



Waimate
District Council

WHAT'S
OUR
FUTURE?



Long Term Plan 2021-2031
Decisions

CONSULTATION AND DECISIONS

Public Consultation – Telling The Story



Prior to the release of the Long Term Plan, the consultation document 'What's Our Future' was available for public consultation on Wednesday 9 June 2021, with submissions closing on Thursday 8 July 2021.

Consultation activity included:

- **Consultation Document sent to every mailbox within the Waimate District, and available at Council and the Waimate District Library**
- **Articles in News and Views and local news media**
- **Advertising in The Waimate Trader, Timaru Courier and other print outlets**
- **Community Chat (drop-in) sessions**
- **Video message from Mayor Craig Rowley**
- **Regular updates on Council's website and social media**
- **Facebook Live event with Deputy Mayor Sharyn Cain and Asset Group Manager Dan Mitchell**

By The Numbers

3,800

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE WAIMATE DISTRICT

900

PEOPLE ACCESSED DOCUMENTS OR INFORMATION ON COUNCIL'S WEBSITE

78

SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

19

PEOPLE ATTENDED THE COUNCIL SUBMISSION HEARING

7

COMMUNITY CHAT SESSIONS

How We Responded

When making our final decisions on this Long Term Plan, Council considered all submissions, technical reports from staff and feedback received through several Community Chat Sessions held throughout the district during the consultation period. In reaching our decision, Council based its reasoning on achieving the best outcomes for the Waimate District and the communities that lie within.

KEY DECISION 1

Managing the Impact on Rates

WHAT WAS PROPOSED?

In response to COVID-19, rural water scheme upgrades, the introduction of a new kerbside rubbish and recycling service, a reduced shareholder dividend from Alpine Energy Limited and other general increases, Council's overall rates income had to increase in year one of the Long Term Plan, with the following options presented:

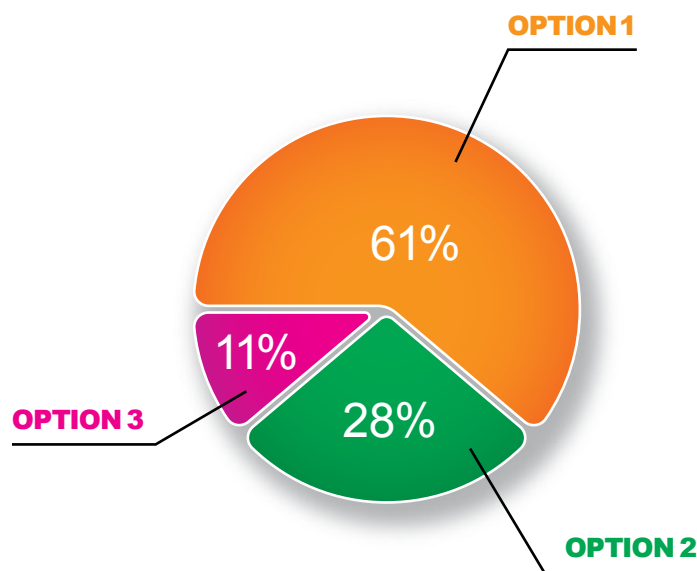
Option 1: Unsmoothed – no additional borrowings

Option 2: Smoothed over 3 years – Council's preferred option – additional borrowings of \$1.35 million

Option 3: Smoothed over 3 years – additional borrowings of \$1.6 million

Submissions

62 out of 78 submitters responded, with 38 in favour of Option 1, 17 in favour of Option 2 and 7 in favour of Option 3.



Council's Decision

Council agreed to proceed with Option 2. The rate increases will be smoothed over three years, with Council having to borrow approximately \$1.35 million and increasing the district's overall rates income by 9.9% in year one (2021/22), 7.6% in year two (2022/23) and 6.8% in year three (2023/24), and 2.5% on average for years 4-10.

Council's Reason

Council believes Option 2 is the most appropriate, given the current ability to borrow at low interest rates and taking into account the impact of a large rate increase for ratepayers on a fixed income. Commentary provided by submitters indicated that while some elements of Option 1, being the cheapest in the long term, were favoured, other commentary recognised the benefit of Option 2 with the smoothing over the 10-year timeframe.

