

Cemeteries Bylaw

Key themes			Staff comment	
<p>Which of these Policy options do you support?</p> <p>Proposed - 3</p> <p>With amendments - 2</p> <p>Other - 1</p> <p>No option selected - 1</p> <p>Positive feedback on the clarity of the bylaw was received whilst one submitter asked for the term "people without means" to be used instead of "poor persons" to be used in the bylaw.</p> <p>One submitter noted support for Council to enable natural burials, reflecting growing public interest.</p> <p>There were some submissions concerned about Council placing restrictions on headstone decorations with feedback reflecting that families should be able to decide this themselves with only offensive items restricted.</p> <p>General agreement was received relating to the rule against breakable containers. One submitter suggested flowers etc. should be allowed in non-breakable containers and to state in the bylaw how they must be placed (for amenity/maintenance reasons).</p> <p>Operational comments were received relating to the requirement for consistency in specifications for memorials and plaques across the three main cemeteries. There is also a request to standardise the size of berms for memorials across the district. Additionally, one submitter recommends that any new ash walls be designed to accommodate both standard ash container sizes used at Hamilton Park Crematorium. Currently, only the smaller container fits, which can be distressing for families if the larger one doesn't. They believe families shouldn't be forced to separate a loved one's ashes due to space limitations, especially since container size depends on bone density, which can't be predicted when a plot is pre-purchased.</p> <p>Council has received a suggestion to publish and maintain a public list of approved monumental masons, updated annually, to ensure public confidence and safety compliance.</p>			<p>The draft bylaw has been updated to amend the term 'poor persons' and to reference the Burial and Cremation Act 1964, which states that Council must permit the burial or cremation of any poor person free of charge.</p> <p>Several submissions were received regarding decorations and adornments in cemeteries. In response, staff have recommended changes to the draft bylaw to clarify that decorations may be placed on the concrete berm. The intent of this clause is not to unduly restrict families but to help preserve the amenity and respectful appearance of the cemetery, while also assisting in the maintenance of the cemeteries.</p> <p>The bylaw aims to strike a balance between allowing personal expression and ensuring health and safety—for example, by preventing trip hazards or objects interfering with mowing and grounds maintenance. Items such as oversized flags or unstable decorations can pose risks and make maintenance more difficult.</p> <p>It is noted that Council does not currently offer a designated space for natural burials, unlike some neighbouring councils (for example Hauraki). However, the bylaw notes that staff work closely with funeral directors and families to support individual wishes and preferences wherever possible within existing cemetery settings.</p> <p>Some operational matters raised in submissions—such as the design of ashes walls and historical inconsistencies across cemetery sites—are outside the scope of this bylaw review. These have been referred to operational staff for consideration as part of future planning and design work.</p> <p>The Cemeteries Procedures Manual provides further guidance around cemetery management, and updates to this document may be considered alongside the implementation of the updated bylaw.</p>	
Name / Group or Organisation Name	Preferred Option	Comment regarding option	General comments	Ward
CEB52 Michele Laurie	No selection	Can we please refer to 'people without means' rather than 'poor persons'		Te Aroha

CEB103 Beau Timberland	With amendments	It is so great to hear that MPDC might enable natural burial with this bylaw update. Many people are becoming interested in it and prefer not to be pumped full of preservatives and be buried below the biological zone in a soil profile. Great to hear mpdc might enable this. The only thing I am concerned by with regard to the proposed by law is the undefined rules about decorations. I don't think it's the council's responsibility or authority to decide how someone might decorate their loved ones headstone. Is there even someone who works at council who decides this? It seems like a strange and unfriendly policy. Can we enable people to decorate their loved ones headstones in a way that is appropriate for them, let's liberalise that policy , allow people to express their culture and perhaps just exclude 'offensive' things like gang patches, nazi symbols or other offensive iconography, but enable people to use flags, flowers, decorations etc in a way suitable for them. Decoration and honouring the dead are matters of taste and culture and shouldn't be defined by a council policy.		Te Aroha
CEB223 Cassandra Mankelov-Hancock	With amendments	You have amended the bylaw to say flower vases and containers can't be breakable but then say you must have council approval to place vases and containers. I agree with the breakable element but having to get prior approval to put a plastic container with some flowers is burdensome for the person visiting a cemetery e.g. they may only visit once a year or infrequently. I would suggest it's easier to allow flowers to be placed in non breakable containers but say in the bylaw how containers and vases must be placed, and to be removed if they don't meet requirements.		Morrinsville
Creative Stone - David Tomlinson	Other	I am not so interested in the bylaw as I am operational matters, as below	I would like all the "ashes plaques", "ashes upright memorials" and "upright memorials" to have the same basic specifications in all 3 main cemeteries (Piako, Te Aroha, Matamata). I would love to see all the "square holes" on the older berms on the flat burial lawns at Te Aroha filled in level to the berm with concrete. They serve no valuable purpose to anyone.	Other - I live in Rotorua, and my businesses are in Hamilton and Rotorua, but I do work in MPDC cemeteries regularly
CEB253 Hamilton's Headstones Shop Ltd - Artline Memorials	Proposed	The proposed draft does simplify and improve clarity on the bylaws for the cemetery. Only thing I would encourage is regarding Clause 15.4. We would recommend council provide a list of current Approved Monumental Masons (similar as Auckland city council does) that can be accessed by the public to ensure confidence that they choose an appropriate mason. This list we would recommend meets with all health and safety requirements and qualifications etc and be updated yearly to ensure accuracy for members of the public.	While not related specifically to bylaws, there are a few suggestions we would have regarding the planning of cemeteries moving forward that we feel would help council streamline a lot of processes across the board. The most obvious being standardising the size of berms for memorials across the district. The three main cemeteries for example have 3 different permitted sizes and corresponding berms for upright memorials. We would recommend 450mm for memorials as it fits in line with other councils in the Waikato. With 150mm min berm either side of the stone (to allow for mowing strips etc) this gives a berm width of 750mm on single berms and 1200mm on double berms (back to back). With planning for new cemetery sections/lawns (for memorials) we are happy to help provide feedback and recommendations based on our years of experience using them and how it impacts the public and their use of them. Many legacy decisions have never been properly reviewed, and so council is left with a patchwork of rules and guidelines that are overdue for a review. Lawn areas, cremation plots, headstones etc. Developing a proper PLAN rather than continuing legacy approaches could help simplify everything for both the community and council staff moving forward.	Other - Hamilton

