

Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako

Kaupapataka Wātea | Open Agenda



Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary meeting of the Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako will be held on:

Ko te rā | Date: Tuesday 11 June 2024
Wā | Time: 10:00
Wāhi | Venue: Council Chambers
35 Kenrick Street
TE AROHA

Ngā Mema | Membership

te kaunihera ā-rohe o |
Matamata-Piako District
Council

Manuhuia | Mayor
Adrienne Wilcock, JP

Koromatua Tautoko | Deputy Mayor
James Thomas

Kaunihera ā-Rohe | District Councillors

Gary Thompson

Ngāti Hauā

Mema Tūturu | Principal Member
Mrs Te Ao Marama Maaka (Chair)

Mema Tautoko | Alternate Member
Ms Rangitonga Kaukau

Ngāti Hinerangi

Mr Philip Smith

Ms Hinerangi Vaimoso

Ngāti Maru

Mrs Kathy Ngamane

Mr Wati Ngamane

Ngāti Rāhiri-Tumutumu

Mrs Jill Taylor

Mrs June McCaskill

Ngāti Pāoa

Mr Tahauariki Thompson

Mrs Glenice Puke

Ngāti Whanaunga

Mr Michael Baker

Mr Gavin Anderson

Raukawa

Mr Leo Whaiapu

Mrs Andrea Julian

Ngāti Tamaterā

Waea | Phone:

07-884-0060

Wāhitau | Address:

PO Box 266, Te Aroha 3342

Īmēra | Email:

governance@mpdc.govt.nz

Kāinga Ipuranga | Website:

www.mpdc.govt.nz

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1 Whakatūwheratanga o te hui | Meeting Opening

Chairperson to welcome members and open the meeting.

2 Karakia

The opening karakia is to be performed.

3 Ngā whakapāha/Tono whakawātea | Apologies/Leave of Absence

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

4 Pānui i Ngā Take Ohore Anō | Notification of Urgent/Additional Business

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-
 - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
 - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
 - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
 - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- (b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

5 Whākī pānga | Declaration of Interest

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.

6 Whakaaetanga mēneti | Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes, as circulated, of the ordinary meeting of the Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako, held on 9 April 2024

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.1 New Membership to Forum - Ngāti Tumutumu Iwi Trust

CM No.: 2863364

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Te Manawhenua Forum of new membership from Ngāti Tumutumu Iwi Trust.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Ngāti Tumutumu inform Te Manawhenua Forum that Mr Norm Hill is appointed as the new Ngāti Tumutumu alternate representative. Ms Jill Taylor will continue her appointment as the principal representative.

A formal letter from Ngāti Tumutumu is attached.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **Mr Norm Hill be welcomed to the Forum and appointed as the new Ngāti Tumutumu alternate representative.**

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A↓](#). MPDC TMF Rep Norm Hill 14May24



Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Stephanie Hutchins Governance Support Officer	
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Approved by	Sandra Harris Strategic Partnerships and Governance Manager	
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Ngati Tumutumu Trust

Ko Te Aroha te Maunga
Ko Waihou te Awa
Ko Tikapa te Moana
Ko Tumutumu te Marae
Ko Te Ruinga te Tangata
No Ngati Tumutumu te Iwi

14 May 2024

Matamata Piako District Council
35 Kenrick St
Te Aroha
3320

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to advise that the Ngati Tumutumu Trust has resolved replace June McCaskill as the Ngāti Tumutumu Te Manawhenua Forum Alternate Representative with Norm Hill effective immediately..

If you have any queries about this matter please contact me directly either by cell: 022 599 5611, or by email: jill@ngatitumutumu.co.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Jill Taylor
Kaiwhakahaere
Ngati Tumutumu Trust



7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.2 New Membership to Forum - Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust

CM No.: 2863383

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Te Manawhenua Forum of new membership from Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust Board following their recent trustee elections.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust Board inform Te Manawhenua Forum of the result of their recent elections. Former trustee Mr Philip Smith chose not to be considered for re-election as principal representative on the Forum and as a result Mr Reece Marsh has been declared as the principal representative, with Ms Hinerangi Vaimoso re-appointed as the alternate representative.

Formal notification from Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust Board is attached.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **Mr Reece Marsh be welcomed to the Forum and appointed as the new Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust principal representative.**

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A↓. Te Manawhenua Forum TPH Rep](#)



Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Stephanie Hutchins Governance Support Officer	
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Approved by	Sandra Harris Strategic Partnerships and Governance Manager	
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Tēnā koutou katoa

Recent trustee elections for Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust Board were completed. During these elections former trustee Phil Smith choose not to be considered for re-election as a TPH Trustee.

As a result of the above, Reece Marsh and Hinerangi Vaimoso have been declared as the Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi representatives on the Te Manawhenua forum on behalf of Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust Board.

If you have any enquiries regarding this email, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ngā mihi

Celia Douglas
Governance Executive Administrator
Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust
email: celia@ngatihinerangiwi.co.nz
PO Box 20
MATAMATA 4300

From: Celia Douglas <celia@ngatihinerangiwi.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 23 May 2024 9:46
To: Governance <governance@mpdc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Te Manawhenua forum TPH Rep

ATTENTION! This e-mail originates from outside of the council. Do not open attachments or click links unless you are sure this e-mail comes from a known sender and you know the content is safe.

Tēnā koe Stephanie

Thank you for your email.

Reece Marsh is the principle and our alternate representative is Hinerangi Vaimoso.

If you require any further information or have any enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ngā mihi

Celia Douglas
Governance Executive Administrator
Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust
email: celia@ngatihinerangiwi.co.nz

2

7 Pūrongo me whakatau | Decision Reports

7.3 Introduction of Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Constituencies) Amendment Bill

CM No.: 2863705

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to

- inform Te Manawhenua Forum mo Matamata-Piako (Forum) on the Amendment Bill
- inform the Forum of Council's submission to the Amendment Bill
- allow for discussion and any feedback to be provided to Council.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Parliament has proposed an Amendment Bill which will amend the Local Electoral Act 2001, the Local Government Electoral Legislation Act 2023 and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001. A link to the Bill can be found [here](#). The proposed changes are centred around Māori Wards and extending the delivery period for voting papers due to postage timeframes.

In summary, regarding the Māori Ward Matamata-Piako District Council have been given three options:

- 1) Disestablish the Māori Ward and complete a shortened representation review by Christmas 2024; to be submitted to the Local Government Commission and effected in the 2025 local elections.
- 2) Disestablish the Māori Ward and revert to previous arrangements to come into effect for the 2025 local elections. To pursue this option, there are a number of criteria we need to meet. However, the Department of Internal Affairs has confirmed that if we have been granted an exemption by the Local Government Commission (which we have) then this still applies.
- 3) Hold a binding poll along with the 2025 local elections with the outcome to come into effect in 2028.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.
2. Te Manawhenua Forum mo Matamata-Piako provides feedback to Council (*feedback to be specified if desired*).

Horopaki | Background

In February 2021, Local Government Minister, Hon. Nanaia Mahuta, announced law changes:

- repeal the provisions in the Act that relate to polls on the establishment of Māori Wards and constituencies;
- prohibit binding council-initiated polls on whether to establish Māori constituencies (while retaining the right for councils to initiate non-binding polls to gauge public sentiment), and;
- Establish a transition period ending on 21 May 2021, during which any local authority may, regardless of any previous decisions or previous poll outcomes, resolve to establish Māori constituencies for the 2022 local elections.

In accordance with these changes, Council resolved to establish a Māori Ward on 28 April 2021. Subsequently, a representation review was conducted later in the year, which took effect for the 2022 elections.

In 2023, following the Parliamentary elections, a Coalition Agreement, was entered into by New Zealand National Party, ACT Party and New Zealand First. One of the conditions of the agreement is to “restore the right to local referendum on the establishment or ongoing use of Māori Wards, including requiring a referendum on any wards established without referendum at the next Local Body elections”. Accordingly, Parliament now aims to pass the Amendment Bill by late July 2024, which would reintroduce the mechanism for binding polls for the establishment of Māori Wards.

On 24 May 2024 the Proposed Amendment Bill was released and open for submissions (noting a 3.5 working day turn around for submissions).

At a workshop on 29 May 2024 Council provided direction to make a submission to the Proposed Amendment Bill, this submission is attached for information.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The Forum may wish to provide feedback or a recommendation to Council by way of resolution.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

Council may consider the three options below:

Option One – Disestablish the Māori Ward and complete representation review

Description of option

After the Bill has been enacted, Council would have until 6 September 2024, to decide to disestablish the Māori Ward and complete a shortened representation review by December 2024; to be submitted to the Local Government Commission. This would come into effect for the 2025 local elections.

Option Two – Disestablish the Māori Ward and revert to previous arrangements

Description of option

After the Bill has been enacted, Council would have until 6 September 2024, to decide to disestablish the Māori Ward and revert to previous arrangements to come into effect for the 2025 local elections.

Option Three – Hold a binding poll in 2025 to come into effect 2028

Description of option





If a decision is not made to disestablish the Māori Ward, Council will be required to hold a binding poll alongside the 2025 local elections, to come into effect for the 2028 local elections.

Timeframes

Key Task	Dates
Proposed Amendment Bill released	24 May 2024
Submissions closed on Proposed Amendment Bill	29 May 2024
Proposed Amendment Bill intended to be enacted.	July 2024
Council to make a decision of which option (1, 2 or 3 above) will be adopted.	September 2024

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata Piako District Council's Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE		MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION	
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION			
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. 'The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.'			
TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)			
			
He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa A place	He wāhi puawaitanga A place to thrive	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao	He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga

with people at its heart		A place that embraces our environment	A place to belong and create
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The community outcomes relevant to this report are as follows:

- He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa | A place with people at its heart
- He wāhi puawaitanga | A place to thrive
- He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao | A place that embraces our environment
- He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga | A place to belong and create

Pānga ki te pūtea, me te puna pūtea | Financial Cost and Funding Source

All options are unbudgeted within Council’s Long Term Plan.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

  MPDC submission on Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill - final

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Tamara Kingi Community Partnerships Advisor	
Approved by	Sandra Harris Strategic Partnerships and Governance Manager	
	Kelly Reith Group Manager People, Governance & Relationships	

Our Ref: NR - 56323 -
Your Ref: Introduction of Bill
Enquiries to: Tamara Kingi



te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council

29 May 2024

New Zealand Parliament
Freepost
Private Bag 18041
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045

Matamata-Piako District Council's Submission the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill.

In addition to supporting the attached (draft version) submission by Taituarā, Matamata-Piako District Council also acknowledges the enactment of this Bill and the next steps would cause unnecessary costs in the current economic climate, while local governments are struggling to keep rates increases to a minimum.

Regards



Mayor Adrienne Wilcock

Matamata-Piako District Council

35 Kenrick Street - PO Box 266 - Te Aroha 3342 - www.mpd.govt.nz
Morrinsville & Te Aroha 07 884 0060 - Matamata 07 881 90 50

Submission of Taituarā – Local Government Professionals Aotearoa regarding the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill

Taituarā – Local Government Professionals Aotearoa (Taituarā) thanks the Justice Committee for the opportunity to submit on the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill (the Bill),

We are an incorporated society of just over 1000 members drawn from local government Chief Executives, senior managers, and council staff with significant policy or operational responsibilities. Our primary role is to help local authorities perform their roles and responsibilities as effectively and efficiently as possible.

We are a managerial organisation and is not our normal practice to comment on representation matters. However, our members are responsible for the administration of local elections (either as an electoral officer or one of the staff supporting the electoral officer) and as such are called on to advise on the representation review process and will be called on to advise on any polls.

The decisions and actions of local authorities can and do give rise to breaches of te Tiriti. Māori representation in the decision-making process is therefore essential.

Article Two of Te Tiriti guarantees Māori the right to make decisions over the resources and taonga they wish to retain. Article Three commits the Crown to ensuring the rights and obligation of a New Zealand citizen apply equally to Māori.

Local authorities are public entities that make decisions that impact on lands, waters and taonga. Decisions such as RMA zoning, placement of infrastructure and levels of service, even the setting and enforcement of rates all have (or could have) such an impact.

While not signatories to Te Tiriti, the decisions that local authorities make can easily impact on the Crown's obligations to Māori. Local authorities should be cognisant of these principles and identify the impacts that their decisions will have.

Additionally, there are some activities where local authorities are acting as delivery agent on behalf of the Crown. Many of the regulatory services involve exercise of

some function on behalf of the Crown, some public health activities are also provided on a similar basis.

Parliament has conferred certain obligations to consider and support the principles of Te Tiriti in their decision-making and action. There are some overarching requirements that apply to any decision taken by a local authority set out in the Local Government Act 2002. Section 77(1)(c) applies to local authority consideration of alternative options:

identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga

Section 81 of that same Act also requires local authorities to:

- (a) *establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority; and*
- (b) *consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to the decision-making processes of the local authority.*

There are a wide variety of arrangements, both formal and informal, for Māori to contribute to local authority decision-making processes. These range from the strategic partnerships with iwi (such as the partnership between Rotorua Lakes and Te Arawa), the Komiti Māori that exist in many local authorities through to the Independent Māori Statutory Board Parliament established when it created Auckland Council.

The Waitangi Tribunal has observed that “*Alternative mechanisms for Māori participation in local government are not the same as having a dedicated seat at the council table*”.¹ A Māori ward or constituency is the only mechanism that guarantees Māori representation on the body that makes the final decisions (for example committees of council cannot adopt a District Plan or Long-Term Plan).

This is a matter for local choice based on an informed consideration of the needs and preferences of the community, especially iwi and hāpu.

Restoring polls creates a higher procedural standard for Māori wards than apply to other decisions made in a representation review.

The Bill proposes to restore provisions providing for the community to demand a poll on council decisions regarding Māori ward and constituencies. There is no such trigger for polls with regard to other decisions around wards and constituencies. The only other representation decision that may be overturned by poll is the decision on

¹ Waitangi Tribunal (2024), The Māori Wards and Constituencies Urgent Inquiry Report, page 2.

the voting system. The restoration of polls re-impose a higher procedural standard on one particular representation arrangement than applies to others.

Complex constitutional and political matters do not meaningfully reduce to a simple 'yes' or 'no'.

In what was a generally excellent piece of advice, the Department of Internal Affairs commented that:

*"Referendums and polls are an instrument of majority rule which can suppress minority interests. Normal lawmaking process have safeguards to make sure minority rights and interests are considered – human rights legislation, parliamentary debates and the select committee process. But referendums do not require that tabling and balancing of interests, and the outcome will depend on the majority's perception of the minority interests."*²

We can only agree with this. We further note that the Prime Minister is on public record as not supporting a referendum on Treaty principles in legislation. We agree that the complex constitutional, legal and political issues do not readily lend themselves to a 'yes/no' question. The restoration of referenda to decisions on Māori wards, including wards that have already been established, places local authorities in exactly that same position and should be avoided.

