewiring, and replumbing over the next five years. Time to ditch the luxury spending on things like a spa pool or sauna aka HB Tourism funding and get back to cutting out cloth to fit and focussing on the basics.

813 Dave Wilson I support the submission by Dennis Hall [#757] and have asked him to speak on my behalf
I am a ratepayer of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and live at █ Esk View Road, Eskdale in the Esk Hills Subdivision.
Firstly, let me say that the facilities and the lifestyle afforded residents of this region are second to none nationally.
As a resident of the Esk Hills Residents Society (EHRS), I pay a levy that contributes to the upkeep of reserves and walking tracks and a tennis court in the subdivision that are available to all HBRC ratepayers and visitors to our subdivision.
Please find below my submission in respect to the draft Three-Year Plan of the HBRC for the period 2024 – 2027.
The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfill their goals in property ownership.

Looking at our Rates History on the HBRC website the rates paid in 2023/2024 were \$415.24 per annum. The rates in 2013/14 were reasonable and affordable and many residents would have expected only modest increases (perhaps CPI adjusted) to this level of rating and therefore would have factored that in as part of their cash flow requirements for the longer term.

And now you propose to increase our rates from the current level of \$415.24 2023/24 annual rates per annum to \$1,256.44 proposed 2024/25 per annum. This is an increase of approximately \$841.00 in one year!!! This proposed increase is considerably greater than the 19.6% quoted on your website.

I find this increase to be ill-considered cost increase is unconscionable, inequitable and unaffordable and viewed as an obscene increase by HBRC to residents in our subdivision.

Many of these residents are or are near to retirement with limited disposable incomes and what is being proposed will only drive hard-working people out of their homes. This is a form of wealth discrimination – “if they have a nice home in a nice suburb, they can afford it.”

I would be most interested in your full disclosure of staff numbers between 2023/2024 and what is proposed for 2024/25. I would be further interested in the Total Remuneration as a figure and as a percentage of Total Rates Revenue as I am sure this has also climbed significantly for that same period.

Your ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of 90% to 150% - unbelievable!!!

When I look at many other properties in the HBRC catchment the rate increases are modest and therefore affordable. Rates in some of the more desirable suburbs of Napier and Havelock North with a similar Capital Value to my property have moved by greater than the average as well – I am sure you will be receiving submissions from them as well.

However, bringing it back to my own situation you have chosen to penalise a subdivision of some 50 households at Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of the proposed total average HBRC rates increase of 19.6%. Further proposed increases of 18.1% and 9.0% are also unacceptable.

The original discussions on increases were a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers.

Although this would be significant, I think all ratepayers understood the enormity of damage to infrastructure caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and would reluctantly accept a one-off adjustment.

How any fair-minded council could propose an increase of around 200% is mindboggling. If the increase had been capped to say 30% per household, it would have seen an increase in the proposed rates for EHRS residents of about \$165 per annum.

If we look at this simplistically for the maths to illustrate the inequity and by example only:

Let's say 50 EHRS households pay an additional \$1,100 p.a	(proposed)	\$ 55,000
If this was capped at say 30%	\$ 165 p.a	\$ 8,250
Additional rates to be recovered from all HBRC rateable households		\$ 46,750

According to page 7 of your Consultation Document Financial Strategy there are 73,381 rateable households in the HBRC catchment therefore:

\$46,750 ÷ 73,381 households would mean an additional \$0.64 per annum per rateable household – not a huge cost impost. Or perhaps HBRC could suck this up and find a way to save \$46,750 from your projected increase in the rates take.

Speaking of your glossy Consultation Document you have done an admirable job of window dressing the impact of rates increases on the Esk Hills subdivision to the general populace of HBRC ratepayers.

You reference Residential Napier Hill and Residential Taradale on page 42 of the Consultation document as sample increase of 21.3% and 17.1% respectively. What category of Residential is Esk Hills in that proposes a change of about 200%.

I submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates for my property is an unfair burden on me when all HBRC residents should pay a uniform rate for many of the services and amenities provided by the HBRC.

818	Richard Nichol	<p>I further submit that the HBRC should cap the maximum rate increase for an individual household to 30% from the rates levied in 2023/24.</p> <p>I am a ratepayer [address details redacted] in the Esk Hills Subdivision. As a resident of the Esk Hills Residents Society (EHRS), I pay a levy that contributes to the upkeep of reserves and walking tracks and a tennis court in the subdivision and are available to all HBRC ratepayers and visitors to our subdivision. Please find below my submission in respect to the draft Three-Year Plan of the HBRC for the period 2024 – 2027.</p> <p>The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value I would consider this a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfil their goals in property ownership.</p> <p>Looking at our Rates History on the HBRC website the rates paid in 2013/2014 were \$114.83 per annum. I considered the rates in 2013/14 were reasonable and affordable and many residents would have expected only modest increases (perhaps CPI adjusted) to this level of rating and therefore would have factored that in as part of their cash flow requirements for the longer term.</p> <p>Now you propose to increase our rates from the current level of \$425.68 per annum to \$1066.00 proposed 2024/25 per annum. This is an increase of \$639.32 difference between 2024/25 proposed annual rates – 150% in one year!!! You have got to be joking? This ill-considered cost increase is unconscionable, inequitable and unaffordable and viewed as an obscene increase by HBRC to the residents in our subdivision. Many of these residents are or are near to retirement with limited disposable incomes, what is being proposed will only drive hard-working people out of their homes. This is a form of wealth discrimination – “if they have a nice home in a nice suburb, they can afford it.”</p> <p>I would be most interested in your full disclosure of staff numbers between 2013/14 (the base year) and what is proposed for 2024/25. I would be further interested in the Total Remuneration as a figure and as a percentage of Total Rates Revenue as I am sure this has also climbed significantly for that same period.</p> <p>Your ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of 90% to 150% - unbelievable!!!</p> <p>When we look at many other properties in the HBRC catchment the rate increases are modest and therefore affordable. Rates in some of the more desirable suburbs of Napier and Havelock North with a similar Capital Value to my property have moved by greater than the average as well – I am sure you will be receiving submissions from them as well. However, bringing it back to my own situation you have chosen to penalise a subdivision of some 50 households at Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of the proposed total average HBRC rates increase of 19.6%. Further proposed increases of 18.1% and 9.0% are also unacceptable.</p> <p>The original discussions on increases were a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers. Although this would be significant, I think all ratepayers understood the enormity of damage to infrastructure caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and would reluctantly accept a one-off adjustment. How any fair-minded council could propose an increase of around 150% is mindboggling. If the increase had been capped to say 30% per household, it would have seen an increase in the proposed rates for EHRS residents of about \$165 per annum.</p> <p>If we look at this simplistically for the maths to illustrate the inequity and by example only: Let's say 50 EHRS households pay an additional \$1,100 p.a (proposed) \$55,000 If this was capped at say 30% \$165 p.a, \$8,250 Additional rates to be recovered from all HBRC rateable households \$46,750 According to page 7 of your Consultation Document Financial Strategy there are 73,381 rateable households in the HBRC catchment therefore: \$46,750 ÷ 73,381 households would mean an additional \$0.64 per annum per rateable household – not a huge cost impost. Or perhaps HBRC could suck this up and find a way to save \$46,750 from your projected increase in the rates take.</p> <p>Speaking of your glossy Consultation Document you have done an admirable job of window dressing the impact of rates increases on the Esk Hills subdivision to the general populace of HBRC ratepayers. You reference Residential Napier Hill and Residential Taradale on page 42 of the Consultation document as sample increase of 21.3% and 17.1% respectively. What category of Residential is Esk Hills in that proposes a change of about 200%.</p> <p>I submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates for my property is an unfair burden on me when all HBRC residents should pay a uniform rate for many of the services and amenities provided by the HBRC. I further submit that the HBRC should cap the maximum rate increase for an individual household to 30% from the rates levied in 2023/24.</p>
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819	Sam McLennan	I have had enough of the increases, you are asking for a 100% increase on my property which is completely unacceptable. I don't have the money to pay for this
820	John Ellingham	I am a ratepayer of the HBRC and live in the Esk Hills subdivision. We are faced with an outrageous increase in our rates from \$421 to \$1211. An increase of 188% brought about by the change in rates formula from land value to capital value. This looks to me like a wealth tax! This is an inequitable burden on us when the proposed average HBRC rates increase is 19.6%. Surely this can be softened by looking at the large increase in general rates and the uniform annual charge. Also a new charge for public transport Napier looks very high when you consider we are a good 4 km's from the nearest bus stop. It appears we are subsidising the users in the city. A cap of perhaps 30% increase at any one time could be put in place, so that this outrageous increase of 188% doesn't happen again. It looks even worse when council are considering more increases in subsequent years. We are a community of retirees and working folk. For retirees on a fixed income who are not in a position to up their income stream, this is a huge burden to the extent that increases such as this could mean they have to move on from homes they have worked hard to own. I urge council to look at a fair and more equitable solution.
822	Helen Pearce	Again I support the submission and all recommendations and suggestions made by Andrew Pearce and have asked him to speak on my behalf.
825	Joanna Donovan	There are so many people that you are going to put into a financial crisis by putting up rates as you intend. Many are on a fixed income and are stretched as it is now, the only area they can save is food. i.e. don't eat. I do not expect a stupid response of saying they can go to MSD for a grant etc, that is just asking for your misery to be passed onto Central Government.
827	Sera	Whatever will be the lowest cost to all ratepayers and that will not disadvantage the property owners in these areas. Please look into obtaining more central government funding to cover costs where possible to alleviate the burden to Hawke's Bay Regional Council ratepayers. This is one of the many reasons why people voted against Council changing from land to capital value. Ratepayers now have to pay twice, and will effectively pay more than that as Hawke's Bay Regional Council charges utilities and local councils who will then pass the cost on to ratepayers to pay for it.
857	Michael Dalzell	The HBRC has expanded its reach in to people's lives far too much over the last 20 years. There seems to be a process of 'finding a need the community wants met' and then expanding the bureaucracy to fill it. Consequently the empire grows and grows. I support a return to a focus on maintaining good river control and to a lesser extent managing a limited range of environmental issues.
862	Sarah Wilson	as stated I am very worried about how high the rates will go up, so many people are struggling with them at the moment including myself, I consider myself very lucky to own my home but its getting to the point where I don't know how much longer I will be able to
863	Anna Lorck	Go back to the drawing board and put up a plan of action and direction. Open the war chest and provide a plan to help fund and prioritise flood protection while reducing debt burden on ratepayers. The council has been completely disingenuous with its approach to forcing through capital value rating switches and hitting people twice as hard. This decision must be reversed. I am told that in making your decision Councillors were provided with examples of properties in Camberley and Flaxmere as part of a report - please release this information and explain how this works, now that increases are based on capital value. Council is making out in its consultation report that it is spending \$250 million on flood protection - it is not - this includes \$203m of Government money. The council has made a chilling confession that it is working blind (with three reviews about to be released) and yet has taken it upon themselves that it knows better when managing our ratepayer investments and increasing rates accordingly to borrow and increase debt. Please release the financial strategy and advice that demonstrates how will this will happen - and the modelling behind it along with the full risk analysis and increased rate burden from borrowing and paying back capital. Undertake an urgent operational review that delivers far better savings and priorities and come back with a real plan that genuinely helps Hawke's Bay and focuses on protecting ratepayers and the industries that grow, work and promote our great region. Prove to Hawke's Bay that the council is up to the challenge, is nimble and capable of delivering.
864	Peter Montaperto	way too much funds are being spent on consultants and not on the work that needs to be done

870	Bruce Mactaggart	The level of rate increase you are proposing is outrageous and particularly when you indicate an 'average' rise of only 19.6% which is incredibly misleading! The increase on my residential property is in fact about 140%! Also, the 'savings' you are indicating making of circa \$4,600,000 aren't a serious endeavor and I suggest that you take a much more aggressive approach to identifying more substantial and meaningful savings. Surely on a budget of the scale you are proposing you could start by identifying a MINIMUM of an overall 5 to 10% reduction in general administrative overheads and operating costs. At least that would indicate genuine endeavour on HBRC's part.
878	Karen Knight	<p>I support the submission of our neighbour Dennis Hall and have asked him to speak on my behalf. I have also attached my written submission and objections to the unjustifiable rates increase specifically targeting Esk Dale Hills residence which range from 100% - 200% - a stark contrast to the "average" increase of 19.6% for other Hawkes Bay residents!</p> <p>I strongly object to the disproportionate rates increase burden proposed for Esk Dale Hills residents. I understand that one of the factors behind the proposed rates increase is an arbitrary change from land value to capital value – a transparent pseudonym for “wealth tax”. The proposed HBRC rates increases for the Esk Dale Hills area average between 100 – 200%, a stark contrast to the “average increase” of 19.6% for the wider region as claimed on the website. This is unjustifiable, each Esk Dale property remains one property housing one family unit so consumes the same services as any other property in any other area in Napier.</p> <p>The increases is unfair, disproportionate and punitive, and also does not represent any semblance of value exchange due to the unique nature and semi-rural location of the Esk Dale Hills. Specifically, the residential land is NOT income generating in the nature of commercial or rural land, and also does NOT receive the benefit of many urban household services and facilities. Esk Dale area rates should in theory REDUCE and be set at a LOWER level to the wider region's average. Specifically in Esk Dale Hills we benefit from no public transport, this new levy alone is proportionally significant. HBRC rates for 39 Esk View Rd are currently \$430pa based on land valued of \$1.2M. It is proposed that our rates increase to \$827pa for a property that does not even yet have a dwelling or residents! As recent retirees, Esk Dale Estate was intended as a long-term affordable location and a safe environment. Our decision to relocate to Napier was based on careful analysis of affordability and sustainability to fit our limited and capped retirement income. If the exorbitant 100% rates increase proceeds we will be unable to afford this additional cost combined with similar NCC increases and will be forced to sell before our new home is even completed! We would have no alternative but to relocate to a lower cost area with fairer and more affordable out-goings. This would be our only option, and the result would be significant financial loss and emotional distress - this is patently unfair and would be a miscarriage of natural justice. Retirement to Napier in the Esk Dale Hills was the dream we have worked and strived for over many decades. Imposition of the HBRC 100% rates increase would be a significant additional burden and destroy everything we've worked towards.</p> <p>I submit that HBRC urgently reconsider the unfair targeting of Esk Dale area and the proposed exorbitant increase which is more than 5 times that of the stated “average” increase! There can be no possible justification for this other than an opportunistic Wealth Tax - ie if you have a nice house in a nice area, you're “rich” and can afford to pay 5 times more than all other residents. I respectfully but STRONGLY urge Council to address this appallingly unfair anomaly with urgency.</p> <p>Ultimately the matter is one of fairness, affordability and sustainability for ALL residents, many of whom (like us) are retirees on limited incomes for whom the additional cost is simply unaffordable. The proposed increase is pernicious, unfair, and indefensible, and will force many (like us) to sell and relocate. If Hawkes Bay is to remain a unified and diverse community, any rates increase MUST be applied evenly across all rate-payers rather than burdening a handful of property owners simply by definition of their demographic or street address, and a perception that we “can afford it” – that is NOT the kiwi-way!</p>
883	Emma Reeves	I used the HBRC rates calculator to get an estimate of what I can expect to pay in 24/25. To my shock it estimated that my rates will increase from about \$550 to just under \$3000/yr. As far as I can tell this is almost entirely attributed to the Makara flood protection scheme. Supposedly my little 5 acres is at high benefit from the scheme. Yet under what must be considered a worst case scenario of Cyclone Gabrielle our property was minimally affected with a few square meters of paddock being the only productive area flooded and no damage at all to buildings or fences. When I input the

		addresses of neighbors I can see noone whose rates are forecast to rise by anything like as much. We will be expected to pay more than nearby properties valued at five times what our property is. Can you please explain why the change is so drastic, why it affects us so much more than properties that are more at risk of flooding and erosion than ours and most importantly how you expect a disabled couple to pay an extra \$2500 per year?
884	Jim and Kay Kyle	To the chair and councillors, Firstly I support the submission by Dennis Hall. We are ratepayers of the Hawkes Bay Regional Council and live at [REDACTED] Heipipi Drive Esk Hills Bay View. As a resident of the Esk Hills Residents society we pay a levy that contributes to the upkeep of reserves and walking tracks and a tennis court in the subdivision that are available to all HBRC ratepayers and visitors to our subdivision. The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land value to Capital value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfill their goals in property ownership. You plan to increase our rates significantly which is so cruel and unaffordable. We are not going to write a long submission as you will hear from other residents in Esk Hills. We are a retired couple and not used writing submissions over matters such as this. It affects our health and well being which is not good. We ask you to please consider what you are doing as we have heard talk that many residents may have to put their houses on the market which they and including ourselves have worked all our lives for. Who is going to purchase these homes with such absorbent rates.
896	Robyn Christiansen	Clearly most of Hawke's Bay is upset with the councils latest rates proposal and the Lack of recognition of previous submissions Perhaps councillors who voted to change the way rates are collected should all resign and be replaced by people who listen to their constituents
897	Byron Mabbett	Anything but looking to combine/amalgamate with other HB councils to form super council is not productive. All work by HBRC should be aimed at that.
900	Jaclyn Hankin	I submit that the increase in HBRC is unfair and inequitable on a significant number of Hawkes Bay rate payers. An HBRC spokesperson was quoted saying the following: "While the scale of change between years is a consideration, so is fairness and equity of who pays for what," "Rates vary according to the distribution of services and how the rates are apportioned. For example, if you benefit from flood control scheme or are within an area covered by passenger transport." You mention fairness and equity as well as distribution of services for who pays for what, can I ask you to then clarify the in excess of \$300 we will subsidise your bus service yet we need to drive 5km to get to the first bus stop, which has a bus that is not a viable option due to the limited frequency and scope of service. I would welcome your figures on the number of people who use the bus from Bay View township and the cost to operate this service. Why am I subsidising a service which one can only assume is not financially viable, as well as propping up all other bus services that aren't even available for my use. I also request clarification on why Hastings District Council property owners that live in closer proximity to the bus stop, do not pay the targeted Public Transport Rate – once again this is against your fairness and equity quote from your spokesperson. The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfil their goals in property ownership. 90% of submitters voiced this concern at the time, but to no avail. Transparency of staff numbers between 2013/14 (the base year) and what is proposed for 2024/25 would be welcomed, further the Total Remuneration as a figure and as a percentage of Total Rates Revenue as I am sure this has also climbed significantly for that same period. Your ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of 90% to 150% - unbelievable!!! Talking specifically of the area in which I reside, you have chosen to penalise a subdivision of some 50 households at Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of the proposed total average HBRC rates increase of 19.6%. Further proposed increases of 18.1% and 9.0% are also unacceptable. The original discussions on increases were a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers. Although this would be significant, I think all ratepayers understood the enormity of damage to infrastructure caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and would reluctantly accept a one-off adjustment. How any fair-minded council could propose an increase of around 200% is mindboggling. Being more specific an increase of \$891 for us, a young family with two young children is astronomical and financially unsustainable on top of an annual increase of \$4,241 in our Napier City Council rates, not to mention insurance premiums and other cost of living pressures. I submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates for my property is an unfair burden on me

		when all HBRC residents should pay a uniform rate for many of the services and amenities provided by the HBRC. I further submit that the HBRC should cap the maximum rate increase for an individual household to 30% from the rates levied in 2023/24.
902	Brendon Taylor	All these proposals on rates are very hard to understand to the general population. As I interpret it, the HBRC is proposing to change the rating across to Capital Valuation, while claiming an average increase of 19.6% when inflation nationally is running at 4.7%. I have done a calculation for my home and the rates are to rise 65%. This is definitely not acceptable. I oppose changing the rating to Capital Valuation. A cap of 25% maximum increase needs to be applied to all household rates. This needs to be actioned by the HBRC immediately. You have to remember here that householders are also being hit with high interest rates, huge insurance premium increases and also local council rates are set to rise 27%. There is only so much disposable income in a household and at a time when the economy is in poor shape, and the cost of living is high you cannot increase rates by 65%. The fact of it is, households just cannot go out and get more income. The risk is default payment of rates.
903	Simone Stranaghan	<p>I support the submission by Dennis Hall and attach my submission below. We are happy for him to speak on our behalf. I am a ratepayer of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and live at ■■■ Heipipi Lane/Drive Eskdale, Napier, in the Esk Hills Subdivision.</p> <p>Firstly, let me say that the facilities and the lifestyle afforded residents of this region are second to none nationally.</p> <p>As a resident of the Esk Hills Residents Society (EHRS), I pay a levy that contributes to the upkeep of reserves and walking tracks and a tennis court in the subdivision that are available to all HBRC ratepayers and visitors to our subdivision.</p> <p>Please find below my submission in respect to the draft Three-Year Plan of the HBRC for the period 2024 – 2027.</p> <p>The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfill their goals in property ownership.</p> <p>Looking at our Rates History on the HBRC website the rates paid in 2018/2019 (after our house was built) were \$204.27 per annum.</p> <p>And now you propose to increase our rates from the current level of \$395.66 per annum to over \$1063 per annum, an increase of 170%.</p> <p>You have got to be joking? This ill-considered cost increase is unconscionable, inequitable and unaffordable and viewed as an obscene increase by HBRC to residents in our subdivision.</p> <p>Many of these residents are or are near to retirement with limited disposable incomes and what is being proposed will only drive hard-working people out of their homes. This is a form of wealth discrimination – "if they have a nice home in a nice suburb, they can afford it."</p> <p>I would be most interested in your full disclosure of staff numbers between 2013/14 (the base year) and what is proposed for 2024/25. I would be further interested in the Total Remuneration as a figure and as a percentage of Total Rates Revenue as I am sure this has also climbed significantly for that same period.</p> <p>Your ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of 90% to 150% - unbelievable!!!</p> <p>When I look at many other properties in the HBRC catchment the rate increases are modest and therefore affordable. Rates in some of the more desirable suburbs of Napier and Havelock North with a similar Capital Value to my property have moved by greater than the average as well – I am sure you will be receiving submissions from them as well.</p> <p>However, bringing it back to my own situation you have chosen to penalise a subdivision of some 50 households at Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of the proposed total average HBRC rates increase of 19.6%. Further proposed increases of 18.1% and 9.0% are also unacceptable.</p> <p>The original discussions on increases were a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers.</p> <p>Although this would be significant, I think all ratepayers understood the enormity of damage to infrastructure caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and would reluctantly accept a one-off adjustment.</p> <p>How any fair-minded council could propose an increase of around 200% is mindboggling. If the increase had been capped to say 30% per household, it would have seen an increase in the proposed rates for EHRS residents of about \$165 per annum.</p>

