



Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future

Future of district ... tell us what you think

Wairoa District Council's draft Long Term Plan is now open for submissions. Representing a roadmap for the next 10 years, the plan covers all aspects of council work, from roading to rates. You will receive the plan summary in your letter box. We encourage you to read it and let us know what you think. There are a number of "significant issues" which have been identified as being of particular interest to the community because of their impact on service levels, cost, or effect on the social, economic, environmental or cultural wellbeing of the district. This is a brief summary of those issues.

GOVERNMENT POLICY – BETTER LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Government is proposing some Local Government reforms that will have a major impact on the way councils around the country are run in terms of management, boundaries and other key elements. While we don't yet know how these changes will effect Wairoa, it is important for us to start thinking about what kind of changes we'd like to see. Council wishes to hear from residents their thoughts on possible future scenarios.



PROPOSED SHARED SERVICES COUNCIL CONTROLLED ORGANISATION (CCO)

Hastings District Council and Napier City Council are proposing to establish a Shared Services CCO and have invited Wairoa District Council (and Central Hawke's Bay District Council and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council) to participate. This is not to be confused with amalgamation. Our participation in the proposed CCO could allow savings to ratepayers and therefore our participation in the proposed CCO is recommended.

PUBLIC CEMETERY AT MAHIA

Feedback is sought on potentially suitable sites for a public cemetery in the Mahia area. \$100,000 is allocated for the project.



IMPLEMENT RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLANS

Council has adopted reserve management plans for reserves at Mahia Peninsula and in Wairoa. \$627,097 is programmed over the next eight years to fund capital projects within these plans. If the projects were to be loan funded, the programme may be accelerated

to achieve an earlier completion time.

COMMUNITY CENTRE AND SKATEPARK

A programme of refurbishment and upgrade is proposed for the Wairoa Community Centre, costing \$1.4 Million, including approximately \$350,000 for a range of renewal projects, and approximately \$1,050,000 for a new learners' pool. A further \$100,000 is provided for an upgrade to the skatepark. This overall project is expected to be funded with \$500,000 from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, \$500,000 from 'other sources' such as trusts, lotteries and the like, with the remaining \$500,000 coming from loans.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAYGROUNDS

A community group has proposed upgrades of neighbourhood playgrounds and the Marine Parade playground. A basic replacement for a playground with fencing and seating will be in the order of \$50,000 - \$70,000. An extensive upgrade to the Marine Parade playground can be expected to cost several times that (say \$200,000). No funding has been provided for playground upgrades in the draft plan.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Council will be considering several points regarding waste management in Wairoa, including a review of the balance between user charges and rates funding. Council will also be considering whether to increase the charges for out-of-district special waste dumpers.

STORMWATER

Piping Open Drains

Council currently pipes drains to the value of around \$110,000 per year, which equates to approximately 300m of open drain. There are over 22km of open drains in the Wairoa township, and our assessment of the cost to pipe them is approximately \$12 Million. At the current rate of piping, it would take 100 years to complete the programme.

Options are to accelerate the programme, reduce the scale, cease work or retain the status quo.

Stormwater Discharge Consent

Under the Hawke's Bay Regional Plan, some parts of the Wairoa

township stormwater network require discharge consent. The process of obtaining consent involves considerable technical work. There is a \$50,000 provision in this plan for obtaining resource consent.

WASTEWATER

The Wairoa sewerage scheme is aging and the system regularly overflows during heavy rain. This also causes breaches of resource consent from the Wairoa wastewater treatment plant. Council is currently undertaking investigations into the system to determine what the long term solutions might be. A major issue for the wastewater treatment plant is the renewal of discharge consent, which expires in 2018. A key issue to address is whether continued discharge of treated effluent direct to the Wairoa River is acceptable – and what the costs of alternatives might be.



Mahia Community Wastewater Scheme

The construction phase has now commenced. The total estimated cost of the scheme is \$12.75 million. Scheduled for completion in June 2013, the scheme will service 371 existing connections, with the capacity for over 600 equivalent connections. The Ministry of Health recently increased the subsidy from \$3.1 million to \$5.5 million, meaning Council will be re-examining the finances across the scheme. The ultimate cost will be met by ratepayers with access to the Scheme and not the wider Wairoa community, and the impact on individual ratepayers will be quantified during the annual plan process for year ending 30 June 2014.

WATER SUPPLIES

Wairoa

Year 1: \$5,000 investigation into the use of liquid treatment chemicals rather than the granulated product currently used.

Year 2: \$250,000 upgrade of the plant, depending on the outcome of the Year 1 study.

Tuai

Planned work:

- \$197,000 Ministry of Health subsidy plus \$35,000 'local share' to upgrade Tuai water supply.
- \$57,000 project to relocate the watermain on the Tuai bridge to remove the risk of damage from vehicles.

Mahanga

The Mahanga water supply does not meet drinking water standards. There is a possibility of applying for a Ministry of Health subsidy, although

Council will have to contribute. Feedback is sought as to whether Council should apply for a subsidy.

ROADING

Road Maintenance

Significant efforts have been made to identify savings in the budget for roading operational expenditure. The current plan makes no

allowance for seal extensions other than where these are clearly demonstrated to result in significant maintenance cost savings over time.

Council's bridge stock is beginning to reach the end of design life, so asset managers are investigating when replacements will be required and how these might be funded.

New Footpaths

Council policy is to have at least one footpath on every residential street. Council currently constructs new footpaths to the value of around \$110,000 per year. This equates to approximately 1km of new footpath each year. Options are to accelerate the programme, reduce the scale, cease work or retain the status quo.

Marine Parade Lighting

Year 3 of the plan allows for a \$130,000 upgrade of under-verandah lighting along Marine Parade (loan funded).

COST OF INSURANCE

The cost of insurance has significantly risen as a result of the Canterbury earthquakes. For the year ended 30 June 2011, the total cost of our insurance for all infrastructure and liabilities was \$124,040. We are projecting our insurance costs for the year ending 30 June 2013 to be \$401,059 per year for the same cover. This significantly contributes to our increase in rates.

How can I have my say?

- Make a submission, either online, by post or by handing in the form to Council offices on Queen Street.
- Go to one of the public meetings. (dates to be confirmed.)
- Speak to your submission at the hearings.

Submissions close at 5pm on Monday, July 30, 2012