



Submissions Booklet

Draft
2023/2024 Annual Plan

Sub No.	Submitter Name	
1	Phil Brodie	3
2	Maria Willison	6
3	Matthew Maxwell	8
4	Tere Waitomo Community Trust (Kyle Barnes)	10
5	Waitomo Caves Museum (Bridget Mosely)	13
6	CCS Disability Action Waikato (Oliver Goulden)	16
7	Waitomo Ratepayers and Residents Collective (Kahutoi Te Kanawa)	28
8	Federated Farmers New Zealand	37

From: noreply@gurudigital.nz
To: haveyoursay
Subject: The Form "Submission Form - Draft Annual Plan 2023/24" was submitted
Date: Tuesday, 11 April 2023 3:30:28 PM

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Website Form

Form Results

Full Name

Phil Brodie

Organisation

Phone

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED] Piopio

Postcode

3970

Email

[REDACTED]

Requirements

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

Yes

Improved Stormwater Maintenance - Which option do you prefer?

:

Option 2 (our preferred option)

Reasons and feedback on Improved Stormwater Maintenance

Option 3 would be my preferred option if the financial constraints were not so severe.

Do you agree with the increased spend on Wastewater and Roading Repairs?

Yes

Reasons and feedback on increasing the spend on wastewater and roading repairs

Waitomo has had very few serious breaches of it's waste water resource consents so it's important to keep ahead of the game. Functional roads are essential to the Districts economy.

Council is proposing to lower the Uniform Annual General Charge to bring more properties closer to the average rate increase of 5.91% across the District. Do you agree with this?

No

Reasons and feedback on our proposal to lower the Uniform Annual General Charge

The statement "As it has in recent years, Council will try to maintain the percentage of rates it receives from residential properties at 36% and pastoral properties at 31%", could be setting a dangerous precedent, and from my recall, ignores the reason for it's original implmentation. I don't recall this ratio having any significance until the impact on individuals rates, as a consequence of the 2021 District property revaluations, became apparent when the 2022/23 Annual Plan was being formulated. That 'ratio' was then used as the basis for reducing the UAGC from \$728.00 to \$432.00, as one of the 'levers' to reduce that variance in individuals rate increases. This transferred costs previously equally shared, onto the General Rate, and thus increased the share borne by higher Capital Value properties, which were in the main, rural. It appears to have become an 'established' precedent now, "...and help maintain those percentages", so will the 'precedent' be applied with equal vigour when the 3 Waters Reform reduces Waitomo's rates revenue requirement by about \$6m (3 Waters Targetted Rates and Service Charges values in the dAP 2023/24), the vast majority of which would normally be paid by residential properties.

Do you have any other feedback on our Draft Annual Plan

2023/24?

By not funding depreciation on new 3 Waters assets from recent projects (thus "saving \$500,000" (for the 2023/24 year?)), and also not funding depreciation on the recent increased 3 Waters assets revaluation ("saving a further \$248,000), will that have any negative consequences for the values of assets and attributed debt on transfer to Entity B on 1 July 2024? If that transfer doesn't occur, will that deferred depreciation cost have to be bought to charge in the future, and what will be the consequential impact of that for ratepayers? It appears to me there is a lack of emphasis on the need for the 3 Waters Reforms to go ahead as currently proposed, as if it doesn't, the consequences for Waitomo ratepayers will be dire, particularly residential ratepayers.

Are you a robot?

From: noreply@gurudigital.nz
To: haveyoursay
Subject: The Form "Submission Form - Draft Annual Plan 2023/24" was submitted
Date: Thursday, 27 April 2023 12:10:13 AM

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Full Name

Maria Willison

Organisation

Phone

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Postcode

4410

Email

[REDACTED]

Requirements

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

No

Improved Stormwater Maintenance - Which option do you prefer?

:

Option 2 (our preferred option)

Reasons and feedback on Improved Stormwater Maintenance

Its the most affordable option that takes into account the probability of increased severe weather events.

Do you agree with the increased spend on Wastewater and Roothing Repairs?

Yes

Reasons and feedback on increasing the spend on wastewater and roading repairs

Wastewater and roads are high value/priority services for our Community.

Council is proposing to lower the Uniform Annual General Charge to bring more properties closer to the average rate increase of 5.91% across the District. Do you agree with this?

Yes

Reasons and feedback on our proposal to lower the Uniform Annual General Charge

It makes sense to do this.

Do you have any other feedback on our Draft Annual Plan 2023/24?

Are you a robot?

From: noreply@gurudigital.nz
To: haveyoursay
Subject: The Form "Submission Form - Draft Annual Plan 2023/24" was submitted
Date: Thursday, 27 April 2023 10:43:24 AM

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Full Name

Matthew Maxwell

Organisation

Phone

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Te Kuiti

Postcode

3910

Email

[REDACTED]

Requirements

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

No

Improved Stormwater Maintenance - Which option do you prefer?

:

Option 2 (our preferred option)

Reasons and feedback on Improved Stormwater Maintenance

Do you agree with the increased spend on Wastewater and Rooding Repairs?

Yes

Reasons and feedback on increasing the spend on wastewater and roading repairs

Council is proposing to lower the Uniform Annual General Charge to bring more properties closer to the average rate increase of 5.91% across the District. Do you agree with this?

Yes

Reasons and feedback on our proposal to lower the Uniform Annual General Charge

Do you have any other feedback on our Draft Annual Plan 2023/24?

Are you a robot?