CEB257 Seddon Park Funeral Home/ Sadliers Funeral Services - Christy McMahon	Proposed		I would like to see any new Ash walls that are developed to fit bigger ash containers. There are two standard ash containers used at the Hamilton Park Crematorium (Our closest Public Crematorium), however only one of those containers currently fits in the ash walls. This can be very upsetting to some family as the container which is slightly bigger doesn't fit and I don't believe families should have to be forced to separate their loved one's ashes if they don't want to. There is no way of knowing when a plot is pre-purchased that a person's ash will fit in the current container or the bigger one as it has to do with bone density rather than the person's actual body mass.	Morrinsville
CEB262 David King	Proposed	Looks perfect, and easy to understand.		Te Aroha

Community Safety Bylaw

Key themes	Staff comment
<p>Summary of Submission Themes Which of these Policy options do you support? Proposed - 4 With amendments - 5 Other - 1 No option selected - 4</p> <p>Many submitters supported the overall direction of the bylaw review but offered suggestions for improvement, clarity, and enforcement. There was support for clearer, plain language to make bylaws more accessible.</p> <p>Some submitters raised concerns around animal management including dogs in shops and roaming or feral cats. There was a call for stronger rules around the feeding, relocating, or dumping of cats and the submitter highlighted the environmental harm they can cause.</p> <p>Some submissions called for more effective enforcement and signage to support compliance with bylaws—particularly in parks, reserves, and alcohol ban areas. Submitters wanted alcohol bans to be more widely known and enforced, noting incidents involving intoxicated individuals in public places. Skate zones and safety for tamariki and kaumatua were mentioned as priorities, with support for retaining no-skate areas and the inclusion of more signage to back them up.</p> <p>A submitter believes that bylaws play an important role in setting clear expectations for acceptable public behaviour. They caution that leaving offences unaddressed or assuming Police or central government will handle them can lead to the normalisation of harmful behaviour, especially given Police resourcing challenges. They do not support removing the bylaw clauses relating to illegal behaviour. There were several submitters that wanted a focus on crime prevention and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>General support of the alcohol ban areas is noted including the submission received from the NZ Police.</p>	<p>The draft Community Safety Bylaw seeks to strike a balance between encouraging responsible behaviour and maintaining accessible, welcoming public spaces.</p> <p>Signage/Enforcement Many submitters suggested better signage to inform the community of the bylaw rules. While signage plays a valuable role in promoting awareness and setting expectations, it is generally considered a less effective tool for changing behaviour on its own. For example, despite multiple signs in Boyd Park, complaints have still been received around dogs off-leash. Nonetheless, signs can be useful in supporting community compliance by clearly communicating expectations—such as alcohol bans—and providing a reference point for residents and visitors to encourage compliance. New signage installed in parks reflects commonly reported issues for that particular park, but this must be balanced to avoid visual clutter.</p> <p>Work is also underway on updated parks signage that highlights how spaces can be used and promotes inclusivity.</p> <p>Education will play an important role following adoption of the bylaw. Staff intend to promote key messages and raise awareness, for example, through "Did you know?" style communications on Facebook/Antenno.</p> <p>Staff also wish to reinforce the importance of Customer Request Management (CRM) reporting. Formally raising issues through CRMs helps identify trends and inform future improvements, such as where additional signage or physical barriers may be needed.</p> <p>Motorbikes in parks This is a commonly reported issue. Council has installed barriers to help reduce this, but enforcement tools are limited. This presents a challenge in balancing recreation needs and accessibility with</p>

Other topics included managing public nuisance from freedom camping and motorbikes in parks and reserves, traffic safety concerns in town centres, and stronger action against vandalism and anti-social behaviour. One submitter attached their early engagement feedback and shared their experience of smoke nuisance from neighbours causing health issues. Suggestions included a dedicated 0800 number to report bylaw breaches in collaboration with Community Patrols, targeted signage, and utilising Antenno as an education tool.