		<p>If we look at this simplistically for the maths to illustrate the inequity and by example only: Let's say 50 EHRS households pay an additional \$1,100 p.a (proposed) \$ 55,000 If this was capped at say 30% \$ 165 p.a \$ 8,250 Additional rates to be recovered from all HBRC rateable households \$ 46,750 According to page 7 of your Consultation Document Financial Strategy there are 73,381 rateable households in the HBRC catchment therefore: \$46,750 ÷ 73,381 households would mean an additional \$0.64 per annum per rateable household – not a huge cost impost. Or perhaps HBRC could suck this up and find a way to save \$46,750 from your projected increase in the rates take. Speaking of your glossy Consultation Document you have done an admirable job of window dressing the impact of rates increases on the Esk Hills subdivision to the general populace of HBRC ratepayers. You reference Residential Napier Hill and Residential Taradale on page 42 of the Consultation document as sample increase of 21.3% and 17.1% respectively. What category of Residential is Esk Hills in that proposes a change of about 200%. I submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates for my property is an unfair burden on me when all HBRC residents should pay a uniform rate for many of the services and amenities provided by the HBRC. I further submit that the HBRC should cap the maximum rate increase for an individual household to 30% from the rates levied in 2023/24.</p>																																																				
904	Wayne Wootton	<p>Please find below our submission in respect to the draft Three-Year Plan of the HBRC for the period 2024 – 2027. We are a ratepayer of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and live at ■■■ Heipipi Drive in the Esk Hills subdivision. As residents of the Esk Hills Residents Society (EHRS), we pay a levy that contributes to the upkeep of reserves, walking tracks and a tennis court that are available to all HBRC ratepayers and visitors to our subdivision. Listed below is the rates history for our property.</p> <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Rates (\$)</th><th>Increase (\$)</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>2024/2025</td><td>1,182.22</td><td>769.92</td><td>186.7%</td></tr><tr><td>2023/2024</td><td>412.30</td><td>65.16</td><td>18.8%</td></tr><tr><td>2022/2023</td><td>347.14</td><td>52.43</td><td>17.8%</td></tr><tr><td>2021/2022</td><td>294.71</td><td>19.92</td><td>7.2%</td></tr><tr><td>2020/2021</td><td>274.79</td><td>15.64</td><td>6.0%</td></tr><tr><td>2019/2020</td><td>259.15</td><td>27.39</td><td>11.8%</td></tr><tr><td>2018/2019</td><td>231.76</td><td>53.84</td><td>30.3%</td></tr><tr><td>2017/2018</td><td>177.92</td><td>26.52</td><td>17.5%</td></tr><tr><td>2016/2017</td><td>151.40</td><td>5.60</td><td>3.8%</td></tr><tr><td>2015/2016</td><td>145.80</td><td>10.02</td><td>7.4%</td></tr><tr><td>2014/2015</td><td>135.78</td><td>8.56</td><td>6.7%</td></tr><tr><td>2013/2014</td><td>127.22</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>As you will see from the table our rates have gradually increased over the years, as is to be expected, but something does not look quite right when you look at the proposed rates for the upcoming financial year – a staggering 186.7% increase on 2023/24 or almost 14 times the average. You have mentioned in the consultation document that 19.6 percent is the average rates increase for all rates for the first year, but this doesn't mean everyone's yearly rates bill will be increased by 19.6 percent. No this surely doesn't as our rates have increased by a staggering 186.7%. We would be interested to know the areas of Hawke's Bay that will be paying less than 19.6% as this must be a lot of the District to counterbalance our rates and the huge increases for other residents of Esk Hills – with 50 residential properties all with similar increases, we are contributing \$60,000 to the pot.</p>	Year	Rates (\$)	Increase (\$)	Percentage	2024/2025	1,182.22	769.92	186.7%	2023/2024	412.30	65.16	18.8%	2022/2023	347.14	52.43	17.8%	2021/2022	294.71	19.92	7.2%	2020/2021	274.79	15.64	6.0%	2019/2020	259.15	27.39	11.8%	2018/2019	231.76	53.84	30.3%	2017/2018	177.92	26.52	17.5%	2016/2017	151.40	5.60	3.8%	2015/2016	145.80	10.02	7.4%	2014/2015	135.78	8.56	6.7%	2013/2014	127.22		
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		<p>This ill-considered cost increase is outrageous and unaffordable and viewed as an obscene increase by HBRC to residents in our subdivision. Many of the residents are or are near to retirement with limited disposable incomes and what is being proposed will only drive hard-working people out of their homes. This undoubtedly strikes as a form of wealth discrimination – “if they have a nice home in a nice suburb, they can afford it.”</p> <p>Bearing in mind that the original discussions on increases were a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers which has come to fruition with 19.6% increase, you have now chosen to penalise a subdivision of some 50 households at Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of almost a 200% increase.</p> <p>You also refer in the Consultation document to <i>Residential Napier Hill and Residential Taradale as sample increases of 21.3% and 17.1% respectively</i>. We would be very interested to know what category of Residential is Esk Hills with a proposed a change of circa 200%.</p> <p>We submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates for our property is totally unacceptable and further submit that the HBRC should seriously consider capping the maximum rate increase for an individual household to 30% from the rates levied in 2023/24.</p>
907	Andrew Common	<p>By asking rate payers to fund rate increases without first and fully addressing operating costs, HBRC risks losing its social license. HBRC needs to immediately address its operating costs and reprioritise its spending back to core functions only. HBRC should take heed of changes currently occurring in central government and recognise a need for austerity in its plan. Some examples where immediate improvement should be sort are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A reduction in HBRC FTE which has grown by more than 100% in the past decade, with minimal to no improvement in outputs. 2) All funding for subsidised transport programmes should be immediately moved to user-pays or discontinued. 3) Any other non-core or 'nice to have services or activities'. <p>HBRC's proposal to increase rates by 19.6%, 18.1% and 9% respectively is unacceptable. As was highlighted at a recent meeting of rate payers, HBRC's general rates revenue has increased from \$3.3M to \$36.2M in just 10 years. At a CAGR of over 27% per annum, this exceeds all measures of inflation over the same period by many multiples. HBRC needs to consider better ways to control its rate increases and should be considering all options for cost reduction, before any further rate increases to residents.</p>
908	Lauren Jenner	<p>I'm not sure it belongs here- but I'll say it anyway- please listen to what people want/need. Please do not increase rates. Please look at other things that can be done. There needs to be more accountability on spending and more public scrutiny on these matters. People deserve to be happy and have the ability to live good lives without so much financial pressure.</p>
920	Jason Ranston	<p>I support the submission by Dennis Hall and have asked him to speak on my behalf.</p> <p>I am a ratepayer of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and live at ■■■ Heipipi Drive, Eskdale, Napier in the Esk Hills Subdivision.</p> <p>Firstly, let me say that the facilities and the lifestyle afforded residents of this region are second to none nationally.</p> <p>As a resident of the Esk Hills Residents Society (EHRS), I pay a levy that contributes to the upkeep of reserves and walking tracks and a tennis court in the subdivision that are available to all HBRC ratepayers and visitors to our subdivision.</p> <p>Please find below my submission in respect to the draft Three-Year Plan of the HBRC for the period 2024 – 2027.</p> <p>The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfill their goals in property ownership.</p> <p>Looking at our Rates History on the HBRC website the rates paid in 2013/2014 were \$95.03 per annum. The rates in 2013/14 were reasonable and affordable and many residents would have expected only modest increases (perhaps CPI adjusted) to this level of rating and therefore would have factored that in as part of their cash flow requirements for the longer term.</p> <p>And now you propose to increase our rates from the current level of \$425.89 per annum to \$1188.15 per annum. This is an increase of approximately \$762.26 or 170% in one year!</p> <p>You have got to be joking? This ill-considered cost increase is unconscionable, inequitable and unaffordable and viewed as an obscene increase by HBRC to residents in our subdivision.</p> <p>Many of these residents are or are near to retirement with limited disposable incomes and what is being proposed will only drive hard-working people out of their homes. This is a form of wealth discrimination – “if they have a nice home in a nice suburb, they can afford it.”</p>

		<p>I would be most interested in your full disclosure of staff numbers between 2013/14 (the base year) and what is proposed for 2024/25. I would be further interested in the Total Remuneration as a figure and as a percentage of Total Rates Revenue as I am sure this has also climbed significantly for that same period.</p> <p>Your ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of 90% to 150% - unbelievable!!!</p> <p>When I look at many other properties in the HBRC catchment the rate increases are modest and therefore affordable. Rates in some of the more desirable suburbs of Napier and Havelock Noth with a similar Capital Value to my property have moved by greater than the average as well – I am sure you will be receiving submissions from them as well.</p> <p>However, bringing it back to my own situation you have chosen to penalise a subdivision of some 50 households at Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of the proposed total average HBRC rates increase of 19.6%. Further proposed increases of 18.1% and 9.0% are also unacceptable.</p> <p>The original discussions on increases were a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers.</p> <p>Although this would be significant, I think all ratepayers understood the enormity of damage to infrastructure caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and would reluctantly accept a one-off adjustment.</p> <p>How any fair-minded council could propose an increase of around 200% is mindboggling. If the increase had been capped to say 30% per household, it would have seen an increase in the proposed rates for EHRS residents of about \$165 per annum.</p> <p>If we look at this simplistically for the maths to illustrate the inequity and by example only:</p> <p>Let's say 50 EHRS households pay an additional \$1,100 p.a (proposed) \$ 55,000</p> <p>If this was capped at say 30% \$ 165 p.a \$ 8,250</p> <p>Additional rates to be recovered from all HBRC rateable households \$ 46,750</p> <p>According to page 7 of your Consultation Document Financial Strategy there are 73,381 rateable households in the HBRC catchment therefore:</p> <p>\$46,750 ÷ 73,381 households would mean an additional \$0.64 per annum per rateable household – not a huge cost impost. Or perhaps HBRC could suck this up and find a way to save \$46,750 from your projected increase in the rates take.</p> <p>Speaking of your glossy Consultation Document you have done an admirable job of window dressing the impact of rates increases on the Esk Hills subdivision to the general populace of HBRC ratepayers.</p> <p>You reference Residential Napier Hill and Residential Taradale on page 42 of the Consultation document as sample increase of 21.3% and 17.1% respectively. What category of Residential is Esk Hills in that proposes a change of about 200%.</p> <p>I submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates for my property is an unfair burden on me when all HBRC residents should pay a uniform rate for many of the services and amenities provided by the HBRC.</p> <p>I further submit that the HBRC should cap the maximum rate increase for an individual household to 30% from the rates levied in 2023/24.</p>
926	Paul Atkins	<p>In the comments from the Chair and the CE within this plan, they talk about working smarter and the resilience that will be required! They also talk about the key work in the plan delivering the suggested \$250mil which is a little misleading as only 0.7% of the first year increase is targeted for this so called delivery? To the chair, councillors and CE - its time for you our elected representatives to lead the way to seriously look at the direction the council has gone since in the past 7 - 8 years. The reforms that have happened in this time and the legislation that you state you have to follow requires a total revisit. An increase in staff by 127% is unbelievable to be honest, more than double the size and now you want the ratepayer to fund this madness because it is out of control. A total internal reform is well overdue. An Example - when I installed my septic tank on my property. A permit to install is required from both the District council and the HBRC The District council visits the site to visually inspect the installation whilst its under construction, checks and signs off the installation to plan. The installer provides a PS3 form and the as built plan to the district for the properties records. 10 years after installation, HBRC shows up wanting to inspect the tank and site. Then requests everything that has already been</p>

		submitted to the District council? Why 2 x consent fees and 2 x council involvements? Cost on cost! Surely one Council and one consent should be sufficient? My family has had insurances increased by 82% this year which is an extra \$4k, your rate calculator has us paying another \$1k in rates to HBRC and we still need to see HDC proposed increase as well. We also are waiting for information in regards to what we could be rated to pay for any of the reconstructive work that is yet to happen. In regards to the so called rainy day fund of \$500mil investment funds, well the rainy day has arrived best we get ready for the next lot of rain and use some of this money! This is my first ever time making a submission. I'm a typical kiwi and think she'll be right someone will sort it, it'll come right. Not this time however because I am seeing our whole country going backwards and a line in the sand has to be drawn and accountability sort. If you only get 540 submissions again and 90% are against the proposals, please don't presume everyone that hasn't submitted is for the proposal because I tell you what they are not! Money is tight, everyone has to tighten their belts and get smarter, including the HBRC. Other areas could be postponed and staff numbers reduced.
929	Oliver Ryan	You need to be more answerable to rate payers Your oppressive and unaccountable business model needs to stop. Cut the fat. We are not an open check book
932	Tracey Brookes	While you are asking for feed back one thing the council needs to consider is its own spending. Everyone is looking at their own productivity and cost structure. Why do we have an increase of 127% in staffing levels over 10 years? Do we need all these people? Is the HBRC as efficient as it could be? As you get more income what is to stop you getting more staff? Your new Transport subsidy, why is this going from 3.1 million to 7.1 million in three years. Surely this is not efficient use of this money. Are busses driving round empty? Why is Twyford now paying a Transport Subsidy when we DO NOT have ANY public transport in our area. Public Transport is not an option for this area so i'm not sure why we are paying for this. General rates have gone up 977% in 10 years. While costs have gone up who is checking that money is not being wasted in this area.
933	Scott Patchett	I just checked the calculator for my property, it says the rates are going from 582 to \$982, a \$400, a %60 rise. Not only is this just completely unacceptable, I just can't afford to pay it.
934	Phil Alison	Not enough cuttings HBRC own costs
935	Gareth Holder	What is clearly obvious to see is that the operational and overhead expenses of the HBRC are too high. There has been significant increase in staff numbers of recent years and a significant increase in operational expenses for this coming budget year excluding any development of flood infrastructure. Regionally, the economic climate is extremely tough. Growers, farmers, business owners and urban residents are all struggling to meet current financial obligations. It disappoints me to see that HBRC is not reflecting this regional hardship by looking internally to see where further costs cutting can be achieved to offset additional expenses. As a primary producer, I have had to make significant financial and operational decisions to ensure my business can recover from the personal destruction from Gabrielle and the continually increasing costs of production. I would expect HBRC to be doing the same to become more efficient and focused for future rebuild and to immediately support the ratepayers who are currently hurting on many levels.
938	Carolina van Seventer	I have noticed on the rates calculator that I am going to be rated \$503.86 for public transport, we live rural and there is no public transport in our area, there is no way that we can make use of public transport, never have and won't do so in the future. Why are we being charged so much for something that is not available to our community? Rates on our property are being raised three times the average which is due to capital value rating, plus a rates increase of 19.6 % this comes to a total increase of 66%. I notice other rate payers are having their rates reduced ! How can this be? This makes no sense to me. Our capital value has been greatly reduced since cyclone Gabrielle, we will be rated on a value which is not accurate, this may be for a few years until the QV are updated. This is not a fair way of calculating rates.
950	Jonathan Brookes	Times are tough HBRC should take some of that pain on themselves. There has been a 127% increase in staffing levels over 10 years. I hope this money has not been to employ the water use planners that have proven themselves to have no touch with water use reality. Lazy science has been used to come up with an over complicated actual and reasonable water use suggestion. That punishes efficient water users and rewards excessive users. This policy is highly offensive and a good example of what should be cut out of the HBRC when looking to move forward to a better tomorrow for everyone.

956	Steven Hartley	You will bankrupt us all and you will have no fees to collect.
957	Tim Averill	Council needs to learn to live within its means the ratepayer is not an endless source of income. Looking at it we provide the rates and we wish to see a return for our investment. Yes, you borrow from the government but where do they get a lot of their funds. The taxpayer./ your ratepayer. Justify the increase in FTE roles (Oct 2014-June 2023) Need to vs nice to. Yes you speak of for generations to come but by getting it wrong now you are depriving us of a future So much of this report is platitudes and are we really being listened to?? to pass on. "the core functions of the Regional Council." what do you see them as as it appears the communitys idea and yours differs. We are setting up the Regional Council's investment arm - the Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company - to improve returns to ratepayers from our investments. Your role is to deliver practical services and material works, if we wish to invest money in an investment scheme for monetary gain we go to our financial advisor Surely these funds are for difficult times and this is where we are at at present. We are also proposing to bolster funding for Civil Defence, as together with all the councils in the region we work on implementation of the review of the Civil Defence Emergency Management response to Cyclone Gabrielle. We know what happened it doesnt take another review at additional cost. Work on implementing a change so there can a functioning response team as you assure us events will occur and they will then be needed in the future as part of your resilience plan. You speak of the age of our flood protection schemes. In the meantime we have vastly increased our "hard surfaces" which leads to flooding and stress on infrastructure. Technology has moved forward so there should be additional remedies to allow people to live safely on the land. Where is the problem solving kiwi in which we held so much kudos. Has he become buried under bureaucracy where common sense cannot survive. As a Pakowhai resident our community has been totally decimated , evicted by flawed reasoning, and has left a mistrust and a feeling that they were not listened to as many were asked to voice their situation while still traumatised and the mistrust that you can have your say but its not going to make any difference. You need to listen to people that know the land. Its fine to tell us that science tells us but the only truth that comes out of that is the man with the biggest chequebook can pay/buy for the science that supports his side of the argument and please stop quoting modelling tells us while sitting at a computer. Speaking to people from around the world who have experienced weather events of similar magnitude Australia, UK they worked together to find solutions not kicking people out of their homes and off their land.
982	Hans Doevendans	Contemporary management tends to 'cut costs' as a first option to managing finances. Long term infrastructure costs are an investment. Has the HBRC considered that it may be able to operate smarter, more Lean (as in the production paradigm)?
983	Graeme Sunnex	An increase in staff by 127% is unbelievable to be honest, more than double the size and now you want the ratepayer to fund this madness because it is out of control. Other areas could be postponed and staff numbers reduced.
985	Anna Inglis	The council has a hard job making rate payers money go the distance however find a way to maintain what we have even if it is slowed right down, dont stop please. Please see house maintenance metaphor. Keep up the good work!
991	Sharyn Phillips	I understand the cost of Cyclone Gabrielle has majorly affected the HBRC, however by passing those costs directly onto ratepayers, is only going to make our economy weaker, and those with money want to leave. By doing all that you propose is only going to make our region poorer, and go backwards.
995	Richard Thomas	My HBRC rates for the 23/24 year are around \$350.00. My HBRC rates for the 24/25 year are projected to be around \$950. I own and live in a residential property in a Zone 2 classed area. I have a limited income which has, in fact, gone down in the past three years. There is no way I can afford this huge increase in rates on my current income given the current cost of living; that the local council rates (CHBDC) for my property are also rising by around \$1000; and that my income has reduced. It's outrageous that HBRC are forcing such high rates increases on to residential owners while reducing rates for businesses which can at least claim them as a business expense. I think my rates are going to have to be in arrears until something changes for the better.
1000	Laraine Russell	There needs to be an uplift in the rates rebate for people on pensions and fixed incomes. We can't keep absorbing these astronomical rate rises year on year. Why should we have to consider selling our homes because we can't keep up with this continuing upward spiral of costs.