From: Kyle Barnes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 27 April 2023 10:54 PM
To: haveyoursay
Cc: Cecilia Tarrant
Subject: Tere Waitomo Community Committee Submission
Attachments: TWCT Submission WDC Annual Plan 2023.docx

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Please find attached a submission from the Tere Waitomo Community Committee.

We wish to speak to our submission

Warm regards

Kyle Barnes

M [REDACTED]
E [REDACTED]

FULL NAME: Tere Waitomo Community Trust Committee

ADDRESS: C/o Kyle Barnes [REDACTED] Waitomo Caves

EMAIL: [REDACTED]

PHONE: [REDACTED]

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

Yes

Submission –

1. Council's submission process

The submission forms do not invite open feedback about the plan. Wider views are lost. Both the online form and the PDF form lead the respondents down a very narrow response path, seeking only a defined range of feedback. The process itself loses its integrity if it doesn't provide for a healthy discourse.

We would endorse in-person consultation meetings.

2. Waitomo Village Entranceway

If any area in the District is seeking resilience after the pandemic, Waitomo Village must be top of the list. The plan allows for entrance beautification for many of the settlements in our district; however Waitomo Village entrance is conspicuous in its absence.

For over a century, the Waitomo Caves have been the primary reason for visitation to our district. For tourists travelling from Auckland their entrance to the Waitomo District is still usually via Waitomo Valley Road.

As a community and village, we were the first village or township to submit a structure plan to the council. This award-winning plan (prepared by BECA) was initiated, and largely funded, by the community. The Village entrance was central to the plan (Key Move 2, pg 22, *Waitomo Caves Village Town Concept Plan*). The community hoped that the outcome would be a "Gateway" befitting of the attraction people have come to see.

We agree that recognition of mana whenua (the Waitomo Glowworm Cave and environs was the first mediated Waitangi Tribunal settlement in NZ), landscaping and traffic "calming" would be the key objectives and outcomes in the design of a Village Gateway.

For an iconic tourism destination the present approach, as a first impression, is pretty depressing and may unfairly reflect on the District as a whole.

3. Publicity of the “Southern Route”

Visitors to Waitomo Village have little to orientate them to our District. This is a lost opportunity for the district as a whole.

Many of our guests are leaving Waitomo to travel to Rotorua. The village and its environs would provide the perfect opportunity to encourage travellers to head south at Hangatiki and discover the attractions and services that the Waitomo District offers.

We encourage the Council to explore opportunities to leverage off the visitation that Waitomo Village has for the benefit of the District with its many communities. We recommend that consultation with our Committee on this should be added to the Annual Plan.

4. Water and Wastewater

For nearly 20 years we have been in discussions about solutions for the water and wastewater in our village. There have been budget allocations previously in 10-year plans to address or at least look at solutions. There is nothing in this plan, which even references the issue in the Waitomo Village.

From: noreply@gurudigital.nz
To: haveyoursay
Subject: The Form "Submission Form - Draft Annual Plan 2023/24" was submitted
Date: Friday, 28 April 2023 5:07:40 PM

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Full Name

Bridget Mosley

Organisation

Waitomo Caves Museum

Phone

07 878 7640

Address

PO Box 12 Waitomo Caves Waitomo

Postcode

3943

Email

director@waitomodiscovery.org

Requirements

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

Yes

Improved Stormwater Maintenance - Which option do you prefer?

:

Reasons and feedback on Improved Stormwater Maintenance

Do you agree with the increased spend on Wastewater and Roding Repairs?

Yes

Reasons and feedback on increasing the spend on wastewater and roading repairs

The road into Waitomo Caves Village was damaged by the recent bad weather. If tourists cannot access the village, the loss of income is felt within Waitomo Caves Village and throughout the Waitomo District, as there is less reason to stop and eat, shop and re-fuel. Roding repairs are central to maintaining access. The supply of water and treatment of wastewater in Waitomo Caves Village is currently paid for by the residents. The water treatment plant is run privately, which is not a sustainable solution long-term and will require spending beyond the current (non-existent) level of service. We'd like to see funding for this - which was included in previous plans - to get underway.

Council is proposing to lower the Uniform Annual General Charge to bring more properties closer to the average rate increase of 5.91% across the District. Do you agree with this?**Reasons and feedback on our proposal to lower the Uniform Annual General Charge****Do you have any other feedback on our Draft Annual Plan 2023/24?**

We'd like to comment on the proposal for spending the Government's '3 Waters Better- Off' funding. We're glad to see that more community engagement is to come on the Town Entrance Gateways, and other Community projects and anticipate being involved in those conversations. Cultural and Community Hub We have funding to complete a concept design for a community space that could provide for a range of community services, a space for art, cultural, and historical displays, a place to collaborate and bring the community together. This feasibility work is on hold while long term funding for the project is assessed. We'd question why a community hub with a component of historical displays is under consideration, when you have existing and long-serving community organisations (it is the 50th anniversary of the Waitomo Caves Museum in 2023) that already meet some aspect of this and, with

the benefit of funding, would be able to do so better. We would suggest that the Waitomo District Council instead consider partnering with these community organisations to meet the perceived need. Town Amenity Improvements We'd like to see town amenity improvements for Waitomo Caves Village added to the list. Again, we anticipate being involved in those conversations. Walkways The Te Araroa trail extends from Te Kuiti through Waitomo Caves Village and we would suggest the upgrade of path and installation of storyboards could extend where the trail goes through the district.

Are you a robot?