KEY DECISION 2

Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

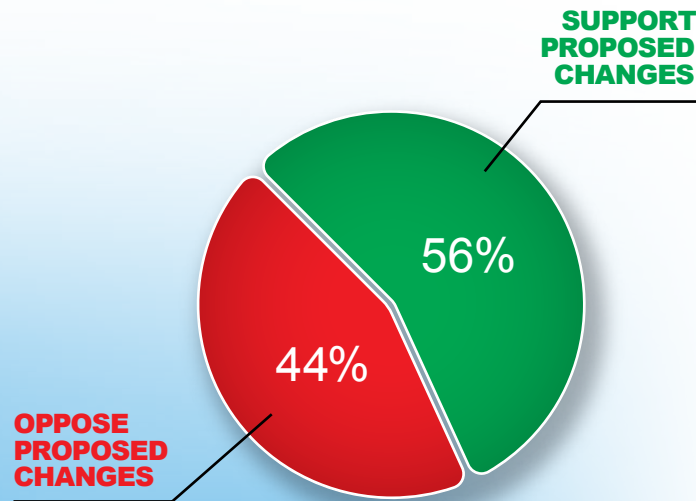
WHAT WAS PROPOSED?

Through the consultation document, it was proposed to remove the 25% remission for the Waimate Event Centre rate for ratepayers who contribute to a rural hall via targeted rates. It is considered all district households have equal access to the Waimate Event Centre and therefore, all ratepayers should pay an equal amount.

It is considered all district households have equal access to the Waimate Event Centre and therefore, all ratepayers should pay an equal amount.

Submissions

45 out of 78 submitters responded, with 25 in support of the proposed changes and 20 against.



Council's Decision

In a split vote, Council agreed to retain the status quo, with four councillors opting for the proposal and five against.

The existing rates remission will remain at \$14.50 per annum for eligible residents.

Council's Reason

Council gave consideration to feedback received throughout the engagement process, as well as feedback provided by the submitters.

In liaison with key stakeholders, Council will review possible rate mechanisms in the future.



ADDITIONAL DECISIONS

NO.	DECISION ITEM	RELEVANT SUBMISSIONS	COUNCIL'S DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
3	On submitter's proposal that rate increase should be averaged across 4 years instead	3	Council has approved Option 2, as per decision item no. 1.	Council decided Option 2 best fits the needs of the community.
4	On submitter's proposal that rate increase should be that of a rise of 4.4% over a period of 10 years	58	Council has approved Option 2, as per decision item no. 1.	Council decided Option 2 best fits the needs of the community.
5	On the LTP's proposed projects of a) Learn to Ride and/or b) Library/Local Government Centre Extension, in light of submissions against	3, 9, 13, 16, 23, 24, 50, 54, 57, 61, 69	a) Council supports the Learn to Ride initiative. Council will maintain ownership and oversight of the project, and will endeavour to work with community organisations to assist with funding. The final location for the project may change from the proposed location of Victoria Park.	Council recognises the feedback received in relation to this project with funding of \$50,000 from the Subdivision Recreation Reserve Fund.
			b) Council supports the proposal in relation to the Library/Local Government Centre Extension.	Council recognises the community's use of the Library, and that the Local Government Centre needs to be fit for purpose for the future.
6	On request for \$5000 grant for the Waimate Strawberry Fare by Events Waimate Inc.	8	Council approves the request by the Events Waimate Inc. for a CPI-adjusted \$5,000 annual grant for the Waimate Strawberry Fare.	Council recognises this major event and the need for certainty of Events Waimate Inc. for this community event.
7	On the LTP-proposed installation of toilets at the Cemetery, in light of submissions against	9, 16	Council supports the proposal for the replacement of a toilet facility at the (old) cemetery.	Council recognises this facility would be both for public and staff use.
8	On the LTP-proposed installation of new public toilets, in light of submissions for and against	9, 16 (against) 44, 74 (for)	Council supports the proposal for installation of new public toilets, location to be determined.	Council recognises the need for \$20,000 funding for the scoping of the project in the year 2021/22. Installation costs will be revisited in the 2022/23 Annual Plan.