1004	Fulton Gillies	How does my property improve with the proposed rate increases? My rates increase 80% due to being a lifestyle property, yet i live up a hill and the waterway (Wharerangi stream) i have to cross (Kopaki Bay Rd) to get out isn't managed by the HBRC. So effectively I'm having to pay twice when Kopaki Bay RD or the Wharerangi Stream needs maintenance!!! Not Fair
1005	Kathryn Bayliss	I oppose all the higher HBRC rate increases. As my rates have increased so much any spending by HBRC for which I will be rated for is undesirable and objectionable. My total rates are estimated to go up 131.05% this year. This is an increase of \$514.72. My general rate will increase 151%. My Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme rates are estimated to go up 267.15%. This is an increase of \$340.70 bringing it to a total of \$468.23 for no flood control or protection for my 2.0120 hectares. And there is the added flood control rates charged as part of the general rate. This is totally unfair. I don't have flood control or protection from HBRC and the Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme. "Lifestyle land is generally in a rural area, where the predominant land use is for a residence. The principal use of the land is non-economic in the traditional farming sense, and the value exceeds that of a comparable farmland. A sub-category of lifestyle: it is improved to the extent where there is a dwelling." These rate changes are totally unfair to rural lifestyle property owners! Please be flexible and give rural lifestyle property owners a rebate or remission for the extra rates burden you have inflicted on us. Or reconsider and change the ratings for them. Another option to consider is to have a remission policy for Properties who have rate rises of over 100%. I am especially affected because I live on a 2.0120 hectare lifestyle property in a rural area. Land is a much higher value for lifestyle properties compared to larger properties. I like most other lifestyle property owners can't and don't earn income from our land. My land is not highly developed. 4 hectares or less is seldom viable for an economic business and isn't large high value productive land. I think the Maharaheke Stream should be taken out of the Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme and managed under the Rivers and Streams Maintenance Category. Rivers and stream maintenance are paid by a different rate category. Please get this considered in the post cyclone Gabrielle review of the flood control schemes and as part of the long term plan.
1009	Alastair Chalmers	As the cost of living increases become more severe and have a greater impact on every household rate increases should be curtailed and reduced to the absolute minimum until the financial storm passes
1019	John Berry	Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposed Hawke's Bay Regional Council Three Year Plan. First I should explain my situation. I am a Hawke's Bay Regional Council ratepayer and the rates for my property have increased from \$210 in 2015/16 to \$465 for the 2022/2023 (prior to the cyclone) this is an increase of 121% or 12% per year. For comparison inflation has been 2.5% per annum for this period. My level of rates increase does not seem unusual as the Council rate revenue has increased 107% or 11% per year, during that time. Given this large increase in rates over these 7 years prior to the cyclone. The obvious question is why flood protection funding wasn't increased since this is a core function of the Council? Or, if flood funding was increased the question needs to be why this funding was so ineffective? Clearly the issue isn't a lack of funding, since the Council has increased revenue substantially greater than that of inflation over the 7 years prior to the cyclone. The issue is organisational competence. The council does not appear to be able to spend the rates revenue in a way that benefits the Hawke's Bay community. Cyclone Gabrielle has clearly proven this. No core council function has performed well. The best example of how badly the council has prepared for the Cyclone is that the Council increased my property rates 21% last year and are now proposing further rate increases of 19.6%, 18.1% and 9.0% (this is an increase of 86% over four years). I submit that the council should hold rates at current levels and instead focus on building the competence to implement the flood protection changes. If the Council wants to help the region recover and promote resilience it should perhaps reflect on whether increasing rates by 86% is the best way to do this, especially when previous rate increases have produced little or no benefit to the Hawke's Bay community. The biggest threat facing the Regional Council ratepayers is the council going ahead with proposed rate increases and the council fails to deliver the expected outcomes.
1021	Andrew	1. The draft LTP for the period 2024 – 2027 is set against a background of significant disruption – notably Cyclone Gabrielle, a volatile external environment post Covid and now significant inflation.

		<p>2. The Communities which HBRC serves are significantly affected by these issues as is HBRC itself. Further the sources of revenue which have historically offset rates are under pressure – notably dividends from Napier Port and some of the investments made post the partial sell down of Port ownership.</p> <p>3. If HBRC were an organisation that depended on selling its services to a discerning customer base that had the complete discretion to either pay or not pay for a service, then (albeit an academic question) we'd likely see a quite different construct of services and adjustments in a 3-year budget forecast given the stresses in the external environment.</p> <p>4. HBRC notes in its LTP proposal that it has limited discretion over what services it supplies due to regulatory obligations imposed by Central Government. However, what's not explicitly stated is that it does have significant discretion as to the extent of the resources applied to these tasks.</p> <p>5. This leads to some brief commentary on HBRCs underlying cost structure, and adjustments made progressively since 2017/18, through the proposed LTP to 2027.</p> <p>6. HBRC has increased its personnel dramatically over this period from circa 180 (staff/full time equivalents) to somewhere between 370-380. I understand there may have been a decision to not fill approximately 50 vacancies over the head count above.</p> <p>7. Also of note is that much of the bulk of this increased staffing preceded Cyclone Gabrielle.</p> <p>8. The increased head count is reflected across most operating activities, with many doubling in size including Asset Management which is responsible for the flood and drainage schemes -yet despite this HBRC is relying almost exclusively on external engineering consultancies to deliver the flood scheme design work.</p> <p>9. What's even more startling is the increase in overheads – or support services at nearly 4-fold. The overall increase in staff numbers has in turn resulted in major increase in office space, vehicles, IT support etc.</p> <p>10. The impact of increased operating costs is clearly reflected in a dramatic increase in the general rate forecast to rise from approx. \$5.5 million 2016-17 to \$30 million by 2027.</p> <p>11. As an aside I note the decision in 2021 to fund some of the operating cost increase out of (short-term) debt has simply transferred the political cost onto the current Council.</p> <p>12. The LTP commentary suggests hard decisions need to be made – notably winding up support for Hawkes Bay Tourism and reducing or removing support for Te Mata Peak Park – both of which either directly or indirectly contribute positively to the local economy in drawing in visitors from outside of Hawkes Bay. These proposals if adopted will leave the burden of the adjustment to external organisations not HBRC itself.</p> <p>13. The LTP proposal commentary suggests some HBRC delivered services are either deferred or momentum slowed – that may reflect the decision to not fill vacancies – if so that's a straightforward adjustment.</p> <p>14. Similarly, the LTP commentary on rebuilding and upgrading the flood protection schemes – whilst an essential task may be at risk of sending a message that the cost burden is part of the conundrum HBRC finds itself in now. Whereas given the work is proposed to be financed out of debt – the true impacts on rates and ratepayers will likely be felt post 2027.</p> <p>15. What's either missing and or at best only obliquely stated in the LTP commentary (i.e. 'deep dives on efficiencies) are arguably any serious commitment to addressing whether HBRCs cost structure, and the services delivered, are fit for purpose let alone sustainable.</p> <p>16. Undertaking this task and acting on the results whilst difficult and stressful is, in my view, a first order priority given the continued pressures to adapt to climate risk including designing and building infrastructure.</p> <p>17. In summary as an HBRC ratepayer I'd support a strategy that emphasised a shift of investment and expenditure to priority infrastructure work but with a corresponding material adjustment in the cost structure of the organisation as it is currently configured.</p>
1023	Glenn Riddell	<p>MPI have conducted a detailed survey using actual financial data from 20 x HB pipfruit orchards, this information is supplied to the government so they can monitor the financial health of the primary sector. This model has shown the true effects on the profitability of HB orchards caused by the cyclone, covid, shipping/labour disruptions and fruit quality issues. From the MPI report; Orchard operating profit 2021 positive result of \$386,000</p>





		<p>2022 loss of \$467,000 2023 loss of \$326,000 The HB horticultural sector cannot sustain any rates increases. The combined increase caused by a move to a capital rating base and a general rates increase has caused a disproportional cost increase for all horticultural properties. In our case our rates have increased 60%. This increase combined with other increases to our businesses has put the HB horticultural sector into a very vulnerable situation.</p>
1051	Stephen Domino	<p>We are ratepayers to the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and we live at ■ Heipipi Drive in the Esk Hills Subdivision, Napier District (0978006154).</p> <p>HBRC has proposed average rates increases for the next three years of: 19% in 2024-25, 18.1% in 2025-26 and 9.0% in 2026-27.</p> <p>We paid approximately \$487 in rates in 2023-24. If HBRC was to apply the 19% rate average increase to our property, we would be paying an additional \$93. This equals a total rate cost of \$580 for the 2024-2025 year.</p> <p>Instead, our estimated total rates for 2024-25 is \$1,263. This is an annual increase in cost of \$776, which equals a 259% increase in our rates. In other words our rates are \$683 more in cost for the average rate payer, or, a whopping 240% more than the 19% average proposed. We find this totally unfair and completely unacceptable for the following reasons:</p> <p>As residents of the Esk Hills Residents Society (EHRS), we already pay a levy that contributes to the upkeep of reserves, walking tracks and a tennis court within the subdivision. These amenities are also available to all HBRC ratepayers and any visitors to our subdivision.</p> <p>The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfill their goals in property ownership.</p> <p>This ill-considered cost increase is unconscionable, inequitable and unaffordable. Further, it has been viewed as an obscene increase by HBRC to us and other residents within our Esk Hills subdivision.</p> <p>Many of our residents either are or are near to retirement with limited disposable incomes. What is being proposed will only drive hard-working people out of their homes. This is a form of wealth discrimination - "if they have a nice home in a nice suburb, they can afford it."</p> <p>We would be most interested in a full disclosure of staff numbers between 2013/14 (the base year) and what is proposed for 2024/25. We would be further interested in the Total Remuneration as a figure and as a percentage of Total Rates Revenue, as we are sure this has also climbed significantly for that same period.</p> <p>HBRC ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of 90% to 150% - also unbelievable!</p> <p>When we look at many other properties in the HBRC catchment, the rate increases are modest and therefore affordable. However, rates in some of the more desirable suburbs of Napier and Havelock North with a similar Capital Value to our property have moved by greater than the average as well.</p> <p>For example the property at ■ Durham Drive, Havelock North in the Hastings District (1050026608) has a 22% increase in their rates for 2024-25. While this is still above the 19% average increase, it is nowhere near the 259% increase for our property. It is interesting that 214 Durham drive has a Capital Value of \$2,550,000 while ours at ■ Heipipi Drive has a Capital Value of \$2,320,000. Their Capital Value is higher yet we are paying 237% more than them for rates. This just doesn't make sense at all.</p> <p>In addition, HBRC references Residential Napier Hill and Residential Taradale on page 42 of the Consultation document as sample increases of 21.3% and 17.1% respectively. What category of Residential is Esk Hills in that HBRC proposes a change of 259%? We are just as residential as Napier Hill and Taradale, so again, why the discrepancies in rates?</p> <p>We feel the HBRC has chosen to penalize a subdivision of some 50 households in Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of the proposed total average HBRC rates increase of 19.6%. Further proposed increases of 18.1% in 2025-2026 and 9.0% in 2026-2027 are also unacceptable considering they will be added on top of the 259% increase HBRC wants us to pay for 2024-2025. How is this possible?</p> <p>The HBRC original discussions on increases were at a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers. Although this would be significant, we</p>






		<p>think all ratepayers understand the enormity of damage to infrastructure caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and would reluctantly accept a one-off adjustment for this calendar year of 2024-2025. Once again, 20% is significantly less than 259%!</p> <p>Speaking of which, how any fair-minded council could propose an increase of 259% is mind boggling. If the increase had been capped at even 30% per household, it would have seen an increase in the proposed rates for EHRS residents of about \$165 per annum. We would grudgingly pay this for the 2024-2025 year because of special circumstances and devastation caused by events that were out of our control. However, this amount is still far below the \$776 increase you are proposing for us at █ Heipipi Drive.</p> <p>In conclusion, we submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates of 259% for our property in Esk Hills for the year 2024-2025 is an unfair burden. We also strongly feel that all HBRC residents should pay a uniform rate for the services and amenities provided.</p>
1063	Martin Bremner	<p>I support my neighbour Dennis Hall to speak on our behalf. Like the recent NCC increases of around 100% targeted on specific communities is simply unfair.</p>
1065	Jim Galloway Federated Farmers	<p>Federated Farmers submits on Annual Plans and Long-term Plans throughout New Zealand and make constructive proposals whenever the opportunity is provided.</p> <p>Federated Farmers also submit on central government policies that affect local government revenue and spending, with the aim of ensuring that local government has the appropriate resources to carry out their functions.</p> <p>Federated Farmers base our arguments on the considerable cost of rates to farm businesses, in terms of the value and relative accessibility of farmers to ratepayer funded services, the rates levels on farms compared to other residents and businesses, and the failure of property value to reflect the incomes of farmers and their relative ability to pay.</p> <p>Federated Farmers feedback represents the views of farming members and rate payers from the Hawke's Bay Region.</p> <p>We acknowledge any submissions from individual members of Federated Farmers.</p> <p>Federated Farmers is focused on the transparency of rate setting, rates equity and both the overall and relative cost of local government on rural ratepayers.</p> <p>TOUGH CHOICES</p> <p>Federated Farmers is pleased that the Regional Council has realised it needs to make tough choices and reduce or discontinue some non-core activities. However more needs to be done to reduce unaffordable rates increases throughout the region. Our opinion on what projects need to go is heavily reliant on several factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the activity is not a core function for the Regional Council, it should go. • If the activity is not delivering the intended level of value for what is spent, it should go. • If the activity is funded by ratepayers that do not benefit from it, it should go. • If the activity is funded by a rate that disproportionately burdens some ratepayer groups without corresponding benefit, it needs to be straightened out <p>OPERATIONAL COSTS</p> <p>Federated Farmers recommends another area that the Council can work on to reduce costs: its own internal operations costs.</p> <p>In our submission to the 2021 Long Term Plan, Federated Farmers expressed concern at increasing overhead spending and increasing Council staff numbers. That year, the \$10.5mil extra operational spending had corporate services, more staff for the policy and regulatory slice, an ambassador and expert for the governance and partnerships slice, interest, and tech, all took a good half of the pie as internal business overheads rather than on the ground benefits for the citizens of Hawke's Bay.</p> <p>The Hawke's Bay Regional Council webpage currently puts staff numbers at over 300, we are unsure how accurate this is. With 14,200km² to manage throughout Hawke's Bay, that is a ratio of one staff member for every 47km². Internal staff costs are increasing, as an example <i>payments to and on</i></p>

behalf of employees are increasing from \$32.25m 22/23 to \$46.3m in 26/27, as shown on page 5 in the [prospective cash flow statement](#). Federated Farmers is concerned that the Council is expanding staff numbers and staff costs well beyond levels that ratepayers can sustain.

The [Annual Report for 2022-23](#) shows budget overruns in the group activities Governance and Partnerships, Transport, and a whopping 155% overrun in the Policy and Regulations group. We'll give the Emergency Management overrun a free pass. We are concerned not only about the increased budgets in the years ahead for these activities, but also that this level of overspend means that the ratepayers will be required to fund even more spending for these activity groups than anticipated.

2022-23 underspends are in the Asset Management and Integrated Catchment Management groups, the activities that deliver real-world outcomes.

2022-2023 Annual Report	
Activity Group	Actual Spend in 2022-23
Governance and Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Representation and Leadership • Tangata Whenua Partnerships • Community Sustainability • Regional Development 	<p>Actual Operating Expenditure</p>  <p>Actual expenditure</p> <p>\$7.2 million (2% over budget)</p>
Policy and Regulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Planning and Implementation • Consents • Compliance and Pollution Response • Maritime Safety 	<p>Actual Operating Expenditure</p>  <p>Actual expenditure</p> <p>\$26.9 million (155% over budget)*</p> <p><small>Note: * is significant contribution to this overspend was for expenditure for HPHC catchment waste management</small></p>
Integrated Catchment Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Information • Environmental Science • Catchment Management • Biodiversity and Biosecurity 	<p>Actual Operating Expenditure</p>  <p>Actual Capital Expenditure</p>  <p>Actual expenditure</p> <p>\$26.6 million (14% under budget)</p>

	<p>Asset Management: Flood Protection and Control Works⁵ (rivers, drainage, small schemes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Risk Assessment and Warning • Coastal Hazards • Regional Water Security • Open Spaces • Works Group 	<div> <div> <p>Actual Operating Expenditure</p>  <p>\$18.2M 15.4% of total opex</p> </div> <div> <p>Actual Capital Expenditure</p>  <p>\$5.5M 23.1% of total capex</p> </div> </div> <p>Actual expenditure</p> <p>\$23.7 million (32% under budget)</p>
	<p>Emergency Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group • HBRC Emergency Management 	<div> <div> <p>Actual Operating Expenditure</p>  <p>\$30.1M 25.5% of total opex</p> </div> <div> <p>Actual Capital Expenditure</p>  <p>\$13.6M 57.8% of total capex</p> </div> </div> <p>Actual expenditure</p> <p>\$43.7 million (1275% over budget)</p>
	<p>Transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Planning and Road Safety • Passenger Transport 	<div> <div> <p>Actual Operating Expenditure</p>  <p>\$7.7M 6.5% of total opex</p> </div> </div> <p>Actual expenditure</p> <p>\$7.7 million (11% over budget)</p>
	<p>Submission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Federated Farmers wrote to the Council 26 April 2024 to request information pertaining to how staff numbers and related costs have changed over the past 15 years. Please can the Regional Council provide us with the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The number of full time equivalent staff (FTE) for each Council department each year, for 2009 to 2024. b. The number of FTE in "operational" roles and "overhead" roles each year, for the years 2009 to 2024. c. Total FTE costs (salaries and overheads) as a percentage of Council's total budget each year, for the years 2009 and 2024. 2. Federated Farmers is concerned about unacceptable budget overruns in previous years, and that ratepayers will be funding increased budgets as well as overruns. 3. Financial discipline is vital, and internal costs must be reduced to sustainable levels. 	

1066	Terry O'Connor	<p>Yes we are faced with tough choices mainly because HBRC has not done the required maintenance of waterways over many, many years, While I understand that National Government policies have made things difficult this is not an excuse for dropping the ball when the key function of regional councils is catchment and sustainability based. In the light of that we/you need to focuss funding on sorting our waterways out. humans have spent the last 800 or so years mucking up the environment - early polynesian/ Maori burnt down half our forests to grow kumera, bracken fern and to provide habitat for Moa. Settlers in the last 180 years have completley changed the way that aterways run so that almost all creeks, streams and rivers are in artificial channels designed to speed the flow of water thus making peak flows larger and erosion much much greater to say nothing of the loss of soil from slopes denuded of their forest cover. with 89% approx of our forest cover gone and about the same amount of fl;ood mitigating swamps gone the Cyclone damage was totally forseeable. So the councils proposal to slow erosion control schemes is total nonsense. This must become the number one priority along with the construction of watercourse meanders, retention dams and swamps along with the removal of trees trapping debri and damning streams and rivers. this also must include silt/gravel removal. You should also be putting in bollards upstream of bridges and other infrastructure so as to move flood debri into bays built into the enlarged stop banks where they can easily be removed. There also needs to be encreased policing of farm waterways to make sure fallen branches/prunings are removed from the banks so they don't block culverts and form dam and overland flood flow. Much more money here. As to who should pay, we as humans have all helped create this problem, so we should all pay. Targeted rates for landowners alongside waterways does not address the multigenerational causes of the problems or address the downstream issues or the loss to the nation of the soil, and thus the lowering of our farming and horticultural income from exports. Remember 80% of our food etc is exported to provide the way of life New Zealanders expect. Yes Hawkes Bay Tourism is a multimillion dollar "industry" but its time it paid its own way. Cuts its rate payer funds totally. If its not got its act together having been subsidised for the last 20 or so years then the wrong people are running it. Overall we cannot have rates going up year after year, yes catching up on defered maintence after the Cyclone is a one off hit we need to face up to but after that policy must change. No more "nice to have" and things such as cycleways need to be paid for by the user - chip the cycles as well as have them pay a registration fee like othjer vehicles. They can then be charged like motorway users north of Auckland with scanners collecting the data and posting out bills. Given most of the use is recreational I see no need for all ratepayers/taxpayers to subsidise them. Further to my submission earlier today, I would add that the only solution to many of the problems is a Unitary Council. Not only would this save millions of dollars with less councillors and lots less managers, but the Unified council would be able to plan development much easier without the "games" the existing system allows them to play. So much of what has gone on over the last year/14 months is because each organisation can play pass the parcel/ its not my responsibility, its the "other guy". Creating the proposed Civil Defense monster will just add another layer of problems. Beef up the New Zealand Defence Force with another Batallion or two of Engineers and more helicopters and supply vessels.</p>
1076	Nicholas Aiken	<p>HBRC's proposed rates increase to my property is unethical, unfair and unjust. HBRC is imposing a rate rise of 289% on my property and this cannot be justified in any way as HBRC is not providing any increase in services or protection that I can see, and certainly HBRC is not providing increased services or protections to the value of 289%. HBRC should have identified and eliminated such extreme rates rises. I oppose the change to Capital value rating as this has no bearing on the extent and natures of services or projections my property receives. My property provides considerable benefit in native planting, and this is not recognized. My property has onsite stormwater and wastewater facilities, required by HBRC, that reduce the impact on the environment and reduce the impact on need for infrastructure maintained by HBRC, yet this is not recognized. It is unethical and unjust that HBRC are offering rates remissions to Napier City Council and other local authorities, who all place heavy impacts on the environment. Where they manage impacts such as stormwater, so do I and so does the subdivision I live in. You are not charging Napier city residents rates for their sewage and Wastewater and stormwater, yet you are charging me. This is unjust. Napier City and Hastings City residents 'own' such infrastructure through their Councils and should not be getting a 'free-pass'. I am concerned at the lack of response from Civil Defense to Cycloine Gabrielle and strongly object to my rates being used to support Civil Defense (or similar) where this provides such minimal benefit or value to my community and to my property. I accept that some rate rises are necessary to generate sufficient revenue to deal with the range of issues that are raised in the Draft Three-Year Plan. My concern is about the extreme, highly differential, grossly inequitable rates increases proposed for my</p>

property, which I believe is out of all proportion to the increases proposed elsewhere in Hawkes Bay. These increases, when combined with proposed increases of approximately \$3000 in Napier City Council rates, will likely be financially unsustainable for me and I'm sure many other residents. My concerns might be remedied within the context of broadly maintaining the revenue for Hawkes Bay Regional Council to achieve its proposed Three-Year plan. My rate rise is 14 times the overall average of 19.6%. This is grossly unfair. My property is in a rural zone and 131% higher than the average increase for a rural property. My property has a Rural Zoning and is heavily encumbered by District Plan provisions. It is clearly 'rural' no reasonable argument can be made that it is not rural. There is no justification for raising my rates by 289%, 14 times more than the average and 131% time more than the average rural rate rise. Hawkes Bay Regional Council should not "wash its hands" of these inequities by taking a position that these differences are simply an outcome of the recent large increase in land and capital values for my and similar properties, and a change to capital value as the rating base. This is especially true for rurally zoned rural residential properties, where the increased value can not be monetised either by productive activities, or by the addition of another rentable dwelling or by subdivision, both of which are prevented by Napier City Council District Plan rules. Proposed District plan rules are even more restrictive, and further limit even existing activities on site to a point far greater than even usual rural properties as a result of the Special Character restrictions which severely limit gross floor area. Not only do these limit dwelling sizes but further preclude and possibility of income generation. I am also concerned that the 14-fold ratio of rates increases at our properties compared to the average rates increases may also apply in 2025-26 and 2026-27. If that were to be the case, then I would suffer another massive rates increase in 2025-26, and further massive increase in 2026-27. This entire scenario is unjust, unfair and ethically indefensible.