From: Oliver Goulden <Oliver.Goulden@ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz>
Sent: Monday, 1 May 2023 2:09 PM
To: haveyoursay
Subject: Annual Plan Submission
Attachments: Waitomo District Annual Plan Submission_CCS Disability Action FINAL.docx; BarrierFree information services flier A4 final ELECTRONIC.pdf; Disability Awareness Training 2022 ELECTRONIC.pdf; Accessible Streets Audit poster.pdf

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Kia Ora

Please find attached my submission to the Draft Annual Plan 2023/24 Consultation along with supporting documents.

Kind regards

Ollie Goulden (he/him)

Access Coordinator

CCS Disability Action Waikato

☎ WAEA (04) 5678910

📠 WAEA PŪKORO 027 290 9944

📧 WĀHITAU ĪMĒRA oliver.goulden@ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz



TE HUNGA HAUĀ MAURI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA KATOĀ

[Why pronouns?](#)

www.ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz

[Support our work in your community](#)



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Waitomo District Council

Annual Plan 2023/24



TE HUNGA HAUĀ MAURI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA KATOĀ

Introduction:

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the 2023/24 Annual Plan for the Waitomo District. My name is Ollie Goulden and I represent CCS Disability Action in my role as Access Coordinator for the Waikato region. I advocate for better access by striving for inclusive, accessible communities and through providing support and education for local governments and key stakeholders of the importance of Universal Design.

About Us:

CCS Disability Action is a community organisation that has since 1935, supported disabled people and advocated for their inclusion in the community. Our support focuses on breaking down barriers to participation. We receive a mixture of government and private funding.

Accessibility is a major focus for our organisation. CCS Disability Action facilitates the Mobility Parking Permit Scheme. We have a nationwide network of access coordinators who work with local government as well relevant industries and organisations to improve accessibility. We have founded Lifemark®, which certifies and promotes universal design standards for residential dwellings. We have developed ways to collect data on access, including the Measuring Accessible Journeys project and Street Accessibility Audits. Barrier Free NZ, a division of CCS Disability Action also provides opportunities for the commercial sector and local government to improve accessibility through the provision of technical support and education in the utilisation of Universal Design principles.

What do we mean by access and accessibility?

Access and accessibility, in the context of this submission, means people's ability to use environments, services, and products on an equal basis with others. An access barrier is anything that stops someone from using an environment, service, or product.

Access barriers can be:

- Physical (such as poor kerb cuts, building design failing to consider how people with impairments navigate an environment)
- Attitudinal (such as people with disabilities being discouraged from trying a service because of assumptions they cannot use the service).
- Informational (such as failing to provide information in Easy-Read, Sign Language or Braille)

Planning for accessibility:

Many of the barriers disabled people face are easy and relatively inexpensive to fix. What is required is a combination of expert knowledge and creative thinking. Expert knowledge is required from professionals and from disabled people themselves who face these barriers every day. Collaborative partnerships between professionals and disabled people are a great way to develop creative solutions.

No matter how good regulations and professionals are, there is no substitute for the real-life experience of people with access needs. It is very easy for people without access needs to overlook the small, but very significant details that can have a large impact on whether people can get around their community or not.

Accessibility is an on-going goal rather than a set of minimal standards to be complied with. There is always room for improvement, especially as new and innovative approaches are constantly being developed.

Overview:

In the interests of working with Waitomo District Council, and offering solutions on behalf of the people that we support, I would like to highlight the following points for consideration in respect of the 2023/24 Annual Plan:

- **Waitomo District Council engages Lifemark® to explore initiatives to increase the number of Universally Designed homes built in the district**
- **Waitomo District Council conducts Accessible Street Audits of key areas accessed by the public**

- **Waitomo District Council conducts Accessibility Audits of key facilities such as the Gallagher Recreation Centre and Centennial Park**
- **Waitomo District Council seeks Accessibility advice on the Cultural and Community hub**
- **Waitomo District Council reviews Mobility Parking in the district with the view to conducting an audit to ascertain the appropriate provision and location of parks**
- **Disability Awareness training is provided for all council staff and that opportunities are identified to promote and encourage local business and community providers to adopt this training for their staff.**
- **Waitomo District Council establishes a fund that can be accessed by community groups as part of the 2023/24 Annual plan to encourage initiatives that will improve accessibility throughout the district**
- **Infrastructure that encourages active modes of Transport is reviewed and implemented, in particular walkways and cycleways are created and developed in accordance to the Pedestrian planning and design guidelines with Universal design principals applied**
- **Establishment of a Disability Strategy and processes adopted to ensure ongoing consultation with the Disabled community**

Housing

Waitomo District Council needs to become more actively involved in ensuring that housing stock meets the population's needs, especially considering the requirements for the provision of housing that will accommodate people throughout every stage of their life. Currently there is a shortage of housing that can accommodate those with access needs and this deficit will become critical when considering the increase in demand for suitable housing that will cater for the needs of an aging population.

We encourage Waitomo District Council to develop and adopt an initiative that will provide a financial incentive to developers to increase the number of Universally Designed/Lifemark® homes being built in the district. Lifemark® provides accessible

homes through the utilisation of their star rating system and can support council with exploring options that would be beneficial for the district.

As part of the Long Term Plan consultation, Hamilton City Council recently announced a policy that will help deliver inclusive communities. Their development contribution policy will incentivise quality developments in the Hamilton CBD area and developments that achieve a 4-Star Lifemark® certification can apply to get a remission on some or all of their development contribution fees.

This is a future focussed policy, and this approach supports their housing strategy which is aligned to the United Nations Human Rights approach to adequate housing and establishes a vision where all people are well housed.