We also concur with the view that former LGNZ President Dave Cull expressed when he said that:

*"Of equal concern, the polls reduce a complex issue to a simple binary choice, which, by encouraging people to take sides, damages race relations in our districts. Matters of representation and relationships should be addressed in a deliberative manner that employs balanced and considered dialogue – not by poll. In fact, a poll is not necessary. Should a council resolve to establish Māori wards or constituencies, or any other ward, against the wishes of its community then the community has the option to hold that council to account at the next election – this is how representative democracy is intended to work."*³

Special provision must be made for those who established wards under the previous legislation without the community triggering a poll.

Gisborne District Council has raised an issue with us about the application of this provision. We understand that there may be as many as four councils in this situation – Gisborne, Ruapehu, South Taranaki and New Plymouth. Therefore, their

² Department of Internal Affairs (2023), Local Government Briefing – Coalition policies for local electoral changes, page 7.

³ Local Government New Zealand (2018), open letter to the (then) Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Co-leaders of the Green Party.

establishment of Māori wards was made fully within the legal framework of the existing legislation. Parliament should exercise particular care in those local authorities and we recommend that they be exempt from the need to hold a poll at the 2025 election.

Changes to the electoral timetable are welcomed, but are a 'stop-gap' measure at best.

The Bill also provides for a two-week extension to the timetable for local elections. The extension is at the beginning of the electoral period which we support. Adding it to the end of the period would be unwieldy due to the long weekend of Labour Day, and in Hawkes Bay a four-day weekend including Hawke's Bay Anniversary day.

We further support:

- the additional few days between the close of nominations to the start of the voting period to provide more time to print and assemble voting documents, and
- Voting documents being sent early in the week to facilitate any troubleshooting during weekdays rather than over the weekend.

The nomination and enrollment periods will be pushed back. We do not foresee any issues with an earlier nomination period. The formation of the roll is complex with several departments involved in the process. We recommend there be appropriate communication and resourcing for the work to be prioritised by Stats NZ, LINZ and the Electoral Commission in the shortened timeframe.

Postal service and the future

NZ Post advises that the 3.5 million voting packs delivered last October is triple the volume of mail for an average week.

Diminishing mail volumes may mean that it becomes increasingly difficult to conduct elections via the postal system. Postal deliveries to residential addresses are made every other day rather than daily. Post office branches and post boxes are becoming increasingly difficult to find.⁴ A majority of commercial invoicing and almost all payment is done electronically, it does not appear there is any real prospect of a reversal of declining mail volumes.

In 2022 the sector attempted to mitigate these concerns by:

⁴ We are aware of one council having attempted to verify the locations of post boxes in their district and having found three no longer existed.

- advising electors to allow a week for return of both nomination forms and voting documents
- issuing publicity around a 'last date to post' and advice to voters as to where they could deliver votes in person
- providing an alternative option for return of votes Local Government New Zealand coordinated the provision of orange ballot bins (Auckland arranged for collection using its own means). We understand that approximately 48% of votes cast in Wellington and 33% in Auckland were returned through the ballot bins, and
- one council used an alternative mail provider for delivery of outgoing and incoming voting papers with very successful results.

Councils will be increasing their use of ballot bins for return votes in 2025. We are working with supermarket chains for agreements to place bins nationwide.

But in the long-run something has to change about the way we deliver local elections. Booth voting has always been available as an option but is expensive and the experience with booth voting in local elections is not encouraging.⁵

Taituarā supports an online voting option in principle, subject to sufficient public confidence in the security and accuracy of the system. In itself, online voting is more of a tool for making the act of voting more convenient for those that have decided to cast a vote. Online voting is not a substitute for engaging the public and persuading them to vote.

Almost all financial transactions have moved into an online environment, it may be timely to take a fresh look at public confidence in online transactions. We should also continue to monitor the international developments with online voting and in particular security.

Recommendations:

1. That Māori wards be decided by councils based on an informed consideration of the needs and preferences of the community, especially iwi and hāpu.
2. That the restoration of polls re-impose a higher procedural standard on one particular representation arrangement than applies to others, therefore, we do not support the proposal.

⁵ The last booth election was held in 1992 . Turnout was 26 percent in a tightly contested Mayoral race.

3. That Gisborne, South Taranaki, New Plymouth and Ruapehu Councils be exempt from the poll requirement in 2025 because their decisions were made fully within the 2020 legal framework and no requests for a poll were received.

Timing of elections

4. That there be appropriate communication and resourcing for the compilation of the electoral roll to be prioritised by Stats NZ, LINZ and the Electoral Commission within the shortened timeframe.
5. Note that in the long-run the postal service looks set to continue its decline and something has to change about the way we deliver local elections. The online environment continues to increase momentum and this option is a logical way forward.

DRAFT



Taituarā - Local Government Professionals Aotearoa
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8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.1 Acknowledgement of Award for Queen's Service Medal

CM No.: 2864355

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to formally recognise Chair Te Ao Marama's recent award of the Queen's Service Medal for her services to the community in the 2024 year's New Year Honours.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

A snippet from Matamata-Piako District Council's media release is below:

E kore te kūmara e kōrero mō tōna reka (which translates as: the kumara does not brag about its own sweetness).

This whakataukī (or saying) has a number of interpretations but the one we prefer in this instance is - to let others speak of your sweetness. And the sweetness is the amazing achievement Te Ao Marama was awarded and received last week - the Queen's Service Medal (QSM). We've had the good fortune of working alongside Te Ao Marama for many years and she is currently the chair of our Te Manawhenua Forum.

It's wonderful to see others recognise her work in the community and this article tells you more about what has earned Te Ao Marama a QSM - <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/waikato-news/news/new-year-honours-2024-waikato-maori-advisor-receives-qsm-for-35-years-of-services/3NJ3MQ25VZHMHLR3TDAAOJIVRA/>

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Stephanie Hutchins Governance Support Officer	
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Approved by	Sandra Harris Strategic Partnerships and Governance Manager	
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8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.2 Long Term Plan 2024-2034 - Update Following Consultation and Deliberations

CM No.: 2863277

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Te Manawhenua Forum with an update following the consultation process undertaken on the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Consultation Document.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Consultation on the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP) Consultation Document was open from 21 March to 21 April 2024. 175 people submitted on the LTP and 33 submitted on the non-LTP related policies (Legal Highs Policy (Local Approved Products Policy), Smokefree Outdoor Spaces and Dangerous, Insanitary and Affected Buildings Policies). Council also received late submissions which were all considered.

A number of submitters chose to present their submission to Council in person, at a hearing held on 8 May 2024. Council read through and considered all submissions following the presentations from submitters. The meeting was adjourned and resumed on 9 May 2024 where Council requested further information from staff to assist in deliberations.

Council held deliberations on 22 May 2024. This report provides a summary of submissions and decisions that will be incorporated into the Final LTP for adoption by Council on 3 July 2024. A separate report has been prepared to provide Te Manawhenua Forum with an update on the non-LTP related policies that Council consulted on alongside the LTP, and the decisions made.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.

Horopaki | Background

Long Term Plan

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires local authorities to adopt a Long Term Plan every three years. Council's current Long Term Plan was adopted in June 2021 and a draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP) was prepared and recently consulted on.

The purpose of the Long Term Plan is to describe the Council's activities and the community outcomes for its district. The Long Term Plan is also an opportunity to provide integrated decision-making and co-ordination of the Council's resources, and provide for a long-term focus for its activities. It is a basis for accountability to the community (s93(6) LGA).

Consultation

The consultation process whereby the public is invited to make submissions has been undertaken on the Consultation Document for the draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP) alongside several other documents as follows:

- Draft Revenue and Financing Policy
- Draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policy
- Draft Fees and Charges 2024/25
- Draft Development Contributions Policy
- Draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy 2024
- Draft Legal Highs Policy (Local Approved Products Policy) 2024
- Draft Smokefree Outdoor Spaces Policy 2024
- Multi-Year Community Grant applications

Consultation was open from 21 March to 21 April 2024. 175 people submitted on the LTP and 33 submitted on the non-LTP related policies (Legal Highs, Smokefree Outdoor Spaces and Dangerous, Insanitary and Affected Buildings Policies).

617 submissions were received on the LTP, LTP policies and non-LTP related policies. Council also received two late submissions and one was tabled at the Council hearing held on 8 May 2024. Council resolved at that meeting to consider all late submissions received.

A number of submitters chose to present their submission to Council in person, at a hearing held on 8 May 2024. Council read through and considered all submissions following the presentations from submitters. The meeting was adjourned and resumed on 9 May 2024 where Council requested further information from staff to assist in deliberations.

Council held deliberations on 22 May 2024. This report provides a summary of submissions received and decisions that will be incorporated into the Final LTP for adoption by Council on 3 July 2024.

Council received 35 applications for its multi-year grant funding. Applications were received from a wide range of community and iwi groups. A schedule of decisions made regarding multi-year grant applications is attached to this report. A separate report has been prepared to provide Te Manawhenua Forum with an update on the non-LTP related policies that Council consulted on alongside the LTP.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The Consultation Document is centred around affordability – with a focus on delivery of the ‘must dos’ to the community. Council sought feedback on the following nine topics as part of the LTP Consultation Document:



Alongside this, Council also included the following for information, however did not specifically seek feedback:

- Resource recovery centres
- Morrinsville stormwater upgrades

- Wastewater treatment plant upgrades
- Matamata stadium
- Waitoa water supply
- Water metres
- Swimzone Morrinsville

Submissions Received

A record of submissions received is detailed below:

Long Term Plan and associated policies	
Total number of submissions (topics) (LTP, policies and non-LTP related policies)	617
Total number of submitters (LTP, policies and non-LTP related policies)	208
Number of submissions per CD topic	
1) Te Aroha Spa	60
2) Roading renewals	45
3) Walking and cycling improvements	56
4) Town centre infrastructure upgrades	49
5) Additional playgrounds	49
6) Stage for Matamata Civic Centre	37
7) Services we provide	43
8) Te Aroha library	52
9) Our approach to rates and debt	34
Number of submissions on other topics	
Other topics submitted on including Matamata Stadium, Accessibility, Sportsgrounds, Future projects, water meters, Waitoa water, Te Aroha	11
Final comments and attachments	
Final comments and attachments received	29
Number of submissions on LTP related policies	
1) Fees and charges	53
2) Revenue and Financing Policy	17

3) Development Contributions Policy	21
4) Rates Remission and Postponement Policy	16
Number of submissions on non LTP related policies	
1) Legal Highs (Local Approved Products) Policy	23
2) Smokefree Outdoor Spaces Policy	14
3) Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy	8

Summary of Topics and Submissions Received – LTP Consultation Document

The topics and options consulted on is included below alongside a summary of feedback received for each of the nine topics as outlined in the Consultation Document.

A record of submissions received can be found on Council's website: <https://ltp.mpdc.nz/view-submissions>

A record of Council's decisions can be found on Council's website:

https://meeting-docs.mpdc.govt.nz/Open/2024/05/C_22052024_MIN.PDF

1. Te Aroha Spa

Council's proposed option – Continue investigating options	
Impact on level of service	Investigation phase – same level of service. Capital works – improved level of service
Impact on debt	\$5.2 million following completion in 2029/27
Council share of additional operating cost per year	\$494,000 following completion in 2026/27
Average additional cost per property per year	\$20.18 following completion in 2026/27

Alternative option – Stop work on it altogether	
Impact on level of service	No change to current
Impact on debt	None
Council share of additional operating cost per year	None
Average additional cost per property per year	None

Summary of submissions received – Te Aroha Spa

Council received 60 submissions on this topic with the majority (52%) in support of the proposed option. Submissions received noted the importance of the facility to Te Aroha and the wider district

and a desire to capitalise on this unique asset. There were also calls for financial prudence and a satisfaction with the current facility.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the proposed option, noting that the project should be cost neutral. The reasons for adopting the proposed option include that:

- Council still believes Te Aroha has strong tourism potential and a lot of investment and planning has already taken place
- The business case for a larger scale development with more significant investment, doesn't stack up in the current economic environment
- The existing Spa facility is well utilised and this funding will allow development or refurbishment in a more affordable way.
- The majority of those who submitted on this topic support the proposed option

2. Roothing Renewals

Council's proposed option – Reduce our roading renewal programme to cut costs	
Impact on level of service	Aim to keep roads at current standard. Risk of more wear and tear over time.
Impact on debt	None
Council share of additional operating cost per year	\$291,000 for 2024/25
Average additional cost per property per year	\$11.87 for 2024/45

Alternative option – Keep roading renewals at the current level	
Impact on level of service	No change to current
Impact on debt	None
Council share of additional operating cost per year	If Waka Kotahi contributes 51%: \$683,000 If Waka Kotahi does not increase funding: \$1.39 million
Average additional cost per property per year	If Waka Kotahi contributes 51%: \$27.88 for 2024/25 If Waka Kotahi does not increase funding: \$56.90 for 2024/25

Summary of submissions received – Roothing Renewals

Council received 45 submissions on this topic with feedback fairly evenly split on this topic. Submissions received noted the importance of road safety and maintaining a good standard of roading. Suggestion made to monitor road maintenance closely to ensure effective use of allocated funds and to restore roading expenditure to previous levels once funds permit, to prevent a renewal deficit and maintain road infrastructure effectively.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the proposed option with additional funds (increase the roading pavement renewals budget to \$6.05 million for 2024/25, \$6.5 million for 2025/26 and \$6.8 million

for 2026/27 in order to support additional road pavement renewals. The reasons for adopting the proposed option include that:

- Council's approach is to focus on affordability and that in the context of rising costs, spreading renewals over a longer timeframe will help keep rates down
- Public feedback on this topic was evenly split between those who supported the proposed option and the alternative option, so choosing the proposed option but with some additional funds helps to reach a compromise between the two approaches
- The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS) has directed Council to reallocate funds toward road pavement renewals.
- Council's intent is to maximise the 51% of co-funding from central government by aligning our programme with the priorities of the GPS.