REMEDY PROPOSED I note, and supported, the proposed new rates remission policy (pages 32 and 33) "Significant Impact Remission resulting from changes to the Rating Policy" which will remit 50% of rates payable, in 2024-25 only, applicable only to "Outliers", such as Napier City and Hastings District Councils. I submit that my property and those similarly affected in Esk Hills and Kaimata Heights, and perhaps elsewhere where there have been extreme property value increases are definitely "Outliers" in terms of Significant Impacts on rates. I submit that: - as "Outliers", my property and those similarly affected should also have 50% of rates payable in 2024-25 remitted (which would make the average rate for our properties \$513.5 for that year); - and, to address the ongoing "Outlier" disparity in 2025-26 and 2026-27; that, - a new remissions policy limiting rates increases for residential properties to 33% per year be adopted to apply from 2025-26 onwards. In evaluating the figures for such a combination I have been advised that a 33% limit on rates for all years will provide a slightly higher average rates amount for my properties in 2024-25 than a 50% remission. Thus it would be simpler to have a single policy limiting rates increase to 33%/year for all three years. Accordingly, I submit that a new remission policy limiting annual rates increases for residential properties to no more than 33% per year should be adopted by Council and applied from 2024-25 onwards. I submit that a limit on annual rates increases could be quite simply provided via a specific additional element of Council's Rates Remissions Policy, which would meet the requirements of S 109 (1) of the Local Government Act 2002, by: - setting out the Policy Objective in words to the effect of "To mitigate unreasonably large, disproportionate or seriously inequitable rates increases that can not adequately be mitigated by other means available to Council "; and - the Policy Conditions and Criteria in words to the effect of "That increases in rates payable on any residential property in excess of 33% more than the rates payable in the immediately preceding year, will be remitted so as to limit the increase in rates payable compared to the preceding year to a maximum of 33%".

DECISION I submit that the proposed additional Rates Remission policy to limit annual rates increases to 33% per year, with a compensating, revenue-neutral, very minor or minor increase in the Rating Factor for General Rates is a "reasonably practicable option" for achieving the rates revenue objective of the proposed three-year plan. Accordingly, under S 71 (1) (a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 2002, Council "must" [our emphasis] "assess" this "option in terms of its advantages and disadvantages "relative to other options. I submit that the proposal I suggest for a new rates remission policy has the advantage of greatly reducing the gross inequities of the proposed rates increases for our properties and other like them, whereby rate-payers such as myself face rates increases that are 14 times more than those faced by other rate-payers; and 131 times the average rates increases for rural rate-payers; and this is grossly unfair particularly where industrial rate-payers are receiving a rates reduction. I also submit that there are no disadvantages to this proposed policy, as the

		proposed changes can be made revenue-neutral for Council with a very minor or minor increase in the Rating Factor for General Rates to cover the likely 0.1 to 0.2% reduction in rates revenue. Nick Aiken
1079	Tom Belford	Councillors must take the broadest view of what's best for the entire community and its long-term resilience, not special interest pleaders, not numbers of submissions. Even greater expense is likely beyond the three years of this LTP, so protect the assets.
1086	Trent Mabbett	Ø Stick to budget, rather than spend, spend, spend other people's money, increasing rates and debt. Ø Cap Full time Employee numbers as of now, indefinitely. Reallocate staff members where appropriate. Ø If it was your own money would you still fund it? Ø Many activities are funded that are not necessary, e.g. installing judder bars, Beach Rd cycle lane diversion, titivating rotary pathway for marathon, etc. Much of this prioritises frippery rather than efficiencies. Ø Liquidate managed funds. Being in so much debt and still gambling on financial markets with the local people's money is insane. This money should be invested in our local communities. Not in speculative financialised products. Ø Keep investing in AI and technology that creates efficiencies and saves money. Ø Keep investing in resilience projects that will save money in the long term including Coastal Hazards Strategy. Ø Reduce Total Mobility taxi services funding, this is currently extremely generous at the expense of ratepayers. Ø Don't ignore submissions as you did in Jan 2024 when 90% of the people who submitted on the Land Value versus Capital Value rating metric consultation were snubbed. Why even consult, if your decisions are already made?
1091	Colin Maunder Timberlands Limited	4. Timberlands acknowledges the extraordinary and challenging circumstances in which Hawke's Bay Regional Council has been operating over the past few years. Thank you for the work you and your staff have undertaken during this difficult period to fulfil your responsibilities and deliver your work programmes. Proposed Rate Rises - 2024 – 2027 5. We recognise that the problems you have faced as a Council have contributed to the substantive and ongoing rate rises outlined in your Three-Year Plan Consultation Document. Your efforts to pare back your costs by making internal cuts and service changes are very much appreciated and we note that you have managed to find savings of \$4.6 million in 2024/25. That said we do not support the ongoing rises in rates proposed for years two and three of the Plan. The scrutiny that has been applied to year one needs to also apply to subsequent years. A 19.6 % rate rise followed by increases of 18.1% and 9% are unsustainable and every effort needs to be made to contain these costs. 6. In our view, ongoing rises in property rates are not the answer and we support your statement that you will "... continue to advocate for fairer funding sources to address the infrastructure costs that have grown over the years with a changing climate, ageing assets, and long-term underinvestment". We concur and strongly urge you to use the local government channels available to you and work with your colleagues and government to a collectively identify more appropriate sources of revenue and a better model for funding local government.
1096	Rob Morton	I support the Submission by Dennis Hall and have asked him to speak on my behalf.
1100	Gareth Kelly	I support the submission by Dennis Hall and have asked him to speak on my behalf. To the Chair and Councillors' I am a ratepayer of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and live at ■■■■■ Heipipi Drive in the Esk Hills Subdivision. Firstly, let me say that the facilities and the lifestyle afforded residents of this region are second to none nationally. As a resident of the Esk Hills Residents Society (EHRS), I pay a levy that contributes to the upkeep of reserves and walking tracks and a tennis court in the subdivision that are available to all HBRC ratepayers and visitors to our subdivision. Please find below my submission in respect to the draft Three-Year Plan of the HBRC for the period 2024 – 2027. The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfill their goals in property ownership. Looking at our Rates History on the HBRC website the rates paid in 2023/2024 were \$572.48 per annum. The rates in 2023/2024 were reasonable and affordable and many residents would have expected only modest increases (perhaps CPI adjusted) to this level of rating and therefore would have factored that in as part of their cash flow requirements for the longer term. And now you propose to increase our rates from the current level of \$572.48 per annum to \$1,411.73 proposed 2024/25 annual rates per annum. This is an increase of approximately \$839.25 difference between 2024/25 proposed annual rates – 2023/24 annual rates in one year!!! This ill-considered cost increase is

		<p>unconscionable, inequitable and unaffordable and viewed as an obscene increase by HBRC to residents in our subdivision. Many of these residents are or are near to retirement with limited disposable incomes and what is being proposed will only drive hard-working people out of their homes. This is a form of wealth discrimination – “if they have a nice home in a nice suburb, they can afford it.” I would be most interested in your full disclosure of staff numbers between 2013/14 (the base year) and what is proposed for 2024/25. I would be further interested in the Total Remuneration as a figure and as a percentage of Total Rates Revenue as I am sure this has also climbed significantly for that same period. Your ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of 90% to 150% - unbelievable!!! When I look at many other properties in the HBRC catchment the rate increases are modest and therefore affordable. Rates in some of the more desirable suburbs of Napier and Havelock North with a similar Capital Value to my property have moved by greater than the average as well – I am sure you will be receiving submissions from them as well. However, bringing it back to my own situation you have chosen to penalise a subdivision of some 50 households at Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of the proposed total average HBRC rates increase of 19.6%. Further proposed increases of 18.1% and 9.0% are also unacceptable. The original discussions on increases were a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers. Although this would be significant, I think all ratepayers understood the enormity of damage to infrastructure caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and would reluctantly accept a one-off adjustment. How any fair-minded council could propose an increase of around 200% is mindboggling. If the increase had been capped to say 30% per household, it would have seen an increase in the proposed rates for EHRS residents of about \$165 per annum. If we look at this simplistically for the maths to illustrate the inequity and by example only: Let's say 50 EHRS households pay an additional \$1,100 p.a (proposed) \$ 55,000 If this was capped at say 30% \$ 165 p.a \$ 8,250 Additional rates to be recovered from all HBRC rateable households \$ 46,750 According to page 7 of your Consultation Document Financial Strategy there are 73,381 rateable households in the HBRC catchment therefore: $\\$46,750 \div 73,381$ households would mean an additional \$0.64 per annum per rateable household – not a huge cost impost. Or perhaps HBRC could suck this up and find a way to save \$46,750 from your projected increase in the rates take. Speaking of your glossy Consultation Document you have done an admirable job of window dressing the impact of rates increases on the Esk Hills subdivision to the general populace of HBRC ratepayers. You reference Residential Napier Hill and Residential Taradale on page 42 of the Consultation document as sample increase of 21.3% and 17.1% respectively. What category of Residential is Esk Hills in that proposes a change of about 200%. I submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates for my property is an unfair burden on me when all HBRC residents should pay a uniform rate for many of the services and amenities provided by the HBRC. I further submit that the HBRC should cap the maximum rate increase for an individual household to 30% from the rates levied in 2023/24. Yours faithfully Gareth Kelly</p>
1101	Johnny Milmine	Reduce staff levels and wasteful spending first
1102	Kevin Bayley	As mentioned cut back office sending - less staff etc. Use existing savings.
1113	Michelle Kelly	<p>To the Chair and Councilors' I am a ratepayer of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and live at [REDACTED] Heipipi Drive in the Esk Hills Subdivision. Firstly, let me say that the facilities and the lifestyle afforded residents of this region are second to none nationally. As a resident of the Esk Hills Residents Society (EHRS), I pay a levy that contributes to the upkeep of reserves and walking tracks and a tennis court in the subdivision that are available to all HBRC ratepayers and visitors to our subdivision. Please find below my submission in respect to the draft Three-Year Plan of the HBRC for the period 2024 – 2027. The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfill their goals in property ownership. Looking at our Rates History on the HBRC website the rates paid in 2023/2024 were \$572.48 per annum. The rates in 2023/2024 were reasonable and affordable and many residents would have expected only modest increases (perhaps CPI adjusted) to this level of rating and therefore would have factored that in as part of their cash flow requirements for the longer term. And now you propose to increase our rates from the current level of \$572.48 per annum to \$1,411.73 proposed 2024/25 annual rates per annum. This is an increase of approximately \$839.25 difference between 2024/25 proposed annual rates –</p>

		<p>2023/24 annual rates in one year!!! This ill-considered cost increase is unconscionable, inequitable and unaffordable and viewed as an obscene increase by HBRC to residents in our subdivision. Many of these residents are or are near to retirement with limited disposable incomes and what is being proposed will only drive hard-working people out of their homes. This is a form of wealth discrimination – “if they have a nice home in a nice suburb, they can afford it.” I would be most interested in your full disclosure of staff numbers between 2013/14 (the base year) and what is proposed for 2024/25. I would be further interested in the Total Remuneration as a figure and as a percentage of Total Rates Revenue as I am sure this has also climbed significantly for that same period. Your ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of 90% to 150% - unbelievable!!! When I look at many other properties in the HBRC catchment the rate increases are modest and therefore affordable. Rates in some of the more desirable suburbs of Napier and Havelock North with a similar Capital Value to my property have moved by greater than the average as well – I am sure you will be receiving submissions from them as well. However, bringing it back to my own situation you have chosen to penalise a subdivision of some 50 households at Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of the proposed total average HBRC rates increase of 19.6%. Further proposed increases of 18.1% and 9.0% are also unacceptable. The original discussions on increases were a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers. Although this would be significant, I think all ratepayers understood the enormity of damage to infrastructure caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and would reluctantly accept a one-off adjustment. How any fair-minded council could propose an increase of around 200% is mindboggling. If the increase had been capped to say 30% per household, it would have seen an increase in the proposed rates for EHRS residents of about \$165 per annum. If we look at this simplistically for the maths to illustrate the inequity and by example only: Let's say 50 EHRS households pay an additional \$1,100 p.a (proposed) \$ 55,000 If this was capped at say 30% \$ 165 p.a \$ 8,250 Additional rates to be recovered from all HBRC rateable households \$ 46,750 According to page 7 of your Consultation Document Financial Strategy there are 73,381 rateable households in the HBRC catchment therefore: $\\$46,750 \div 73,381$ households would mean an additional \$0.64 per annum per rateable household – not a huge cost impost. Or perhaps HBRC could suck this up and find a way to save \$46,750 from your projected increase in the rates take. Speaking of your glossy Consultation Document you have done an admirable job of window dressing the impact of rates increases on the Esk Hills subdivision to the general populace of HBRC ratepayers. You reference Residential Napier Hill and Residential Taradale on page 42 of the Consultation document as sample increase of 21.3% and 17.1% respectively. What category of Residential is Esk Hills in that proposes a change of about 200%. I submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates for my property is an unfair burden on me when all HBRC residents should pay a uniform rate for many of the services and amenities provided by the HBRC. I further submit that the HBRC should cap the maximum rate increase for an individual household to 30% from the rates levied in 2023/24. I support the submission by Dennis Hall and have asked him to speak on my behalf</p>
1115	Roy Boonen	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit. I acknowledge how challenging it is for the HBRC to plan and set priorities when so much needs to be done within our region. Rebuilding our infrastructure after cyclone Gabrielle, as well as maintaining essential ongoing work, means difficult decisions need to be made about rates increases and cuts. FUNDING Some ratepayers are unable to afford the enormous rates increases proposed by our 5 councils. This will widen the inequities of our society. And rates increases are expected to continue to rise. HBRC has a \$500m investment portfolio, including \$25m of property in Wellington. The sale of some assets could fund essential work to improve the resilience of our communities. The council has said it would not do this because of 'intergenerational equity'. (LTP 1921-31, pg 8). But surely improving the future resilience of our communities from the impacts of climate change is intergenerational equity. The option of some asset sales should be put to ratepayers – this is the rainy day that families, businesses and organisations put money aside for. Having a low-performing investment portfolio while seeking additional loans is mad. There could be a much reduced Rate rise if these assets were used to meet these one-off costs. As it has been reported in recent days the combination of a 19% average rate rise and the implementation of a system shift of rating on land to capital has produced some extreme results for some local ratepayers – with some people seeing increases of double, and even 500%.. While the logic of shifting from land to capital-based apparently was compelling to the HBRC councillors when they ignored the vast majority of ratepayers who voted No to this proposal, surely now</p>

		that the effect of combining the two changes at the same time is known and proves that the timing for this change is wrong, the councillors will re-consider and defer any change to the Rating scheme until we are through the challenges that the Cyclone (and Covid) has caused.
1116	Gren Christie	I think the council should look for other ways to raise finance other than mainly using ratepayers as a cash cow. Particularly when the burden of the proposed rates increases fall in an extremely unfairly fashion with small decrease for some massive increases for others. These rate increases have been misrepresented to the public and need to be revisited.
1121	P&H Brough	Free rates for 1 year
1130	William Agnew	As a business owner I am constantly keeping an eye on my cost structure and production outputs. With the current rates increase the HBRC is proposing i'm hoping that there has been a full review of your internal cost structure, and the council is working as efficiently and productively as possible.
1133	Michael Davis Davis Orchards Ltd	I think this rate increase towards growers is too high, unfair and unreasonable that it is rated on capital value, rates should be shared evenly across all rate payers and on the land area only, the council has never provided any assistance in the capital value of my property and my assets do not put a burden on council services. We as growers have had a very tough run and for me stems back to 2019/20 season with a devastating hailstorm 20/21 government refusing RSE worker so crops didn't get harvest 22/23 cyclone. our costs have increased at an alarming rate in every direction with no way to pass on the costs, our income is governed by world markets which we have very limited power to control, and this proposed rate increase is another kick in the guts while we are down. There are a number of growers already in big financial trouble and the only reason they are still trading is the past reputation with their bank horticulture is a big part of the life blood for HB and needs support at the moment not hammered to death. I think the HBRC in house costs need to be seriously looked at there are a lot of snouts in the trough and not enough feed, I feel the quality of spend should be better and prioritize important issues flood protection a very good start. maintenance and improvements on stop bank should have been before planting flax bushes. Use the capital get going
1135	Stephen Brookes	you need to get smarter on your balance sheet around costs in this market (and anytime you are spending public monies). As everyone else needs to look in their balance sheet and cut undue waste, you need to do the same or get someone with better skills in this deppartment what is the justification for staff increases(at approx 127%)over the last 10 years? especially when it has not increased productivity. We are getting charged for public transport and have no services here so a waste of time or we will require a car to get to the bus stop. since the flood, there was substantial costs to repair our house and contents out after the flood and had no prior warning as you guys did not do your job correctly. This was where the stop bank failed after being warned they were substandard. i do not see why we are paying again more for inadequate works in your department. You are also employing more people to make water supply more difficult, who seem to be against anyone trying to pay your account. we have spent the last 20 years clearing our front drain until last year when the place flooded, unsure what bang we get for our buck. really need to look hard into your business as a commercial entity as the charges look very sus
1138	Stewart Horn	Our property is in between Hastings and Havelock North and subject to both high land and high capital value, the property is leased as a producing orchard, as no buildings apart from one frost fan and two wells ,after cyclone Gabrielle and the associated flooding we are still seeing the effect of excessive water on trees whilst not to the disastrous extent seen by some. Drainage and the maintenance of them seems to have been left well out of consideration in the last ten years or so. After the proposed HDC Rates and Regional Council rates and additional annual charges for water science etc. I have calculated before any other sundry costs a return to capital of .5% that is point 5 , HBRC may be disappointed with the yield on investments ,but put yourselves in our shoes! We are facing all the same cost increases as are given as justification for rate increases. I do not believe many , if any, will be able to afford the projected increases over the next three years. It is time to realize some of your assets ! I also make the point the property appears to fall within a rather arbitrary boundary for urban transport levy which we are unlikely to use , why ? The change to capital value in the face of much opposition and the belief that those with a high capital value can afford to pay more does not sit well with me. I simply do not believe that Council understands the duress they are placing on their ratepayers .

1139	Roger Mogford	I am a Pensioner and cant afford big rate increases. Can you? I live in Mayfair Avenue and I cant see what Regional Council has done around here. So we should have a decrease! Please have a re think. Anyway you have already made up your minds haven't you? Just like when 90% of the people told you that they didn't want Capital based rates, you guys had already made up your minds. You wont read this will you? But thank you anyway.
1143	Andrew Mason	Reduce spending to just critical services to maintain infrastructure without it deteriorating the same as households are having to do.
1158	Maria Cooper	<p>"I support the submission by Dennis Hall and have asked him to speak on my behalf" I am a ratepayer of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and live at [REDACTED] Esk View Road in the Esk Hills Subdivision.</p> <p>Firstly, let me say that the facilities and the lifestyle afforded residents of this region are second to none nationally.</p> <p>As a resident of the Esk Hills Residents Society (EHRS), I pay a levy that contributes to the upkeep of reserves and walking tracks and a tennis court in the subdivision that are available to all HBRC ratepayers and visitors to our subdivision.</p> <p>Please find below my submission in respect to the draft Three-Year Plan of the HBRC for the period 2024 – 2027.</p> <p>The HBRC decision to change the rates formula from Land Value to Capital Value is a wealth tax and puts an unfair burden on property owners that have worked hard and saved hard to fulfill their goals in property ownership.</p> <p>Looking at our Rates History on the HBRC website the rates paid in 2023/2024 were \$398.82 per annum. The rates in 2023/24 were reasonable and affordable and many residents would have expected only modest increases (perhaps CPI adjusted) to this level of rating and therefore would have factored that in as part of their cash flow requirements for the longer term.</p> <p>And now you propose to increase our rates from the current level of \$398.82 per annum to \$1305.89 per annum. This is an increase of approximately \$907.07</p> <p>This ill-considered cost increase is unconscionable, inequitable and unaffordable and viewed as an obscene increase by HBRC to residents in our subdivision.</p> <p>Many of these residents are or are near to retirement with limited disposable incomes and what is being proposed will only drive hard-working people out of their homes. This is a form of wealth discrimination – "if they have a nice home in a nice suburb, they can afford it."</p> <p>Your ratepayers are already bearing an approximate increase of 50% - 100% for insurance premiums post Cyclone Gabrielle and for revised geographic risk for seismic activity. In addition, Napier City Council are proposing an increase in our rates of 90% to 150% -!!!</p> <p>When I look at many other properties in the HBRC catchment the rate increases are modest and therefore affordable. Rates in some of the more desirable suburbs of Napier and Havelock North with a similar Capital Value to my property have moved by greater than the average as well – I am sure you will be receiving submissions from them as well.</p> <p>However, bringing it back to my own situation you have chosen to penalise a subdivision of some 50 households at Esk Hills with an unfair and inequitable burden of the proposed total average HBRC rates increase of 19.6%. Further proposed increases of 18.1% and 9.0% are also unacceptable.</p> <p>The original discussions on increases were a movement of some 15 - 20% for ratepayers.</p> <p>Although this would be significant, I think all ratepayers understood the enormity of damage to infrastructure caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and would reluctantly accept a one-off adjustment.</p> <p>How any fair-minded council could propose an increase of around 200% is mindboggling. If the increase had been capped to say 30% per household, it would have seen an increase in the proposed rates for EHRS residents of about \$165 per annum.</p> <p>If we look at this simplistically for the maths to illustrate the inequity and by example only:</p> <p>Let's say 50 EHRS households pay an additional \$1,100 p.a (proposed) \$ 55,000</p> <p>If this was capped at say 30% \$ 165 p.a <u>\$ 8,250</u></p> <p>Additional rates to be recovered from all HBRC rateable households \$ 46,750</p>