Thames Coromandel District council has also adopted an incentivised strategy in partnership with Lifemark®, and a case study is attached to this submission which outlines how they are achieving their goal to provide housing that meets the needs of their community.

Accessible Street Audit/Walkways & Cycleways:

Through conducting Accessible Street Audits, Waitomo District Council will have the opportunity to identify barriers which limit residents and visitors from accessing and enjoying the district. CCS Disability Action can support Waitomo District Council to explore what is achievable with an Accessible Street Audit, and an overview of the benefits of this type of audit is attached to this submission.

With electric modes of transport on the exponential rise, the need for walkways and cycleways to have specific areas, and a standardised understanding of what is a walkway and what is a cycleway, is important. It is crucial for developers to understand the distinct difference between a walkway and a cycleway, as joining the two together, leads to an unsafe mode of travel. For example, electric modes are quiet and quick, which is dangerous when using the same path as a pedestrian who may be blind or have low vision or hearing impaired. Future proofing the walkways and cycleways, to ensure that active modes of transport are planned for will benefit all residents and visitors with ensuring connectivity throughout the district.

Accessibility Audits:

It is recommended that Accessibility Audits are completed for Waitomo District councils existing property portfolio, recreational facilities, parks and reserves to identify opportunities for improvement that can be conducted during planned maintenance and/or proposed upgrades. Council should also ensure that any new facilities are built to Universal Design standards to allow accessibility for all users. This also applies to the redevelopment and/or provision of recreational parks and the city street scape. We suggest that council works in collaboration with Barrier Free to ensure that all access issues are identified to enable council to plan accordingly to remove these barriers. In particular, the key projects outlined in the 2023/24 Annual plan such as the Gallagher Recreation centre and Centennial Park upgrades would benefit from Accessibility audits and information regarding the support that Barrier Free provides is attached to this submission.

Mobility Parking:

CCS Disability Action are the main operators of the Mobility Parking Scheme with over 130,000 permit holders throughout Aotearoa. We are continually seeking ways to improve the availability and number of parks. We also try to reduce the misuse of parks by educating the public and promoting the enforcement of mobility parking rules.

In collaboration with MRCagney, there is the opportunity to support council through providing statistics on the number of permit holders, the areas in which they reside and to forecast the increase in demand due to an aging population so that council can identify opportunities for improvement and plan accordingly. We invite Waitomo District council to explore how the provision of adequate Mobility parking, supporting infrastructure and enforcement options can be improved to ensure improved access for Mobility permit holders to local amenities throughout the district.

Disability Awareness Training:

CCS Disability Action has developed an online module to help raise disability awareness. This training aims to teach your staff how to avoid the attitudes and

barriers that create limitations for disabled people. Please see the attached brochure for more information.

Fund for Community Initiatives to improve Accessibility.

Creating a network of highly accessible and inclusive public spaces, which will provide greater choice for disabled members of our community and visitors to the Waitomo District could be achieved through the provision of funds for the community to access to activate key projects which focus on improving accessibility.

Tauranga City Council recently adopted an initiative through the provision of \$400,000 made available annually over the next 10 years to contribute to projects that will create 'Accessible Hotspots'. This approach has enabled Tauranga council to work alongside the disability community to design and trial innovative and creative concepts and ideas. Examples of the type of initiatives that may be included in an accessible hotspot are all abilities playgrounds, accessible walkways, accessible bathrooms, mobility car parks, accessible park furnishings, beach access mats and chairs, mobility scooter charging points, and navigation technology that supports people who are blind or have low vision.

We encourage Waitomo District Council to establish a fund similar to that which was developed by Tauranga City Council, to promote and encourage community led initiatives to improve accessibility throughout Hastings.

Disability Strategy and Community engagement:

CCS Disability Action supports the right of disabled people to have good lives. As disabled people increasingly express the desire to live as independently as possible, participate in, and contribute to, their community it is critical that local authorities recognise the vital role they have in enabling this to happen. Planning processes and operational activities should be able to demonstrate that all community members' requirements are considered and catered for.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Oliver Goulden

Access Coordinator

CCS Disability Action Waikato

17 Claudelands Road, Hamilton East, Hamilton 3216

EMAIL Oliver.Goulden@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz

Mob:0272909944

www.ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz

Te hunga hauā mauri mō ngā tāngata katoa

Championing an accessible Aotearoa

BarrierFree provides expert technical guidance to public and private clients. We support the creation of accessible buildings, spaces and transport networks to meet the needs of all people.



Here's how we can help

- BarrierFree provides quality, cost effective and practical technical advice and guidance informed by New Zealand legislation.
- Our accessibility reports consider compliance to the NZBC, international best practice options and take a universal design approach (referencing MBIE's guide 'Buildings for Everyone').
- We can provide an opinion on 'as near as is reasonably practicable' ANARP to support building consent discussion.
- We bring over a quarter of a century of access expertise and draw on international knowledge, which we adapt to New Zealand conditions.

Contact us

Lorraine Guthrie, National Access Coordinator

☎ 021 0291 6314

📧 Lorraine.Guthrie@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz

🌐 www.barrierfree.org.nz



**CCS
disability action**
Including all people

TE HUNGA HAUĀ MAURI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA KATOĀ

Is your workplace disability aware?

CCS Disability Action Disability Awareness Training module

DESIGNED BY DISABLED people for employers who want to feel confident that their workplace is safe, welcoming and inclusive, this introductory Disability Awareness training module will teach your staff how to avoid the attitudes and barriers that create limitations for disabled people. By completing this training, you can feel sure that you and your workplace are part of the solution and not part of the problem.

