

**Mayor and Councillors**  
COUNCIL

13 APRIL 2017

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN 2017/18 - SUBMISSION**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 This report seeks Council's approval of a submission to the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) Annual Plan 2017/18.

**DELEGATION**

- 2 Council has the authority to consider this matter.

**BACKGROUND**

- 3 GWRC's Annual Plan for 2017/18 continues the work that was outlined in the 10-Year Plan of 2015. Although some re-prioritisation has occurred as a result of the November 2016 Kaikoura earthquake, GWRC maintains the same four priorities for 2017/18:
  - 3.1 Investing in resilient regional infrastructure;
  - 3.2 Making sure we can cope in emergencies;
  - 3.3 Growing public transport patronage; and
  - 3.4 Keeping our environment clean.
- 4 Submissions to GWRC's Annual Plan 2017/18 closed on 12 April 2017. An interim submission has been provided to GWRC, with the understanding that a final submission will be provided once Council has had an opportunity to discuss the submission.
- 5 A summary of the interim submission is provided below, and the full draft submission is attached as Appendix 1.

**ISSUES**

- 6 The overall GWRC rates increase for the Kāpiti Coast District is 6.01%. The majority of this increase is made up of an increase in the general rate (3.45%), the transport rate (2.65%), and the river management rate (1.33%).
- 7 A considerable portion of GWRC's work programme focuses on other parts of the region. Kapiti Coast District Council is not serviced by any of these activities and, consequently, charges for these activities are not included in any of the Kāpiti Coast District's GWRC rates. For example, in the Annual Plan 2017/18, GWRC is proposing:
  - 7.1 a reprioritisation of its bulk water work programme (through Wellington Water); and

- 7.2 that it brings forward a planned expenditure to purchase properties as part of the RiverLink Project, which seeks to deliver better flood protection in the Hutt Valley.
- 8 The primary request in the Kapiti Coast District Council submission is for a resolution to the concerns that have been raised in relation to flooding and stormwater management. The submission then goes on to advocate for increased public transportation service levels in the northern part of the District, and asks for clarity on funding allocations to specific services, the role of iwi in the development of GWRC strategies and plans, and the respective roles of regional and local staff in regards to emergency management.

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

### Policy considerations

- 9 There are no policy considerations at this time.

### Legal considerations

- 10 There are no legal considerations at this time.

### Financial considerations

- 11 There are no financial considerations at this time.

### Tāngata whenua considerations

- 12 There are no additional tāngata whenua considerations at this time.

## **SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT**

### Degree of significance

- 13 This matter has a low degree of significance under Council policy.

### Consultation already undertaken

- 14 No consultation has occurred on this submission.

### Engagement planning

- 15 An engagement plan is not needed to implement this decision.

### Publicity

- 16 There are no publicity considerations at this point.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

17 That Council approves the submission to the Greater Wellington Regional Council Annual Plan 2017/18.

<b>Report prepared by</b>	<b>Approved for submission</b>	<b>Approved for submission</b>
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## ATTACHMENT

Appendix 1 Draft Submission

**Appendix 1: Draft Submission**

12 April 2017

Chris Laidlaw  
Chairperson  
Greater Wellington Regional Council  
PO Box 11646  
Manners St  
**WELLINGTON 6142**

Dear Chairperson Laidlaw

**Kapiti Coast District Council Submission on the GWRC Annual Plan 2017/18**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposed changes for the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) Annual Plan 2017/18. Please note that this is a preliminary submission because it has not yet been confirmed by our Council. Council is scheduled to review this submission on 13 April, and we will send our confirmed submission to you shortly thereafter.

Kapiti Coast District Council acknowledges the impact of the Kaikoura earthquake of November 2016 on GWRC and recognises that, because of the earthquake, GWRC has needed to re-evaluate some programmes and re-prioritise in some cases.

Kapiti Coast District Council notes the overall GWRC rates movement for the Kāpiti Coast District of 6.01%, and would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few of the issues that are most important to our district.

**1. Stormwater Management**

- 1.1. Kapiti Coast District Council has a significant portion of its stormwater network that is provided by open channels (41km). These channels provide a vital flood management role for both public and private property; for them to function they need to be effectively maintained. The inability to clear these channels in a timely manner on a regular basis contributes significantly to the flooding risks within our District.
- 1.2. While Kapiti Coast District Council appreciates GWRC's concerns related to the protection of the natural environment, this seems to be secondary to the flood protection role these channels play as an integral part of the District's stormwater network. The need to now consent this maintenance activity and take into consideration both the current and proposed Regional Plans has

incurred significant cost and delay for Council in carrying out this critical activity.