3. Walking and Cycling Improvements

Council's proposed option – Stop budgeting for new walking and cycling connections and safety improvements	
Impact on level of service	No change/ minor improvement to existing network
Impact on debt	\$50,000 on completion of project in 2024/25
Council share of additional operating cost per year	\$3,600 per year following completion of the project
Average additional cost per property per year	\$0.15 per year following completion of the project

Alternative option – Continue to steadily improve walking and cycling connections, but over a longer time frame	
Impact on level of service	Improvement to existing network
Impact on debt	\$6.2 million after 10 years
Council share of additional operating cost per year	\$263,000 over 10 years
Average additional cost per property per year	\$10.74 over 10 years

Summary of submissions received – Walking and Cycling Improvements

Council received 56 submissions on this topic with 57% of submitters supporting the alternative option. Submissions received noted support for maintaining existing walking and cycling trails to a high standard rather than investing in new connections. Other submissions supported continued investment in walking and cycling and emphasised the importance of this to encourage physical activity and for tourism. Suggestions were received for low-cost initiatives such as painting cycleways and installing visual cues to promote road sharing and improve safety.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the proposed option. The reasons for adopting the proposed option include that:

- Council's approach is to focus on affordability and that, in the context of focusing on the Must Dos, removing walking and cycling projects from the budget will help keep rates down
- The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport's priority areas and associated co-funding do not include walking and cycling
- Council notes the support for walking and cycling received in public submissions and therefore directs staff to investigate alternative options for funding this work.

4. Town Centre Infrastructure Upgrades

Council's proposed option – Prioritise maintenance and renewals and Pride of Place	
Impact on level of service	No change/ minor improvement to town centres
Impact on debt	\$Nil
Council share of additional operating cost per year	\$123,000 per year over 10 years, the majority of which is funded from reserves rather than rates
Average additional cost per property per year	\$0.20 per year over 10 years

Alternative option – Stick to the plan	
Impact on level of service	Improvement to town centres
Impact on debt	\$5.2 million following completion in 2028/29
Council share of additional operating cost per year	\$566,000 following completion in 2028/29
Average additional cost per property per year	\$23.10 following completion in 2028/29

Summary of submissions received – Town Centre Infrastructure Upgrades

Council received 49 submissions on this topic with 57% of submitters supporting the proposed option. Submissions received noted support for community initiatives such as 'Pride of Place', contributing to town improvements incrementally. The importance of keeping our towns maintained to a high standard of cleanliness was highlighted to attract businesses and visitors, fostering economic growth and vibrancy. There was strong community support for revitalising town centres, especially Te Aroha and the need for continued investment.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the proposed option. The reasons for adopting the proposed option include that:

- Council's approach is to focus on affordability and that, in the context of prioritising the 'must do' projects, focusing on low cost projects over large capital works will help keep rates down
- Community feedback received previously highlighted the value placed on partnerships and activities that create a sense of vibrancy and connection
- The majority of those who gave public feedback on this topic supported the proposed option.

5. Additional Playgrounds

Council's proposed option – Limit playground improvements to the planned new playgrounds for Matamata and Te Aroha	
Impact on level of service	Improved level of service – new/ enhanced playgrounds in Matamata and Te Aroha
Impact on debt	\$3.07m from completion in 2026/27
Council share of additional operating cost per year	\$500,000 from completion in 2026/27
Average additional cost per property per year	\$20.44 from completion in 2026/27

Alternative option – Cut costs further by deferring the Te Aroha playground	
Impact on level of service	Improvement to existing services in Matamata and keeping service the same in Te Aroha and Morrinsville
Impact on debt	\$1.5m from completion in 2024/25
Council share of additional operating cost per year	\$245,000 from completion in 2024/25
Average additional cost per property per year	\$10.01 from completion in 2026/27

Summary of submissions received – Additional Playgrounds

Council received 49 submissions on this topic with 51% of submitters supporting the proposed option. Submissions received noted that Te Aroha should receive similar amenities like playgrounds that are available in Morrinsville and Matamata. Submitters noted the importance of playgrounds with significant benefits for the community, providing a space for families and to attract young families to the area, and contributing to community growth and vitality. Concerns were also raised about the timing of such a project, particularly during an economic downturn.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the proposed option. The reasons for adopting the proposed option include that:

- We are committed to delivering significant play projects
- A majority of those who gave feedback on this topic supported the proposed option.

6. Stage for Matamata Civic Centre

Council's proposed option – Remove this project from our work programme	
Impact on level of service	No change/ same as current service
Impact on debt	\$Nil
Council share of additional operating cost per year	\$Nil
Average additional cost per property per year	\$Nil

year	
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Alternative option – Keep the project in the work programme but defer it	
Impact on level of service	No immediate change, future improvements
Impact on debt	\$245,000 following completion in 2029/30
Council share of additional operating cost per year	\$31,000 following completion in 2029/30
Average additional cost per property per year	\$1.25 following completion in 2029/30

Summary of submissions received – Stage for Matamata Civic Centre

Council received 37 submissions on this topic with 62% of submitters supporting the proposed option. One submitter suggested that Council could provide an option to book a stage for a low cost when making a venue booking. Other submitters noted the importance of a stage in the operations of the venue. Supporting the infrastructure development aligns with fostering positive outcomes for the district through enhanced community engagement and creativity.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the proposed option and instructed staff to investigate additional moveable/modular staging to further expand the current stage. The reasons for adopting the proposed option include that:

- Council's approach is to focus on affordability and that, in the context of prioritising the Must Do projects, removing this project will help keep rates down.
- The majority of those who gave feedback on this topic supported the proposed option.

7. The services we provide

Council's proposed option – Continue to provide all the current services, to mostly the same standard	
Impact on level of service	No change/minimal changes to the services we provide
Total cost to deliver all Council services	\$84.3 million for 2024/25
Rates for 2024/25 for an average urban property	\$3,648.55 (15% increase on 2023/24)
Rates for 2024/25 for an average rural property	\$5,343.78 (9% increase on 2023/24)

Council's alternative option – Cut Council services to get the rates increase lower	
Impact on level of service	Reduced services
Total cost to deliver all Council services	\$82.5 million for 2024/25
Rates for 2024/25 for an average urban property	\$3,583.08 (13% increase on 2023/24)
Rates for 2024/25 for an average rural property	\$5,020.00 (2% increase on 2023/24)

Summary of submissions received – The services we provide

Council received 43 submissions on this topic with 63% of submitters supporting the proposed option. Submitters called for Council to be mindful of overspending and escalating costs and to explore alternative funding options rather than relying on rate increases which are seen as unaffordable and not sustainable.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the proposed option. The reasons for adopting the proposed option include that:

- We'd need to make some significant cuts to services to make a difference in the rates increase, and we would prefer not to do this, as we believe the services we choose to deliver are the services that make a huge difference to wellbeing in our community.
- The majority of those who gave feedback on this topic support the proposed option.

8. Te Aroha Library

Council's proposed option – Investigate and deliver a suitable building to continue providing library services in Te Aroha	
Impact on level of service	Minimum of existing level of service. Possible increases would be identified through the business case.
Impact on debt	\$4.7m following completion in 2027/28
Council share of additional operating cost per year	\$322,000 following completion in 2027/28
Average additional cost per property per year	\$13.15 following completion in 2027/28

Alternative option – Close the Te Aroha library	
Impact on level of service	Reduced library services for Te Aroha
Impact on debt	\$Nil
Council share of additional operating cost per year	\$262,000 estimated reduction in operating costs per year
Average additional cost per property per year	\$10.71 estimated reduction in rates per year

Summary of submissions received – Te Aroha Library

Council received 52 submissions on this topic with 82% of submitters supporting the proposed option. Submitters noted the library is an essential service in Te Aroha and expressed a sentiment to preserve the existing historic building. Several submissions proposed merging the library with other services like an i-SITE or museum, creating a community hub that serves multiple needs. There were also suggestions to explore remote library services, such as an outreach program (like "Books to You")

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the proposed option. The reasons for adopting the proposed option include that:

- We believe libraries are an essential service

- The majority of those who gave feedback on this topic support the proposed option.

9. Our approach to rates and debt

Council's proposed option – Accept that our rates need a significant increase in the year ahead to manage the significant increase in costs set out in this consultation document

To proceed with everything we're proposing we would need to collect an additional \$8 million or 15.7% in total rates for this coming year. That is after focussing on the MUST DO projects, increasing our fees and charges (more user pays), smoothing out costs where it makes sense to do so, and making changes to how we manage our roading budget and not fully funding the replacement of some assets (i.e. taking more risk in our approach in order to make things more affordable).

Alternative option – Borrow money to help cover the high increase for the year ahead

An alternative option is to borrow money to help cover the high operational costs for the year ahead, and pay this back over the following years.

Rather than the proposed total rate increases of 15.7%, 6.3% and 5.8% over the first 3 years, we could spread that initial hit, by keeping the rate increase to 10% for each of the first three years by borrowing the funds and then repaying them over 5 years. This would mean a lower increase in year one and two, but higher increases in the years to follow. See the following table and graph for a comparison of how this option would impact rates compared to our proposed option.

This option would result in an increase of debt of up to \$3.98 million by year two (2025/26), which would then be repaid by year five (2028/29). Even with this additional debt, we could stay within our debt proposed limits on outlined above. The additional debt would incur interest costs, averaging \$91,000 over the five years.

Summary of submissions received – Our approach to rates and debt

Council received 34 submissions on this topic with 50% of submitters supporting the proposed option. Concerns were raised over borrowing and rate increases with submitters against the borrowing for non-assets based projects. Submissions were received in opposition to rate increases with submitters citing concerns about affordability for pensioners and households, especially in light of inflation, minimum wage increases, and high mortgage interest rates. Ideas raised included cost cutting measures such as reducing public hours at libraries and Council offices, mowing reserves less frequently, eliminating grants and events hosted by Council and not funding any non-essential services.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the proposed option. The reasons for adopting the proposed option include that:

- Borrowing money to pay for day to day operating costs is not considered to be sustainable and shifts the burden to future ratepayers.
- Council has developed this budget with a focus on keeping rates as affordable as possible by focussing on the must do projects, increasing fees and charges (more user pays), smoothing out costs where it makes sense to do so, and taking some risk in the management of some budgets (eg roading renewals and not fully funding depreciation).

- It would not be sustainable to keep rates artificially low when the costs to deliver our basic services are increasing significantly.
- It is felt that the proposed rates increase strikes a financially responsible balance between keeping rates as low as we reasonably can while enabling us to catch-up on the growing demands from increased Government regulation, growth in our district and the impact of inflation and current economic conditions.

10. Other comments and attachments received

Council also received a range of submissions on various issues including support for the Morrinsville stormwater upgrades, comments (both in support and concerns about) the potential for Council to supply water to Waitoa, and the installation of water meters.

There were a range of issues received in regards to biodiversity and climate change, and the importance of funding and management plans for the care of Council reserves especially in the vicinity of Mt Te Aroha. One submission was received which encouraged Council to strengthen relationships with mana whenua including the development of a Māori business strategy.

11. Revenue and Financing Policy

The Revenue and Financing Policy details how Council will fund the operating expenses and capital expenditure of its activities. The draft Policy proposed changes to how activities are funded.

To proceed with everything, we're proposing, Council would need to collect an additional \$8 million or 15.7% in total rates for this coming year.

Submitters could choose from the options a) Yes I agree, b) No I disagree, c) I have no opinion on this topic, and could add additional comments if they wished.

Summary of submissions received – Revenue and Financing Policy

Council received 17 submissions on this topic with 47% of submitters selecting the option 'yes I agree' and 47% of submitters did not select an option or did not have an opinion. Submitters suggested increasing user charges to alleviate financial pressure on ratepayers. It also recommended seeking alternative investment opportunities and government support to diversify revenue streams.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the policy as consulted on. The reasons for adopting the policy with no amendments include that:

- The Policies were developed using a robust process and as such Council has confidence that they are fit for purpose
- The majority of those who submitted on the draft Policies agree with them.

12. Development Contributions Policy

Development Contributions (DCs) are how we recover the cost of extensions to our infrastructure when needed because of new developments such as subdivisions. DCs are paid by the developers who create this demand. The draft budget includes \$51.5 million for growth related projects proposed over the next 10 years. 38% of the cost of these projects is budgeted to be recovered from DCs over this same 10-year period, with 100% recovered over a 25-year period.

Submitters could choose from the options a) Yes I agree, b) No I disagree, c) I have no opinion on this topic, and could add additional comments if they wished.

Summary of submissions received – Development Contributions Policy

Council received 21 submissions on this topic with 58% of submitters selecting the option 'yes I agree'. Submitters advocated for relying exclusively on DCs for funding growth-related infrastructure. It was noted that developers, especially those involved in large-scale residential developments, should bear a more significant share of the costs for community infrastructure and developers should be responsible for including essential community amenities in their plans.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the policy as consulted on. The reasons for adopting the policy with no amendments include that:

- The Policies were developed using a robust process and as such Council has confidence that they are fit for purpose
- The majority of those who submitted on the draft Policies agree with them.

13. Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

Council's Rates Remissions and Postponement Policy sets out how and when Council can remit or postpone payment on rates. Council did not propose any major changes to the Policy apart from the removal of the policy on the remission of 2023/2024 targeted rates for kerbside collection.

Submitters could choose from the options a) Yes I agree, b) No I disagree, c) I have no opinion on this topic, and could add additional comments if they wished.

Summary of submissions received – Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

Council received 16 submissions on this topic with submission fairly evenly split on this topic between 'yes I agree' and those who didn't have an opinion on this topic. One submitter noted that kerbside collection ratepayers should have the option to decline the kerbside collection (or parts of it); for example, to undertake home composting. Other submissions noted Council needs to dramatically reduce spending, e.g. look at office costs and staffing levels.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the policy as consulted on. The reasons for adopting the policy with no amendments include that:

- The Policies were developed using a robust process and as such Council has confidence that they are fit for purpose
- The majority of those who submitted on the draft Policies agree with them.

Hearing

Forty-seven individuals and organisations, including grant applicants, chose to speak to their submission in person, at a Council hearing held on 8 May 2024. A record of decisions made regarding multi-year grants is attached to this report. Following the presentations from submitters, Council read through and considered all submissions received.

At its meeting on 9 May 2024, Council requested further information from staff to assist in deliberations and this is provided in separate reports related to each topic.

Deliberations

Following the hearing and consideration of all submissions received, Council held deliberations on 22 May 2024. The attached document notes the preliminary decisions made at this meeting. Updates will be made as required to the draft LTP for final adoption at the Council meeting on 3 July 2024. The LTP will be subject to a final audit prior to adoption.

Mōrearea | Risk

Project risks

An outline of the project steps to develop the LTP and the way the project risks have been managed have been reported to Council and the Risk and Assurance Committee throughout the LTP project. Risks identified including regulatory non-compliance have been addressed throughout.

Additionally, it is noted that failure to adequately engage with the community during the consultation period may result in a resistance and a lack of understanding about the issues Council is facing. To mitigate this risk, a communications plan was drafted to respond to the community's needs and priorities, build trust and demonstrate accountability. This engagement strategy is described in further detail in the communications and engagement section of this report.