Overall, submitters stressed the need for targeted enforcement, community education, and bylaw design that balances fairness, safety, and ease of understanding.

maintaining safety in shared spaces. Recreation Aotearoa guidelines emphasise education and enforcement before installing barriers, and Council aims to follow this approach where practical.

Signage is already planned for the Banks/Richardson Road Reserve as mentioned by one submitter - this includes no motorbike signage.

Use of CCTV cameras in problem areas is an option for Council to consider. While these may deter some behaviour, generally this just moved the problem to another area. Research suggests that CCTV may discourage young people from accessing public spaces

Animal Control

Concerns relating to dogs are noted and can be addressed as part of the upcoming Dog Control Policy and Bylaw review in 2025/26. The current bylaw restricts dogs in the CBD areas of Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha from 8am to 6pm, including service lanes and parking areas. However, it does not specifically cover buildings (e.g. shops), and the maps omit them (only the streets are included in the maps).

Management/regulation of cats were also discussed during the review process. Council has considered this issue and decided not to introduce specific provisions regarding cat management due to the absence of supporting central government legislation. In the interim, an explanatory note has been added to the draft bylaw encouraging owners to de-sex and microchip their cats. Any related complaints would be handled under the animal nuisance provisions (clause 41).

Litter

It is an offence under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, to deposit waste in a public area outside of

appropriate receptacles. The receptacles referred to in the Act include a rubbish bin. The provision in the bylaw around not allowing people to deposit household waste in a public bin was intended for those households who receive a rubbish collection. Suggestions to clarify clauses around this, as well as public nuisances and assembly (10.2 and 13.1) have been incorporated into the draft bylaw for Council consideration.

There are provisions in the Litter Act 1979 for Council to issue infringements (including depositing litter in a public place or on private land). Only warranted Litter Control Officers (usually Council compliance or animal control staff who have been formally appointed under the Act) can issue litter infringements. Council needs to pass a formal resolution adopting sections 13 and 14 of the Act to enable infringement notices. Staff can undertake further investigation and facilitate further discussions with Council to enable this.

Illegal Activity

Community concerns about illegal activity have been considered. While some submitters expressed a desire to see these behaviours addressed in the bylaw, Council has opted not to duplicate matters already governed by central government legislation, such as the Crimes Act 1961 or the Summary Offences Act 1981. Enforcement of these laws is the responsibility of NZ Police. Including them in the bylaw could cause confusion or risk to Council staff. However, Council will continue to support Police and other agencies in addressing illegal activity and maintains regular meetings to share community concerns.

Heavy Traffic - Matamata

While this sits outside the scope of this bylaw, the concern is noted for future review. Council previously investigated a bypass as part of the 2021–31 Long Term Plan. At that time, research indicated truck traffic was expected to decline following completion of the Waikato Expressway. Land previously designated for a bypass was found unsuitable and has since been disposed of. Any future proposal would require new planning and land acquisition.

Finally, Council acknowledges that some submitters shared many personal and neighbourhood concerns. While some of these fall outside Council’s regulatory scope—such as civil disputes between neighbours—Council remains committed to fostering safe and respectful communities. Where issues relate to bylaws, Council will respond appropriately as per its Enforcement Policy and assist residents in navigating responsibilities or connecting them with relevant agencies.

Name / Group or Organisation Name	Preferred Option	Comment regarding option	General comments	Ward
CSB64 Nil	With amendments	It's my belief that we need a by-law that prevents shop owners and customers (other than service animals) from having dogs in their shops. There have been incidents where in-house dogs have barked at customers and in one case, a customer was either attacked or bitten or both.		Te Aroha