		<p>According to page 7 of your Consultation Document Financial Strategy there are 73,381 rateable households in the HBRC catchment therefore: \$46,750 ÷ 73,381 households would mean an additional \$0.64 per annum per rateable household – not a huge cost impost. Or perhaps HBRC could suck this up and find a way to save \$46,750 from your projected increase in the rates take.</p> <p>Speaking of your glossy Consultation Document you have done an admirable job of window dressing the impact of rates increases on the Esk Hills subdivision to the general populace of HBRC ratepayers.</p> <p>You reference Residential Napier Hill and Residential Taradale on page 42 of the Consultation document as sample increase of 21.3% and 17.1% respectively. What category of Residential is Esk Hills in that proposes a change of about 200%.</p> <p>I submit that the proposed increase in HBRC rates for my property is an unfair burden on me when all HBRC residents should pay a uniform rate for many of the services and amenities provided by the HBRC.</p> <p>I further submit that the HBRC should cap the maximum rate increase for an individual household to 30% from the rates levied in 2023/24.</p>
1166	Stu Burden	<p>Future proofing Hawkes Bay</p> <p>It was suggested at a recent meeting with councillors that one method of financing future work needed by the Regional Council was to sell some of the shares in the Port of Napier. Certainly it is problematic that the councils major investment is likely to be affected by, and therefore perform poorly, during the floods and earthquakes that periodically occur here. Whilst acknowledging that there are strategic issues involved, I think it would be better to have the Port investment instead in a broader investment fund that could be drawn on in times of need.</p> <p>Certainly Hawkes Bay needs some sort of investment buffer against natural disasters as Governments may not always be able or willing to meet that cost.</p> <p>Council Structure</p> <p>In the last Ten Year Plan I submitted about the cost of having five councils in Hawkes Bay for such a small population base. I believe issues arising out of the Cyclone Gabrielle, and the response, highlight problems in the existing system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusion amongst the public about who runs Civil Defence and how to find services and from whom during an emergency. • Confusion about what services are covered by councils e.g. Hastings responsible for street storm water but the Regional Council drainage schemes. • Lack of coordination between councils over siting of houses especially rural e.g. over old streams or near rivers. <p>In short and with many more examples, Hawkes Bay needs co-ordinated planning and governance and I believe some form of amalgamation to a unitary council or councils is needed.</p>
1173	Hakan Gulliksen	<p>1. Property Value fluctuates and isn't a reliable indicator for which we should be basing our rates. In the last 5-8 years since looking at entering the property market, the PV has fluctuated and increased disproportionately during this time.</p> <p>2. The increase in insurance costs shouldn't be shouldered by rate payers. Our insurance premiums are also rising, along with interest rates for our home loans, putting already serious financial strain on our household. We are two qualified professionals who are trying to grow our family, but feel limited and fearful at the increasing financial strain from all avenues of life.</p> <p>3. Other costs need to be cut, specifically in environmental programmers and staff/contractors working on environmental projects for the council. Just as our household is required to make cuts in other areas, whilst maintaining two working parents with infants, there are more effective ways to save.</p>
1176	Wayne Bradshaw	<p>Whilst I appreciate the opportunity to make a submission to your 2024/27, 3 year plan, I feel some apprehension as to how much importance is placed on ratepayer submissions given the outcomes recently from the Land Value vs Capital Value rating changes.</p> <p>The areas that I wish to submit on are;</p> <p>1/ RATES INCREASES;</p> <p>Our HBRC horticultural property rates over the past years have been;</p> <p>\$</p>

2013/14	\$ 163.91
2023/24	\$ 952.06
2024/25 budgeted	\$ 2500.74

this represents an increase from 2013/14 to 2023/24 of 5.8 times, whilst the Official CPI for the same period is approx 33%. At the time this was completely unrealistic and unsustainable for us.

Now, the HBRC rates will increase by well over double in the 2024/25 year, an increase of \$128 per month.

This is in addition to our HDC rates increases of \$ 138 per month.

The Land Value vs Capital Value rating changes have used a very Blunt Instrument to effectively create a Wealth Tax that assumes that all owners of higher value property have the ability to pay the extraordinary HBRC high rates (when compared to the actual CPI costs in NZ/Aotearoa.)

What consideration has been given to

> older people who own higher value properties whos principal income is national superannuation?

> the orchardists who suffer weather events and market cost pressures?

> rate payers/operators that have cost/income cycle pressures beyond their controls?

2/ HBRIC;

HBRIC (on behalf of the ratepayers) manages substantial HBRC assets,

	@ 30/6/23	@ 30/6/22
Value of Assets	\$ 348,179 M	\$ 368,672M
Return	\$ 7.505 M	\$ 9.974 M
Rate of Return	2.16 %	2.71%

HBRIC manage the 55% shareholding of the Ports of Napier that HBRC ratepayers own. The Ports of Napier is listed on the NZX and currently has a Total Enterprise Value of over \$460M.

Given the performance of these investments, the question of selling a portion of the Port of Napier shares should be considered by the ratepayers ,(retaining 25.1 % or more of the Port shares) could free up over \$130M, whilst only reducing the income by some \$ 3-4M.

HBRIC (HB Regional Investment Company) was formed in 2012 to hold HBRC commercial assets and provide a return for the council and ratepayers. Recently the" HBRC councilors made changes to allow HBRIC to provide greater returns on its investment," as noted in ," Council Investment arm expected to work harder " (ex HBRC web press release.)

This is commendable, but optimising a return on ratepayers commercial assets should have been in place since HBRIC was created in 2012.?

3/ WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER HB COUNCILS.

While the HB councils have worked together in dealing with the Cyclone cleanup , Housing and Infrastructure etc , previously there were too many Council Silos that had developed within HB.

As many ratepayers of HBRC, Napier, Hastings, CHB and Wairoa are one and the same, there needs to be a agreed bigger plan for all councils to work together for the greater benefit of the whole region.

The goals for this could be to;


> create operational efficiencies for consistent deliveries,

> recognize back room duplicates,

> support each other with tech and professional services,

> other areas

A great example of HB councils working together is the Omarunui Landfill, that Napier and Hastings have jointly operated since its inception.

1179	Edward Visser	<p>This would create significant savings for the ratepayers, deliver more consistent deliverables and improve relationships across the region. But we need to go further NOW to ensure that HB is sustainable going forward.</p> <p>I want to submit that the rate samples on pages 42 and 43 (copy attached) of our "Have your say" document are not giving a fair impression of the effect on many ratepayers. The average increase is mentioned as 19.6% and you are showing only some samples with percentages close to this average but in fact there are many much higher increases and some of them should have been showed as well. You show for example two rural properties with a reduction of the rates. In my own case my rural properties will have increases of 61% (valuation roll number 0965051106) and 43% (0965051107).</p> <p>I am now also seeing posts in local community Facebook Groups that Clive residents have increases of 68% ([REDACTED]) and 55 % ([REDACTED]) – see attached.</p> <p>Conclusion: I submit that the rate samples you are showing on pages 42 and 43 have intentionally been presented too rosy and in fact are misleading.</p>	 <p>Clive Residents Group</p> <p>Most relevant +</p> <p>Check the HBRC rates calculator, ours are going up 68%. Not 19% 'average' like they say...which is bad enough. 🙄</p> <p>You and 6 others</p> <p>7 comments</p> <p>Like Comment Send</p> <p>View more comments</p> <p>Where do you find the rates calculator please?</p> <p>replied · 1 reply 1 h</p> <p>Rising contributor</p> <p>Agree. HBRC rates up 55% for us. Their 19% average rate increase means that someone else is taking advantage of us Clive residents. Totally unfair. 🙄</p> <p>replied · 1 reply 15 m</p>
1183	Hamish & Joan Cameron	<p>As a retired couple on a fixed income we are not only alarmed, but also disgusted at the complete lack of honesty about the way the HBRC go about publishing their proposed rates strike . To emphasise a 19.6% rise as average when we face an actual increase of 95.37 % is worse than fraud . On the same road others similar to ourselves face 67% -68% and 74%plus increases . None of these properties are by any means top of the range — no pools etc. but deemed by the Real Estate industry to be in a "desirable " locationSo lets put a high value on themThat now looks out of place to the land valueBing-golets change all the rules and turn it completely on its head... !! To tax capital improvements only disincentivises people and businesses to create any lasting facilities . AND THESE ARE THE WEALTH CREATORS . Worse still is taxing (using the same method) the big utilities - - - who have no alternative but to pass that on as well . This is only the start ..Hastings Council have to fix their rates as well.....Then Insurance look at all these new astronomical numbers and "offer " their protection at a new " sustainable " rate . Taxing infrastructure. (improvements) that has already paid numerous taxes to come to fruition is absolutely not the incentive to encourage investment . Rather it will probably drive business elsewhere.(maybe that's why the port was sold). Cut all proposed spending on " nice to have " amenities etc. and just maintain what is already there —not even finish half done. Jobs . Flood control should have all this budget</p>	
1184	Andrew Watts	<p>For and on behalf of 3 ratepayers on Kaimata Road , elderly neighbours , on fixed incomes and past finding their way through what is a truncated process!! Why does it need to be so difficult? Surely this not done on purpose?</p> <p>We have serious concerns around the proposed rates increases that affect our rural residential properties in Kaimata that also affect adjacent</p>	

properties, and, we understand, similar rural residential properties at Esk Hills and Kaiangaroa Place .

We are aware residents in those areas will be making separate submissions on the same issue.

In relation to the HBRC Financial Strategy, we see some very concerning trends over the last seven years around the cost structure of HBRC and in rates revenue required to sustain those costs!

There is a clear correlation to rate increases and personnel costs over the last 20yrs We are on a path of un sustainability, ratepayers on fixed incomes forced to sell up and possible future rate revolts.

Our collective concern is about the extreme, highly differential, grossly inequitable rates increases proposed for our properties, which we believe are out of all proportion to the increases proposed elsewhere in Hawkes Bay. These increases, when combined with proposed increases of \$3-4,000 per property in Napier City Council rates, will likely be financially unsustainable for some residents.

Personally it looks like I will just have to keep working into my 80,s

The proposed 2024-25 rates increases of up to 201% for some of our Road and most in the high 190% is just outrageous !!

Hawkes Bay Regional Council should not just dismiss these inequities by taking a position that these differences are simply an outcome of the recent large increase in land and capital values for our properties, and a change to CAPITAL VALUE as the rating base. This is especially true for our rural residential properties, where the increased value can not be monetised either by productive activities, by the addition of another rentable dwelling or by subdivision, both of which are prevented by Napier City Council District Plan rules.

We are also concerned that the 10-fold ratio of rates increases at our properties compared to the average rates increases may also apply in 2025-26 and 2026-27. If that were to be the case, then we would suffer another 180% rates increase in 2025-26, and another 90% increase in 2026-27.

Do you elected representatives and the back office unelected staff not see how ridiculous this has become? It is looking distinctly like a WEALTH TAX ? Where does this END!!

I have been working closely with two submitters facing like situations in the subdivisions of Esk Hills and Kaiangaroa Place.

We are in full support of the remedies to rebalance inequities being submitted as options for HBRC by Andy Pearce and Dennis Hall.

The new QV valuations were received, with any time limit for questioning of those valuations, well expired, before we got any indication of HBRC and NCC,s proposed 3yr plan rate ramifications!

I dont think on reading our new QV valuations that any one of us could have foreseen the exorbitant increases in rates we would face?

Cyclone Gabrielle has affected us in a bizarre way. The last two sections in Esk Hills sold for moon money and some houses sold well over the odds to displaced insurance settled cyclone victims !

It seems that these over the odds sales values is what inflated our QV,s , a once in a lifetime event .

Interestingly two homes in Kaimata have been on the market for the last two months at asking prices based on those recent QV valuations. Only one looker and no offers on either makes it obvious valuations are not currently applicable.

Our fellow submitters year by year rate increases along with increases in personnel costs shows what looks like a runaway train of personnel costs and rates increases.

Annual increases of 14% can NOT be sustained, even over the period of the current three-year plan.

Personnel costs are a very clear driver of rates increases especially over the last seven years. It is not surprising that personnel costs are a large fraction of total costs in a service organisation like HBRC. In that last seven years personnel costs have doubled and so have our rates.

We submit that the ever-expanding growth in staff numbers and costs is unsustainable and that Council must act strongly over the three-year plan period to curb that growth, and in fact to cut staff numbers back.

If central government's fiscal discipline approach was applied to HBRC, i.e. a 6.5% budget cut, there would need to be a similar cut in staff numbers and cost.

		<p>Summing up</p> <p>The present Council must be strong in drawing in the runaway unsustainable rate increases and rebalance the huge inequities in % rate increases .</p> <p>If I think back to the 'Catchment Board " days , your HBRC predecessor, when river protection , erosion, weed and pest control were THE core responsibilities .</p> <p>Compare that to what Regional Council involves itself in today , no wonder our rates are so high!</p> <p>Council needs to know that the wonderful efforts of the past in virtually eradicating Possums has obviously been sidelined by all these non core activities, the POSSUMS are back, in case you haven't noticed!!</p> <p>There's an old saying I often retailed in my past local council role Stick to the must do, limit the should do and eliminate the could do Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present these thoughts .</p>
1199	Sally Davenport	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm sorry I really can't tick boxes. This situation is way bigger than a box ticking exercise.</p> <p>A bit about me. I was born in 1957, I was raised by a mum who was born in 1925 and went through the 2nd world war as a teenager and a young woman. She was evacuated from her parents and simply had to get on with things. Her parents lost everything, house, precious, much loved & valuable antiques, absolutely everything during the bombing of Birmingham – and they just had to get on with it.</p> <p>She lived for years through rationing. Her wedding dress was not white because fabric wasn't readily available. It was made creatively of several fabrics which were cleverly put together.</p> <p>I've lived in millionaire's row and circumstances have led me, for a period, to subsist on the pig bins from Big Fresh. I now live, frugally, in Pirimai and grow my own veggies, purchase from Op Shops and so forth. In other words, I'VE CUT MY CLOTH ACCORDING TO MY INCOME.</p> <p>Bottom line is though, if you don't have 3 eggs, you can't bake the cake.</p> <p>If you don't have money for fabric, you make do. AND you CUT YOUR CLOTH ACCORDINGLY.</p> <p>Number 1. I'm sorry Ms Ormsby BUT collectively you need to take responsibility for what has happened. AND Mr McDonald needs to be fired. He knew the weather event was on its' way, he chose to go on holiday instead and at the very time he should have been here, he was nowhere to be seen. That's called a DERELICTION OF DUTY. Were he in the armed forces, he would be facing a Court Martial and were he employed by a corporate, he would have been FIRED! End of matter. It's not up to me to keep him in the manner to which he has become accustomed.</p> <p>In the words of a current TV advert – he and you all had ONE JOB!! Just one job and he and you failed.</p> <p>Stop banks. What, if any, guarantees can you give me that your new stop banks, higher, wider, etc. will hold in another event? NONE AT ALL! There are no guarantees that the work you intend will prevent another episode. For crying out loud, you recommended planting pine trees – how well did that go?</p> <p>Guess what, rivers will run where rivers will run and please, don't tell me that CG was a 1 in 150 occurrence. I just don't believe you. Have none of you watched An Inconvenient Truth, or read Al Gores book of the same title. Have you ALL been asleep at the wheel whilst the eccentric Friedensreich Hundertwasser predicted what has happened along with many scientists and environmentalists over the last 50 odd years.</p> <p>Our region is made up of many thousands and thousands of Retirees and Working Poor. I myself know way too many people who are working 2/3 jobs, who work double shifts, who work 6/7 days a week. And yes they have children.</p> <p>Whilst you all sit in your wealthy comfortable ivory towers, the ants below are struggling to survive.</p> <p>"The Hawke's Bay Regional Council was set up in 1989 as an amalgamation of Catchment Boards, Pest Destruction Boards, United Councils and Noxious Plant Authorities in the region."</p> <p>Your job is "to protect and manage the region's precious taonga of rivers, lakes, soils, air, coast, and biodiversity for health, wellbeing, and connectivity."</p> <p>Get on with it, BUT cut your cloth accordingly. You cannot afford to be all things to all people.</p> <p>AND I really don't believe you have the mandate in any way shape or form to IMPOSE a 19.6% rate rise.</p>

		AND you can start by looking line by line at each division/departments budget. Line by line – let's start with office cleaning.....does it need to be every day, how often is it done, can staff not empty their waste paper bins at a central location., Next, STAFF. Too many, too much inertia? No RMA going to have to be monitored.
1200	John Bostock	<p>My views are well known. We need to sell assets for repaying debt . The proceeds from sale of Assets need to be spent on capital items not cost items. The council needs to read the room and cut its cloth.</p> <p>There are many things that could be cut including tourism spend, transport, open spaces, efficiency, staffing levels and many feel good projects. On tourism I can't understand how the council would tax businesses to supply money for other business ie picking winners.</p> <p>Politicians and councils are not good at picking winners. It is totally wrong to take from one category of enterprise to give to another. If tourism spend was such a good idea why can't the operators fund it themselves?</p> <p>Lastly the council needs to look at a flood protection to provide a significant improvement in HB flood protection infrastructure and systems. It will require significant funds which need to be funded by selling assets and leveraged with central government.</p> <p>In my view we need proper international consultants as the experience and skill are not available in NZ,</p>

Submissions from Revenue & Financing Policy review (February 20240

ID	Name	Feedback
103	Tracey Phillips	Stop fleecing rate payers
109	Russell Green	Too many people doing nothing at the Regional Council. You would never get a job in the private sector
117	Jess Norton	Not really just want I have already said. I believe at the moment I am paying \$940 a quarter. How much are my rates going to increase by?
132	SA Austin	People in CHB are doing it very difficult as it is, we live over an hour from the nearest hospital, no public transport, every thing is just that little bit more expensive ie petrol etc. If you live rural as we do, we don't get any thing extra for our huge rate increase except the very edge of the grass verge out side our house mowen twice a year! If you increase the rates by the preposed huge %, you are going to cause more heartache and stress and people not being able to afford to live here. Please do the right thing!
133	Michele Courage	Cut the rates by less council members and them becoming more more efficient and accountable.
136	Linda walsh	lets just be fair - who uses your services most? its sq mtr and locality based more than capital value ...
142	Megan Dingley	We pay enough now. We don't have rubbish collection or recycling and still have to pay for it. We ask you to come and spray your weeds and thistles so don't contaminant our property, you never do it now we have to clear our paddocks of thistles and blackberry coming from your side of the fence. Don't think it's fair to ask us to pay more when we don't get anything in return
145	Amber Wijnsma	We pay more than enough in rates. The cost of living is so high already you will be making people poor!!! Think wisely about this because you are really making our region suffer in this proposal
154	Rachael Hinchco	Rates need to come out earlier to help people pay for these, current times are still extremely hard and this also needs to be taken into account for increases etc. Special consideration of charges also need to be put into place for people still not able to live/make a living off land they own that has been flood damaged.
160	Ashley Jones	Stop charging rate payers more for your stupid vanity projects.
163	Guy Eastwood	Have a serious look at the number of staff on high salaries and all the company vehicles plenty of savings there!!
179	David Bosley	Yes, people that I have spoken to are absolutely aghast at Council's Finance & Revenue Committees unscrupulous rates proposals= Rates Hikes!
186	Jeanette Jobbins	Daylight robbery and it's unacceptable
203	Lorraine Whyte	Just a fancy way of saying "we're going to put your rates up again!! " We can't afford to pay over \$5000 per year! That's \$100 per week on rates which is a tax. We already pay tax. Charge the bottling companies what they should be charged and fix all our infrastructure problems without sticking it to the ratepayers(again)who can ill afford it. You could do all your proposals, fix the reservoir problems, stopbanks
208	George Spiers	Do not increase the rates under the disguise of Gabrielle. Likewise do not increase rates using Gabrielle as the excuse.
213	Thanh Nguyen	Any more increase will force us to move elsewhere as it is already cheaper in other cities.
214	Nathan Wall	Less council smoko shouts and private vehicle use, reduce stupid wages from poor managers and stop wasting land owners hard earned money!!
215	Roger Wakefielf	Go back to the drawing board, think again and come up with a simple easier to explain plan. Then spend the money wisely on things that matter. Boring projects in building resilience and maintenance are vital. Spend your money there. Get rid of transport subsidies. At present you have your hand out wanting more beacause you "cocked it up in the first place."
222	Megan Bardell	Why don't I want to present my submission - because we work as much as we can to keep our house and to survive.