NO.	DECISION ITEM	RELEVANT SUBMISSIONS	COUNCIL'S DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
9	On the request that the budget allocated for installation of new public toilets be increased to \$600,000	44	Refer to decision item no. 8.	Refer to decision item no. 8.
10	On the proposed discontinuation of maintenance for Hakataramea Station Bridge, in light of submissions against	11, 15, 19, 20, 21, 25, 55, 63, 64, 65, 70	Council notes the bridge is on a private road, and in the past maintenance has been provided. Council agrees to continue with minor maintenance at present, and will have discussion with the landowners around future options.	Council recognises the submissions received.
11	On the submitters-proposed inclusion of resource recovery station(s) within the Hakataramea Valley	11, 12, 48, 55, 63, 64, 65, 70	Council agrees to provide one recycling station within the Hakataramea Valley, to be located at Wrights Crossing.	Council will continue communications with the Hakataramea residents, and commends the Hakataramea Sustainability Collective and other residents on their work towards waste minimisation.
12	On the submitter-proposed alternative to replace the current property value-based rating system	14	Council notes the submission.	Council does recognise ratepayers' ability to pay when setting rates. Rating methodology is one of the areas being undertaken as part of the wider review of the future of local government, currently underway by Central Government.
13	On requests for a greater focus on rural/shingle roads, as to improve their quality and structure	14, 17, 23, 34, 50, 58	Council notes these submissions.	Council is aware of the need to improve the quality and structure of rural roads, and this is an area that requires continual monitoring and specific feedback from landowners and road users. Reduced Waka Kotahi (NZTA) funding will have detrimental effect on maintenance of the roading network, as outlined in submission no. 71.
14	On the proposed adjustment to roading programme following the notification of reduction of Waka Kotahi (NZTA) funding	71	Council approves the proposed adjustment to the roading programme.	Due to NZTA reduction of funding and no desire for Council to complete unsubsidized work at this time.

NO.	DECISION ITEM	RELEVANT SUBMISSIONS	COUNCIL'S DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
15	On submitters' opposition to the prospect of transference of ownership and management of rural waters to parties outside the district	17, 44	Submissions noted.	Council is actively involved in the Three Waters Reform discussions, and will communicate and engage with the community as information comes to hand. Council is mindful around the affordability issues both with rural and urban water.
16	On submitters-proposed reciprocal use agreement between the Waimate and Timaru districts libraries	17, 23	Submission noted.	Council will request a meeting with the Mayor of Timaru.
17	On the request for widening Allan Street	22	Submission noted, and not supported at this time. Currently there is no intention to undertake road widening work.	There is currently no budget for this work.
18	On the request for road marking Kane Lane	24	Council recognises possible issues around vehicle access and will actively work with the residents to seek a solution.	Council recognises road safety and breach of statute parking.
19	On the request for Waihaorunga district water scheme to return to stock water system	27	Submission noted.	Council is actively involved in the Three Waters Reform discussions, and will communicate and engage with the community as information comes to hand. Council is mindful around the affordability issues both with rural and urban water.
20	On the opposition to general high quality filtration and UV treatment of water at source, and instead to implement filtration at points of entry.	28	Submission noted.	Council is actively involved in the Three Waters Reform discussions, and will communicate and engage with the community as information comes to hand. Council is mindful around the affordability issues both with rural and urban water.
21	On the request for Council to consider the sustainability of the Waihaorunga water scheme in light of projected cost increases versus the increasing quality expectation of community against a backdrop of proposed acquisition by central government.	76	Submission noted.	Council is actively involved in the Three Waters Reform discussions, and will communicate and engage with the community as information comes to hand. Council is mindful around the affordability issues both with rural and urban water.