The Disability Awareness training module is easy to use, accessible and will take 30-40 minutes to complete.



The learning outcomes provided include:

- How to engage with the disability community through your work.
- Understanding what disability is.
- Learning how key legislation supports the rights of disabled people.
- Understanding attitudes and barriers faced by disabled people.
- Mastering appropriate language usage when communicating with those who identify as having an impairment.

Content includes videos featuring disabled spokespeople and interactive activities. Some material can be tailored to meet your needs, including your brand and images and we can provide templates that can be embedded to track completions.

Get in touch

FOR MORE INFORMATION on how to purchase this training module including pricing and tailoring for your organisation, please contact:

📞 027 228 4344

📧 training.national@ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz



ccs
disability action
Including all people

The Accessible Streets Audit

Increased inclusion by improving access to footpaths



CCS
disability action
Including all people

TE HUNGA HAUĀ MAURI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA KATOĀ

About the Accessible Streets Audit

What Is it?

- A footpath and street audit carried out on a specific area
- The audit is carried out by CCS utilising our specialist transport engineers

What Does It Deliver?

- Identifies and classifies access barriers
- Provides councils with costed engineering solutions which deliver best practice, beyond current guidelines

How Do I Get One?

- CCS Disability Action can conduct the audit on your behalf using our specialist team
- It's a simple, scoped process which we can manage for you

Why is an Audit Important?

Disabled Kiwis have poorer wellbeing than the general population

- Poorer levels of educational achievement
- Poorer health
- Poorer employment & incomes

Reference: Statistics New Zealand. Social and economic outcomes for disabled people: Findings from the 2013 Disability Survey.

Improved access improves inclusion & wellbeing

What would improved access mean to disabled people in our community?

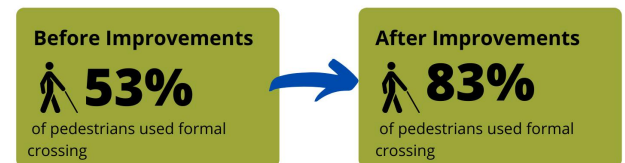


- "I would go to the shops more if it was easier to access the footpath"
- "Less chance of tripping!"
- "I could visit the main street, something I can't do at the moment"

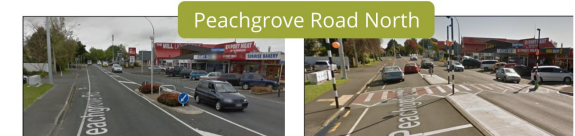
Case Study

Five Cross Roads, Hamilton

Proportion of pedestrians using the formal crossing, before and after improvements were made.



72% → 92%



53% → 83%

Reference: Burdett, B. Locke, S. Scrimgeour F. The Economics of Enhancing Disability: Estimating the Benefits and Costs of Participation

Conclusions:

1. Community access via footpaths can be improved by collaboration between the disability and engineering sectors
2. The Accessible Streets Audit provides Local Authorities with a best practice, effective plan to increase walkability.

Contact:

Mary O'Brien / Mary.O'Brien@ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz / 027 406 8391

From: Kahutoi Te Kanawa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 1 May 2023 2:39 PM
To: haveyoursay
Subject: Fwd: Submission
Attachments: Submission.pdf; Submission WDC.docx

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Date: Mon, May 1, 2023 at 2:27 PM
Subject: Submission
To: Kahu Te Kanawa [REDACTED]

Please find attached our submission.

Naku noa,

Nā

Dr Kahutoi Te Kanawa.

SUB NO: _____

FORMAL SUBMISSION FORM

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE 5PM ON MONDAY 1 MAY 2023

You can share your views on our **DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2023/24** by:

- Completing this submission form and returning it to us by:
 - Visiting our office at 15 Queen Street, Te Kūiti
 - Emailing it to: haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz (scan and pdf or take a photo)
 - Posting to: FREEPOST 112498, Waitomo District Council, PO Box 404, Te Kūiti 3941
- Visiting our website: www.waitomo.govt.nz/our-services/onlineservices/haveyoursay/ and fill in an online submission form

FULL NAME: Dr Kahutai Te Karawa **PHONE:** [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] Te Kūiti

EMAIL: [REDACTED]

I wish to speak to Council about my submission **Y** / **(N)**

Hearings are scheduled for 18 May 2023. If you indicate 'YES', we will contact you to arrange a time. Attendance can be in person or via Zoom.

Improved Stormwater Maintenance - Which option do you prefer? : **1 / 2 / 3**

Reasons and feedback: _____

Do you agree with the increased spend on Wastewater and Roading Repairs? **Y / N**

Reasons and feedback: _____

Council is proposing to lower the Uniform Annual General Charge to bring more properties closer to the average rate increase of 5.91% across the District. Do you agree with this? **(Y) / N**

Reasons for / or against: _____

Other feedback: Our submission is attached in a

word doc.

Date: 11 April 2023

Submission on the Annual Plan

To the Waitomo District Council

This submission is from *Waitomo Ratepayers and Residents Collective*, [REDACTED], Te Kūiti.