Project Timeframe

At its meeting on 22 May 2024, Council resolved to adopt its final LTP on 3 July 2024, rather than 26 June 2024 - slightly later than initially planned for. This is to allow for budget adjustments and quality control checking. This decision means that the LTP will not be in force at the start of the 2024/25 financial year.

Rates cannot be struck until the LTP is adopted. Therefore, there is a risk if the LTP is not adopted early enough it will affect the first rates instalment date.

Additionally, adoption of the LTP on 3 July 2024 will mean Council is given an extension to adopt its 2023/24 Annual Report by 31 December 2024. At this stage, the intention is to adopt the Annual Report on the current timetable, as shifting it out to December means the process will overlap with the Annual Plan 2025/26 budget process (planned for October/November 2024).

Ngā Whiringa | Options

The options that Council consulted on with the community are detailed in the attached document.

Ngā take ā-ture, ā-Kaupapahere hoki | Legal and policy considerations

There are an array of legislative requirements for the LTP as set out in the LGA, the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 and Local Government Rating Act 2002.

The outcome of this process will result in a new LTP for Council to take effect from 3 July 2024 and the following policies:

- Revenue and Financing Policy
- Development Contributions Policy
- Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

Once adopted, the LTP will set the direction for Annual Plans and Annual Reports over the next three year cycle.

Ngā Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

A communications plan was prepared for the consultation on the draft LTP Consultation Document which involved several stages:

Awareness campaign: December 2023 to February 2024 - to raise community awareness of the issues Council is facing in a relatable way. Delivered via multiple channels including social media video campaign, print advertising and e newsletters.

Education - Speaker Series: February to March 2024 - keynote speakers used to explore complex issues that indirectly and directly relate to Council's challenges.

LTP Consultation Document Consultation: March to April 2024 - to consult with the community on the LTP Consultation Document in accordance with the LGA. Information was predominantly delivered via a website developed specifically for this consultation, with small amounts of printed material also available at libraries and Council offices. The website can be viewed via the following link: <https://ltp.mpdc.nz/>

Timeframes





The following table sets out the key dates for the LTP process:

Key Task	Dates
Policies etc. approved - Council meeting	13 March 2024
Consultation Document approved (and supporting information) - Council meeting	20 March 2024
Public consultation/engagement period	21 March to 21 April 2024
LTP hearings of submitters - Council meeting	8 May 2024 9 May 2024
Deliberations/decision making - Council meeting	22 May 2024
Final LTP audit - Draft LTP Available for audit	4 June to 14 June 2024 (date to be confirmed)
LTP Adoption Rates struck for 2024/25 - Council meeting	3 July 2024
LTP and other policies in force	3 July 2024

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata-Piako District Council's Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE	MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION	
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. 'The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.'	

TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)			
			
He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa A place with people at its heart	He wāhi puawaitanga A place to thrive	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao A place that embraces our environment	He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga A place to belong and create

The LTP contributes to all Council’s community outcomes. The community outcomes are set out in Part 1 of the LTP and the contribution that each activity makes to the outcomes is outlined in the relevant activity sections.

Pānga ki te pūtea, me te puna pūtea | Financial Cost and Funding Source

The LTP Budget is \$45,000, which is used primarily for external communications in support of the public consultation period. There is a separate budget for LTP Audit Fees.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A](#)  LTP Deliberations 22 May 2024 Preliminary Council Decisions



[B](#)  Multi Year Community Grants Schedule of Decisions



Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Laura Hopkins Policy Advisor	
Approved by	Niall Baker Policy Team Leader	
	Sandra Harris Strategic Partnerships and Governance Manager	

2024-2034 Long Term Plan Deliberations

Council considered community feedback on the topics we consulted on for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan. The Long Term Plan sets out our focus for the next 10 years, with a review carried out every three years. While the preliminary decisions during deliberations can provide a strong indicator of what Council's final decisions will be, the final decisions and formal adoption of the Long Term Plan will take place on 3 July 2024.

What we're reducing

Te Aroha Spa

What we proposed

We proposed to continue to explore options to help Te Aroha capitalise on its rich spa history and thrive as a tourist destination. The draft budget included \$200,000 for scoping and planning works in 2025/26 and \$5m for capital in 2026/27 to develop on or refurbish the spa, or make other improvements.

What you told us

This topic received the most feedback of any in our Long Term Plan, with 60 submissions. Of these:

- 31 (52%) agreed with the proposed option to continue to explore options to help Te Aroha capitalise on its rich spa history and thrive as a tourist destination
- 26 (43%) preferred the alternative option to stop work on it all together
- 3 submitters (5%) did not have an opinion on the topic or did not select a preferred option.

What was agreed

After significant debate, Council voted to keep this funding in the Long Term Plan and proceed with further investigations into developing the spa, committing \$200,000 for scoping and planning works in 2025/26 and up to \$5m for capital in 2026/27 to develop on or refurbish the spa, or make other improvements. Council also noted that this project should be cost neutral, i.e. any future increases in operating costs should be covered through future increases in income from the spa.

Roading renewals

What we proposed

We proposed to spread out our road pavement renewal programme over a longer period. We would closely monitor the quality of the road network, and prioritise work to try and keep the roads to the current standard.

This still requires \$5.7 million for pavement renewals in 2024/25 - almost a \$600,000 increase on the current year, but would result in less work due to the significant cost increases in this area.

What you told us

Feedback was fairly evenly split on this topic, with

- 20 submitters (44%) agreeing with the proposed option to reduce our roading renewal programme to cut costs,
- 22 (49%) preferring the alternative option to keep roading renewals at the current level
- 3 submitters (7%) did not have an opinion on the topic or did not select a preferred option.

What was agreed

Council felt that spreading out the road pavement renewal programme to keep costs low is the most appropriate option in the current economic environment. However, since going out for consultation, central government has re-prioritised its roading investment. To support additional road pavement renewals we will maximise the central government funding by redirecting funding from walking, cycling and speed management to road pavement renewals.

Councillors noted the need to continually monitor the road quality, and review this decision when setting future annual budgets.

Walking and cycling

What we proposed

We proposed that to keep costs down, we stop budgeting for new walking and cycling connections, and safety improvements for walking and cycling.

What you told us

In total 56 submissions were received on this topic. Of these:

- 17 (30%) agreed with the proposed option to stop budgeting for new walking and cycling connections, and safety improvements for walking and cycling to keep costs down
- 32 (57%) preferred the alternative option to continue to steadily improve walking and cycling connections by spreading the projects over a longer period.
- 7 submitters (13%) did not have an opinion on the topic or did not select a preferred option.

What was agreed

At the same time as Council was consulting on the Long Term Plan, central government released their draft Policy Statement on land transport (GPS). This GPS puts a strong focus on maintenance and resilience of road networks, safety and value for money, where the previous one focused on safety, better travel options, climate change, and freight connections.

The GPS 2024 is very specific that any investment in walking and cycling should only take place where there is clear benefit for increasing economic growth, or where there is clear benefit for improving safety, and demonstrated volumes of pedestrians and cyclists already exist.

Based on this, Council feels that this cost cutting measure aligns with the transport priorities outlined by central government.

Town centre infrastructure upgrades

What we proposed

We proposed to prioritise maintaining and renewing the existing infrastructure over doing any major upgrades.

What you told us

We received 49 submissions on this topic:

- 28 (57%) agreed with the proposal to prioritise maintaining and renewing the existing infrastructure over doing any major upgrades
- 16 (33%) preferred the alternative option to stick to the plan and keep capital funding in the LTP
- 5 submitters (10%) did not have an opinion on the topic or did not select a preferred option.

What was agreed

Council agreed to proceed with the proposed option of prioritising maintaining and renewing the existing infrastructure. They noted the importance of keeping our towns fresh and tidy to support economic growth – and that the maintenance and renewal budgets do provide for this.

Additional playgrounds

What we proposed

Our previous Long Term Plan had included significant investments in play – including significant new/upgraded playground in all three towns, as well as new neighbourhood playgrounds to support growth and playground improvements (on top of maintenance and renewals of existing playgrounds).

To keep costs down, we revised this proposal to limit new playgrounds to the planned playgrounds in Matamata and Te Aroha (one per town).

What you told us

Feedback on this topic was relatively evenly split. There were 49 submissions with:

- 25 (51%) agreeing with the proposed option to limit new playgrounds to the already planned playgrounds in Matamata and Te Aroha
- 18 (37%) preferred the alternative option to defer the Te Aroha playground until the next Long Term Plan
- 6 submitters (12%) did not have an opinion on the topic or did not select a preferred option.

What was agreed

Council agreed to proceed with the proposed option of limiting new playgrounds to the planned playgrounds in Te Aroha and Matamata – committing up to \$1.5m to each playground.

Stage for Matamata-Piako Civic and Memorial Centre

What we proposed

We proposed that to keep costs down, we remove this project from our work programme and maintain the level of service we currently provide.

What you told us

We received 37 submissions on this topic:

- 23 (62%) agreed with the proposed option to remove this project from our work programme to keep costs down
- 12 (32%) preferred the option of keeping the project in the work programme, but deferring it a few years (to 2029/30)
- 2 submitters (6%) did not have an opinion on the topic or did not select a preferred option.

What was agreed

Council has agreed to proceed with the proposed option of removing this project from the work programme. Councillors did note that the civic centre could benefit from additional moveable/modular staging, and directed staff to investigate this further.

What we're keeping the same

The services we provide

What we proposed

We proposed to continue to provide all our current services to the current standards (unless otherwise identified).

We've repeatedly trimmed and cut our operational budgets over recent years - to the point where we can't cut more without actually cutting some of our services. We'd need to make some significant cuts to actually make a dent in this rates increase, and we would prefer not to do this, as we believe the services we choose to deliver (like pools, parks and libraries) are the services that make a huge difference to wellbeing in our community.

What you told us

We received 43 submissions received on this topic:

- 27 (63%) agreed with the proposed option to continue to provide all the current services, to mostly the same standard,
- 9 (21%) agreed with the alternative option to make cuts to some services - noting that this would need to be significant to impact the proposed rates increase.
- 7 submitters (16%) did not have an opinion on the topic or did not select a preferred option.

What was agreed

Council agreed to proceed with the proposed option of continuing to deliver the current services, to mostly the same standard.

Te Aroha Library

What we proposed

The Te Aroha Library is a beautiful historic building – but it also requires earthquake strengthening, and doesn't meet some of the practical needs of a modern library. So we proposed to include \$4.7 million between 2026-2028 to investigate and deliver a suitable building to ensure Te Aroha continues to have library services for years to come.

What you told us

There were 52 submissions on this topic:

- 43 (82%) agreed with the proposed option to investigate and deliver a suitable building to continue providing library services in Te Aroha
- 4 (8%) agreed with the alternative option to close the Te Aroha library
- 5 submitters (10%) did not have an opinion on the topic or did not select a preferred option.

What was agreed

We heard loud and clear that the Te Aroha community values their library and want to see these services remain in their community – so Council endorsed this, and voted to keep the \$4.7 million for the Te Aroha Library in the budget.

More investigation is required to determine what this project might involve, so we would come back and consult with the community in more detail once we have more information.

What has increased

- Resource recovery centres - More investigation is required to understand the options, and we will come back and consult with the community in more detail once we have more information.
- Morrinsville stormwater upgrades - Severe weather events in recent years have resulted in flooding in Morrinsville – particularly in the CBD. To ensure the safety of people and property this project will progress.
- Wastewater treatment plant upgrades - We need to upgrade all of our wastewater treatment plants to comply with the new environmental regulations. Alongside this work we are also planning to increase the capacity of our plants to cater for growth.
- Matamata Stadium – This project is well underway and Council's \$3m contribution has already been committed.

What we're unsure of

- Waitoa water supply – We will continue to work on water supply options for the Waitoa community. Once we have this information we will consult with those who will be affected by the decision.

Looking further ahead

- Swim Zone Morrinsville is nearing the end of its asset life and we will be looking to upgrade or replace it from year 4 (2027/2028) of this plan.

- Water meters will continue to be investigated. If the management of water services remains our responsibility and we do go ahead with the installation of water meters it would be from 2027/2028.

Approach to rates and debt

What we proposed

We proposed that that our rates need a significant increase in the year ahead to manage the significant increase in costs we are facing (as outlined in our consultation document).

What you told us

There were 34 submissions on this topic:

- 17 (50%) agreed with the philosophy that rates needed to be significantly increased in the year ahead to manage the significant increase in costs
- 8 (24%) preferred the option of borrowing money to help cover the high operational costs for the year ahead, and paying this back over the following year
- 9 submitters (26%) did not have an opinion on the topic or did not select a preferred option.

What was agreed

After considering the preliminary decisions and the feedback received, Council agreed that the most appropriate option is to accept we need a significant rates increase in the year ahead to manage the significant cost increases we are facing. To find out what that means for you, search your property at mpdc.nz/rates2024

Multi-Year Community grants and Other Grants - Schedule of Decisions

No.	Group/Name	Description	Previous funding 2023/24	Amount requested 2024/25	Amount granted 2024/25	Amount requested 2025/26	Amount granted 2025/26	Amount requested 2026/27	Amount granted 2026/27
Multi-Year Community Grant Applications									
1	Morrinsville Community Patrol	Community Patrol Services (Morrinsville) – ongoing services, replacement vehicle and technology upgrade	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$3,000
2	Morrinsville Community House	Donny Van and Health Shuttle Services	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$5,000
3	Te Aroha Croquet Club	Annual Turf Maintenance Program	Single- year grant	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
4	Matamata Community Patrol	Community Patrol Services (Matamata) – Ongoing and increased patrolling within the district	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$3,000
5	Tom Grant Drive	Continued development and maintenance of the Drive	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$1,800
6	Matamata Community Resource Trust	On-going administrative and operations	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
7	Campbell Park Charitable Trust	Operational costs of maintaining Campbell Park	\$6,000	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$6,500	\$6,000
8	Morrinsville Chamber of Commerce	Continued operations of the Information Centre and events	\$125,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000*
9	Keep Matamata Beautiful	Beautification of town – hanging baskets in Arawa St and bluebells under the Oak plantation	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$2,000
10	Future Te Aroha	Ongoing community activities and operational costs	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$6,000
11	Te Aroha BMX*	Track Maintenance and upgrades	-	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$2,500
12	Te Aroha College	Scholarships, prizes and awards towards Annual Prizegiving	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
13	Keep Te Aroha Beautiful	Maintenance of nursery and watering systems, supplying	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000