<p>CSB102 Beau Timberland</p>	<p>Proposed</p>	<p>I really like that there are notes in natural English to explain the bylaws, in general the by laws can sound antiquated, but the notes do a great job to clarify the intention. I'm wary of any changes that would affect cats. It's a shame to hear that some cats use their neighbours yards as toilets, I'm not confident that this could be addressed reasonably or for a In appropriate cost. I'm glad to read that the council have considered community feedback and I hope that mpdc might be empowered to enforce it's bylaws</p>		<p>Te Aroha</p>
<p>CSB110 Mary Davey</p>	<p>With amendments</p>	<p>I think there should be a bylaw concerning cats, particularly the feeding, catching, and redistributing of wild cats—especially onto properties where they are not wanted. In our case, the person responsible claims the cats help control rats and mice, benefiting the environment. However, we believe they pose a serious threat to native fauna, including birds and invertebrates. A bylaw could help prevent these cats from being 'dumped' and later fed.</p>		<p>Te Aroha</p>
<p>CSB229 Cassandra Mankelow-Hancock</p>	<p>With amendments</p>	<p>1. 10.1c can't deposit house or trade waste in council rubbish bins. Camper answer are becoming people's households on wheels. The freedom camping act enables waste incl rubbish to be placed in council bins. Suggest clarification here. 2. 10.2 this reads in such a way that if you have prior approval you can create a nuisance in a public place. Suggest it's either they can't do any of these things without approval, or they can't create a public nuisance if doing these activities. Could also have something like 14.4 here. 3. 11 isn't sufficient to deal with issues at the rec with motocross bikes, motorbikes and go carts being driven on walkway/cycle ways around the rec, alongside the stream and on the hillside between stream and Rec ground. I think it would be good to have a provision about where these types of vehicles can't drive. As a note, there is basically no signage at the Morrinsville rec. What about addressing people sleeping in vehicles, that aren't self contained vehicles, at parks and reserves. 4. 13.1 as per comment about 10.2 this provision is confused and allows approval to create a nuisance. Could also have something like 14.4 here.</p>	<p>The language in this bylaw is a mash up of old and new. Lawyers should make sure legal requirements are plain language and easy to understand. I see thereto, aforesaid still being used for example.</p>	<p>Morrinsville</p>

<p>CSB232 Mana Rangatahi - Jade Green</p> <p>Attending Hearing</p>	<p>Proposed</p>	<p>Mobile Shops: 12/14 feel that there should be restrictions on where mobile shops park Majority of group brough Ice Cream, they would drive through urban areas What restrictions: We think that there should be restrictions on where they should park Alcohol Ban areas: Most of the group didn't know that there was an alcohol ban, we think the council should do more about letting people know its there, stricter on alcohol Anonymous - There was an incident, my children were playing touch at Campbell park. We felt disgusted to see that the ref had alcohol in his hand and was being sloppy. When we think about it now it makes me think about how my children were unsafe. There was another incident where I picked up my children from Thursday sport at Campbell park, where there was a visibly drunk man, who seemed aggravated and was threatening to beat up a person he was looking for. We think there should be a ban on drinking alcohol in public places, or even the amount of alcohol a person is allowed to drink. Our feedback is that we agree with the town wide ban but we feel the rules should be more enforced and educated on. Keeping of animals: We agree with that law but think that the animals should be well contained, clean, not causing problems. No Skate Zones: 14/14 agreed that we need to keep no skate zone in order to keep our mokos, kaumatua, and tamariki safe. We do feel that the no skate rule should be more enforced, and more signage should be put up.</p>		<p>Morrinsville</p>
<p>CSB244 Conrad Booyesen</p>	<p>Other</p>	<p>Coming from where I do, I speak from a lived experience when I say that if you leave certain crimes or offences unpunished or unspecified, without directly addressing them, you run the risk of normalizing those behaviors, potentially to the detriment of society and the public. By taking a lenient stance in not specifying what unacceptable public behavior is, this issue can quickly drop out of mind, especially if there is a the feeling that central government legislation and the New Zealand Police have it covered, as it were. Truth is, they might not have it covered, and as I understand the case to be, the Police are overstretched as it is. I'm not in favor of removing this particular bylaw. While I don't live in Morrinsville or Matamata, I am in these places for work purposes almost weekly.</p>	<p>Same as above.</p>	<p>Other - Northeast Hamilton</p>
<p>CSB248 Wendy Fenn</p>	<p>With amendments</p>		<p>Well done I personally think you have covered the changes very well. So if this is adopted how does the council convey these changes to the whole community? Signage could be useful but would be costly. Is there someway that the ateno app could be used to educate the community about the changes because some of the community may just switch off when council talk about draft plans. Sorry I can't be present on the days of the hearings as my husband has medical appointments in Hamilton. However I'm happy to talk to council members at any other time.</p>	<p>Matamata</p>