NO.	DECISION ITEM	RELEVANT SUBMISSIONS	COUNCIL'S DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
22	On the request for covering of public swimming pool so it may be used throughout the year	31	Submission noted, and is not supported at this time. Council has had this issue raised previously, but currently has no appetite to cover the public swimming pool.	Taking into account all the economic drivers relating to a covered pool (e.g. users vs cost, etc.) the proposal is not currently sustainable.
23	On the question of maintenance of the Waimate Gym and its facilities at the Event Centre	33	Submission noted.	Maintenance of the Waimate Event Centre is solely the responsibility of Council.
24	On submitters-proposed inclusion of natural burial service	35, 36	Council agrees to undertake further investigation.	Council agrees this may be an alternative option to traditional burials.
25	On the request for banning the use of glyphosate as herbicide across parks and reserves	35	Council has a practice to reduce the amount of chemicals used, and to seek alternative options. Council will continue with this current practice with a focus on reducing the reliance on toxic chemicals.	Council recognises and manages detrimental risk to the environment and personal health.
26	On the request for the WDC to adopt and implement the Living Wage	36, 54, 77	Council agrees and is working towards implementing the Living Wage within 12 months.	Council believes it has an obligation to be a good employer.
27	On the request for the WDC to provide banking services alternatives to some members of the community	36	Submission noted. Council is aware of the need for locally-based banking services and is closely monitoring the 12-month banking hub model trial currently underway across New Zealand.	Council recognises the importance of local services.
28	On several requests in relation to local records and archives, especially: a) for WDC to provide funding (of \$40,000) for installing a comprehensive fire suppressant system; and b) for providing funding (of annual \$20,000) for archivist resources.	37, 54	Submissions noted. Council will conduct a review of archiving needs and the current service contract with the Waimate Historical Society. Council may fund \$25,000 for a fire suppressant system in year 2 (2022/23), subject to further consultation with the Waimate Historical Society.	Council is aware of legislative requirements for Council records and ensuring the safety of the community's treasures.
29	On the request for stormwater upgrade along Timaru Road, from the 50kmh to 70kmh sign heading north, as specified in the corresponding submission	40	Submission noted. There is no intention to do further stormwater work at the current time in relation to this issue. Council will monitor stormwater.	The requested task is not considered a priority.

NO.	DECISION ITEM	RELEVANT SUBMISSIONS	COUNCIL'S DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
30	On the request for camping grounds to be entrusted to the private sector	44	Submission noted. There is no intention at this current time to privatise Council's camping activities.	Council does not recognise the need for privatising the camping grounds at this time.
31	On the request that urgent trimming and replacement of trees be conducted at Te Aka.	58	Submission noted. Annual maintenance is currently occurring. Council has future plan for tree management at Te Aka.	Council recognises the need for maintenance of such areas.
32	On the [verbal] request for attending to slump at end of Pike Street	58	Council to investigate.	Council has a responsibility to maintain infrastructure to a suitable level of service.
33	On the request for Garland Road to be included in the Te Kiteroa stormwater and sewer line	45	Submission noted. There are plans in place to include Garland Road in the overall upgrade of services.	This is not currently budgeted for implementation.
34	On the request that the current Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) in the LTP be clarified, and that the UAGC be used to collect the full 30% of total rate revenue.	60	Submission noted.	Council will review possible rate mechanisms in the future.
35	On the request that in approving subdivision expansion, the WDC consider investment in reticulation of wastewater systems to reduce the potential contamination risk to groundwater.	43	Council supports the submitter's proposal.	Council does implement the practice.
36	On boundary fencing between Rollinson Engineering Ltd and WDC property, in Kennedy Crescent.	75	Council approves the request. Planning and construction of a boundary fence, with the funding of up to \$5,000 to occur in year 2021/22.	Council recognises the need for contributing to the beautification of the area.
37	On the request that no WDC management, excluding the CE, be paid more than \$95,000 per annum.	35	Submission noted.	Council believes it has an obligation to be a good and competitive employer.
38	On the request for the WDC to consider fabric recycling as part of its waste management system.	36	Submission noted. Council has sought advice. Outside agencies (i.e. Red Cross, Salvation Army) may be utilised where possible.	Council recognises the benefit of waste minimisation, where possible.

NO.	DECISION ITEM	RELEVANT SUBMISSIONS	COUNCIL'S DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
39	On the request for the WDC to consider a remote working arrangement (i.e. 'working from home') for its staff, in order to restrain the need for expanding facilities, thus reducing costs.	39	Submission noted. Council actively considers methods to reduce costs while enhancing efficiency.	It is the Chief Executive's responsibility to designate appropriate working arrangements.
40	On the request that the uniform rate be higher in order to better reflect use and evenly spread council's cost over all ratepayers.	72	Submission noted.	Council does recognise ratepayers' ability to pay when setting rates. Rating methodology is one of the areas being undertaken as part of the wider review of the future of local government, currently underway by Central Government.
41	On the submitter's [verbal] request for increasing user pays for library and pool.	72	Submission noted and not considered at this time.	Determination of the percentage of user pays is undertaken as part of the 3-yearly review of the Revenue and Financing Policy.
42	On the request for the revenue produced via forestry operation in Glenavy to be directly invested in improving Glenavy's infrastructure	66	Submission noted.	Council has an Investment Policy which covers where forestry revenue is directed.
43	On the request for a new public toilet be installed at the Glenavy's Keane Park	66	Submission noted. Council will be undertaking a District Public Toilet Review.	The District Public Toilet Review is due, for assessing the utility of the current public toilet system.
44	On the request for WDC to consider an alternative bus shelter project for Glenavy, as opposed to the plan currently proposed	66	Submission noted. Economic Development Steering Group is reviewing bus shelters in the Waimate District, and the request shall be considered.	Council recognises the utility of considering alternative options.
45	On the submitter's request for clarification of Civil Defence arrangements in Hakataramea Valley	48	Submission noted. Council is developing stronger communication with the community, and is strengthening resources in the Hakataramea Valley.	Council recognises the importance of civil defence across the district.
46	On the submitter's request for WDC to conduct gutter sweeping and lichen spraying on footpaths	42	Submission noted. Council recently undertook gutter sweeping. Footpath spraying is scheduled to occur in the near future.	Council has a responsibility to maintain infrastructure to a suitable level of service.