No.	Group/Name	Description	Previous funding 2023/24	Amount requested 2024/25	Amount granted 2024/25	Amount requested 2025/26	Amount granted 2025/26	Amount requested 2026/27	Amount granted 2026/27
		potting mix, fertilizer, pots							
14	Life Education Trust Waikato East	Ongoing operational costs for delivery of LET programme	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
15	Matamata College	Annual Prizegiving costs	\$300	\$5,000	\$300	\$5,000	\$300	\$5,000	\$300
16	Matamata Chamber of Commerce	Support operational costs of Matamata i-SITE	\$125,000	\$180,000	\$135,000*	\$187,200	\$135,000*	\$194,688	\$135,000*
*Council grants up to \$135,000 conditional on further discussions and agreements. Any funding not allocated will be ring fenced for next year's grant allocations.									
17	Te Aroha & District Museum Society Inc	Partial funding of annual salary for part time Administrator	\$17,500	\$18,500	\$17,500	\$19,200	\$17,500	\$20,000	\$17,500
18	Hamilton & Waikato Tourism	Support regional tourism services	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$125,000*	\$157,500	\$125,000*	\$165,375	\$125,000*
*Council grants up to \$125,000 conditional on other Council's contributions. Any funding not allocated will be ring fenced for next year's grant allocations.									
19	Te Aroha Community Patrol	Vehicle running costs	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$3,000
20	Tangata Marae Trust*	Matariki Celebrations	-	\$13,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$0
21	Morrinsville Historical Society	Support for Museum Manager salary	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
22	Matamata Centennial Drive Development Society Incorporated	Proposed staged enhancements of the Bedford section of the Drive	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
23	Sport Waikato	Funding for Regional Connectivity Coordinator and provision of services	\$59,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
24	Citizens Advice Bureau Matamata	Citizen Advice Bureau Services and furniture/technology upgrades	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$6,000
25	Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust*	Contribution to goat eradication project in Kaimai Mamaku	-	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0
26	Waikato Screen	Operations: continue strategic initiatives, partnerships and economic development efforts	\$7866 Currently funded by separate grant	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$0
27	Creative Waikato	Strategic Partnership including provision of strategic advice and community capability	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$10,000

No.	Group/Name	Description	Previous funding 2023/24	Amount requested 2024/25	Amount granted 2024/25	Amount requested 2025/26	Amount granted 2025/26	Amount requested 2026/27	Amount granted 2026/27
28	Matamata Historical Society Incorporated	Support administration costs	\$12,000	\$17,250	\$12,000	\$17,250	\$12,000	\$17,250	\$12,000
29	Citizens Advice Bureau Te Aroha Incorporated	Support for operational costs	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
30	United Matamata Sports Inc*	Maintenance of grounds at Bedford Park	-	\$10,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$6,000
31	Ngati Tumutumu Trust*	Contribute to project: Restore Maunga Te Aroha	-	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
32	Te Miro MTB Club	Ongoing development and maintenance of the trail network and associated facilities	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
33	Piako Waihou Catchment Trust	Funding for Coordinator role	\$20,000 currently funded from Natural, Cultural, Built Heritage Grant	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
34	Morrinsville Art Gallery Charitable Trust	Operational Management of the Morrinsville Gallery	\$30,000	\$70,000	\$30,000	\$70,000	\$30,000	\$70,000	\$30,000
Lat e	Morrinsville College	Annual Prizegiving costs	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
		Total		\$848,050	\$645,200	\$865,450	\$645,200	\$881,613	\$645,200
Other Grant Funding									
	Other Grant			Draft LTP budget 2024/25	Final LTP budget 2024/25	Draft LTP budget 2025/26	Final LTP budget 2025/26	Draft LTP budget 2026/27	Final LTP budget 2025/26
	Single-Year Community Grant			\$40,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$30,000
	Mayoral Grant			\$20,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
	Natural, Cultural, Built Heritage Grant			\$45,000	\$20,000	\$45,000	\$20,000	\$45,000	\$20,000

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.3 Update on Council Policies Following Consultation

CM No.: 2863887

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

Consultation has been completed and decisions made in respect to a number of Matamata-Piako District Council's (Council) policies. The purpose of this report is to provide Te Manawhenua Forum (Forum) with an update upon the completion of the consultation process for the following policies/documents:

- Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy
- Legal Highs Policy (Local Approved Products Policy)
- Smokefree Outdoor Spaces Policy
- Fees and Charges 2024/25

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Council is required to regularly review its policies and bylaws. The review times for statutory policies are set out in the relevant legislation.

Council's work programme for 2023/24 included review of the following:

- Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy
- Legal Highs Policy (Local Approved Products Policy)
- Smokefree Outdoor Spaces Policy
- Fees and Charges 2024/25

Consultation has been completed (alongside the draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Consultation Document) and decisions made in respect to the above. This report provides Te Manawhenua Forum (Forum) with an update upon the completion of the consultation process.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.

Horopaki | Background

Policy Reviews

Council is required to regularly review its policies and bylaws. The review times for statutory policies are set out in the relevant legislation.

Council's work programme for 2023/24 included review of the following:

- Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy
- Legal Highs Policy (Local Approved Products Policy)
- Smokefree Outdoor Spaces Policy
- Fees and Charges 2024/25

Consultation

The consultation process whereby the public is invited to make submissions has been undertaken on a number of policies/documents. This was undertaken alongside consultation on Council's draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP) Consultation Document. The draft Policies and Statement of Proposals can be found on our website under 'Past Consultations':

<https://www.mpdcc.govt.nz/have-your-say>

Consultation was open from 21 March to 21 April 2024. 105 submissions were received in total across all topics/documents.

A number of submitters chose to present their submission to Council in person, at a hearing held on 8 May 2024. Council read through and considered all submissions following the presentations from submitters. The meeting was adjourned and resumed on 9 May 2024 where Council requested further information from staff to assist in deliberations. Council also approved its fees and charges at this meeting.

Deliberations were held on 22 May 2024 and Council made decisions on each of the policies. This report provides Te Manawhenua Forum with a summary of submissions received and Council decisions.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Proposals and Decisions

1. Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy

The Building Act 2004 requires Council to have a policy on dangerous and insanitary buildings. The policy must also consider any buildings that may be affected by a dangerous building, e.g. adjacent to, adjoining, or nearby. Council is required to review this policy every five years.

The Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy ensures that buildings in the district do not compromise people's health and safety, and sets out how Council will undertake its responsibilities under the Building Act 2004 that relate to dangerous, affected and insanitary buildings.

Changes made to the draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy for consultation:

Following review, Council made a number of minor changes to the layout of the Policy and added some further content to assist in readability and clarity. This included the following:

- How a building may become a dangerous, affected or insanitary building.
- More information relating to our district and how the Policy has been developed to reflect this.
- Further information included as to how buildings may be identified as requiring an inspection
- Moving all information relating to heritage buildings to the 'application of Policy to Heritage Buildings' section.
- Updates to the definitions following legislative changes.

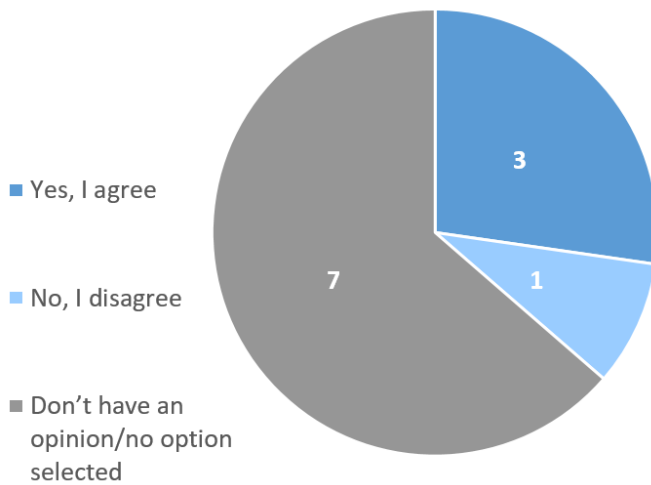
Consultation Topic:

Submitters could choose from the options a) Yes I agree, b) No I disagree, c) I have no opinion on this topic, and could add additional comments if they wished.

Summary of submissions received – Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy

Council received 11 submissions on the draft Policy. The options selected are detailed below:

Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy submissions



Submitters had queries about particular buildings they regarded as unsafe and there were several queries/concerns about people living in commercial premises and the general state of buildings causing health and safety issues. Fire and Emergency New Zealand also submitted to request a correction to the definition of 'dangerous building'.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the policy with the following amendments:

- Amendment to the definition of 'Dangerous Building as follows:

(2) For the purpose of determining whether a building is dangerous in terms of subsection (1)(b), a territorial authority —

(a) may seek advice from ~~members employees, volunteers, and contractors of the New Zealand Fire Service~~ Fire and Emergency New Zealand who have been notified to the territorial authority by the ~~Fire Service National Commander board of Fire and Emergency New Zealand~~ as being competent to give advice; and

(b) if the advice is sought, must have due regard to the advice.

- Amendment to clause 6.4.3 to reflect change of name:

6.4.3 Council recognises heritage buildings as important infrastructure that add character and history to the district. This includes heritage buildings listed with the ~~New Zealand Historic Places Trust~~ Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and/or areas that may be referenced in Schedule 1 (Heritage sites) or Schedule 2 (Heritage – waahi tapu) of the operative Matamata-Piako District Plan.

The reasons for adopting the policy included that:

- Council is upholding its statutory obligations under the Building Act 2004 to hold such a Policy and to review it every five years.
- Support was received for the draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy 2024 during consultation.
- The definition of ‘Dangerous Building’ has been amended as per the submission made by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

2. Legal Highs Policy (Local Approved Products Policy)

Council’s Legal Highs Policy (Local Approved Products Policy) is a set of policy criteria and decisions made by Council in consultation with its community which may restrict the location of premises selling psychoactive substances (also known as “legal highs”) in our district.

Whilst there are currently no psychoactive substances that are legally available for sale in New Zealand, Council agreed to continue to have this Policy in place so that there are rules about where a premises may be located if a product was to be approved in the future.

The draft Policy contained provisions to protect the community including:

- *A 300 metre distance restriction between retail premises selling “legal highs”.*
- *25 metre distance restriction from sensitive sites including churches, preschools, schools and community facilities.*

Changes made to the draft Legal Highs Policy (Local Approved Products Policy) for consultation:

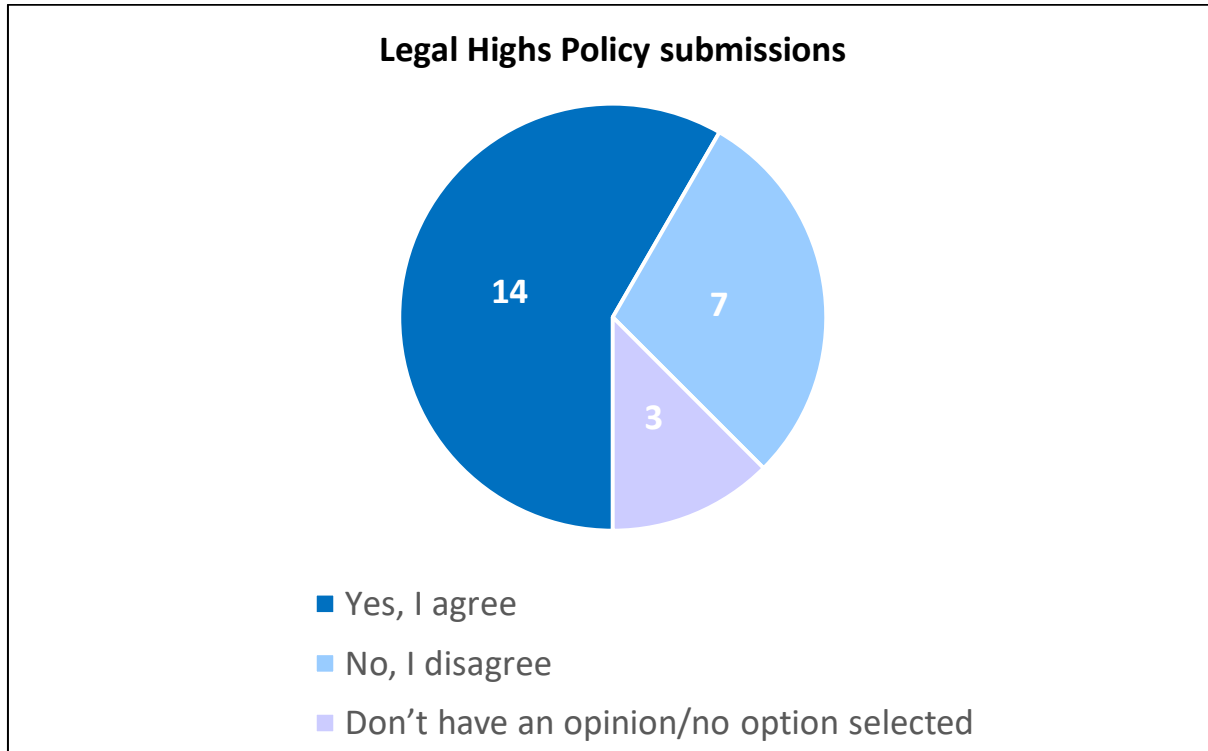
- Council proposed to leave the policy provisions as is with some minor housekeeping changes and sought feedback if any further changes were required to better suit the needs of the community.

Consultation Topic:

Submitters could choose from the options a) Yes I agree, b) No I disagree, c) I have no opinion on this topic, and could add additional comments if they wished.

Summary of submissions received – Legal Highs (Local Approved Products Policy)

Council received 24 submissions on the draft Policy. The options selected are detailed below:



Submissions urged the Council to ban “legal highs” in the district and lobbied for more stringent provisions to be included in the policy in order to better protect the community, e.g. students and vulnerable people. It was suggested that this could be achieved by extending the area from sensitive sites. Concern was also raised that the policy allows for too many outlets in such small communities.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the Policy with the following amendments:

- Extension of the distance from one retail premises to another from 300 metres to 350 metres. This change means that only one retail premises would be allowable and brings the provision for Te Aroha into alignment with Matamata and Morrinsville (one store maximum per town). It is noted that Council is not able to ban “legal highs”, nor is it able to have such a restrictive policy that it has the effect of banning them. Due to the small size of the areas where approved products can be sold from, extension of the distance from sensitive sites (from the current 25 metres) is not achievable.
- To re-name the Policy to: Psychoactive Substances Policy (Local Approved Products Policy) 2024. This reflects the legal term used in the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013.

The reasons for adopting the policy included that:

- Council is protecting the community by having a relevant policy in place in the event that a psychoactive substance is approved;
- The majority of the submitters supported the draft policy.

3. Smokefree Outdoor Spaces Policy

The purpose of the Policy is to promote the health and wellbeing of our communities by discouraging smoking in outdoor public areas. The Policy utilises non-regulatory approaches such as smokefree areas, signage and education/awareness to achieve behavioural change. The principles of the Policy are:

- *Promotion and support of the health and wellbeing of our community, including children and young people.*
- *Encouraging behavioural change in a manner that is acceptable and reflects our community values.*
- *Fostering a positive smokefree message, with an emphasis on modelling positive behaviour for children and young people.*

Changes made to the draft Smokefree Outdoor Spaces Policy for consultation:

- Council proposed to leave the policy provisions as is with some minor housekeeping changes and sought feedback if any further changes were required to better suit the needs of the community.