227	Kate Lowe	Stop raising the rates!
231	Anthony Moore	You councillors lie, I don't trust any of you to work in the best interests of ratepayers . Stop wasting money and expect ratepayers to top you up.
232	Tarn Gardner	Stop bleeding us dry!!
237	Rebecca McIntosh	Pretty simple - time for a change, restructure. One umbrella 1 super council. 1 mayor. 1 district. Cull cull cull. That's what any business would do.
247	Eve Vokins	Stop trying to price everyone out of affording to live here.
259	Rachel Van der werf	Maybe the regional council could look at cutting costs and wastage before they start implementing new charges to ratepayers.
264	Tyler H	No more rates increases
271	Sarah Bennett	I strongly disagree with any further increases in rates fees, especially when you see money being wasted on nonsensical roundabouts such as the one in Harold Holt Ave, the roundabout would be funny if my rates weren't helping paying for such a stupid roundabout.
273	Peter shakes	don't just increasing costs. Look for ways of delivering these outcomes with better ways of doing things with less money...ie: efficiencies, innovation, less bureaucracy. Less use of contractors and more use of dedicated works depts
275	Anthony Maher	Leave everything as it is for those you represent. Many can not afford to throw more money at Regional Council activities and job creation. We have to contend with bank interest rates.. food prices.. Napier City Council rates.. fuel.. etc. Be real people cannot afford more costs when incomes are not keeping up with inflation.
283	Gail Sharp	It is unjust that ratepayers in rural areas where there is no provision whatsoever from Hawkes Bay Regional Council should be expected to contribute financially to the schemes proposed. Rates are already high on a local level and increasing charges further for nothing in return is not sustainable or fair for pensioners and those who are already paying higher interest rates on mortgages. How is the Council proposing to change their provision for places like Onga Onga?
308	Daniel Soltau	Council needs to find cost savings, cut staff and do less instead of trying to find more ways to get money out of ratepayers. Look after the basics; fix the roads and keep an eye on dodgy businesses polluting our environment otherwise say out of peoples lives.
325	Cherie Craig	I would appreciate the HBRC considering the following anomaly which has come to my attention when working with Year 8 students. I would also like to address the inequality of access to educational opportunities for our High School students. At present it costs \$40 per week per student for College Students to travel to High School in Hastings and they also have to get to and from Waipawa to catch the bus to Hastings. This creates a problem for students who for whatever reason do not want to attend CHB College but do wish to remain in the educational system if their parents can not afford to pay \$40 per week for the bus ticket. It is my understanding that the fee used to be \$10 per week which most families would be able to find and so give educational choice. There is real problem with keeping students in education, especially at the High School level. Is there any grants available for students and their families to enable choice and so keep students in education.
337	Clinton Uprichard	Taking into account the tone and addenda of this proposal I am disappointed with the quality of people employed in the regional council. Councillors will not gain my vote in the next local body election. This proposal is a money grab from those perceived to be wealthy and project that focus in areas outside of the "tax take" zone. Projects are Woke and "pet" projects with no obvious real economic outcome for the majority of rate payers. Stick to ensuring our basic infrastructure is capable of supporting current community and the population growth in the main centres. You do not have permission to use my personal details in relation to this form and comments
341	Jeff tichborne	I, - like a lot of other ratepayers I imagine, don't support rates increases, especially for 'core business' I mean, it took the council over for months to replace a street light that failed in front of my house in clive, you'd think it'd be a priority, - safety at night and all that, but

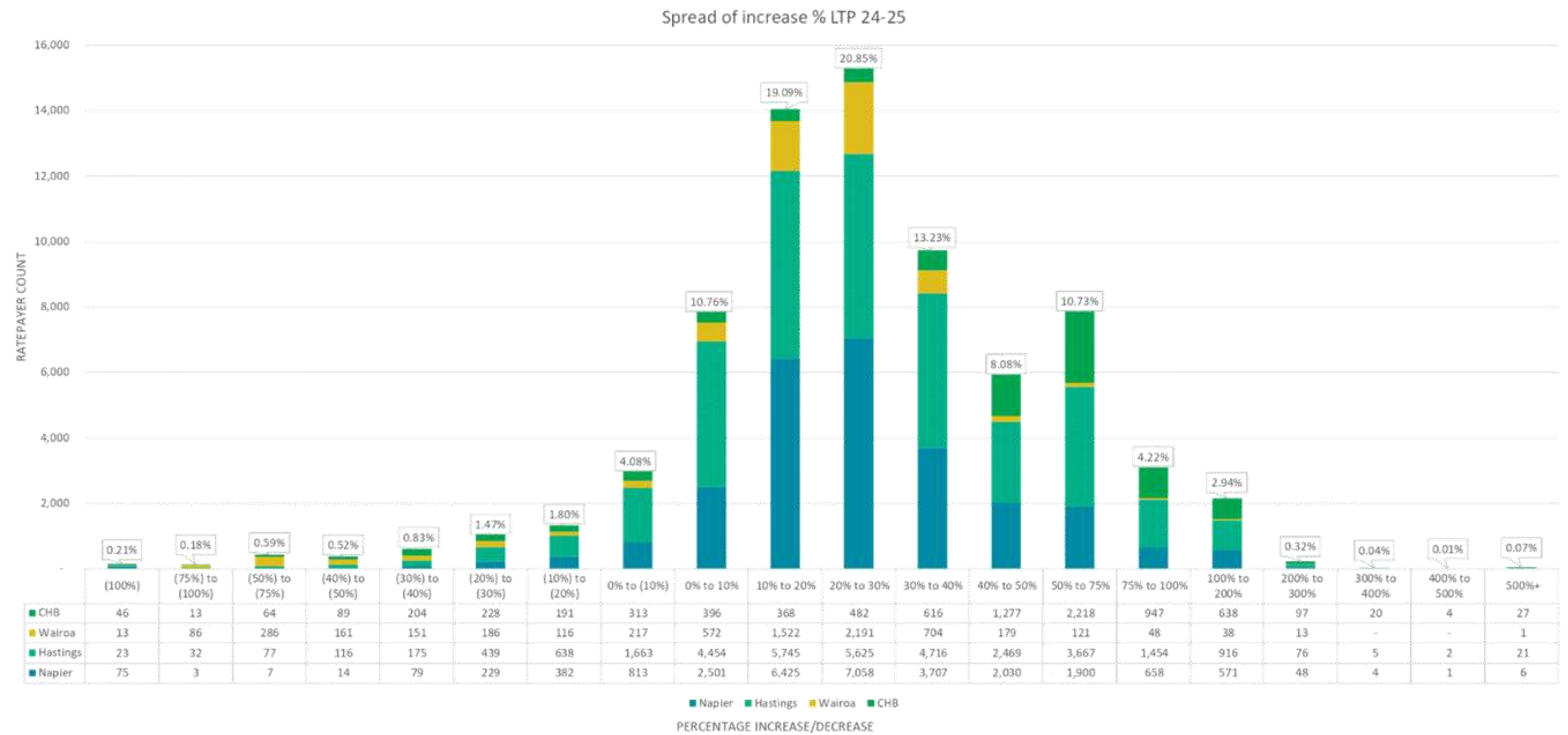
		no..... it's an led light as well, not even that old, I fit an extra light to my house to light up the footpath in front, so I could see the low lifes up to no good.....
349	Adrian Fong	Don't increase it. But I already know you will. 98% of all consultations always end up in favour of the councils wishes. Consultation is just a formality you have to go through. I understand that.
353	Graeme Perry	There is never a good time to introduce changes to everyday cost of living, now, after a Cyclone, matched with the inflationary increases and cost of living rises, our Regional Council believes this is a good time to come along and add to the pressure. It isn't. I would be more supportive of a Council that had a clear plan to deliver it's responsibilities to the community, HBRC doesn't have one. Put a proper long term plan together with hard commitments to deliver improved management of the Region, backed by a proper financial budget and prove that the staff, and Councillors, are capable of fiscal responsibility and clear ability to deliver on promises. Until then this project should be shelved
359	Rebecca Bennett	I believe it would be fare and honest to hold a referendum to see if the people of the Hawkes Bay wish to change the base criteria on which you calculate their Regional rates. If indeed the Pie is merely being re-calibrated and not expanded then listening to the people you were voted in to represent should not reduce your income in any way. To bring this change to pass over the Christmas Holiday period also reeks of a little underhandedness. I believe after the past three years you should looking to counteract the mistrust in governance that is inherent in the community, and a move like this is counter productive to that outcome. Just listen to comments in the supermarket queues and you will truly start to understand that your community is no longer your largest supporters. Please treat the people of the Hawkes Bay with the respect you yourself would like to receive.
360	Andrew Carney	I simply think rural like Poraiti should pay less than town as they do not use town supply.
361	John Sanko	As a property owner both in Havelock North and Waimarama I am against your proposed change, particularly in Waimarama where there are limited services provided by council. Given the pressure on everyone the proposed increases are unfair because of the overheated property market pushing values up and poor council planning opening up land for housing development. This problem has been bought about by council over regulation and excessive fees, poor delivery and timeliness of services and unwillingness to open up land lost for housing.
364	Glenn Marshall	I would like to see the following amendments. Risk based pricing. HBRC will be well aware that insurance companies have now moved to risk based pricing based on risk assessment modelling. Climate change is real and it is having an increasingly negative impact. The time has come for HBRC to start factoring in risk based pricing into its rating model. I.e. someone that lives on the hills of Havelock North or Bluff Hill or Hospital Hill or the hills of Poraiti should not be expected to be the same contribution to risk protection such as stop banks as someone whose property is low lying and right beside a stop bank and in a known flood plain area.
365	Rayewyn Hansen	How on earth our retired people on pension meant to pay a big rise? obviously because i live in Francis Drake Street but did not flood this is going against me. Not happy about this, bad enough with CHB District Council and Insurance shooting up.
366	Joan Bishop	The increased amount should be changed to people's & businesses that are g.s.t registered & only a \$1.00 increase to everyone else.
368	Leclue Oosthuizen	Its ridiculous As a home owner we are barely surviving with the finances coming in. You are killing us.
370	Bruce Bissett	On the face of it the major change proposed from Hawke's Bay Regional Council's review of rates is to alter the underlying basis of rates for a given property from land to capital value, and as far as this principle is concerned there appears to be some logic to adopting it. However the devil is always in the detail, which in this case consists of what is, or is not, to be covered under the auspices of the "general rate" as opposed to targeted or differentiated rates. One glance at the "examples" used, and as council's summary itself admits, shows that the major thrust of the proposed regime is to shift a significant proportion of the burden of rates from rural-dwellers to urban (both residential and commercial/industrial) by the simple trick of moving the rural-specific existing categories of rating (such as for sustainable land management,

		<p>major pest control, and biodiversity) to within the general rate. Contrary to council's own fundamental principles, as per direction via the Rating Act, this is neither fair nor equitable. Before anyone accuses me of entering into a "townie versus country" debate, let me point out it is council who has manufactured one! But in addressing this I wish to make a different distinction: business versus home-owner. While I am sure commercial and industrial premises will have their own saws to sharpen with the current proposal, without doubt it impacts most on residential properties, wherever they may be. That impact may not be much in dollar terms, but is significant in percentage terms - with increases ranging (as per the examples HBRC provides) from 28% for an average house in Hastings, through 42-46% for higher-end properties in Napier and Havelock, to a whopping 69% for a supposedly "low-value" home in Flaxmere. What those properties share is they are all homes, not businesses. Whereas regardless of whether it's a dairy farm, an orchard, or a forestry block, what all "farms" share with commercial and industrial premises is that they are businesses. Sure, someone may run a home office activity from their house; equally, farmers may live in homes on their farms. But primarily a farm is a business - and should be distinguished as such. Meaning, in this case, that the nature-specific responsibilities and costs of any rural land use must be differentiated from the quiet enjoyment of a residential house - be it in town, at the beach, or indeed on a country section. To a large extent, and as reflected in the current rating regime, council's costs for in particular ensuring sustainable land management, plant and animal pest control, and sustained/enhanced biodiversity are all rural-specific costs. It must be noted however that the existing regime already places much of the burden on the general rate; the targeted rural rate for land management, for example, is only 25% of the total for that cost. But to my mind this makes the proposed change, removing that targeted rate altogether, even more pernicious. There is no adequate let alone valid reason for lumping those costs into the general rate and expecting residential home-owners to pay them - especially as on top of that we "townies" have a range of urban-specific targeted rates we are, more fairly, charged.</p> <p>2 Would a crop farmer in central Hawke's Bay be happy to pay a rate for public transport? No, they would not! Yet we in Hastings who do pay such levies must now be expected to pay that farmer's rural-specific charges - reducing their rates overall by some 40% in doing so (again, per council's example). But that's not the worst of it. We have all seen, and variously suffered from, the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle and other "extreme weather events"; aside, I wonder how long it will be until these are re-labelled "normal"? A year later and one only has to visit any patch of shore along virtually the length of the East Coast to witness the aftermath: the detritus of millions of trees still littering the beaches. How much of that wooden burden is forestry slash? As much as official inquiries have attempted to minimise the figure, I suggest in reality it's considerably more than admitted. And how many bridges roads and train tracks are we still missing as a result? Yet inexplicably council's proposal states that "No specific, separately identifiable, group causes a need" to be delineated under "sustainable land management" rates. Beg pardon? As a result of which determination, "There is no particular need to fund this activity separately". So not only is the forestry industry not being more heavily rated for the environmental damage they do - consistently, I submit - but under the all-in approach up for adoption a 598-hectare Wairoa forestry block (council's example) will have its rates reduced by 74%. That'll pay for a lot of clean-ups, won't it. I remind the council that it exists to be our environmental watchdog - and I have no problem paying my fair share of costs for it to properly carry out its work. This proposal does not properly identify and consequently rate industries which are known to repeatedly cause pollution and other environmental impacts. I hesitate to use the term protectionism, but there's worse I might. One size fits all might be a good rule if you are running a donut stall. It will not work with land-use. If this is a "comprehensive" review, as advertised, then someone at council needs to get out a dictionary and look that word up. I haven't even begun to talk about dairying or monocultures.</p>
372	Froma Rakuraku	<p>What does HBRC do for us, nothing that I can see We gather rain water in our tank We arrange and pay for our own sewer septic tank clean We take our rubbish to the dump in Wairoa and pay there Why should our rates increase Our village have no footpaths The school kids walk on the road and have to dodge the logging trucks They cross the main road against 70 km heavy traffic without a zebra crossing Why should our community pay rates that benefit those in town?</p>

390	Alan Simpson	The current rates should be scrapped in favour of a citizens living tax, where everyone contributes to cost of the upkeep of our area, it shouldn't just be loaded onto a home owner! something like the Auckland fuel tax system seems to be a fairer option! it's 2024
411	Amber Kay	This applies to all areas note below: These proposed changes are unfair to the majority of Napier residents. Allowing the majority of Napier residents to pay for items that the minority utilise is unfair e.g. pest traps, public transport, tourism. Allowing Maori a 100% rates rebate on their land is unfair to non-Maori who are in dire circumstances. Rebates should be based on hardship not race or religion. Pushing the rates up on properties that were devastated by the Cyclone and are just getting back to normal e.g. orchards will have a double impact on ratepayers when food prices go up. Has HBRC considered this? We all know flood protection is required to protect people and assets. Some areas of Napier were spared major devastation based on the stop banks that HBRC had already built. We are grateful for that. The rest, HBRC should consider fees and charges to users. Your councillors are saying that the proposed changes will not result in an increase on total rates but they will negatively affect more than half of your ratepayers, who will have to pay more. You will be contributing to the hardship of the majority of Napier residents and other Hawke's Bay residents if these changes occur. It is very clear that HBRC have determined by proposing CV over LV they can capitalise off residential dwellings, who are the majority of Napier residents and will have to pay 11% extra this year and continue to pay more every year. HBRC councillors, come election year, please plan for Napier and other Hawke's Bay residents to vote you out if changes occur.
413	Adrian Young	I have lost confidence that you are taking the public's best interests at heart.
425	Bob Pearce	This review seems like a sham so HBRC can make changes to benefit small numbers of payers in a big way while hitting many more with big rates rises. I don't have confidence our views will be heard but at least I have tried.
438	Kirstin Chapman	Current economic times are hard and you have not been 100% clear on all proposals stating there might (I take that as will) be further changes with Cyclone impacts on some. Given Hastings DC will probably rape and pillage us due to their debt increase I'm loath to pay more here. I just see this as a total rort and a way to take more money by stealth. I also note you set the submission presentation to default to No when all other questions had no default answer selected.
457	John Frith	I am totally against increasing rates they way the HBRC now want to calculate them This is poor form from an underperforming & unnecessary HB council- can you not amalgamate the 3+ councils in Hawkes Bay??? To reduce costs on rate payers but no, now you want to increase costs for those on fixed incomes your submissions form on this topic doesn't even work (https://napier.wufoo.com/forms/m15pfe8b0kaealo/) & I struggle every year to work out what the HBRC does for me & my property that goes beyond or improves on, what HDC charges you for, as well.
485	Tim gilbertson	Employ independent auditors from outside the organisation and the chief auditors office to analyse your spending.
487	Terese Glenn	You are driving the small orchard block owners out of the industry.
492	Rebecca Skudder	find other alternatives, stop taking from lower income struggling families
493	Chris Bain	given Council has sought feedback on only 7 specific questions, it seems to me to not have taken a broad enough view. I hope the forthcoming 24-27LTP will propose a much stronger approach re mitigating the impact of Climate Change through- out our region. As indicated in my response to Question 1, I believe that the CV method has a major flaw and will undermine making the required changes to improve our environment and Climate Change in particular. The proposed rating changes take a softly, softly approach (community sharing and caring) however I think this hasn't proven successful to date. Non-rural property owners have a far greater impact on our environment than urbanites and the rating changes should strongly embrace that reality.
494	Jim Galloway	We wish to emphasise to the Council that the current financial landscape poses challenges for many of our members. In various farming sectors, incomes have declined, resembling levels from a decade ago, while rates have steadily increased during this period. When

		compounded with inflation, surging interest rates, and the detrimental impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on the region's farming industry, numerous farmers are grappling with financial uncertainties, prompting serious concerns about meeting their financial obligations. As representatives of the farming community, we wish to highlight the disproportionate rates burdened by rural ratepayers under the current rating system. Farm properties generally face much higher rates than urban homes and businesses despite their distance from most council services and infrastructure. This unfair discrepancy should be a core consideration as council reviews its rating policies.
503	Brian Slader	As an organisation you have lost your way. You have become woke at the detriment to the community that you are meant to serve. The February cyclone, whilst extreme, showed that you have learnt nothing from previous events. In my area, Haumoana, the same mistakes are made every time. Houses were flooded due to your incompetence. Your staff seem happy to drive around in their utes but never get out of them and fix what is needed. Time to re-focus on your core business.
508	Damien Naidoo	Perhaps HBRC should claim considerably more, via an LV rated differential on the general rate from plantation forestry due to its considerable impact on our environment - not to mention strain on infrastructure. Farmers can then be given some relief via an appropriate differential without a move to CV and the corresponding punishment for low income urban households...
513	Wayne Taylor	It is crap. Maori will have to pay money they do not have
515	Caron Taana	Poor timing of consultation and scant information. Should not pay a cent for "economic development". Wasted well over \$20 million of public money on water storage for irrigation. That was just one failed project. Why, when you guys are for the "region", are the residential properties going to be paying more than the Regional or Country Properties.
518	Sarah McIlroy	Both councils need to clearly outline and communicate who owns, maintains etc what. Funds need to be clearly prioritised and the wasteful spending needs to stop. The nice to haves ie parks playground etc can't come until the essentials are up to scratch. Need more logic to spending
522	Istvan Lengyel	If the council is unable to learn from previous historical data, what are they actually doing. It feels like councils tend to manage with their heads in a hole, unable to read and analyse historical data that have been in front of their eyes for years.
523	Jacqueline Siegenthaler	The council needs to be fully transparent on its rates takings and stop the unfettered increasing of the rates pushing all costs to the ratepayers. We all don't need any more of this kind of behaviour or 'policies'.
527	Christine Smith	Whilst the statement that "those with more capital have more productive earning capacity" may be appropriate for commercial and industrial property and rural areas, it does not necessarily relate to urban residential property. The argument that those with higher value houses can afford an increase in rates may not be valid as this does not take into account the disposable income of those on a fixed income. The capital value of property being related to "those who consume more resources" is also unproved and is not necessarily valid. I suggest that some charges be moved to a fixed rate per inhabited dwelling. I am unconvinced that capital values are more stable than land values. In our case our capital value has fluctuated more and increased proportionally more than our land value as overall house prices have risen. The continued housing developments and house improvements will also impact capital value more than land value. Although capital value has been used by other councils, it is necessary for the Hawke's Bay Regional Council to consider what is most appropriate for Hawke's Bay. They need to consider the impact on various groups of property owners and find the best solution for this area. Using the comparison of rates on specific residential properties as a guide, I have compared the current and proposed rates for a house on Napier Hill. This shows a ratio of CV to LV of 3.23%, an increase in the general rate of \$222.37, a rate increase of \$228.74 and a percentage increase of 46%. Perhaps a cap on capital values would be appropriate. I also note that Flaxmere residents face a rate increase of 23%. How does the council propose to alleviate these significant increases in rates? Spreading the rate increase over the next three years would be helpful.

