

Submission for Waitomo District Council Draft 10 Year Plan 2021–2031

Full name

Kahutoi Te Kanawa

Organisation (if responding on behalf of)

Waitomo Ratepayers and Residents Collective

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I wish to speak to Council about my submission

Yes

No

(Hearings are scheduled for 27 and 28 May 2021. If you circle Yes, we will contact you to arrange a time.)

Proposal:

Maniapoto Maara Kai and Rivercare Future Aspirations.

This is a submission to contribute to the 10year Long Term Plan of the WDC on behalf of the Maniapoto Maara Kai Roopu community garden and River care project.

The purpose of this submission is to increase economic growth and development locally through a river care project, growing food and developing self-sustainability with local unemployed and volunteers.

Maniapoto Maara Kai Roopu was initiated from a place of manaakitanga, meaning to support our people. This took a lot of work and voluntary hours, donated materials and support from local residents to help initiate the growth of not only eatable nourishing food, but also to grow our people together. We were fortunate enough to occupy 133 Esplanade through the approval of the engagement with Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust and WDC. Michelle Wi who has continued to project manage MMKR, having been made redundant from her workplace at the Waitomo caves, has continued to uphold the growth potential of MMKR along with the trustees. Donating all food produced to the foodbanks, helped eliminate weekly expenses for up to 40 working families, and with the abundance of extra food produced, MMKR has made regular contributions for the past 4-5 months to the Whanau Ora Community Centre, Women's Refuge and Hillview Rest home.

The effects of Covid 19 increased the awareness of how important it is for locals to support local initiatives. We could no longer rely on tourism and the visitor impact of economic growth in our area. This still remains, an untenable source of economic growth as each town vies to attract visitors to their areas and towns.

MMKR has attracted local, regional, and social media interest, simply because the project was set up to help our local residents. With our project manager Michelle Wi winning a community good sorts TV 1 award, Maniapoto Kawenata award and Kiwi Bank award for keeping this initiative alive and well and embracing locals from pre-school/ kohanga reo children to kaumatua. We have had visits from honourable Members of Parliament such as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Nanaia Mahuta, Hon. Angela Roberts and Hon. Barbara Kuriger, who have all written letters of endorsements to support funding proposals and applications.

Our position as we enter a second year of unsustainable tourism and economic growth, (which could continue for the next three to five years), is to now develop the second phase, called kaititakitanga. This is about cleaning up the water ways, of our planned Mangaokewa river project. We have applied for funds from DOC, Tainui Group Holdings and successfully secured funds from Te Puni Kokiri and Bryant fund.

We hope this will attract volunteers and help us build up an economic base to increase skills, training, leadership and mentoring by caring for land, water and people. This has and always will be the impetus of our survival and existence as treaty partners. This submission is a forerunner to a much larger project that will help grow the conscious minds of youth, unemployed and skilled locals that leads to employment, independence and growing the economy of the Waitomo District, so that it is not totally reliant on tourism, lime works, farming and forestry.

So how will this work?

We would like the WDC to consider an annual subsidy towards the Kaitiakitanga Maara Kai and River Water Care project as part of the 10-year plan, to help build up and initiate growth and development for youth, unemployed and volunteer services.

We want to work with the WDC, DOC and local Iwi to engender kaitiakitanga, through building upon skills training while working on growing food and cleaning up the waterways and possible new projects, such as engaging with papakainga development.

This will start off on a small scale and increase as the projects evolve over time.

The training and skills will cover:

- Riparian river care planting – Voluntary and part time staff.
- Raising native nurseries – Project manager, volunteer staff and trainees.
- Small power tools maintenance trades – chainsaws, mowers, rotary hoes, leaf blowers, weed eaters and scrub cutters. – Skilled volunteer staff and project maintenance worker and trainees.
- Landscape design and carpentry skills for walkways, retaining walls, rock gardens and tree maintenance. - Skilled volunteer staff, project maintenance worker, trainees and volunteers.
- Cleaning services – office cleaning, ablutions, private homes and workshops.
- Health and safety workshops, first aid training and tool safety/use. Procured assistance and St.John workshops.

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- Growing nutritious food and training at the same time. Project Manager/staff and trainees.
- Workshop on preserving food and cooking classes for nutritious consumption. - Skilled volunteer staff, project management worker and trainees.
- Administration skills – record keeping, filing, asset register, financial logs, incident reports, time keeping, H & S plan, time management/meetings and appointments, minute taking, data entry, security monitoring. Fulltime administrator.
- Project management, fulltime position – creating new projects and building on existing projects. Overseeing project planning and resource management of projects. Oversee the staff and projects are running well. Report writing. Employment contracts and volunteer services. Health and safety planning.
- Senior advisory Leadership – Full time position. Proposal writing, contract procurement, strategic planning, working with managers and trustees. Procurement of legal and business advice. Develop staff incentives and training.
- Communications management – work with the leadership, project and advisory managers, information sharing, social media updates, website design and communicate with trustees, staff, volunteers and trainees.
- Cultural advisory Manager – research and development, advocate for staff and cultural training, procure budget advice, report writing and communicate with ministries, local governance and iwi initiatives.
- Trustees – Governance training and decision makers for projects, with managers.

All these positions come from a place of knowing, having experienced in the last year, our own growth as the Maara Kai developed. We have inadvertently built up a reputation for providing food and engaging locals engendering manaakitanga.

Deriving incomes will expand as the potential of skills and services increase. We will be able to forge our own destinies and economic growth by, providing training services, selling nursery plants, contracting a labour workforce for creating home gardens, lawn mowing, fencing, carpentry, landscaping, small motor tools maintenance, administration services and cleaning services.

Thank you