I can be contacted at [REDACTED]

Name: Dr Kahutoi Te Kanawa

Designation: Former Co-Chair of the Waitomo Ratepayers and Residents Collective

Submission

We oppose the intent of aspects of this annual plan because we are concerned *that the Waitomo District Council who, have made a joint commitment to fund a marketing role for the Timber Trail cycleway. is continuing to grant money to support marketing and promotions of private businesses, the largest of which is **Timber Trail Adventures Ltd** (Registered NZ Limited Company 15-Jul-2013).*

Waitomo Ratepayers and Residents Collective serve the interests of ratepayers and residents within the Waitomo District by delivering information that encourages the natural democratic process with Waitomo District Council, whilst fostering good relationships which promotes open communication, accountability and transparency within our community.

We oppose the continuation of this funding based on the following.

Part 1 – Points of Consideration

Subpart 1 -

Minute extract of 24 November 2015 decision by Council to grant \$30,000 per year to establish a marketing entity for the Timber Trail was approved in a public excluded meeting with the then Mayor and Deputy Mayor (who are a Director and Shareholder in Timber Trail Adventures Limited) - abstaining from voting due to "*having a potential conflict*" but remaining in the room.

This was not a "potential conflict" - it was an actual conflict; the initial decision therefore can be perceived as biased and not in the best interests of Ratepayers and Residents as there was no justification for this to be held in a public excluded meeting.

On 28 June 2016 a paper presented to Councillors, again in a "public excluded" meeting, advised in paragraph 3.6 that this 2015 grant was "seed funding." Thus, it was never anticipated as continuing past the first three years.

To date the Timber Trail has received grants totalling \$150,000 towards marketing it, all of which has benefited private enterprise, including large businesses like Timber Trail Adventures Ltd.

Subpart 2 –

Based on Central Government details of a grant made to the Timber Trail Lodge in 2016 of \$1,203,288 towards construction costs. The then Mayor Athole (Brian) Hanna and then Deputy Mayor Guy Whittaker were controlling shareholders of this lodge venture, so not only were they benefiting from financial support from Local Council towards the Timber Trail's promotion at the time, but also from Central Government.

Following on from the continued funding, in 2019 the Auditor General wrote to the then Mayor Athole (Brian) Hanna saying it was of the view that he and the then Deputy Mayor Guy Whittaker had "*technically breached the legislation*" by participating in some council discussions where they had an interest.

Subpart 3 –

Rate payers and residents have not been given the opportunity to review the benefits of the investment in the Timber Trail to the district since the commencement of the funding from Waitomo District Council. No independent review has been carried out that we know of.

Subpart 4 -

Whilst we acknowledge the opportunity to attract continued tourism to the area of Maniaiti/Bennydale to enhance the social and economic development of the community, we believe this is covered by the amount of spend the Council allocates to Hamilton/Waikato Tourism. If we are to fund 'businesses' operational/marketing/advertising costs where would that end as our District is predominantly Agricultural and Tourism Businesses.

Timber Trail Adventures Limited and other operators have had sufficient time and funding allocation to sustain themselves in the marketing and promotion of their venture without the need to continue to rely on ratepayers and residents.

Part 2

Recommendations:

Inflation has now impacted on more families in our district, due to the rise in food prices, mortgage increases and rental properties. They have been reliant on the food banks, and even the humble Maniapoto Maara Kai that was set up in 2020 voluntarily and has been providing free food to the community with fresh vegetables, fruit and eggs.


Maara Kai now hold community classes to teach people how to grow their own kai, by supplying seeds and free plants when they can to work toward meeting a growing need. Unfortunately, more of our community continue to be at a critical point where they have become reliant on receiving the kai to feed their families. This in turn puts pressure on the limited resources available to Maniapoto Maara Kai.

We would like to see this funding re-directed to community initiatives that improves the health and well-being of our people and their children. Such as housing, social services and more towards places like the Maara Kai. We acknowledge the grants and arrangements in place

through Waitomo District Council, however we strongly endorse more direct support for the community initiatives that support our local communities.

Dr. Kahutoi Te Kanawa (former Chair), Lisa Hill (Project co-ordinator) and members of Waitomo Ratepayers and Residence collective.

We oppose further funding of the Timber Trail for marketing and promotional purposes from the Waitomo District Council. **Permission for submission was sought by those unable to formally sign and consented to an electronic confirmation.**

Date	Name	Signature
11/04/2023	Dr. Kahutoi Te Kanawa	
	Lisa Hill	
29/04/2023	Raymond Cribb	
	Annabelle Waugh	
	Michelle Wi	
	George Wi	
	Tuti Wi	
	Yvonne Wi	
	Levi Bowden	
	Tracey Tangihaere	
	Kowhai Bell	
	Rob and Margaret Buckley	
	Paul and Carol Buist	
	Denise Marshall	

28/04/23	Jillian Harding	
28/04/23	SANDHU	

From: Kahutoi Te Kanawa [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, 1 May 2023 2:47 PM
To: haveyoursay
Subject: Fwd: UPDATED
Attachments: Submission WDC.docx

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Block sender](#)

Date: Mon, May 1, 2023 at 2:41 PM

Subject: UPDATED

To: Kahu Te Kanawa [REDACTED]

Sorry one more person has literally just sent her consent to have her name added to the submission.

Naku noa,

nā

Dr. Kahutoi Te Kanawa.

Date: 11 April 2023

Submission on the Annual Plan

To the Waitomo District Council

This submission is from *Waitomo Ratepayers and Residents Collective*, [REDACTED], Te Kūiti.