528	A Hone	Comments as question 1 above. As it shout the council has not to date - it must manage their assets/budgets accurately, expertly and prudently. Xero tolerance for monetary waste - no more blow outs or extravagances
531	Brent Linn HB Winegrowers	Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the HBRC proposal on how you set rates. HBWG represents the interests of the Hawke's Bay wine industry. We write to voice our concern over your Council's proposal to change the way you set rates. The proposal as presented will significantly financially disadvantage the majority of our members at a time where they are facing significant economic headwinds, rebuilding their businesses following the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle. While we acknowledge the rates remission on the grounds of hardship policy, we consider this to be a "band- aid" solution instead of HBRC addressing the need for the transfer of costs to the horticulture sector this proposal predicates. We are particularly concerned about the transfer of costs associated with the Regional economic development, passenger transport and sustainable land management components of the proposal. These are costs that many of our members will struggle to find as equitable based on their analysis of the benefits to their businesses.
535	John Loughlin	The profitability of horticultural and viticultural businesses has fallen dramatically in recent years as costs have risen much faster than incomes.
537	Richard A Punter	I am emphatically opposed to the latest HBRC Regional Rates concept. This is the second attack on HBRC small growers and lifestyle block owners in as many months. • Firstly in December HBRC advised me that you will be reducing my water take after I had spent many thousands of dollars in fees and compliance work, and, • according to the model provided by HBRC you intend to increase my regional rates by 42% You also insult me with your defamatory accusation that I am an "exacerbator" (Page 8 of your slideshow) . Clearly the manager who chose that word was being deliberately offensive since an exacerbator is an evil or violent thing that makes a bad situation even worse. I will be interested to see your proof of that. There is no doubt that your rates plan when coupled with the irrigation reductions has a perverse and insidious logic to it. • Reduce or cancel irrigation water takes, land is no longer so productive – if at all • Land Values fall over time, • Rates income falls as land values fall. • Change rating concept to include all capital improvements • rateable values vastly increase • Rates Incomes recovers. Your claim, that this is more equitable, applies to whom? If I cannot irrigate, then my land is no longer "Plains Production Land". The idea, that by adding the value of a residence and sheds to the rateable value, using the utterly facile and specious argument that these assets and improvements will enable me to, "earn income from my house and shed " is exactly that, facile and specious. I don't need a house and workshop on the block to improve horticultural outcomes. I need a bore and an irrigation water consent, which you are planning to remove. Your plan to move pest control from targeted to general rates is not equitable, you give Forestry a free ride on capital value because due to an "accounting anomaly" "trees are worth nothing" but you expect the rest of us to pay their pest control costs? I control the pests on my property, tell me why I have to pay for forestry pest control. Your timing of both the water and rates issues was quite deliberate, dump both onto us at Xmas and sneak it through, claiming there was no opposition. You must have been planning this for several years but this is the first we hear of what is a pre- emptive strike against small growers, still trying to recover from Gabrielle. Any properly managed organisation in this financial environment would be very publicly explaining how they were looking to reduce the cost base, turning every cost centre inside out, rigorously justifying every cent spent, slashing contractor and consultant fees, but no, from HBRC silence. Mainly, I suspect because you have no competencies in that area. HBRC has sadly become a cloth-eared, unaccountable, autocracy. In the middle of a cost of living crisis my increase of 42% (from your chart) gets me precisely what? Nothing. Is it equitable? Dont be ridiculous.
539	Heather Black	No other company would reasonably expect to make such increases and have their consumers afford that increase or stay with that provider. We don't believe the council should operate any differently. Advanced warning of confirmed cost increases (1-2 years when the items planned are within the council's control e.g. public transport) should be given and a stepped increase that is capped at 100% increase YOY (year on year) should be in place. We believe an increase of 350% in one year is neither fair, nor reasonable.
543	Gary Jones	With the impact of cyclone Gabrielle on Hawke's Bay this is not the right time to impose higher rates on horticultural operators.
-ENDS-		



	-100%	-75%	-50%	-40%	-30%	-20%	-10%	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	75%	100%	200%	300%	400%	500%	
\$500+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	95	165	203	221	631	565	1174	189	18	5	34
\$400 - \$500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	46	75	97	129	447	425	439	2	1	0	3
\$300 - \$400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	80	107	234	301	1244	770	369	7	4	2	3
\$200 - \$300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	152	296	1528	2168	2481	950	107	18	0	0	6
\$100 - \$200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	191	1235	7915	6482	2569	2798	261	32	14	3	0	6
\$75 - \$100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	128	4042	4249	801	290	46	39	4	1	0	0	0
\$50 - \$75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	582	5805	1165	183	50	48	23	9	1	1	0	0
\$25 - \$50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3452	2313	575	34	145	43	27	5	0	0	0	2
\$0 - \$25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	3473	292	809	181	82	168	47	24	2	2	0	1
\$0 - (\$25)	14	8	27	14	39	175	152	1702	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(\$25) - (\$50)	5	15	23	28	29	97	132	618	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(\$50) - (\$75)	6	7	9	8	25	77	166	216	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(\$75) - (\$100)	6	5	18	8	10	42	112	116	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(\$100) - (\$200)	19	22	36	16	68	127	283	173	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(\$200) - (\$300)	16	12	21	17	53	95	110	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(\$300) - (\$400)	19	7	20	18	38	73	97	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(\$400) - (\$500)	23	1	14	25	39	52	66	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(\$500)+	49	57	266	246	308	344	209	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Most common band	28,947	39%
Second most common band	14,574	20%
Lower than avg increase or decrease	15,371	21%
increase over average	14,775	20%

Socio-Economic													LV:CV		RFP Proposed				LTP Proposed		
Street	Area	TA	Rating	LV	CV	Ratio	2023-24 Rate	Rate	Difference \$	Difference %			Rate	Difference \$	Difference %						
Harker street	Waipawa	CHB	Low	\$ 95,000	\$ 165,000	1.74	\$ 160.44	\$ 163.27	\$ 2.83	1.76%			\$173.91	\$13.47	8.40%						
Sydney Terrace	Takapau	CHB	Low	\$ 290,000	\$ 1,600,000	5.52	\$ 657.32	\$ 567.88	(\$89.44)	(13.61%)			\$708.94	\$51.62	7.85%						
McCarthy Terrace	Waipukurau	CHB	Low	\$ 170,000	\$ 330,000	1.94	\$ 460.67	\$ 445.22	(\$15.45)	(3.35%)			\$510.55	\$49.88	10.83%						
Keppel Street	Porangahau	CHB	Low	\$ 320,000	\$ 500,000	1.56	\$ 319.65	\$ 325.98	\$ 6.33	1.98%			\$386.25	\$66.60	20.84%						
Ellison Street	Otane	CHB	Low	\$ 345,000	\$ 465,000	1.35	\$ 393.46	\$ 371.01	(\$22.45)	(5.71%)			\$424.74	\$31.28	7.95%						
Kiwi Street	Camberley	Hastings	Low	\$ 260,000	\$ 380,000	1.46	\$ 615.84	\$ 593.19	(\$22.65)	(3.68%)			\$624.77	\$8.93	1.45%						
Ngahiriwa Place	Fernhill	Hastings	Low	\$ 210,000	\$ 325,000	1.55	\$ 425.64	\$ 453.65	\$ 28.01	6.58%			\$490.62	\$64.98	15.27%						
Massey Street	Akina	Hastings	Low	\$ 395,000	\$ 570,000	1.44	\$ 473.80	\$ 466.24	(\$7.56)	(1.60%)			\$508.21	\$34.41	7.26%						
Sussex Street	Mayfair	Hastings	Low	\$ 380,000	\$ 485,000	1.28	\$ 455.95	\$ 426.57	(\$29.38)	(6.44%)			\$463.39	\$7.44	1.63%						
Victoria Street	Karamu	Hastings	Low	\$ 172,000	\$ 284,000	1.65	\$ 391.06	\$ 321.38	(\$69.68)	(17.82%)			\$352.90	(\$38.16)	(9.76%)						
Cartier Crescent	Flaxmere	Hastings	Low	\$ 205,000	\$ 395,000	1.93	\$ 342.78	\$ 374.07	\$ 31.29	9.13%			\$411.75	\$68.97	20.12%						
Dundee Drive	Flaxmere	Hastings	Low	\$ 240,000	\$ 420,000	1.75	\$ 366.14	\$ 387.76	\$ 21.62	5.91%			\$425.75	\$59.61	16.28%						
Canning Road	Camberley	Hastings	Low	\$ 450,000	\$ 590,000	1.31	\$ 508.52	\$ 478.97	(\$29.55)	(5.81%)			\$520.11	\$11.59	2.28%						
Hood Street	Mayfair	Hastings	Low	\$ 365,000	\$ 465,000	1.27	\$ 444.97	\$ 416.49	(\$28.48)	(6.40%)			\$452.55	\$7.58	1.70%						
Elm Road	Akina	Hastings	Low	\$ 370,000	\$ 530,000	1.43	\$ 454.79	\$ 446.39	(\$8.40)	(1.85%)			\$486.64	\$31.85	7.00%						
Carlyle Street	Napier South	Napier	Low	\$ 220,000	\$ 370,000	1.68	\$ 296.31	\$ 301.09	\$ 4.78	1.61%			\$345.28	\$48.97	16.53%						
Barker Road	Marewa	Napier	Low	\$ 295,000	\$ 500,000	1.69	\$ 422.03	\$ 424.10	\$ 2.07	0.49%			\$481.01	\$58.98	13.98%						
Savage Crescent	Marewa	Napier	Low	\$ 275,000	\$ 405,000	1.47	\$ 398.88	\$ 378.09	(\$20.79)	(5.21%)			\$428.58	\$29.70	7.45%						
Hallary Crescent	Maranui	Napier	Low	\$ 240,000	\$ 470,000	1.96	\$ 381.97	\$ 402.60	\$ 20.63	5.40%			\$463.15	\$81.18	21.25%						
Riverbend Road	Onekawa	Napier	Low	\$ 225,000	\$ 345,000	1.53	\$ 359.39	\$ 343.66	(\$15.73)	(4.38%)			\$394.47	\$35.08	9.76%						
Trinity Crescent	Pirimai	Napier	Low	\$ 275,000	\$ 500,000	1.82	\$ 409.59	\$ 420.47	\$ 10.88	2.66%			\$480.47	\$70.88	17.31%						
Wells Place	Tamatea	Napier	Low	\$ 230,000	\$ 375,000	1.63	\$ 373.28	\$ 368.16	(\$5.12)	(1.37%)			\$410.99	\$37.71	10.10%						
Riverbend Road	Onekawa	Napier	Low	\$ 200,000	\$ 400,000	2.00	\$ 350.35	\$ 368.83	\$ 18.48	5.27%			\$423.84	\$73.49	20.98%						
Devon Street	Taradale	Napier	Low	\$ 390,000	\$ 640,000	1.64	\$ 510.22	\$ 498.91	(\$11.31)	(2.22%)			\$560.02	\$49.80	9.76%						
Charles Street	Westshore	Napier	Low	\$ 420,000	\$ 590,000	1.40	\$ 670.42	\$ 657.80	(\$12.62)	(1.88%)			\$719.33	\$48.91	7.30%						
Kopu Road	Kopu Road	Wairoa	Low	\$ 165,000	\$ 200,000	1.21	\$ 231.66	\$ 221.38	(\$10.28)	(4.44%)			\$246.31	\$14.65	6.32%						
Somerville Street	Somerville	Wairoa	Low	\$ 72,000	\$ 128,000	1.78	\$ 203.24	\$ 204.30	\$ 1.06	0.52%			\$228.19	\$24.95	12.28%						
Waitai Road	Wairoa	Wairoa	Low	\$ 1,190,000	\$ 1,590,000	1.34	\$ 918.61	\$ 678.69	(\$239.92)	(26.12%)			\$769.30	(\$149.31)	(16.25%)						
Putere Road	Raupunga	Wairoa	Low	\$ 120,000	\$ 330,000	2.75	\$ 252.73	\$ 256.84	\$ 4.11	1.62%			\$297.19	\$44.46	17.59%						
Mitchell Road	Wairoa	Wairoa	Low	\$ 150,000	\$ 215,000	1.43	\$ 228.85	\$ 223.61	(\$5.24)	(2.29%)			\$250.08	\$21.23	9.28%						
Racecourse Road	Waipukurau	CHB	Medium	\$ 370,000	\$ 1,085,000	2.93	\$ 292.43	\$ 427.89	\$ 135.46	46.32%			\$511.29	\$218.86	74.84%						
Mangakuri Road	Omakere	CHB	Medium	\$ 950,000	\$ 1,540,000	1.62	\$ 435.45	\$ 629.56	\$ 194.11	44.58%			\$776.10	\$340.65	78.23%						
Phillips Street	Tikikino	CHB	High	\$ 225,000	\$ 760,000	3.38	\$ 247.09	\$ 375.62	\$ 128.53	52.02%			\$454.10	\$207.01	83.78%						
Ireland Road	Waipawa	CHB	High	\$ 480,000	\$ 1,290,000	2.69	\$ 348.69	\$ 527.99	\$ 179.30	51.42%			\$650.30	\$301.61	86.50%						
Ireland Road	Waipawa	CHB	High	\$ 400,000	\$ 910,000	2.28	\$ 301.52	\$ 390.95	\$ 89.43	29.66%			\$460.44	\$158.92	52.71%						
Te Mahanga Road	Poukawa	Hastings	High	\$ 860,000	\$ 1,610,000	1.87	\$ 457.52	\$ 670.41	\$ 212.89	46.53%			\$762.74	\$305.22	66.71%						
Heynes Place	Clive	Hastings	High	\$ 475,000	\$ 1,010,000	2.13	\$ 601.41	\$ 868.32	\$ 266.91	44.38%			\$896.71	\$295.30	49.10%						
Apley Road	Puketapu	Hastings	High	\$ 710,000	\$ 1,540,000	2.17	\$ 430.01	\$ 603.32	\$ 173.31	40.30%			\$707.90	\$277.89	64.62%						
Crosses Road	Havelock North	Hastings	High	\$ 1,370,000	\$ 2,340,000	1.71	\$ 1,216.54	\$ 1,700.94	\$ 484.40	39.82%			\$1,872.96	\$656.42	53.96%						
Tollemache Road	Longlands	Hastings	High	\$ 870,000	\$ 1,710,000	1.97	\$ 734.84	\$ 973.08	\$ 238.24	32.42%			\$1,059.44	\$324.60	44.17%						
Fairview Place	Havelock North	Hastings	High	\$ 720,000	\$ 1,220,000	1.69	\$ 546.68	\$ 670.74	\$ 124.06	22.69%			\$752.52	\$205.84	37.65%						
Duart Road	Havelock North	Hastings	High	\$ 690,000	\$ 1,140,000	1.65	\$ 531.81	\$ 639.75	\$ 107.94	20.30%			\$716.74	\$184.93	34.77%						
Ikanui Road	Frimley	Hastings	High	\$ 510,000	\$ 1,050,000	2.06	\$ 601.64	\$ 717.87	\$ 116.23	19.32%			\$798.02	\$196.38	32.64%						
Lochhead Street	Mahora	Hastings	High	\$ 495,000	\$ 1,020,000	2.06	\$ 580.43	\$ 677.61	\$ 97.18	16.74%			\$745.92	\$165.49	28.51%						
Emerald Hill	Havelock North	Hastings	High	\$ 790,000	\$ 980,000	1.24	\$ 572.21	\$ 588.32	\$ 16.11	2.82%			\$649.41	\$77.20	13.49%						
Le Quesne Road	Bayview	Napier	High	\$ 580,000	\$ 1,190,000	2.05	\$ 357.93	\$ 563.25	\$ 205.32	57.36%			\$648.28	\$290.35	81.12%						
Meeanee Road	Meeanee	Napier	High	\$ 592,000	\$ 1,217,000	2.06	\$ 513.77	\$ 697.89	\$ 184.12	35.84%			\$880.59	\$366.82	71.40%						
Hunter Drive	Te Awa	Napier	High	\$ 425,000	\$ 1,270,000	2.99	\$ 591.54	\$ 775.38	\$ 183.84	31.08%			\$905.07	\$313.53	53.00%						
Pelorus Avenue	Poraiti	Napier	High	\$ 510,000	\$ 1,260,000	2.47	\$ 580.84	\$ 733.00	\$ 152.16	26.20%			\$901.88	\$321.04	55.27%						
Jervois Road	Jervois town	Napier	High	\$ 820,000	\$ 1,470,000	1.79	\$ 687.55	\$ 841.52	\$ 153.97	22.39%			\$1,024.90	\$337.35	49.07%						
Bayview Road	Bluff Hill	Napier	High	\$ 900,000	\$ 1,650,000	1.83	\$ 637.49	\$ 768.05	\$ 130.56	20.48%			\$845.68	\$208.19	32.66%						
Harpham Street	Taradale	Napier	High	\$ 365,000	\$ 970,000	2.66	\$ 517.21	\$ 587.65	\$ 70.44	13.62%			\$739.60	\$222.39	43.00%						
Rose Street	Napier South	Napier	High	\$ 390,000	\$ 780,000	2.00	\$ 515.81	\$ 566.78	\$ 50.97	9.88%			\$636.48	\$120.67	23.39%						
Cobden Cres	Napier Hill	Napier	High	\$ 415,000	\$ 730,000	1.76	\$ 399.46	\$ 433.24	\$ 33.78	8.46%			\$486.11	\$86.65	21.69%						
Golding Road	Taradale	Napier	High	\$ 430,000	\$ 830,000	1.93	\$ 553.80	\$ 564.79	\$ 10.99	1.98%			\$664.86	\$111.06	20.05%						
Mitchell Road	Wairoa	Wairoa	Medium	\$ 210,000	\$ 750,000	3.57	\$ 279.86	\$ 326.22	\$ 46.36	16.57%			\$384.69	\$104.83	37.46%						
S H/way 2	Wairoa	Wairoa	Medium	\$ 485,000	\$ 1,070,000	2.21	\$ 415.42	\$ 448.58	\$ 33.16	7.98%			\$538.63	\$123.21	29.66%						
Fraser Street	Wairoa	Wairoa	Medium	\$ 125,000	\$ 360,000	2.88	\$ 232.21	\$ 249.83	\$ 17.62	7.59%			\$286.57	\$54.36	23.41%						
The Crescent	Wairoa	Wairoa	Medium	\$ 320,000	\$ 750,000	2.34	\$ 307.76	\$ 330.45	\$ 22.69	7.37%			\$384.69	\$76.93	25.00%						
Hedley Place	Wairoa	Wairoa	Medium	\$ 138,000	\$ 315,000	2.28	\$ 232.50	\$ 241.90	\$ 9.40	4.04%			\$275.24	\$42.74	18.38%						

*Note - The NZ Index of Deprivation map was used to indicate the lower or higher socio-economic brackets. In zones where there were no higher brackets, staff reverted to the highest level available in that zone. Properties were then chosen by random by looking at street addresses in that zone.

Legend	
Low	Low Socio Economic Bracket
Medium	Second highest Socio Economic Bracket
High	Highest Socio Economic Bracket

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL
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4 June 2024

Dr Nic Peet
Chief Executive
Hawke's Bay Regional Council
PO Box 6006
NAPIER 4142

Dear Nic

Thank you for your letter dated 21 May 2024. We recognize the challenging circumstances HBRC faces in finalizing its Long-Term Plan (LTP), particularly in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, which has significantly impacted the region. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our advice on the matters raised.

Detailed Responses to HBRC's Questions

1. What would HBRIC consider an appropriate option(s) to provide a one-off dividend to Council of between \$1 million - \$5 million for the 2024/25 financial year?

We understand the query pertains to the entire Group's investment asset portfolio, and not just that of HBRIC. In short, HBRIC confirms it has several options to deliver a higher one-off dividend in the 2024/25 financial year. While it may take some time to confirm the preferred pathway, that would not prevent HBRC from finalizing its LTP with the higher dividend assumption, if required.

2. What advice would HBRIC have about the impact of any one-off dividend on the investment strategy planning HBRIC already has underway to meet the Letter of Expectation from Council?

HBRIC manages the Group's core investment portfolio totaling \$450m, with 56% represented by HBRC's Napier Port shareholding. For the 24/25 financial year we project the portfolio to generate approximately \$13.9m in investment revenues (including \$7.75m from Napier Port dividends) and an additional \$7.1m from anticipated capital growth (specifically excluding any assumptions around changes in the Port's share price). Accordingly, HBRIC anticipates a total investment portfolio return of \$21m in the 24/25 financial year.

HBRC's Letter of Expectation includes the following financial objectives for the 2024/25 year:

- Cash Dividend: \$12.5m.
- Inflation Proofing: 2.5% per annum for non-port investment assets (\$4.97m).
- Resilience Fund: Establishment of a fund to ensure consistent future dividends and financial resilience against climate change impacts.

It follows that an increased cash dividend would primarily affect the resilience fund and the ability to inflation-proof assets. Depending on the dividend increase sought by Council, if a higher dividend is paid then approximately \$2.79m originally intended for the resilience fund would be compromised in the first instance, followed by lower inflation protection outcomes in that year.

Over the longer term the cumulative opportunity cost of losing the earning power of \$1m and \$5m over the next ten years would be in the order of \$967,000 and \$4,853,000 respectively, plus the original capital amounts, which themselves would take approximately 14 years to earn back at the expense of distributions.

3. Any additional comments HBRIC might have on the pros and cons of a special dividend from HBRIC's perspective.

HBRIC acknowledges the financial challenges facing local governments and believes that, after the LTP consultation, the Council will be best positioned to decide on a 24/25 funding model that balances operational needs with the community's rate tolerance. HBRIC is committed to supporting the Council in this process.

While the impacts of a one-off increase in dividend have been outlined, HBRIC would be concerned about its ability to uphold Council's intergenerational sustainable investment mandate if the need for a higher annual dividend proved to be more structural and permanent.

We look forward to discussing these matters further and assisting HBRIC in achieving its immediate financial requirements while maintaining the integrity of its investment strategy.

Subject to Council's final LTP decisions, we note changes may be required to HBRIC's 24/25 Statement of Intent, which includes dividend expectations, and suggest that Council exercises its discretion (under section 4 of Schedule 8 Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2002) to extend the deadline for the delivery of the final Statement of Intent by one month.

Yours sincerely



Dan Druzianic
Chair
Hawke's Bay Regional Investment Company Ltd (HBRIC)

All other topics - Submissions Feedback

This report includes feedback by submitters on other topics. Some commentary is an excerpt of the submitter's full submission relevant to this topic. The commentary may also be featured in other reports. The full list of submissions was provided to Council on 29 May 2024.

