

# Long-term Plan 2024–34



Respondent No. 234

Response ID 5672630

Date of contribution Apr 26 24 09:02:12 am

## Personal information

First name Judy

Last name Williams

I'm providing a submission (choose one): as an individual

Please let us know what ward you live in Raumati

Do you want to speak to Council about your submission at our public hearings on 2 May? No

Are you happy for your name to be published with your feedback: My name can be published with my feedback

## Submission

**Proposal 3: Transfer Council's housing for older people**  
Which option should we choose? (select one option)

Option 2: Older persons' housing is delivered by an existing Community Housing Provider with less influence from Council

**Would you like to expand on your answer for option 2?**

As long as the existing housing provider is established and reputable such as The Selwyn Foundation which has partnered with Auckland Council and has created Haumarū Housing. There is then no need for the Council to be involved at all as these people know what they are doing.

Question: Under Districtwide Planning, what does the expenditure for social housing and strategic land purchase for housing relate to? Is this the reference in the above quote by Mayor Gurnathan ("We are looking to inject additional funding into Council's housing portfolio and the Āti Awa, Toa, Raukawa Confederation's housing strategy, as well as implementing an Age Friendly Action Plan," says Mayor Gurnathan) or something else?

**If you have any views on these other items, please comment here:**

Enhancing democracy -

6.1 Make the website easier to navigate for the important issues that we need to know about and follow eg have a register of decisions accessible on the home page, show the revenue received and costs on a quarterly basis so we can see how the council is tracking fiscally. This is about transparency.

6.2 Where are the benefits realisation plans for every project? Again, these should be in a register on the front page of the website.

## **Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about this LTP?**

Ratepayers are also taxpayers, we are paying rates on tax-paid dollars, please respect that. Rates are just another tax.

If you can't live within the budget, you will have to cut some nice-to-haves. That's what the rest of us have to do. There is no expectation that you do everything on everyone's wish list, no matter how loudly they squeal.

Proposal 1 - How should council fund the increased cost to deliver Three Waters services: " Three Waters Repeal and subsequent \$4.7m debt problem:

This is what the 3 waters money was spent on, despite all the opposition to Three Waters legislation at the time as per your web news item on 23 Sept 22 and updated on 6 Oct 22:

At their Strategy and Operations meeting on Thursday, Kāpiti Coast District Council recommended 14 projects, totalling \$5.26 million, to be submitted to ... (DIA) as part of their Three Waters Better Off Funding proposal.

The projects are new initiatives or requests to accelerate, scale up, or enhance projects already consulted on and planned for in Council's Long-term Plan (LTP) 2021–41.

They include four new public toilets, a low emissions power source for the Ōtaki Pool, funding for economic development initiatives, changing rooms, lighting improvements, and landscaping and cultural storytelling about Kāpiti Island at Maclean Park, operational funding for Mahara Gallery, and a new Climate and Sustainability Fund to help drive and support Kāpiti's overall emissions reductions, increase community resilience, and expand sustainability education.

The two largest proposed budget allocations are a \$900,000 increase for progressing the Waikanae Library and a \$1 million contribution to the Paekākāriki Surf Lifesaving Club to help leverage other funding sources to replace their building affected by coastal erosion. The new clubrooms will also serve as a function room for community use.

Kāpiti Coast District Mayor K Gurunathan says an increase in operational expenditure to support social wellbeing and housing programmes are also a key focus in Council's proposed projects.

"We are looking to inject additional funding into Council's housing portfolio and the Āti Awa, Toa, Raukawa Confederation's housing strategy, as well as implementing an Age Friendly Action Plan," says Mayor Gurunathan.

"The Better Off Fund is part of central government's \$2.5 billion investment to support councils to transition to the new water service entities on 1 July 2024. ...

This was a bribe and the Council went on a spending spree despite the nationwide growing opposition to the Three Waters legislation, with no regard for fiscal risk if the legislation was not passed, which is what in fact happened. Hence the shortfall. If you are not going to pause any of these projects, you are obliged to find it elsewhere in the budget, and not penalise ratepayers.