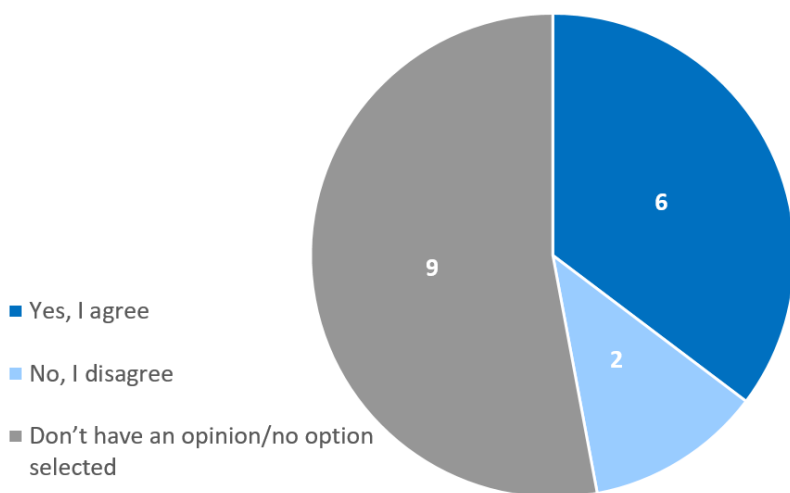
Consultation Topic:

Submitters could choose from the options a) Yes I agree, b) No I disagree, c) I have no opinion on this topic, and could add additional comments if they wished.

Summary of submissions received – Smokefree Outdoor Spaces Policy

Council received 17 submissions on the draft Policy. The options selected are detailed below:

Smokefree Outdoor Spaces Policy submissions



Submitters queried the effectiveness and enforcement of the Policy. Other submitters noted that smoking in public areas is not illegal therefore Council should not have such a policy. Support for the Policy was also received with benefits such as less cigarette waste noted. Additional signage was suggested as a way to encourage/support compliance.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the Policy as consulted on. The reasons for adopting the policy included that:

- Council is supporting public health and promoting the health and wellbeing of our communities by discouraging smoking in outdoor areas.

- Support was received for the draft Smokefree Outdoor Spaces Policy 2024 during community consultation.

4. Fees and Charges 2024/25

Fees and charges are adopted annually before the start of each financial year alongside the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan cycle. This is to ensure they remain fit for purpose and reflect the actual cost of Council activities.

Changes made to the draft Fees and Charges 2024/25 for consultation:

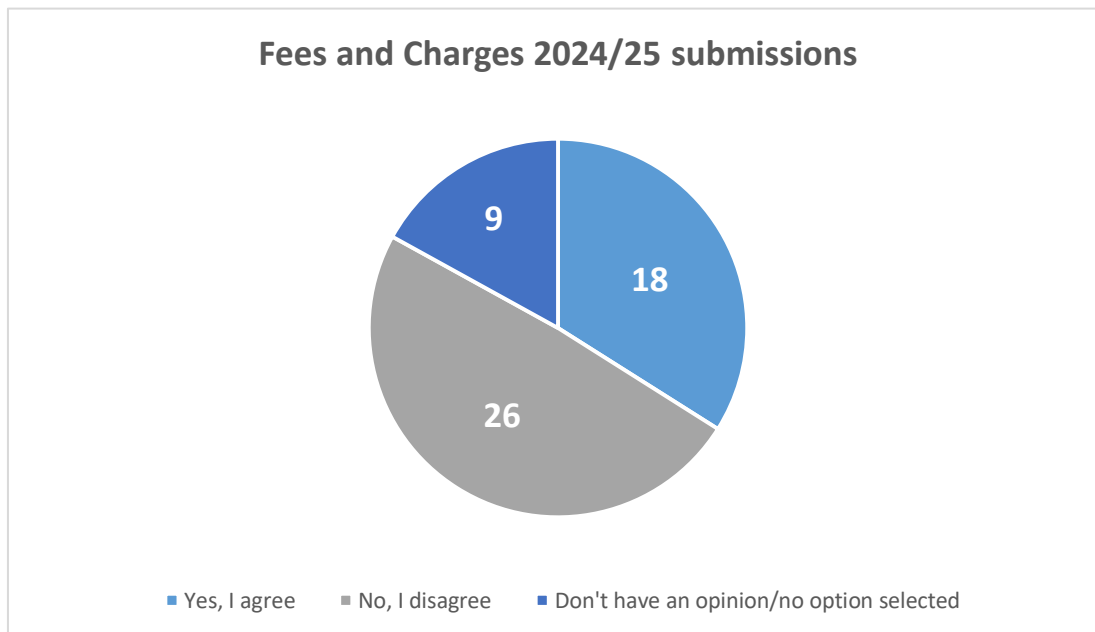
Council proposed some significant increases to its fees and charges for 2024/25, particularly for community venues, pools and spas, cemeteries, building control and animal control fees.

Consultation Topic:

Submitters could choose from the options a) Yes I agree, b) No I disagree, c) I have no opinion on this topic, and could add additional comments if they wished.

Summary of submissions received – Fees and charges 2024/25

Council received 53 submissions on the draft Fees and Charges 2024/25. The options selected are detailed below:



Submissions were received supporting the concept of user pays. Many submissions opposed the increases for such services as dog registrations and swim facilities, noting that responsible dog owners do not cause any issues and the importance of access to swimming for the community respectively. There was a notion that the cost increases are not affordable and it is not sustainable to keep increasing fees.

Council decision

Council resolved to adopt the fees and charges to include minor amendments as identified by staff. The Fees and Charges are reflective of a number of factors including increasing costs. Council has to cover the increased costs and has decided to recover some of it through higher fees (i.e. more user pays) rather than to recover it all through rates.

The updated policies and fees and charges 2024/25 will come into effect from 1 July 2024.

Mōrearea | Risk

A risk relating to the Fees and Charges has been identified in that the draft Revenue and Financing Policy and/or LTP budgets could be subject to change and impact the Fees and Charges following adoption.

Ngā Whiringa | Options

The options that Council consulted on with the community are detailed above.

Ngā take ā-ture, ā-Kaupapahere hoki | Legal and policy considerations

Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy

This policy is required by section 131 of the Building Act 2004 which requires Council to have a policy on Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings. Council must complete a review of the policy every five years.

Legal Highs Policy (Local Approved Products Policy)

Under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013, Council may have a policy relating to the sale of approved products within its district. The policy must be reviewed every five years.

Smokefree Outdoor Spaces Policy

This is not a policy required by law, however Council has chosen to adopt such a policy to support the health and wellbeing of its communities.

Fees & Charges

Council has the ability to set Fees & Charges through various legislation. Under Section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) Council may prescribe fees or charges in the form of a bylaw made under the LGA or separately using the principles of consultation. In addition, other legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and Building Act 2004 delegates Council with the ability to fix fees or charges relevant to certain administration purposes (such as processing resource consents). Council reviews its fees & charges every year in line with its Annual Plan/Long Term Plan.

Ngā Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

The consultation was undertaken as per the requirements of the relevant policy/document. Council staff informed key stakeholders and interest groups of the proposals. The Statements of Proposals and draft documents could be viewed on the Council website and submissions could be made on-line through the website and via letter/email.

Council used several communication tools including social media, community meetings, direct letter/email to encourage the community to take part in the consultative process.

Council has provided an opportunity for persons to present their views to the Council at a hearing held on 8/9 May 2024.





Following the hearing and decisions made, staff are writing to each submitter to inform them of the decision.

The below table sets out key dates for the consultation process:

Key Task	Dates
Draft Policies/Documents and Statement of Proposal approved for consultation - Council meeting	13 March 2024
Public consultation/engagement period	21 March to 21 April 2024
Hearings of submitters - Council meeting	8 May 2024 9 May 2024
Adoption of Fees and Charges 2024/25	
Deliberations and adoption of Policies - Council meeting	22 May 2024
New Policies/documents applicable	1 July 2024

Te Tākoha ki ngā Hua mō te Hapori me te here ki te whakakitenga o te Kaunihera | Contribution to Community Outcomes

Matamata Piako District Council's Community Outcomes are set out below:

MATAMATA-PIAKO TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI NOHO OUR PLACE		MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL TE ARA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC DIRECTION	
TŌ MĀTOU WHAKAKITENGA OUR VISION			
Matamata-Piako District is vibrant, passionate, progressive, where opportunity abounds. 'The heart of our community is our people, and the people are the heart of our community.'			
TŌ MĀTOU WHĀINGA MATUA OUR PRIORITIES (COMMUNITY OUTCOMES)			
			
He wāhi kaingākau ki te manawa A place with people at its heart	He wāhi puawaitanga A place to thrive	He wāhi e poipoi ai tō tātou taiao A place that embraces our environment	He wāhi whakapapa, he wāhi hangahanga A place to belong and create

Review of Council's policies and fees and charges supports the achievement of all Council's community outcomes.

Pānga ki te pūtea, me te puna pūtea | Financial Cost and Funding Source

Costs of review relate to the consultation process. Costs are funded within existing budgets through the Strategies and Plans activity as outlined in Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Laura Hopkins Policy Advisor	
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Approved by	Niall Baker Policy Team Leader	
	Sandra Harris Strategic Partnerships and Governance Manager	

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.4 Te huringa āhuarangi - kupu whakataki | Climate change - an introduction

CM No.: 2864082

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to

- Provide an introduction to projected climate change impacts in Matamata-Piako district
- Outline the climate change work programme that Council have included in the draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034
- Seek the committee's feedback on how they would like to be involved in the Strategy work stream within the overall climate change work programme

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Climate change hazards pose risks to many of Council's core functions and to our communities, including iwi Māori. A range of impacts are outlined in a number of reports, including at a Waikato region and Matamata-Piako district level.

As a result of a series of Council workshops, a 'climate change rivermap' has been produced which captures in broad terms the actions that Council has planned to respond to climate change over the next Long Term Plan period. The five work streams in the programme are Strategy, Water, Wastewater, Stormwater and Waste. The Strategy work stream includes iwi and wider community consultation in the development of a climate change strategy.

The committee's feedback on the involvement it would like to have in the development and implementation of the Strategy work stream of the climate change rivermap, including the engagement and consultation would be appreciated.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. **The committee receives the report**
2. **The committee provides feedback on its desired involvement in the development and implementation of the Strategy work stream of the climate change rivermap (*feedback to be specified*).**

Horopaki | Background

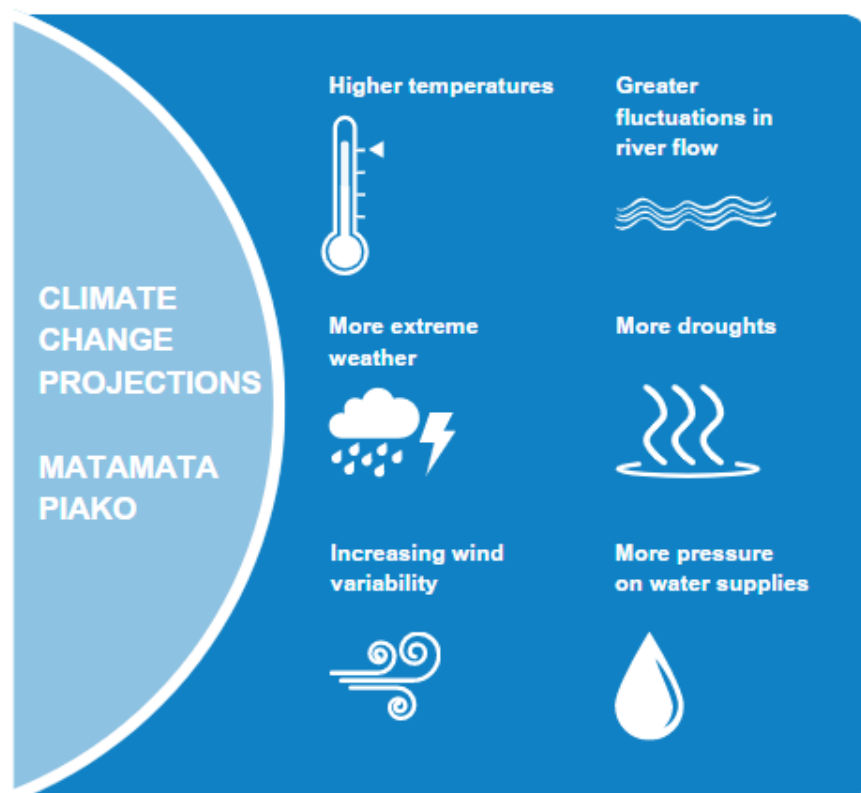
1 Impacts of climate change

1.1 Climate projections for Matamata Piako and the Waikato region

In 2021, Waikato Regional Council commissioned a set of climate projection reports for the Waikato both for the region as a whole and at district specific level.

The report, *Matamata-Piako District Climate Impact Report Applying CMIP6 Data*, outlines the following projected climate impacts for Matamata Piako:

1. Annual mean temperature demonstrates a warming trend, and seasonal shifts including warmer summer months are expected to intensify.
2. Maximum temperatures expected to increase, with greatest rise in summer
3. Minimum temperatures expected to become warmer
4. Average annual precipitation minor decrease Autumn and Spring, minor increase Winter and Summer
5. Greater fluctuations and disturbances in annual runoff (river flow)
6. Increasing variability in wind speed
7. Daily extreme precipitation increases
8. Extreme wind speed marginally increases
9. Probability of dry spells increases
10. Water demand increases



Summary graphic of Matamata-Piako climate impacts

1.2 Updated NIWA national climate projections

In July 2024 NIWA and Ministry for the Environment plan to release updated national climate projections for Aotearoa New Zealand, with this information to be freely accessible to the general public. At this stage, regional scale maps and reports will only be available at a cost.

1.3 Climate change risk assessment for Waikato

Waikato Regional Council has undertaken Phase 1 of a climate change risk assessment for the Waikato region. Working with stakeholders, Phase 1 identified key “Waikato Climate Change Hazards of Interest” and a long list of climate change risks.