Submissions (47)

Id	Name	Feedback	Category
48	Carina Chambers	Actually I'm not sure what I get for my rates... apart from sh*tty roads that have taken the sump out of my car! I'm all for rates however I'm NOT happy with the UNBELIEVABLE waste of tax payers money on luxury or unnecessary expenditure (cycling lanes that in many places gave limited use and in some cases (where I live) SO MUCH maintenance because it's been carved into a HILL!!! Again where's the money going! Listen to your community. Who voted you in and actually why! And just try to hold your values and morals and stick to why you stood. You may not be popular but that's not why you were voted in	Other
89	Barbara Abbott	All I would like to say is - All council spending e.g building a new library should be put on hold until our infrastructure is fixed and updated. No more spending on building please.	Other
100	Scott Hodgetts	silly spending ie a new 57 million dollar library needs to stop	Other
111	Christopher K Phiri	A three year strategic plan is a welcome approach for all set activities, thank you to all the teams involved. What is cardinal having planned everything, is the implementation and the importance to have either quarterly, semi-yearly and or yearly reviews to ensure conformity to the set Vision as it is the basis upon which every effort must be directed.	Other
122	Peter Alexander	As the HBRC's very top priority, it should (must) be ensuring that private landowners remain feeling compelled to develop their land for productive purposes. The "only" way in which New Zealand will manage to dig itself out of our current dire fiscal situation is through generating heightened productivity over time. As a country/ region, we are best able to do this via our primary industries. So make sure that these critical industries continue to feel able and encouraged to invest in capex for productivity gains to be realised.	Other
140	Blair Smith	Abolish HBRC. HBRC should be disestablished and let local councils deal with their own communities. Waste of ratepayers money having HBRC taking money and not delivering	Other
157	Gus Black	Agree to keep invest properties and port shares for the long term. We must stop wasting money on contracted services to repair our roads. They are doing a poor job at a high cost. Multiple repeat repairs on sections of roads is evidence of poor business practice. We must also immediately stop spending money on 'Maorifying' public signage. It is financially costly and functionally illogical.	Other
194	June Cahill	I wonder what the beautifully designed and graphically presented plan cost?	Other
253	Graeme Pedersen	Maybe it's time to stop blaming Covid & look at the unwarranted costs of changing names, letter=heads etc, to Maori. I've lived in a time when the Maori language was an accepted part of life. eg street names, tree names, ferry names locality names, town and city names. For the percentage of true Maori in NZ as opposed to others (immigrants etc) this renaming etc, is a bit over the top.	Other
258	Andrea Baikie	I have sent emails to people at the regional council to talk about our case and asked for recognition that it was received by someone (which someone did). However, I am still waiting to talk with someone regarding our property. We have 90 percent of our land in category 3, (our house is ok as it is slightly uphill), the title is contiguous even though we have discussed with the Hastings District Council if this could be split. (they have said no due to the zoning of rural land despite exceptional circumstances). It is frustrating that nobody follows up any	Other

		emails or concerns. This has been very stressful and to make matters worse, my husband suffered a stroke 6 weeks ago. Please talk to people. These are genuine concerns that we think need to be addressed.	
297	Blair Hamilton	Central Government should be at the forefront of supporting our regions. To much focus on alcohol in our region. The longterm cost to the community outweigh the benefits of a those who profit from selling this drug.	Other
298	Edward Smith	all ok	Other
300	Bret Morris	Clearly you do not really want feedback given I only received the card in the mail "We want to hear from you" after the various meetings had been held in Havelock North and Hastings. Instead of making it simple to response with a questionnaire the options given are not at all customer friendly. My feedback to the plan Incentives to change land water and environment are all well and good but also a much more vigorous use of fines where the rules have been broken is strongly effective. Too many grower / farmer producers have cheap access to the water and as usual block real change. The rivers and streams are in a shocking mess and unfit for swimming, fishing and other recreational use that's if they not dried up or choked with rock snot. Partnerships great but to date land and water users have run rough shod, it is time for change. Civil defence - this was chaotic sack the lot of them and start again what a lot of useless idiots we had with the cyclone. Dangerous clowns is what we have playing boy scouts. Working with Tangata Whenua what's this, half - belong or have relatives in the mob and gangs you must be kidding responsibility goes both ways. A victim culture has created a mess - we are all NZers all with pride in our own interesting and different culture and heritages. The endless cycle of bullshit needs to stop. Preferential treatment, pushing guilt, claiming being hard done by 150 years on. What about the Scottish clearances and Irish famine that pushed us to be migrants. Are we still moaning and claiming hurt 2-4 generations on. LGFA makes sense. But what does this really entail? The photographs show a council of tired grey haired unimaginative men (one woman) who have a checked in the boring low paid industries of the past. Please do not stand next election a new team is well in order.	Other
318	Pii-tuulia Nikula	Would like to see HBRC advocate for more central government funding on large low carbon and resilient infrastructure projects.	Other
334	Michelle Smith Ātea a Rangi Educational Trust	Let's ensure we safeguard our precious dark sky around the Ātea a Rangi site and its neighboring areas, including roads and bridges. It's crucial to be mindful when planning any lighting installations near the star compass. This site holds immense cultural and natural significance and is one of the most cherished and photographed spots in Hawke's Bay. As our region flourishes with new developments and street lighting projects in Clive, Haumoana, Hastings, and Napier, it's imperative to prioritize measures that preserve the darkness of the night sky, especially around the Ātea. With the new flood protection & infrastructure be mindful of the Ātea site. Hawke's Bay is at the forefront of sustainable agriculture, recognizing the vital role of pollinating insects in our ecosystem. These tireless workers are essential for our food production, enabling the growth of crops crucial for humanity's sustenance. However, artificial light poses a threat to their natural behaviors and habitats. Artificial light is also a factor in climate change which intensifies weather patterns. Let's lead the way in responsible development by ensuring that any new lighting installations are designed to minimize light pollution and protect our nocturnal ecosystem. By doing so, we honor our cultural heritage, support sustainable agriculture, and preserve the natural beauty of our starry nights for generations to come. Ngā mihi nui.	Other
421	Jessie Paget	Keep the library. Plant native in the gardens all round the area, save money pulling plants out every 3 months We don't really need the dump in Waipawa, ypuk isn't that far, but keep the recycling	Other
426	Leonie Bennett	Stay the same for those not affected	Other
460	Tim Nowell-Usticke	Difficult choices, you are doing a good job.	Other

465	Hayley Evans	Teach prisoners and job seekers skills / volunteers to do more maintenance around Hawke's Bay	Other
491	William Smith	I can handle most of the changes proposed, and rely on the council to be aware of public opinion.	Other
503	Diane Howard	Just about free parking in Havelock North, I dont feel we should have free parking, I dont get the benefit of what I pay out each year so I would rather pay as I go. I dont think it should be free, but its not FREE we are paying through our rates and I dont get the benefit of its use.	Other
516	Tania Luscombe	As the investments/rate payer costs are significant - will you be providing regular updates on progress and outcomes?	Other
532	Dean Hyde	I need to put on record my disgust with the Council's decision to defer the collection of the debt of \$400,000 owed by a group of wealthy Central Hawkes Bay business people (Central Hawkes Bay Water Holdings Limited). This is one of the worst examples of corporate welfare, if my household is expected to promptly pay the rates account then the same should apply to Central Hawkes Bay Water Holdings Limited. Or am I to take it that the statement made by that village idiot Tim Gilbertson that 'they are only a group of pensioners' was considered as part of Councils decision making?	Other
640	Gary Curtis	I found Part 5 of the Consultation Documentation complex and confusing. Accordingly I refrained from commenting on the three policies.	Other
687	Tony Alexander	Get bridges replaced faster. Stop consulting on everything - it costs/wastes money. Get councilors in that can make a decision and get things done instead of procrastination and endless consulting with people that have no idea anyway	Other
714	Rebecca Northe Te Mata School Student Council	Continue to fund anything that is linked to education at the same level. e.g. educational programmes and parks. If we educate our students and allow them to be active they will grow up to be healthy, happy and productive members of our society.	Other
792	Floyd Pepper	I urge HBRC to increase – not decrease – funding for Sustainable Hawke's Bay. (Current proposals are that SHB will receive \$10,000 funding in total from our councils.) Sustainable HB is leading efforts across the region to educate and support others to build resilient communities, environment restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation and advocate for systems change. In other parts of the country similar community environment hubs are funded on average \$400-\$500K p/a. Community resilience in HB needs to be around mitigation and adaptation, not just civil defence. Food security and energy sovereignty are also essential. Sustainable HB is not an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff approach.	Other
798	Jenny Elliott	FUND 'SUSTAINABLE HAWKE'S BAY' TO GROW OUR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE I urge HBRC to increase – not decrease – funding for Sustainable Hawke's Bay. (Current proposals are that SHB will receive \$10,000 funding in total from our councils.) Sustainable HB is leading efforts across the region to educate and support others to build resilient communities, environment restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation and advocate for systems change. In other parts of the country similar community environment hubs are funded on average \$400-\$500K p/a. Community resilience in HB needs to be around mitigation and adaptation, not just civil defence. Food security and energy sovereignty are also essential. Sustainable HB is not an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff approach. Thank you for the opportunity to submit.	Other
836	Tony Robson	Although I've submitted I have zero faith you will listen to what ratepayers want and that's hardly democracy in action I	Other

839	Jill McCarthy	NO! to a new library - ratepayers should not have to compulsively donate to something that a majority are not going to use. The rates increase is too high. Why should I pay the same for curb side recycling as the family of 8 down the road. There is only one of me & mine goes out once, sometimes twice a month. I do get the rebate for rubbish collection as mine go out fortnightly.	Other
863	Anna Lorck	Go back to the drawing board and put up a plan of action and direction. Undertake an urgent operational review that delivers far better savings and priorities and come back with a real plan that genuinely helps Hawke's Bay and focuses on protecting ratepayers and the industries that grow, work and promote our great region. Prove to Hawke's Bay that the council is up to the challenge, is nimble and capable of delivering.	Financial Strategy
877	Liv Worsnop	Remember who you serve. The people. The children. The environment. The future.	Other
948	Fenton Wilson	Councilor's have some big decisions to make. Every LTP for the last 30 plus years has been the same. Good luck.	Other
967	Ingrid Perols	FUND 'SUSTAINABLE HAWKE'S BAY' TO GROW OUR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE HBRC should increase, not decrease, funding for Sustainable Hawke's Bay. (Current proposals are that SHB will receive \$10,000 funding in total from our councils.) Sustainable HB is leading efforts across the region to educate and support others to build resilient communities, environment restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation and advocate for systems change. In some parts of the country similar community environment hubs are funded on average \$400-\$500K p/a. Sustainable HB plays an important role in coordinating groups to collaborate on many important issues in our region. This must continue!	Other
1014	Rowan Manhire-Heath Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora	Health and wellbeing is influenced by a wide range of factors beyond the health sector. These factors are often referred to as the social determinants of health, and can be described as the environmental, economic and social conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. Council has a leading role toward ensuring public health and the environment is protected. Health New Zealand sees Council as a key partner toward improving the health of the population through a Health in All Policies approach whereby health, wellbeing and equity are key considerations in all policy and decision-making. Health NZ acknowledges challenges faced by Council during this period of recovery and the impacts decisions may have on rates to enable continued provision of essential services. Although Health NZ understands the need to reduce council expenditure in certain areas, Council is urged to prioritise the retention of initiatives that enhance Māori wellbeing and reduce inequities. This includes retaining concentrated spending on: 1. Infrastructure and services in areas of higher socioeconomic deprivation. 2. Activities that address major sources of health inequities in Te Matau a Māui Hawke's Bay, including health promoting and affordable transport options. 3. Initiatives designed and delivered in partnership with mana whenua. Health NZ supports Council's move to prioritise investment in resilient flood infrastructure and community resilience. Health NZ looks forward to engaging with Council in the further development of its resilience and climate change strategies.	Other
1026	Brian Slader	When you ask for submissions you should take notice of what the submitters response is. Just because you don't like the answers is absolutely no reason to discard those views with the reasoning being it was a small number of submitted. I see the HDC council did the opposite with there submissions recently. Some consistency would be a more professional response. I think some of your councillors should be ashamed of their voting on this, if you cant listen to the people who voted you in, you need to resign.	Other
1034	Richard Marshall	genuine consultation with affected parties will lead to better outcomes. There has been too much token consultation in the past (ticking the boxes) The use of communicators in the recent Buy Out schemes is a good model to build on	Other

1038	Sharleen Baird	WATER SECURITY -Please don't waste any more than the \$20 m and Water Holdings money ratepayers already paid on largescale schemes like Ruataniwha. Plenty of national/international evidence on unfeasibility of these. RMA - Rather than your improved policy how about improved action on freshwater management to actually improve - you can do this despite governmental inaction. SECTOR LOBBYING- criteria/scope/ which sectors/Māori weighting? Who decides whats implementable? Inequality as industry/business lobbyists much more well resourced than communities. LAND FOR LIFE - Agree INVESTMENTS - Not just about making more but choose ethical investments e.g. avoid arms dealers/oil and gas/Israel/ etc. Should never have sold the Port shares.	Various																												
1065	Jim Galloway Federated Farmers	<p>Federated Farmers also submit on central government policies that affect local government revenue and spending, with the aim of ensuring that local government has the appropriate resources to carry out their functions.</p> <p>Federated Farmers base our arguments on the considerable cost of rates to farm businesses, in terms of the value and relative accessibility of farmers to ratepayer funded services, the rates levels on farms compared to other residents and businesses, and the failure of property value to reflect the incomes of farmers and their relative ability to pay.</p> <p>Federated Farmers feedback represents the views of farming members and rate payers from the Hawke's Bay Region.</p> <p>We acknowledge any submissions from individual members of Federated Farmers.</p> <p>Federated Farmers is focused on the transparency of rate setting, rates equity and both the overall and relative cost of local government on rural ratepayers.</p> <p>Federated Farmers requests the opportunity to discuss this submission with the Council during the hearing process.</p> <p>LACK OF FUNDING IMPACT STATEMENT CONCERNING</p> <p>Federated Farmers expressed astonishment in the previous 2021 LTP that there was no Funding Impact Statement for ratepayers in the consultation documents. We remain deeply concerned that 2021 was not an off-year for reporting, but the lack of any rating impact statement is deliberate seeing it is also absent in this LTP.</p> <p>The Funding Impact Statement is vital to see how each rate mechanism is to be struck at, to compare and contrast with previous years. To exclude this from the consultation documents is to the great detriment of transparency.</p> <p>For example, we cannot see what the Uniform Annual General Charge will be struck at for the year ahead, nor over the ten year life of the Plan. Nor how the General Rate differentials will be struck so we can compare and contrast the differential categories, nor any of the other rate mechanisms like the Drainage Schemes rates, the River Control rates, the Biosecurity rates, the Subsidised Public Transport rates, Coastal Hazard rates, Economic Development rates, CDEM Emergency Management rates, etc.</p> <p>The online rates calculator is no help. That only shows the total rates bill for a property. The example properties in the consultation documents also shed no light as they only show total rates, and are not itemised. The rates demands are itemised, so it is ambiguous as to why the example rates wouldn't be itemised as well.</p> <p>We suggest that the Regional Council looks at Hastings District Council as an example, with their Part C Rating Statement on page 170 of their draft Long Term Plan which clearly shows how each rating mechanism is struck in the cents per dollar or uniform charge, and all the differentials applied.</p> <p>It is not enough for the Funding Impact Statement to be presented in the final LTP document. It must be presented in the consultation documents. How the rates are changing over time and what they are struck on is a crucial factor for Federated Farmers' opinion on most council activities.</p> <table><tr><th>Districts</th><th colspan="5">General Rate Calculation Factor</th><th></th></tr><tr><th></th><th>2015-16</th><th>2016-17</th><th>2017-18</th><th>2018-19</th><th>2021-22</th><th>2024-25</th></tr><tr><td>Napier City</td><td>0.00918</td><td>0.00875</td><td>0.01186</td><td>0.0277</td><td>0.02749</td><td>?</td></tr><tr><td>Hastings</td><td>0.00951</td><td>0.00913</td><td>0.01090</td><td>0.02524</td><td>0.03045</td><td>?</td></tr></table>	Districts	General Rate Calculation Factor							2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2021-22	2024-25	Napier City	0.00918	0.00875	0.01186	0.0277	0.02749	?	Hastings	0.00951	0.00913	0.01090	0.02524	0.03045	?	Financial Strategy
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		<p>Submission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Transparency needs big improvements where the reporting of rate mechanisms and financial impact on rates is concerned. Ratepayers clearly need to see how much they individually are contributing to a Council activity. Big picture numbers mask how much it will cost individual ratepayers on their rates demands.2. The rates increases proposed are at unacceptable levels and must be reigned in to more sustainable CPI +2% levels.																													
1082	Graham Kidd	Council should consider use some of their Capitol Investments to off-set some of these proposals.	Financial Strategy																												
1120	Eoin Carty	I think now is the time to crack open the nest egg you have been sitting on for years - ie the investment fund of approx. \$600m - even half of it would go a long way.	Financial Strategy																												
1146	Elizabeth Johnston	I am disappointed that there is consideration of reducing funding for sustainable Hawke's Bay. This organisation is hugely important in community resilience and is a leader in ideas for recycling, protecting the environment and also a hub for teaching on the environment. It needs to grow, not diminish	Other																												
1174	Peter Tang	<p>Funding</p> <p>The funding to continue supporting and expanding these "tough choices" cuts could possibly come from HBRC's \$500,000,000 investment portfolio. The Council cites "intergenerational benefit" as the reason for not touching these assets but what could have more of an "intergenerational benefit" than establishing long-term climate resilience for our region so that it can adapt to the inevitability of climate change and thrive in spite of it? The time for meaningful action is now.</p> <p>On 26 June 2019, the Hawke's Bay Regional Council declared a climate emergency for the region, stating that "The declaration recognised the climate crisis as an urgent and pervasive threat to human and ecological wellbeing. A small window of time remains to act to avoid the most damaging effects of a rapidly changing climate for the longer term." HBRC's response is it's Kotahi Plan which aims to "promote clean renewable energy, infrastructure to support active transport, protect vulnerable communities, encourage appropriate land-use management, environmental enhancement and restoration." (from HBRC Policy and Planning - Kotahi & Climate Change)</p> <p>For the HBRC to, on one hand, acknowledge the need to "encourage appropriate land-use management, environmental enhancement and restoration" as a way to help mitigate climate change, the very cause of extreme weather events like Cyclone Gabrielle, to now proposing a reduction in funding for Erosion Control, Biodiversity restoration projects, Biosecurity programmes and the Maintenance of our regional parks is completely incongruous.</p> <p>Post- cyclone, the Climate Action Joint Committee (made up of the region's five councils, Post Settlement Government Entities and Taiwhenua representatives) was formed to have "a coordinated approach for decision making in climate action". (from 'Hawke's Bay joining up on climate action', 19 May 2023) Committee Chair, Hinewai Ormsby, stated that the committee is "a key platform for building resilience as we work through the steps of the cyclone recovery." Despite these words, there continues to be a lack of any real commitment to climate action, clearly demonstrated by the Climate Action Joint Committee's underinvestment to date of a mere \$200,000 (approximately \$1 per Hawke's Bay resident). Hawke's Bay Regional Council's Three-Year Plan makes no mention of any further funding allocation towards their Climate Action Joint Committee commitments whose core Purpose is "Climate mitigation and adaptation". (from 'Terms of Reference for the Climate Action Joint Committee')</p>	Financial Strategy, Climate Action																												

		The Hawke's Bay Regional Council Three-Year Plan's focus on investing in resilient flood infrastructure and civil defence is absolutely necessary as we prepare for future extreme climate events but some of HBRC's proposed "tough choices" are short-sighted. As Climate Action Joint Committee Chair, Hinewai Ormsby, said "This is about thinking intergenerationally and coming together to use the latest science, local and international knowledge to ensure Hawke's Bay is a fantastic place to live and work."	
1180	Troy Duncan	The ability to see all the questions that are in this form prior to starting the online process would be very helpful / less of a hurdle for most people. A pdf of screenshot of each page of the online process would prepare people and allow them to formulate their input instead of having to go through it blind in one sitting, because there is no ability to stop and start a submission form. There are so many documents and reading involved on many subjects it is unreasonable and a hurdle to participate properly in the process. The pdf of what the submitter will see on each page can be embedded in the plethora of other links and documents involved and will add some clarity and direction to what it is they are actually being asked. A pdf capable of inputting into and saving is a thing. That could be one of the options. It could be downloaded and completed then attached as a file, as other files can be. This would give direction to the submitter who is less familiar with the online world and is easier for a third party to assist, say an elderly parent or less computer literate or doesn't have access to a computer. If what I suggest isn't the answer, then a way to make it easier needs to be initiated and put in place.	Other
1180	Vanessa Moon	6. What else is happening: I am encouraged by HBRC's support for Land for Life and Mataranga Maori; and hopeful that the Clifton to Tangoio Coastal Strategy will be implemented asap (I understand the process of community, tangata whenua and Councils working together on this project has been held up as a model process). I am concerned that the Coalition Government's proposed reforms in respect of freshwater and the broader resource management area will be creating issues for both regional and local councils including HBRC. I fully support "sector lobbying to ensure these reforms are implementable" and am hopeful that community groups will also be heard loud and clear on this issue too! As a citizen of Aotearoa-New Zealand I fully support Te Mana o te Wai regardless of whether it has been repealed in our Parliament or not. May the conversation/dialogue continue ...	Other
1192	Arlene Crispen	Finally, on the consultation website information it refers to "Option A" and "Option B", but in the online submission form, the two options were simply listed as "Reduce funding over two years" and "Maintain then reduce" which I assume is Option A and B respectively, and no mention of status quo. HBRC should use the same language and be consistent in how it explains the options, and use the same words everywhere so people aren't confused when they're trying to give their input.	Other
1200	John Bostock	My views are well known. We need to sell assets for repaying debt. The proceeds from sale of Assets need to be spent on capital items not cost items.	Financial Strategy
-ENDS-			