I can be contacted at [REDACTED]

Name: Dr Kahutoi Te Kanawa

Designation: Former Co-Chair of the Waitomo Ratepayers and Residents Collective

Submission

We oppose the intent of aspects of this annual plan because we are concerned *that the Waitomo District Council who, have made a joint commitment to fund a marketing role for the Timber Trail cycleway. is continuing to grant money to support marketing and promotions of private businesses, the largest of which is **Timber Trail Adventures Ltd** (Registered NZ Limited Company 15-Jul-2013).*

Waitomo Ratepayers and Residents Collective serve the interests of ratepayers and residents within the Waitomo District by delivering information that encourages the natural democratic process with Waitomo District Council, whilst fostering good relationships which promotes open communication, accountability and transparency within our community.

We oppose the continuation of this funding based on the following.

Part 1 – Points of Consideration

Subpart 1 -

Minute extract of 24 November 2015 decision by Council to grant \$30,000 per year to establish a marketing entity for the Timber Trail was approved in a public excluded meeting with the then Mayor and Deputy Mayor (who are a Director and Shareholder in Timber Trail Adventures Limited) - abstaining from voting due to "*having a potential conflict*" but remaining in the room.

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Part 2

Recommendations:

Inflation has now impacted on more families in our district, due to the rise in food prices, mortgage increases and rental properties. They have been reliant on the food banks, and even the humble Maniapoto Maara Kai that was set up in 2020 voluntarily and has been providing free food to the community with fresh vegetables, fruit and eggs.



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	Rob and Margaret Buckley	
	Paul and Carol Buist	
	Denise Marshall	
	Mary Davis	

28/04/23	Jillian Harding	
28/04/23	SANDHU	

From: Frances Casey <fcasey@fedfarm.org.nz>
Sent: Monday, 1 May 2023 3:12 PM
To: haveyoursay
Cc: Kelly Langton; Jacqui Hahn
Subject: FFNZ Submission on Waitomo District Council proposed Annual Plan 2023-2024
Attachments: 20230501 FFNZ Submission on Waitomo District Council proposed Annual Plan 2023-2024.pdf

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Block sender](#)

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached FFNZ submission on Waitomo District Council's proposed Annual Plan 2023-2024, on behalf of Federated Farmers New Zealand.

Please contact me should you require any further information regarding this submission.

Regards,



FRANCES CASEY

Graduate Policy Advisor, Regional/Law Clerk
Federated Farmers of New Zealand

M: 027 537 3385

E: fcasey@fedfarm.org.nz

W: www.fedfarm.org.nz

A: 444 Anglesea Street, Hamilton



SUBMISSION

TELEPHONE 0800 327 646 | WEBSITE WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ

To: Waitomo District Council
Via email: haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz

Date: 1 May 2023

Submission on: **Annual Plan 2023/2024**

Submission by: Federated Farmers of New Zealand

Contact: Jacqui Hahn
PRESIDENT WAIKATO FEDERATED FARMERS
M [REDACTED]
E jhahn@waikatofields.org.nz

Address for service: Frances Casey
GRADUATE POLICY ADVISOR
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
M 027 537 3385
E fcasey@fedfarm.org.nz

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Waikato Province of Federated Farmers (**Federated Farmers**) welcomes this opportunity to submit on Waitomo District Council (**WDC or Council**) Annual Plan 2023/2024 (**AP**)
- 1.2. Federated Farmers welcomes any opportunity to speak to our submission.
- 1.3. We acknowledge any submissions from individual members of the farming community.
- 1.4. Federated Farmers submits on Annual Plans (**APs**) and Long-term Plans (**LTPs**) throughout New Zealand and make constructive proposals whenever the opportunity is provided.
- 1.5. Federated Farmers is focused on the transparency of rate setting, rates equity and both the overall and relative cost of local government on rural ratepayers.
- 1.6. We also submit on central government policies that affect local government revenue and spending, with the aim of ensuring that local government has the appropriate resources to carry out their functions.
- 1.7. We base our arguments on the considerable cost of rates to farm businesses, in terms of the value and relative accessibility of farmers to ratepayer funded services, the rates levels on farms compared to other residents and businesses, and the failure of property value to reflect the incomes of farmers and their relative ability to pay.
- 1.8. Federated Farmers is conscious that there may be significant 'consultation fatigue' out in the community, with both local government and significant central government proposals occurring in the last 12-18 months.
- 1.9. Our members do not want their busy silence to be misconstrued as disinterest in rates or the proposed budget changes. Given the challenging regulatory and economic environment we are currently in, we acknowledge this may result in a low response rate to the consultation process.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS

- 2.1. Federated Farmers congratulates Council on their proposed AP.
- 2.2. We acknowledge that 2023 has been an unprecedented year to date, with recent weather events. We also acknowledge that it is another uncertain year for Council and ratepayers; Inflation is rising, the long-term impacts of recent weather events and the COVID-19 pandemic are unknown. Additionally, the future regulatory environment Councils will operate in has some unknowns.

- 2.3. Further, a culmination of factors is putting families under significant pressure at the moment. Our members, as farmers, also face additional substantial challenges, including recovery efforts, labour shortages, increasing compliance costs, supply chain problems and increases in farm input costs.
- 2.4. We encourage Council to focus on 'must do' projects, keep spending under firm control, and strive for value for money to reduce pressure on our members who are significant ratepayers.

3. RATES

- 3.1. We congratulate Council for achieving an average general rate increase below the rate of inflation. Federated Farmers commend Council for a rural property rate increase that is less than the residential and commercial rate increase.
- 3.2. Federated Farmers encourages Council to continue to recognise the different benefit that each sector derives from Council services funded by rates.
- 3.3. Federated Farmers overall supports increasing rates in the circumstances; however, we contend that rate increases should always be within the rate of inflation respecting the financial headwinds that ratepayers are facing.