[Link to overview](#)

1.4 Climate change impacts on communities

Waikato Regional Council, in the introduction to their *Climate Action Roadmap 2020*, described the inter-related impacts of climate change in this way:

- The Waikato region is already experiencing the effects of our changing climate. The changes present risks to our economy, our people, our property and our environment.
- Drought and extreme storm events are increasingly affecting the primary sector, upon which the Waikato economy depends.
- Dairying and agricultural biotechnology are key drivers of our regional economy, with aquaculture, forestry and horticulture also important. The changes that affect primary production will impact on the city and towns that have grown around these industries. Town and country need each other. There is a clear interdependency between the primary sector and those working in manufacturing, retail, transport, research, and professional and trade services.
- Many communities are already feeling the effect of water restrictions on their business and domestic use, and many will face increased fire risk. Low water flows during times of drought impact the ability to generate power through our hydro schemes and the health of our river ecosystems.
- More frequent and increasingly extreme storms, increased rainfall events and rising tides will test our coastal communities, infrastructure, roads, rail and communications networks. Our native animals and plants will become increasingly vulnerable, particularly if rates of change are faster than they can adapt.

1.5 Climate change impacts on Māori

Te Puni Kōkiri's report, *Understanding Climate Hazards for Hapori Māori, 2023* states:

While all New Zealanders will feel the impact of these climate hazards, the ability of communities to adapt and their resilience will vary considerably across the motu. In particular, hapori Māori, face heightened risks due to their geographical locations, the industries they work in, and current socio-economic circumstances.

[Link to report](#)

Auckland Council's online webpage Ngā pānga o te huringa āhuarangi ki a Ngāi Māori Impacts of climate change on Māori, notes:

Indigenous peoples are not only among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, they also hold many of the solutions to adapting to it.

[Link to page](#)

The report, *He huringa āhuarangi, he huringa ao: a changing climate, a changing world, 2021* by Ngā Pae o te Maramatanga and Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Trust looks at four domains of interest and the risks that climate change poses to each of them:

- [He Kura Taiao – Living Treasures](#)

Ecosystems and biodiversity are likely to be affected by projected warming temperatures and changing precipitation patterns.

Vulnerable flora and fauna will face habitat loss and, in some cases, extinction.

It is expected that any obstruction to accessing keystone species will adversely impact Māori customary practice, cultural identity, social cohesion, and well-being

- Whakatipu Rawa – Māori Enterprise

Changing climatic conditions are expected to present diverse risks to Māori capital, enterprise and employment.

Over 68% of Māori businesses are in the primary sector, where climate change impacts are likely to be significant.

Large proportions of Māori land are already experiencing high rates of erosion. Over 80% of Māori land is defined as hilly-to-mountainous and is susceptible to major erosion events such as landslides. Extreme rainfall events associated with climate change are likely to exacerbate the problem, and future-proofing this land is critical.

Māori are also soon to own nearly 40% of commercial forestry plantations, which are vulnerable to climate extremes such as high-intensity storms, droughts and wildfires.

More frequent and severe droughts, particularly across eastern and northern areas of the country, are very likely to affect production yields and product quality in Māori forestry, farming and horticulture operations.

Māori investments in the fisheries sector are also significant (Māori own 33% of quota by volume). Nearly half of these investments are in potentially at-risk species like pāua, kōura and hoki.

Overall, changing climatic conditions are expected to adversely impact the natural assets of the Māori economy

- He Oranga Tāngata – Healthy People

It is expected that Māori will be disproportionately affected by climate-change-related health impacts, although impacts will vary between communities and be influenced by geographic location, socio-economic status, existing health conditions, health system capability, and the capacity to adapt.

Direct impacts on health include increased exposure to potentially harmful weather events such as heatwaves and floods.

Indirect effects include reduced water availability and quality. Impacts on water are likely to be greatest where reticulated supply systems are poorly developed (or absent altogether), and where communities lack the resources to import water or pay for private treatment facilities.

Other indirect impacts include the arrival of new infectious-disease vectors such as mosquitoes, disruptions to health services and food security, housing and livelihood stresses, and health inequalities.

- Ahurea Māori, Tikanga Māori – Māori Culture and Practices

Climate-induced changes to the natural environment are expected to fundamentally alter the way Māori interact with that environment, each other, and other communities.

Sea level rise and the consequent displacement of whānau/hapū/iwi from coastal areas are likely to interfere with the transmission of Māori language and customary lore, and such outcomes are expected to have implications for Māori identity, social cohesion, and well-being.

Other Māori communities are disproportionately at risk because valued domestic and cultural infrastructure, such as marae and urupā, are located on exposed, erosion-prone lands (e.g. low-lying coastal areas and/or river valleys).

Climate-change-induced extremes such as floods, fires and droughts also pose risks for convening and delivering Māori cultural festivals and sporting events

[Link to report](#)

2 MPDC's climate change work programme

In late 2023, elected members took part in a series of climate change workshops to identify their priorities for responding to climate change in the next Long Term Plan period.

The result was the climate change rivermap – illustrating work happening across the organisation that is connected to a climate change response.

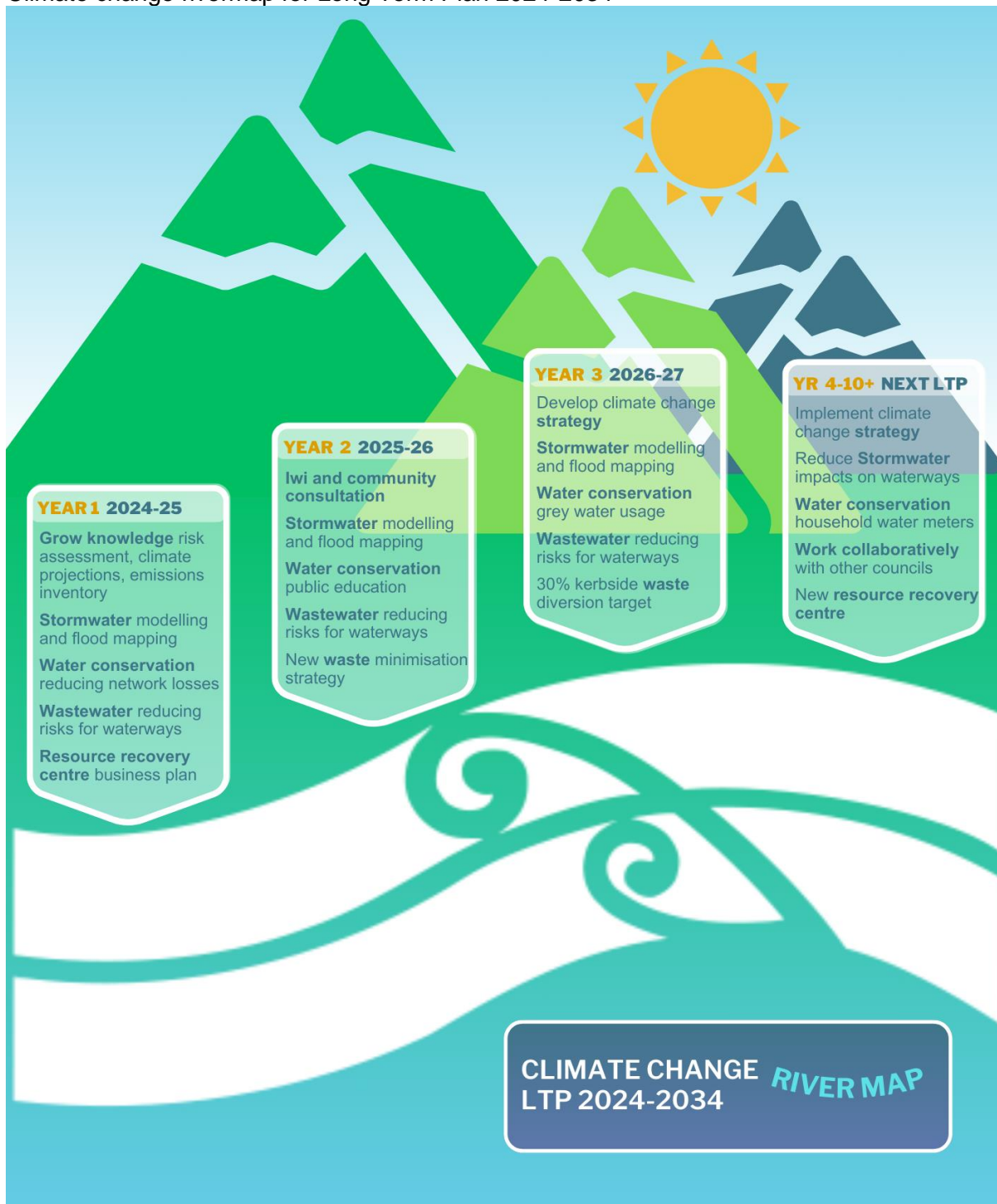
The key work areas in the rivermap are:

- Strategy - This stream of work is about growing knowledge of climate change risks and impacts for our Council and community, understanding Council's emissions, and developing a climate change strategy in consultation with iwi and the wider community. Council has budgeted \$150,000 over three years to complete this work.
- Water - This stream of work is about different approaches to conserving this precious resource
- Wastewater - This stream of work is about minimising the impact of wastewater on the environment
- Stormwater - This stream of work is about understanding flood risk, the capacity and vulnerabilities of our network and reducing the impact of stormwater on waterways
- Waste - This stream of work is about reducing emissions and minimising harm to the environment

In addition to the climate change rivermap work programme, other actions at Council include:

- Staff climate change working group – this group made up representatives from Assets, Planning, Policy, Waste, Parks and Risk has been meeting several times a year for the last two years. It has recently been given management team oversight (Kelly Reith), and now has a draft terms of reference to formalise and guide the group's focus
- Climate change identified as a strategic risk – climate change has been added to MPDC's list of strategic risks and as such is now being reported on to the Risk and Assurance Committee on a regular basis by the risk manager (Lesley Steeples).

Climate change rivermap for Long Term Plan 2024-2034



Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

While the broad overview of Council’s climate change programme for the next Long Term Plan period 2024-2034 is now in place (the climate change rivermap), the development of the associated detailed work plan for the **strategy work stream** is still to take place.

A number of key elements are still to be determined including:

- The scope of the risk assessment – will this focus only on Council assets and services, or take a broader community level approach, which stakeholders will be involved.

- The nature and timeframe for the community / iwi engagement and consultation to develop the climate change strategy
- Whether there are opportunities to work with our neighbouring councils, the regional council and/or iwi groups to develop a strategy that goes across Council boundaries
- Whether there are opportunities to work across different work areas, for example combining emergency management, biodiversity and climate change considerations and responses

Cost and staff resource will be an important factor in determining the parameters of the work plan.

At this early stage in the development of the Strategy work stream, it would be valuable to have input from the committee on how it may like to be involved in the development and implementation of this stream of the climate change rivermap, and any other matters on which the committee would like to provide guidance.

One suggested approach would be for staff to facilitate a climate change focussed workshop for the committee, with additional iwi representatives invited who have expertise in environmental matters, to gather advice and priorities to guide the development of this work stream.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Anne Gummer Policy Advisor	
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	Sandra Harris Strategic Partnerships and Governance Manager	

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.5 Te Manawhenua Forum Annual Survey

CM No.: 2859933

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to circulate the annual Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako (Forum) Survey. The results of this survey are reported on in the Annual Report.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Council have undertaken the survey since 2009/10 (apart from 2018/19-2020/21), and have reported on the results in the Annual Report. The 2023/24 Annual Report is the final Annual Report for the 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP) cycle. The 2024/25 Annual Report will begin reporting on the performance measures set out in the 2024-34 LTP.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

- The Survey be circulated and completed by Te Manawhenua Forum Mo Matamata Piako Members who have not already completed it electronically.**

Horopaki | Background

The annual survey was developed alongside the Forum and has been utilised to measure the Forum's satisfaction. See the results over time below for the performance measure *Percentage of Te Manawhenua Forum members who complete the survey are satisfied/ very satisfied that Tangata Whenua with Mana whenua status are recognised and have meaningful involvement in decision making*:

LTP period	Year	Target	Result
2021 LTP	2023/24	75%	Current year
	2022/23	75%	67%
	2021/22	75%	7%
2018 LTP	2020/21	Not measured	Not measured
	2019/20	Not measured	Not measured
	2018/19	Not measured	Not measured
2015 LTP	2017/18	75%	68%
	2016/17	75%	65%
	2015/16	75%	64%
2012 LTP	2014/15	77%	70%
	2013/14	76%	66%
	2012/13	75%	68%
	2011/12	77%	80%

2009 LTP	2010/11	76%	65%
	2009/10	75%	67%

The performance measure was discussed with the Forum at the December 2023 meeting, where members resolved to keep the measure for the 2024-34 LTP.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

The survey is available on Survey Monkey to be filled out online. Hardcopies are also available and tabled at the meeting.

Ngā Pāpāhonga me ngā Whakawhitiwhitinga | Communications and engagement

Below is the timeline of the survey process. Staff will bring the results back to the Forum for discussion at the next meeting.

Timeframes

Key Task	Dates
Collate survey responses	June meeting
	6 August meeting
	15 October meeting

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A↓](#). TMF Satisfaction Survey 2023/24



Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Olivia Picard Graduate Policy Advisor	
Approved by	Niall Baker Policy Team Leader	
	Sandra Harris Strategic Partnerships and Governance Manager	

Te Manawhenua Forum Satisfaction Survey



te kaunihera ā-rohe o
matamata-piako
district council

Questions in this survey have been developed in consultation with members of Te Manawhenua Forum over several years since 2009. The current set of questions were originally developed at a workshop in November 2017 as part of the 2018-28 Long Term Planning Process. Since then, the survey has been brought to the Forum for the 2021 and 2024 Long Term Plan process for review. The survey is to be carried out annually and results will be used to monitor progress towards some of Matamata-Piako's Community Outcomes.

Matamata-Piako – The Place of Choice Lifestyle. Opportunities. Home.

Council identified its strategic goals or direction at an early stage of the 2018 LTP process. Council developed a vision to make Matamata-Piako 'the place of choice'. This vision provides guidance and inspiration as to what we are focused on achieving in the next ten years, and beyond. In making this vision a reality Council sees itself as enabling the community in five key areas, and has identified specific outcomes under each of these themes that it wants to achieve. Outcomes that relate more closely to Iwi are:

- We promote and protect our arts, culture, historic, and natural resources.
- Development occurs in a sustainable and respectful manner considering kawa/protocol and tikanga/customs.
- We value and encourage strong relationships with iwi and other cultures, recognising waahi tapu and taonga/significant and treasured sites and whakapapa/ ancestral heritage.
- Tangata Whenua with Manawhenua status (those with authority over the land under Maaori lore) have meaningful involvement in decision making.

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Morrinsville & Te Aroha 07 884 0060 - Matamata 07 881 9050 - Fax 07 884 8865

Item 8.5

Considering the work plan approved by the Forum, how satisfied are you with progress made towards achieving the work streams that have been identified?

(Using the scale where 0 equals very dissatisfied and 10 equals very satisfied)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Please add any thoughts or comments you have regarding this topic:

How satisfied are you that tāngata whenua with manawhenua status are recognised and have meaningful involvement in decision making?