CSB249 Wendy Fenn	With amendments		I would like to offer a suggestion for signage on the Banks/Richardson road reserve or any other where it is appropriate. "This reserve is for our community young and old to enjoy. For the safety and quiet enjoyment of others please refrain from using motor vehicles on this reserve". I think it is polite and friendly and in a similar vein as other signs seen through Centennial drive.	Matamata
CSB251 Transition Matamata - Jeff Johnson	Proposed	There needs to be some changes to current by-laws and this is a good 1st step.	The dangerous, noisy and polluting HGV / Truck and Trailer traffic through Broadway, has to be addressed. This through traffic offers no benefits to Matamata and is an environmental and safety hazard. A six month trial ban would be a start.	Matamata
CSB254 David Irwin	Proposed	The draught covers the concerns tabled at the Matamata workshop I attended. Primarily for me, theft, vandalism and anti-social behavior in our parks and reserves. As discussed, it still does not address how the public are informed of these bylaws and what enforcement is available. If the enforcement or bylaw is not obvious when an offence is observed, it is likely to go unreported. I believe signage in parks that easily directs the observer to the enforcement powers, then offences are more likely to be reported. The sign would also act as a deterrent. It could be as simple as: - Theft (including plants) - Vandalism - Anti social behavior is a CRIME 0800 Bylaw (0800 29429) 24/7 The number has to be 0800 with an easy word, rather than numbers, to remember so the call can be made out of sight of the offenders. The number would go direct to the enforcement officers and out of hours, redirected to the community patrol. There would need to be a collaboration with them.		Matamata
CSB256 Belinda Rowson	With amendments	I support more attention to drug related activities , people living nearby are very aware when dealing is taking place near their homes		Matamata
CSB265 Steve Cullen <i>See attachment Late submission Attending Hearing</i>	No selection		I have read through the information you have sent and would like to add the following: The current Public Safety Bylaw contains areas where drinking alcohol is banned. Do you think these areas are still suitable or are changes required? Please Explain: I think the current restrictions are adequate but the problem is with enforcement. The Police are not always available to enforce the law What are your thoughts on the current rules around animals in public amenities (e.g. parks and reserves)? Are there any changes needed for the safety and enjoyment of all users e.g. more rules, signage, enforcement: Yes there should be more signage and enforcement Especially when it comes to dogs in public. Also with unruly trail bike riders in public parks. What do you think about the rules around the number and type of animals that are allowed to be kept (e.g. chickens, roosters, goats, pigs etc.)? I think there should be restrictions in place for the numbers and types of animals that can be kept in a residential area.	Morrinsville

<p>CSB266 Kelly Ralph</p> <p><i>See attachment</i> <i>Late submission</i> Attending Hearing</p>	<p>No selection</p>		<p>all my complaints are very valid we have lived in Goodwin ave for 21 years and neighbours have no respect you try to talk to them and they just abuse you . kids riding motorbikes up and down street at all hours can also be a problem sometimes eg housing NZ families . I also find it very concerning that when you want to contact landlords about their tenants behaviour you can't get there details due to privacy act so unfair to poor neighbours</p>	<p>Morrinsville</p>
<p>CSB267 New Zealand Police - Inspector Mike Henwood</p> <p><i>See attachment</i> <i>Late submission</i> Attending Hearing</p>	<p>No option selected</p>	<p>See attached submission.</p>		

Gambling Policy and TAB Policy

Question 1: Gambling - staff comment	Question 2: TAB - staff comment	Question 3: Sensitive Sites - Staff comment
<p>What option do you support? Proposed: 3 Sinking lid: 14 Decrease: 2 Increase: 1</p> <p>Staff note there were varying views during early and in-person engagements on these policies. Several local groups and community members expressed the importance of gambling grants that fund a range of activities that support community wellbeing. Other community members shared their own experiences with gambling harm, and do not want any new gambling venues in our towns, especially in Te Aroha. Staff also note that the terms 'pokies' and 'play' have been used for engagement documents, but are not included in the proposed Gambling Policy. 'Pokies' is a slang term that is more commonly used than 'Electronic Gaming Machine' (EGMs) and is used in consultation documents to aid readers in understanding the topic. Staff note EGMs terms like 'play pokies' does not acknowledge that for some people pokies are not a game, but are a source of harm.</p>	<p>What option do you support? Proposed option: 3 No venues: 10 Other: 1 No selection: 6</p> <p>Staff note the low number of submissions recieved, and note there was no feedback on the TAB Policy during early and in-person engagements.</p>	<p>What option do you support? Proposed: 7 Current: 9 Other: 1 No selection: 3</p> <p>The current requirements for new venues to consult with affected parties within a 250 metre radius is anti-competitive, as it allows existing gambling venues to provide a written objection to the proposed new venue and trigger a hearing process that is time consuming. Staff note most feedback from early and in-person engagement generally supported gambling venues and EGMs being away from sensitive sites.</p>

Name & submission #	Question 1 - Which of these Policy options do you support? (Gambling)	Question 1 Comment	Question 2 - Which of these Policy options do you support? (TAB)	Question 2 Comment	Question 3 - Sensitive site requirements	Question 3 Comment	General comment	Ward
GVP51 Anthony Neave	Decrease cap	I lost someone once very close to me through poker machine addiction. I implore the council to reduce the harm caused by these machines. Poker Machines have been designed to addict. They destroy peoples lives, they destroy families and they divert money that would otherwise be spent in local businesses. The only way to reduce the harm they cause is to get rid of them all together. I support a decreasing cap until they are all gone. New Zealand ranks 26th in People per Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs). There is one poker machine for every 275 people. This is far too many! https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/slot-machines-by-country?	No TAB Venues		Current		Could you please avoid using the terms 'play' and 'pokies'. The council is normalising gambling by referring to it as a game of skill (not chance), and by using an informal nickname.	Te Aroha