- 1.3. The Council is very keen to work with GWRC to develop a practical solution to this problem. Consideration needs to be given to taking a more practical approach to the suitability of the proposed rules in the proposed Regional Plan, and the flood protection role these channels provide should be considered on an equal basis when consideration is given to ecological values. Flood events have the potential to cause significant adverse ecological effects, and enabling flood protection can help avoid or mitigate those effects.
- 1.4. Because land and freshwater management is intrinsically connected to our District's flooding issues, we are still eager to establish a timeframe for when our Whaitua processes will commence. We would also like to discuss whether GWRC has any capacity to increase the priority of its work related to the management of the small rural streams, that are in our District but under the jurisdiction of GWRC, that are subject to flooding.

## **2. Public Transportation**

- 2.1. The Council appreciates the considerable work undertaken by GWRC to improve transportation in the region, but still continues to advocate for improved public transportation, particularly in Ōtaki.
- 2.2. The Council is very pleased to know that the Levin-Waikanae trial bus service is underway, but feedback suggests that this service is geared towards bringing Levin residents to Ōtaki and Waikanae for the day, rather than helping residents of Ōtaki travel to Levin. This is because the bus leaves Levin in the morning travelling south, and then returns to Levin in the afternoon travelling north. If residents from Ōtaki wish to take the service to Levin in order to attend appointments or do any shopping, they must take the afternoon service and stay overnight in Levin. As such, the Council continues to argue that Ōtaki residents require improved services to the north, additional bus runs in general, and more bus shelters. Moreover, because rail services are also important for the residents of Ōtaki, the Council continues to advocate for the possibility of diesel connections from Waikanae to Ōtaki.<sup>1</sup>

## **3. Allocation of GWRC funds**

- 3.1. The majority of the GWRC rates increase for the Kāpiti Coast District is made up of an increase in the general rate (3.45%), the transport rate (2.65%), and the river management rate (1.33%).
- 3.2. A considerable portion of GWRC's work programme focuses on other parts of the region. For example, Council notes that GWRC is proposing the following in the Annual Plan 2017/18:
  - 3.2.1. a reprioritisation of its bulk water work programme (though Wellington Water); and

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, please see (i) Kapiti Coast District Council's April 2017 submission to GWRC's Kapiti Bus Review and (ii) the Ōtaki Community Board's April 2017 submission to GWRC's Kapiti Bus Review.

3.2.2. bringing forward a planned expenditure to purchase properties as part of the RiverLink Project, which seeks to deliver better flood protection in the Hutt Valley.

3.3. Because the Kāpiti Coast District does not receive these services, it is understood that the costs for these services are not included in our rates. However, there are costs for other services that are included in our rates, but information on how the funds collected from our rates is allocated to specific services is not always clear. We would appreciate clarification on this so we can better understand the impact of rates increases for our residents.

#### **4. Natural Hazards**

4.1. On 23 March 2017, Kapiti Coast District Council was pleased to endorse the Wellington Region Natural Hazards Management Strategy. The Council supports the statement made by GWRC in the Consultation Document to the Annual Plan 2017/18 that says, "We [at GWRC] have a leadership role in managing ... the region's natural resources." The Council continues to welcome GWRC assuming strong leadership in this area with a well-resourced programme to provide crucial support and a much-needed holistic overview, particularly in the area of coastal hazards.

#### **5. Emergency Management**

5.1. Council's role in emergency management is very important for our community. Council contends that the respective roles and responsibilities of regional and council officers in relation to emergency management, and more specifically welfare management, require greater clarification. Council would also like to receive greater support and resources from GWRC to ensure that Kāpiti is sufficiently prepared should any emergencies arise.

#### **6. Partnership with iwi**

6.1. Kapiti Coast District Council is strongly invested in its iwi partnership, and values the role of iwi in the development of its annual plans. Council understands that GWRC also maintains a partnership model with iwi, but the role of iwi in the development of the GWRC Annual Plan 2017/18 is not evident, nor is the identification of issues that are of particular importance to iwi. As such, Council would appreciate a better understanding of the role of iwi within GWRC, along with the identification of the programmes of work in which iwi are most involved.

#### **7. General**

7.1. The Council would also like to take this opportunity to inform GWRC that it has received several requests by members of our community, including Friends of the Ōtaki River, for toilets on GWRC land near the Ōtaki River mouth. There are currently no toilets close to this well used area, which is a popular place for both locals and visitors all year round. The Council believes toilets are imperative from both a health and ecological perspective.

7.2. The Council also understands that our Parks and Open Spaces team has been working with GWRC to improve the access to Queen Elizabeth Park at Rainbow Court for people with buggies and bikes (but not oversized bikes), and to address concerns about how noxious weeds can be managed within the park (particularly gorse) without the use of harmful pesticides.

Council appreciates this opportunity to highlight a few of the issues that are most important to our district. Kapiti Coast District Council places a very high priority on working closely with GWRC, and appreciates your consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely

Pat Dougherty  
**Chief Executive**