NO.	DECISION ITEM	RELEVANT SUBMISSIONS	COUNCIL'S DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
47	On the submitter's question as to whether the WDC makes green waste compost and sell to the public	61	Submission noted. Council has no intention of locally processing green waste.	Green waste is part of the newly established Waste Management Contract. There may be an opportunity to supply certified compost via the Contractor for sale to local residents.
48	On the submitters request for improving the road leading to the White Horse Monument	66, 74	Submissions noted. There would be significant costs due to the construction of the road. Council currently does not have plans to upgrade the road to the Whitehorse.	Currently this road does not meet traffic usage for budget.
49	Waste Management Contract The updated serviced properties amount to an additional \$9,833 (approximately) of contract costs, compared to the estimates for the LTP, resulting in increased other expenditure and targeted rates.		Council considers amendments and accepts them as outlined.	To meet the conditions of the Waste Management Contract, and extension of service
50	Tourism Infrastructure Fund Grants income increase of \$186,600 Operational maintenance cost increase \$12,000 Depreciation expense estimate \$18,947 Capital Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waitangi camping public toilets increase to \$127,600 • Waihao Box public toilet new project \$132,600 Tourism signage new project \$77,000		Council considers amendments and accepts them as outlined.	To recognise the successful application and associated expenditure.
51	Employment Benefit Expenses An assessment of vacant positions, and some fixed term increased hours has resulted in a net reduction of \$24,974 for 2021/22 (Year 1)		Council considers amendments and accepts them as outlined.	Council approves the reforecast budget for 2021-22.

NO.	DECISION ITEM	RELEVANT SUBMISSIONS	COUNCIL'S DECISION	REASON FOR DECISION
52	Interest costs Based on the 30 th June 2021 cash and borrowings position, the 2021/22 borrowings requirement has been forecast, resulting in a reduced interest costs of \$65,250 for 2021/22 (Year 1)		Council considers amendments and accepts them as outlined.	Council approves the reforecast budget for 2021-22.
53	Queen Street Sewer/Stormwater Upgrade It is anticipated that the project cost will increase by \$150,877 for 2021/22 (Year 1)		Council considers amendments and accepts them as outlined.	Council approves the reforecast budget for 2021-22.
54	Waihaorunga Drinking Water Upgrade The 2021 Annual Plan included this project with a budget of \$526,500, and as at 30 June 2021 \$70,800 has been spent. It is proposed to carry forward and include in Year 2 2022/23 \$455,000 for the continuation of this project.		Council considers amendments and accepts them as outlined.	Council approves the reforecast budget for 2022-23.

Several submitters have provided their views, predominantly in opposition, on the current waste management system.	Submissions noted. The Waste Management System was separately consulted on during the year 2020 and is now fully operational. The introduction of the new waste management and minimisation system resulted in varying degrees of rate increase for properties dependent on previous waste management arrangements and whether properties are situated within the mandatory areas.	Council is well aware of its responsibilities to control its waste streams, and to protect the environment.
Several submitters provided their views on water-related matters, ranging from comments on various water schemes, to comments on the quality of drinking water in rural and urban areas.	Submissions noted.	Council is actively involved in the Three Waters Reform discussions, and will communicate and engage with the community as information comes to hand. Council is mindful around the affordability issues both with rural and urban water. In regards to supply of drinking water, Council has budgeted for compliance upgrades.