(Using the scale where 0 equals very dissatisfied and 10 equals very satisfied)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Please add any thoughts or comments you have regarding this topic:

Continues over page

Attachment A



How satisfied are you with Council's current role in promoting and protecting our arts, culture, historic, and natural resources.

(Using the scale where 0 equals very dissatisfied and 10 equals very satisfied)
Note: Organisations is a broad term and does not only relate to Council.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Please add any thoughts or comments you have regarding this topic:

How satisfied are you with Council's role in ensuring development occurs in a sustainable and respectful manner considering kawa/protocol and tikanga/customs?

(Using the scale where 0 equals very dissatisfied and 10 equals very satisfied)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Please add any thoughts or comments you have regarding this topic:

Continues over page



Item 8.5

How confident are you that Council values and encourages strong relationships with iwi, recognising wāhi tapu and taonga/significant and treasured sites and whakapapa/ancestral heritage?
(Using the scale where 0 equals very unconfident and 10 equals very confident)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Please add any thoughts or comments you have regarding this topic:

How satisfied are you with Councils recognition of Treaty of Waitangi settlement issues?
(Using the scale where 0 equals very dissatisfied and 10 equals very satisfied)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Please add any thoughts or comments you have regarding this topic:

Continues over page

Attachment A



8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.6 District Plan Update

CM No.: 2862556

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Te Manawhenua Forum with a summary on the rolling review of the District Plan, changes around Resource Management matters and an update from the Hauraki Gulf Forum. Carolyn McAlley is available to deliver the update and answer any questions.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

A District Plan and Resource Management summary is provided below. The update specifically refers to Waharoa (PC49), Papakainga (PC54), Fonterra Waitoa (PPC55), Calcutta (PPC57), Avenue Business Park (PPC58), the National Planning Standards and the Resource Management Reform. There is also a minor update from the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

1. The information be received.

Ngā Take/Kōrerorero | Issues/Discussion

Plan Change 49-Waharoa

This Council initiated District Plan change seeks to review the zoning and development controls of Waharoa. To date, a preliminary community Hui was held in partnership with Ngāti Hauā to understand the invited stakeholder's aspirations for the town. Following this, a Working Group was established that consists of Matamata-Piako District Council elected members and Ngāti Hauā representatives as governance members along with a number of support staff. On 30 November 2022, Matamata-Piako Te Manawhenua Forum and Ngāti Hauā held a community consultation event at Te Kura O Waharoa in order to understand if the initial spatial plan that was developed meets the communities' aspirations and needs for Waharoa. As part of this consultation, an online survey where individuals could share their thoughts on the initial spatial plan was also available following the consultation event for those that could not attend.

In total a 150 participants completed the online survey and there were around 30 participants at the community event. A report that summarises the outcomes of the consultation is available to view on the Council's website. In addition, Warren Gumbley consultants have been engaged to undertake an archaeological assessment of the plan change area. This work was completed in November 2023. In his investigation, Mr Gumbley identified several places of significant cultural and archaeological value within the Waharoa area, most notably the Matamata Pā, Te Tapiri Pā and the CMS Mission Station. However, the exact location of many of these places is uncertain.

The Council is now in the process of reviewing the community's aspirations and considering how these may be enabled by the District Plan's provisions. It is anticipated that the next steps will be for staff to put together an issues and option paper that signals the likely key objectives of the plan change. The relevant experts will be engaged to provide preliminary technical information. This information will then be used as the basis for a discussion with Council, iwi and key stakeholders.

Plan Change 54-Papakāinga

This plan change involves an update the District Plan provisions to allow for papakāinga development. The aim is to ensure that the District Plan provides an enabling framework for quality papakāinga development that supports the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of tangata whenua. The plan change was originally raised by Te Manawhenua Forum and recommended to Council as a priority. Council took on this recommendation and initiated a plan change. The new Māori Purpose Zone (Precinct 1 – Papakāinga Tahī) will provide the most enabling provisions for papakāinga by increasing housing density in comparison to the Rural Zone and enabling the establishment of home businesses and small-scale community facilities, education facilities and healthcare facilities.

Sites to be rezoned as Māori Purpose Zone (Precinct 2 - Papakāinga Rua) have existing papakāinga. In addition to the Māori Purpose Zone, the plan change proposes general provisions in the Rural and Rural-Residential Zones enabling papakāinga development on Māori Freehold Land, General Land owned by Māori (if it can be demonstrated there is an ancestral connection and a legal mechanism in place to ensure the land is maintained in whanau ownership in perpetuity), and Treaty Settlement Land. The change was re-notified for public submissions on 21 December 2022, and closed for submissions on 13 February 2023. The further submission phase closed on 26 April 2023.

On 18 July 2023, an Iwi Working Group (IWG) Hui was held at the Silver Ferns Events Centre. During this Hui, the key themes that were raised in the submissions along with the next steps in the process were discussed, and a draft, unbranded papakāinga Toolkit was shared. After the Hui, staff met with various submitters and interested parties to see if the matters raised could be resolved.

A hearing was held on the 17-18 of April 2024, with Council appointed independent hearings commissioners Bill Wasley (as Chair) and James Whetu to hear and decide on submissions. A number of submitters attended the council hearing to present their submissions to the panel, with one submitter choosing to attend remotely.

The processing planner's right of reply to the matters raised in submissions has been made available and has proposed a number of changes to the plan change in response to submissions. Notably these include a minor proposed change in the definition of papakāinga, and an amendment to the proposed density provisions by proposing to provide the option of two kaumatua units (in one duplex building) being equivalent to one kāinga.

Staff await the decision report from the commissioners, which will then be publically notified. Parties involved in the process will have 30 working days in which to make an appeal. In the event that no appeals are made, staff will seek Council's resolution to make the plan change operative.

Private Plan Change 55-Fonterra Waitoa

On 13 November 2020, Council received a private plan change request regarding the Waitoa manufacturing site Development Concept Plan (DCP). The request proposed the expansion of the site's Noise Emission Control Boundary (NECB). It also seeks to amend the rules associated with this boundary. Council made a request, on 22 January 2022, for further information under Clause 23, RMA Schedule 1. Council received a response to this further information request at the end of November 2022 and have been working with the applicant to finalise this information.

The application (including the further information) was finalised in February 2024 and lodged with the Council. The finalised application seeks the following changes to the District Plan;

- Amendments to the existing DCP diagram, by extending the NECB further out from the site.

- Amending the permitted noise standards/ times that apply at the NECB, by retaining a similar noise rating (i.e. 50dB and 45dB), but changing the noise descriptor from L₁₀, to L_{Aeq(15min)} and from L_{max}, to L_{AFmax}.
- Amending the DCP rules by requiring Fonterra to offer to install, at its expense, noise mitigation to existing buildings within the expanded NECB.
- Inserting a new performance standard in the District Plan that will require noise insulation (at the property owners' expense) for new dwellings or alterations to existing dwellings within the expanded NECB.
- A minor adjustment to the Industrial Zone extent as currently shown on the Planning Maps to align the zone boundary with the Kaitiaki (Conservation) Zone.
- Amendments to the DCP boundary by aligning with the Kaitiaki (Conservation) Zone where it adjoins the Waitoa River, and changes to the Landscape Buffer Area to correctly align with the floodplain along the Waitoa River.
- Corrections to the legal descriptions of the subject site as currently shown in Schedule 5 of the District Plan.
- New definitions for “habitable room”, “bedroom” and “noise sensitive activity” to assist with implementing the proposed new noise rules.

At the Council meeting on the 27 March 2024, the Council formally accepted the Plan Change for notification. The application was limited notified on 14 May 2024 to those affected parties within the Waitoa community. Submissions close on 12 June 2024.

Private Plan Change 57- Calcutta

On 3 August 2022, Matamata-Piako District Council received a request for Private Plan Change 57-Calcutta. This plan change seeks to rezone approximately 41ha of rural land along the southern side of Tauranga Road, Matamata to Industrial Zone. This plan change proposes to introduce a new General Industrial Zone into the District Plan in accordance with the National Planning Standards.

On 11 October 2022, submissions opened for the Calcutta private plan change and closed on Wednesday 9 November 2022. Matamata-Piako District Council received 28 submissions in total. The Council summarised the submissions received and opened for further submissions on 7 March 2023 with a closing date of 21 March 2023. During this submission phase, a further 20 submissions were received. A hearing date was initially scheduled for February 2024, however, the applicant had asked for this to be deferred. They advised they were undertaking to update the application in relation to the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land.

However, due to this delay the application is likely to exceed the two-year threshold in which a decision has to be made on a plan change. To be able to progress the existing application beyond a two-year timeframe approval is required from the Ministry of the Environment and the applicant has requested that the Council make an application for this to occur. Council is currently contacting existing submitters to obtain their feedback on the proposal to extend the processing time of the Plan Change application. This feedback is due in early June and will be taken to Council for a decision. Because of this process, no new hearing date has been set and the application effectively remains on hold.

Private Plan Change 58-Avenue Business Park

A private plan application was lodged with the Council on 22 December 2022 to rezone 14ha of rural land on the western side of Morrinsville, between Avenue Road North and State Highway 26 to Industrial Zone. The proposed private plan change is expected to adopt the same General Industrial Zone provisions as the proposed Calcutta private plan change under the National

Planning Standards. The application was publicly notified on 15 June 2023, with the submission period closing on 17 July 2023. Thirteen submissions and one late submission was received. The Council summarised the submissions received and opened for further submissions on the 17 August 2023. This submission period had a closing date of 31 August 2023. One further submission was received. A hearing to decide these submissions was held at the end of February 2024 and the independent commissioners approved the Plan Change with modifications.

In accordance with Clause 14, Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, any person who made a submission on the proposed private plan change may appeal to the Environment Court. The decision was publically notified on 9 May 2024 and the appeal period closes on 21 June 2024.

National Planning Standards (NPS)

The Council continues to work on reformatting its District Plan to comply with the National Planning Standards (NPS). The purpose of the NPS is to make council plans and policy statements easier to prepare, understand and comply with. They do this by improving the consistency of the format and content across all resource management documents throughout New Zealand. Any proposed changes that are simply a reorganisation of the Operative District Plan provisions do not require a plan change. However, some of the changes stemming from the project will need to go through the full plan change process. This work is taking longer than expected with the Council working to have the reformatting of the District Plan completed and notified in the next few months. The intention is that the associated plan changes will be notified later in the year.

Resource Management Reform

In December 2023, the newly appointed National Government announced that parliament had passed legislation repealing the Natural and Built Environment Act (NBA), and the Spatial Planning Act (SPA) as part of the Government's 100-day plan. At the New Zealand Planning Institute Conference on the 22 March 2024, the Government made a further announcement regarding the RMA reform processes. The first phase had repealed the existing legislation and the second phase, already underway, is to introduce the one-stop-shop consenting and permitting regime for regionally and nationally significant projects through the Fast Track Approvals Bill currently processing through Parliament. A second stage of phase 2 will make targeted changes to the RMA to unlock development and investment.

This will require two bills, the first of which was released on 23 May 2024. As previously advised this bill:

- Delays the requirements to map Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) until December 2030,
- Aligns the consenting pathway for coal mining to be treated the same way as other mineral extraction,
- Removes the need to consider the hierarchy of obligations under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management for resource consents,
- Repeals the requirements related to stock exclusion and intensive winter grazing that do not comply with particular conditions,
- Creation of a more streamlined and efficient pathway to create or amend national direction under the RMA.

A second bill will be released later in 2024. The third phase will look to develop the policy and legislation that will replace the RMA.

Hauraki Gulf Forum

Staff have received a recent update from the Hauraki Gulf Forum (the HGF) regarding the following matters;

- The HGF has been invited to provide feedback on the s186A closures sought by Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Tamaterā and Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea in the following locations Waiheke Island, Umupuia Beach, Te Mātā and Waipatukahu and East Coromandel. The Forum co-chairs prepared a submission in support of the closures, which was circulated to members for comment by the 31 May 2024 with submissions closing on the 7 June 2024. In consultation with Cr Sainsbury it was considered that there was no issues arising with the proposed submission.
- Fantail Bay (Western Coromandel) Caulerpa identification. On Monday 13 May, a University of Auckland dive team saw a large number of very small patches of exotic Caulerpa spread across 500m of in Fantail Bay. The Caulerpa was observed along the reef/sand interface at about 8-10m deep. This was reported promptly to MPI. It was the same University of Auckland diver who first sighted exotic Caulerpa at the Mokohinau Islands.
- A pōwhiri was held for Alex Rodgers (the exiting Executive Officer) at DOC Te Papa Atawhai on Monday, 20 May 2024.

The next forum meeting occurs on the 10 June 2024.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Carolyn McAlley Senior RMA Policy Planner	
Approved by	Nathan Sutherland Team Leader RMA Policy	
	Ally van Kuijk District Planner	

8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.7 Iwi Representatives Update

CM No.: 2866614

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Iwi Representatives to provide an update of their activities.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

Iwi representatives have the opportunity to provide an update of their activities to the Forum.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information is received.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Stephanie Hutchins Governance Support Officer	
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Approved by	Niall Baker Policy Team Leader	
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8 Ngā Pūrongo Whakamārama | Information Reports

8.8 Te Manawhenua Forum Work Programme - Update June 2024

CM No.: 2864014

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Te Manawhenua Forum on the work programme as confirmed for 2024.

Rāpopotonga Matua | Executive Summary

The 2024 Work Programme is attached. It is intended this is a standing item for each meeting.

Tūtohunga | Recommendation

That:

1. The information be received.

Horopaki | Background

Prior to the commencement of each calendar year the Forum sets itself a work programme. While priorities can shift during the year as unexpected issues arise, the work programme is a useful tool to enable Forum members to set their direction and to allow staff to understand the work priorities that need to be achieved.

Ngā Tāpiritanga | Attachments

[A↓](#). Te Manawhenua Forum Work Programme - Update June 2024



Ngā waitohu | Signatories

Author(s)	Stephanie Hutchins Governance Support Officer	
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Approved by	Sandra Harris Strategic Partnerships and Governance Manager	
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Te Manawhenua Forum Work Programme 2024 –
Update June



Meeting Date	Scheduled Reports	Frequency	Status – included in agenda	Comment / Expected reporting dates
11 June 2024	Long Term Plan - Project Update	Every meeting until June 2024	✓	
	Policy/Bylaw Update	Every Meeting	✓	
	Te Manawhenua Forum Satisfaction Survey	Annual	✓	
	Standing Items			
	District Plan and Iwi management plans update (incl. Papakainga plan change update)	Every meeting	✓	
	Community Facilities Strategy and Policy update	Every meeting	X	No further update since last report – to be reported to next meeting.