GVP55 Gaming Machine Association NZ - Jarrod True <i>See attachment Attending Hearing</i>	Proposed		No selection		Proposed			Other - N/A
GVP98 Aotearoa Gaming Trust - Karen Shea <i>See attachment</i>	Proposed	Aotearoa Gaming Trust supports the district wide cap as set out in the proposed option and think it will be a more straightforward formula for Council to administer.	No selection		Proposed	Aotearoa Gaming Trust supports in principle gaming venues being 100 metres from sensitive sites, however, we also support an option for exceptions to be considered on a case-by-case basis.	Aotearoa Gaming Trust (AGT) operates a venue in Matamata and it is our policy to return at least 95% of available funds directly back to the area or to support organisations providing services in the Matamata area that directly benefit the local population. The remaining 5% supports national organisations that undertake work that benefits the wider New Zealand community. As of the end of February 2025 AGT has granted over \$200,000 to groups in Matamata and hold applications that are currently being processed, the available funds are ring-fenced for local organisations to apply for grant funding from. When the available funds reach a level where we think community awareness needs to be raised we will conduct a funding meeting in Matamata and invite interested not-for-profit groups to attend and find out about our criteria and how the application process works. It is our job to distribute funds as quickly and efficiently as possible to support the organisations that do great work within the community. We note from the most recent Ministry of Health information on presentation data that there have been no new clients in the district, while we do not believe these numbers reflect the actual situation it highlights the issues for local communities when there is no face-to-face counselling services available. We provide training and various tools to assist our operators to conduct a gambling operation that puts the well-being of the players at the forefront of the gambling operation and tries to minimise any potential harm.	Other - AGT is based in Dunedin but operates a National Gaming Trust
GVP 111 Freya Turner- Wright	Sinking lid		Proposed		Proposed			Morrinsville
GVP 228 Cassandra Mankelow- Hancock	Sinking lid		Proposed		Proposed			Morrinsville

GVP 228 Mana Rangatahi - Jade Green Attending Hearing	Sinking lid	Why we support the sinking lid - The Pokie machines will start to go away that is why we support the sinking lid - Reducing, helping the problem go away Having the pokie machines go away will help valuable communities, having no pokie machines around marae's, schools ect Annonymus - Yes, putting in a restriction will help. Annoymus - Whanau has been affected, sometimes it does help with money, but not all the time, sometimes there is no money left and it leaves me feeling not nice	No selection		No selection			Morrinsville
GVP 233 The Lion Foundation - Samantha Alexander <i>See attachment</i> Attending Hearing	Proposed	See attached submission.	No selection		Proposed	See attached submission.	See attached submission.	Other
GVP235 Raymond Une <i>See attachment</i>	Sinking lid		No TAB Venues		Current			Other
GVP236 Che Halafihi	Sinking lid		No TAB Venues		Current			Other - Manukau Ward
GVP237 Matt Max	Sinking lid		No TAB Venues		Current			Matamata
GVP238 Mapu Maia - Jaebong Choi	Sinking lid		No TAB Venues		Current			Other - Auckland
GVP 239 Mapu Maia - Herman Ah Kiong	Sinking lid		No TAB Venues		Current			Other - Hastings
GVP240 Asian Family Services - Hong Yuan <i>See attachment</i>	Sinking lid		No TAB Venues		Other	We recommend no new venues for both pokies and TAB.		Other - I live in Porirua, our services is national.

GVP241 Lisa Ah Honi	Decrease cap		Proposed		Current		Why do they gambling venues & TABs in the most vulnerable areas? If we have venues in these areas, there should be a strict cap on how many and consultation should be with the community before approving licenses for gambling venues & TAB. The venues target the low social economic areas and spin the narrative to say the money goes back into the community, but it doesn't. Compared to the millions of dollars these venues make and what they give back to the community is minimal. These venues are taking food from families and not only does it affect the family but also the people in their circle or village. The ramifications are huge especially for their mental health.	Other - South Auckland
GVP242 Samoan Family Advocate - Rufo Pupualii <i>See attachment</i>	Sinking lid	Sinking Lid Policy is more effective than per capita policy which is operating at present for Matamata-Piako Council. In order to address the financial struggles of vulnerable communities of Maori and Pacific. The Population of Matamata-Piako district is around 34,000, and the formular of per capita ration to Class four Gaming Machines is 1 machine per 1000 people. If its 34,000 people, it needs 34 machines only in the district. Unfortunately, there is a total of 140 Gambling Machines in the district. What it identified in this formula, the per capita policy does not reflect the struggles of the vulnerable communities to Maori and Pacific in the district. Approximately 6,741 Maori population and 1,914 Pacific population in the district, and I strongly oppose the Per Capita Policy BUT to adopt the Sinking Lid Policy. Sinking Lid can reduce the overall gambling harm by decreasing the numbers of pokies in the district.	No TAB Venues	I strongly put a stop on TAB venues to operate in the district because of the high risk of Maori and Pacific Gambling. The negative impacts on Pacific and Maori would be financial hardships-gambling drains limited income sources, family breakdown-relationships suffer due to gambling related stress and mental health anxiety, depression and suicide rates increase with gambling harm. As a Pacific Health Promoter and Manager for the National Pacific Provider in Problem Gambling, I identified the long-term struggles of Maori and Pacific services users, who access our services, due to the availability of TAB venues and Gambling machines in the Local Communities. Indeed, if the council can be of responsible to look into the community wellbeing related options, a stop on TAB venues would be much appreciated.	Current	This option can be strongly support my view points as mentioned on my comments above	There is too much of Gaming machines in the district, please reconsider your Policy Option and consider the rights of the vulnerable communities. What is the most important thing in the world, its is people it is people, it is people.	Other - Waikato and Auckland
GVP245 Mapu Maia - Jonathan Pouli-Lefale	Sinking lid	I believe Option 3 is the best option to be adopted. This is looking at the future. The less gambling venues accessible to the community the better it's going to be in the long run. To achieve this, we eliminate any opportunity for businesses to continue it's presence in the community. Only then the temptation to win big for our community will become less and less, and I believe we will at least having our dream of elimination of the harm of gambling become a reality.	No TAB Venues	This will be a dream come true for us who are trying to support this addiction in the community. By Council NOT approving applications for licenses will result in elimination of another temptation in the community to easy access to gambling.	Current	This will give the opportunity to those who are vulnerable to have a say in this, and be able to make their individual decisions on what is best for them.	For someone who is involved together with work colleagues in that area, I fully support any policy that will look at the reduction of the harm in the community from gambling. And as a Pacific Island individual, I am willing to support any legislation and/or policy regarding reduction or even elimination of gambling harm.	Other - Counties/Maunukau