Recommendation:

- Council maintains average general rate below inflation as proposed.
- Council maintain or reduce proposed rural property rate.

4. UNIFORM ANNUAL GENERAL CHARGE (UAGC)

- 4.1. Federated Farmers strongly supports the UAGC as it ensures a more equitable spread of the cost of Council services funded by rates. Council have proposed, in their AP, to reduce UAGC by \$83.00 to "maintain the percentage of rates it receives from residential properties...and pastoral properties."
- 4.2. Federated Farmers acknowledges the challenge Council faces to make rate increases more affordable. Federated Farmers acknowledge that residential properties are seeing a rate increase above the rate of inflation, and we understand Council's temptation to reduce the UAGC to make rates more affordable for residential rate payers.

- 4.3. However, Federated Farmers opposes reductions to the UAGC as an affordability mechanism for residential rate payers. Reducing the UAGC can increase rural rates by hundreds of dollars thereby passing the burden from residential rate payers to rural rate payers.
- 4.4. Section 21 of the Local Government (rating) Act 2002 (the Act) permits Council to use UAGC to collect up to 30% of total rating revenue. In 2020/2021 we believe, the UAGC contributed approximately 22.6% of total rating revenue according to the s21 calculation. The proposed reduction to the UAGC will see this percentage drop to approximately 14%. This is a significant decrease. Federated Farmers opposes decrease to the UAGC and encourages Council to instead maintain the UAGC at 22% of total rating revenue. Council should consider alternatives to accommodate residential rate increases.
- 4.5. While we appreciate the fact that Council has directly raised the issue of reducing the UAGC in the consultation material, Council should make it clear that this reduction in the UAGC is contrary to the undertaking on page 97 of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan to maintain the UAGC at a section 21 average of 23.2% of the total rate take.
- 4.6. Federated Farmers is concerned that Council will be tempted to decrease the UAGC in future years, as there is not a great deal of UAGC left to work with.

Recommendations:

- Council maintain the UAGC at its existing percentage of total rating revenue. Council needs to find more sustainable ways of improving rates affordability for residential rate payers.
- Council considers other options to make residential rates affordable instead of cutting the UAGC.
- We recommend that Council publish the UAGC percentage of total rating revenue in future consultation material.

5. ROADING

- 5.1. The condition of local roads in a district is a perennial concern for Federated Farmers. Local roads are essential socially and economically to our members. Local roads are one of the main benefits that our members derive from District Councils.

- 5.2. As the Council has identified, recent weather events have had a significant impact on local roads in the Waitomo District. Many roads are dangerous and vulnerable to future weather events.
- 5.3. In addition to New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) funding, Council is proposing to increase spending on road repairs by borrowing money. Federated Farmers are concerned with this proposal. The short-term impacts of this (debt and increased interest costs) will likely result in long-term rate increase which will add to the household bill.
- 5.4. Communities should not have to pay for Central Government's failures to increase revenue for New Zealand Transport Agency (for example, exempting electric vehicles from road user charges). We encourage Council to put pressure on NZTA to advocate for increased financial assistance to meet the significant road maintenance demands arising from the adverse weather events of the last two years. Federated Farmers will support Council in this regard.
- 5.5. Federated Farmers is concerned that projects are being commenced utilising central governments "Better off" funding, while Council finds its only option is to borrow funds to maintain and restore the roading network. Local roads are key to community wellbeing and are an existing project that in our view could be a candidate for the expenditure of "Better off" funding within central governments guidelines. Additionally, Federated Farmers encourages Council to consider other options to free up funds for road repair and maintenance costs.
- 5.6. We understand the storm was a recent event, however we find Council's proposal very light on detail. There is no specific information as to the additional funds Council is proposing to borrow, the contribution from NZTA, and the impact all this has on Council's total public debt.

Recommendations:

- Council avoid borrowing by pursuing NZTA for a greater contribution for recovery of the roading network.
- That the possibility of utilising any remaining "Better off" funding for the purpose of community wellbeing via a properly restored roading network be investigated.
- Council considers other options to free up funds for road repair and maintenance costs.
- Council provide more detail as to its borrowing intentions

6. FORESTRY RATING DIFFERENTIAL

- 6.1. On The 2021 Long Term Plan, we submitted in favour of a differentiated system of rating to fund the local roading network with a particular emphasis on a rating differential for forestry blocks.
- 6.2. The impact of forestry on local road networks is well known and some councils such as Wairoa and Gisborne have introduced differentials in order to increase the relative share of road funding derived from forestry in their districts. We have strongly supported these initiatives.
- 6.3. In light of local weather events, it has become clear that councils need to place a stronger focus on how it manages the local contribution made by rates to the road network. In our view, a simple capital value rate to fund the roading network is entirely inadequate going forward.
- 6.4. Our understanding in 2021 was that Council was interested in considering this approach and developing a proposal. We urge Council to follow through on this for the Long-Term Plan in the coming year.

Recommendation:

- That Council review its rating policy for roads with a view to introducing a more sustainable model for the Waitomo District as part of to 2024 Long Term Plan.

7. GENERAL

- 7.1. We wish to take this opportunity to support the submission of the Waitomo Ratepayers and Residents Collective, endorsing their concerns regarding the Timber Trail Cycle way and opposing further funding of that activity.

**Federated Farmers thanks Waitomo District Council for considering our
submission.**

About Federated Farmers

Federated Farmers of New Zealand is a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents the majority of farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers.

The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities.