I note that at p22 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, you stated "Although the proposed Three Waters Reform Programme is likely to result in changes to the ownership and management of water-related assets and infrastructure, councils must continue planning and implementing adaptation initiatives" so you already knew that a lot of the cost was going to continue to be borne by councils.

Proposal 2: Proactively reduce Council's debt - To build a resilient future for Kāpiti we want to proactively reduce Council's debt through annual rate increases.

- KCDC should be living within its means and by being smart with resources. That is how you build resilience, encourage innovation and public buy-in of new projects - not being cavalier with their money.
- By increasing rates at the %age you suggest, you are contributing to inflation which will cause another set of problems.
- It is hard for people to comment on what should be cut, paused, etc with so little context and detail. For example, in the 'new assets and upgrades' what is in the capital works Corporate spend (and I note not IT-related) of \$3,723,000 for 23/24, \$2,697,000 for 24/25, \$2,329,000 for 25/26 and on it goes in similar

terms until 33/34, as opposed to asset renewal, plus expenditure under Community Facilities for corporate accommodation for renewal and new assets and upgrades? Does this amount of money need to be spent every year and, if so, on what?

- Under the Parks and Open Spaces capital works, there is expenditure for upgrades and new assets for McLean Park and the Marine Gardens - how is this possible given your backing of CAP for coastal retreat? Why wouldn't you just maintain these areas in the meantime until the final advice is delivered and considered by the community?

- I understand the IAF funded project is housing and associated infrastructure in Otaki to build 1000 units over the next 10 years, and that central govt contribution is \$30m and Council's is \$20m. That makes \$50m. \$50m will not build 1000 units. Where is the rest of money to come from?

Introducing a climate action rate

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Proposal: We want to consolidate our climate action activities and track the associated funding through a targeted rate. This new rate won't increase the amount we currently collect from rates.

No, we don't trust you with new rates and you will be tempted to create projects after the first year, not all of which will be necessary. With all the IT and software, existing and proposed, you can track what is being spent on climate action activities now, and especially as climate change already features in the cross-Council risk assessment register. Climate change is surely BAU now especially with the increased focus on civil defence and insurance costs.

Also:

- in the Climate Emergency Action (2022?) plan it was resolved that "Climate crisis and carbon neutrality be considered as part of all future decision-making" so it was already consolidated at that point.

- In the the Jacobs report dated 30 May 2022 Wharemauku Catchment Integrated Modelling talks about flood storage areas, especially in the summary at 5.3 "providing a new flood storage area on the land opposite the Kapiti Airport runway could reduce floodplain water depths in the 1% AEP event by up to around 200mm ...". I don't recall seeing this in the projected spend but I would have thought this would be the type of mitigation that could proceed relatively quickly and cheaply (assuming this is Council land) over quite a large area.

- Why is there no tree policy - for shading and lowering temperatures in urban areas, providing shade over streams to prevent weed growth, to hold the banks up and prevent erosion? There are plenty of volunteer groups that are happy to help with this, and the cost is only that of the plants.

## 6. Other items

Enhancing democracy -

6.1 Make the website easier to navigate for the important issues that we need to know about and follow eg have a register of decisions accessible on the home page, show the revenue received and costs on a quarterly basis so we can see how the council is tracking fiscally. This is about transparency.

6.2 Where are the benefits realisation plans for every project? Again, these should be in a register on the front page of the website.

## 7.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about this LTP?

7.1 Why is there no push for efficiency in running projects - eg the train/bus interchange has taken far too long, traffic cones are on the road for ever.

7.2 Stop referring to ratepayers as customers and addressing people who want to comment democratically as Chook in your mailouts. We are shareholders. BTW, customers have a right of redress under the Fair Trading Act, something ratepayers don't have.

7.3 How much are ratepayers contributing to the post settlement environment in the Kapiti Partnership Agreement? This should be fully funded by Crown-Maori ie central govt - tax/ratepayers are being made to pay twice.

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