GVP255 Laura Wade	Increase cap	People will find a way to gamble if they want to. At least with pokies a share of the money helps community groups. If they are gambling online then 100% of the money is going overseas. People gambling in public can be monitored and offered help.	Increase cap		Proposed			Te Aroha
GVP258 Problem Gambling Foundation Services - Madelaine Cullen <i>See attachment Attending Hearing</i>	Sinking lid	See attached submission.	No TAB Venues	See attached submission.	No selection	See attached submission.	See attached submission.	Other - Auckland
GVP263 Te Whatu Ora - Te Manawa Taki, Waikato region - Rose Black <i>See attachment Late submission</i>	Sinking lid	See attached submission.	No selection		Proposed	See attached submission.	See attached submission.	Other - Waikato
GVP264 Te Manawhenua Forum mo Matamata-Piako <i>See attachment Late submission</i>	Sinking lid	See attached submission.	No selection		No selection			In district

Alcohol Licensing Bylaw

Key themes			Staff comment	
<p>Which of these Policy options do you support? Proposed - 2 Status Quo - 2</p> <p>The feedback received expressed concern about proposed fee increases to alcohol licensing. One submitter queried the costs to Council especially given the new requirement for individual licenses unless they are considered linked. Submitters highlight the financial strain already faced by businesses during a time of economic hardship. They suggest that raising fees will ultimately lead to increased costs for consumers and place further pressure on the hospitality sector, which may not be in a position to absorb additional expenses.</p> <p>Submitters in support of the proposed option did not provide reasoning.</p>			<p>The current alcohol licensing fees in the district were set by the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, and the prices have not changed since then. For Council to change these fees, Council are required by legislation in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Fee-Setting Bylaws) Order 2013 to publicly consult and implement a bylaw with adjusted fees.</p> <p>The submission that requested information on the Act and clarification on the justification for price increases was responded to by staff. The submitter was provided with the relevant clauses in the Act, the Regulation 19 Report which was presented to Council and on the MPDC website, and a breakdown of administration costs.</p>	
Name / Group or Organisation Name	Preferred Option	Comment regarding option	General comments	Ward
AFB69 Matamata RSA - Gayle Dickson	Status Quo	I would like to see a full breakdown of how the administration "costs" are calculated please. I cannot work out how a special license fee can cost anywhere near the figures you are quoting, and I also cannot see how you can justify an increase in fees when you are now requiring individual special licenses unless they are considered to be linked! Can you also please send an excerpt of the Act that defines the cost/risk rating as I cannot find this!	Businesses are already struggling, and clubs in particular. How can you justify these increases, but not increase Duty Manager fees surely one's duty manager is a key to the safe and responsible sale of alcohol in any premises??	Matamata
AFB100 Beau Timberland	Status Quo	I think we should seek to avoid price increases for local people in this financial climate. Let's be compassionate to business owners. They will of course pass on those costs to people who consume alcohol or want to dine out. I'm not confident the hospitality industry is in a position to be paying higher fees for something like this.	Let's be compassionate to people during a recession. No need to raise fees.	Te Aroha
AFB224 Cassandra Mankelow- Hancock	Proposed			Morrinsville
AFB246 David King	Proposed			Te Aroha

Fees and Charges

Key themes	Staff comments
<p>Which of these Policy options do you support? Proposed - 1 Other - 2</p> <p>A submitter expressed concern about new/increased Council fees and their impact on residents, especially during a time of economic hardship. They suggested that if additional revenue is needed, the Council could consider reinstating library late fees or increasing charges for non-essential services such as pools, spas, and libraries rather than raising building consent fees, which they see as a barrier to private property improvement.</p> <p>One submitter was particularly concerned about dog registration fee increases, noting that responsible dog owners—who do not require services like Animal Control Officers, are unfairly penalised for the actions of those who let their dogs roam or don't register them. They noted that the increase may discourage compliance and create financial strain, particularly for those on fixed incomes like pensions.</p> <p>One submission supported the proposed option but did not provide reasoning.</p>	<p>Council reviews its Fees and Charges annually to ensure they are up to date and reflect the actual and reasonable costs of providing services and activities to the community. For each activity, the percentage of revenue that can be collected through fees and charges is set through the Revenue and Financing Policy which takes into account the distribution of benefits between the whole community, separate communities and individuals.</p> <p>Library Overdue Fees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries can be understood as fulfilling an essential function in a democratic society, ensuring access to information for everyone in the community. • Research has shown that library fines act as a deterrent to library use, and are not an effective tool for managing overdue items. Less than 10% of councils in New Zealand charge library fines. • For further information refer to Library Fine Free Proposal Report attached to Fees and Charges Report <p>For further background see also: https://finefreeaotearoa.org.nz/</p> <p>Building Consent Fees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For building consent fees, the Revenue and Financing Policy sets a range of 50-90% for the percentage of costs to be covered by the individual, taking into account that the benefits are distributed between the individual and the community at large (in terms of managed and appropriate development in the community) • Building consent fee increases for 2025/26 are made up inflation, a small increase to cover insurance costs, and a change to the structure of the fees due to changes from our external supplier of building consent services. <p>Affordability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most fees have been increased by inflation only, balancing council's need to recover costs with the need to keep costs down for the community. • Some fees have remained the same eg Libraries • Where fees have increased by more than inflation this is largely due to changes outside Council's control such as Objective Build fees in the Building activity, MPI levies in the Licensing activity, or to ensure Council is covering the actual costs of providing the service eg. Weekend and public holiday cemeteries fees, Rubbish fees <p>Dog Registration Fees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog registration fees have only increased by inflation • For animal control fees, the Revenue and Financing Policy sets a range of 80-100% for the percentage of the costs to be covered by the individual, arguing that this range encourages responsible dog ownership, and promotes public safety.

Name / Group or Organisation Name	Preferred Option	Comment regarding option	General comments	Ward
FC101 Beau Timberland	Other	The council recently did away with library late fees, I'm sure this wasn't a major source of income, but perhaps they could be reinstated if the council needs to strengthen its income. I'm supportive of MPDC raising fees for services it offers like libraries, pools, spa etc. But for building consent I'm not supportive. I think this is already an expensive form of taxation and we might like to encourage and stimulate people to build and improve their own private properties without the need for higher fees. Perhaps put the fees up on non essential, luxurious things like the pools, library and spa and keep prices low or reduce them for important things like consent fees.	Let's consider that we are in a recession , there is weak local job market and everyday people might be badly affected by new or increased taxes and fees.	Te Aroha
FC226 Cassandra Mankelow-Hancock	Proposed			Morrinsville
FC230 Lorraine Hardy	Other	I already have to pay increased rates anyway. In the 8 years of owning a dog whilst living in Matamata, my dog has NEVER been picked up by a dog warden. This increase does not reflect those people who look after their dog but yet again are forced to pay out more money to cover the expenses of those that let their animals roam free and are possibly not even registered. Just how far do think a pension can stretch?	As a responsible owner, I cannot see ANYTHING that we get for the money we have to pay and I truly believe that increase will prevent some people from registering their dog as it makes it an unaffordable expense when you receive nothing back for it. I'm not interested in the dog warden, never seen him anyway, or how much it costs to keep someone else's dog penned up and fed when they're not looking after them at home, they shouldn't be having dogs in the first place so why should I have to pay for them!	Matamata

Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy

Key themes			Staff comment	
<p>Which of these Policy options do you support? Proposed - 3</p> <p>All three submissions were in support of the proposed option. One submitter highlights the significant challenges facing St Marks Church in Te Aroha, noting it will cost around \$4 million to repair, with additional unknown costs for converting it from a heritage building and potential insurance liabilities. \$200,000 has been raised in two years, suggesting it may take many years or even decades before restoration can proceed.</p>			<p>Staff note that there are earthquake prone building provisions affecting a building in Te Aroha but this is covered by separate legislation, Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act 2016), not covered by the Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy.</p> <p>The development of the amended policy was made to align with MBIE recommendation and align with legislation, therefore staff recommend that Council adopt the policy which was publicly consulted on.</p>	
Name / Group or Organisation Name	Preferred Option	Comment regarding option	General comments	Ward
DIB86 David King	Proposed	I'm very aware of the situation at St Marks church in Te Aroha. Will take about \$4million to repair, who knows how much to change from a Heritage building, and unknown insurance liability to let people in again. I'm told that after 2 years of fundraising, they have raised \$200,000. So will be several years/decades before they can go to tender.		Te Aroha
DIB227 Cassandra Mankelow-Hancock	Proposed			Morrinsville
DIB247 Wendy Fenn	Proposed		No I think you have covered this topic well.	Matamata