

**Kāpiti Coast District Council submission to Greater Wellington Regional
Council's draft Annual Plan 2014/15**

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1. Introduction

Kāpiti Coast District Council welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GWRC) draft Annual Plan 2014/15. The Council wishes to speak to this submission.

2. Background

The Kāpiti Coast District has been and will continue to be one of the fastest growing areas in the region. The current population of the Kāpiti Coast District 2013 is 49,287, with the potential for growth as a result of the Expressway development, the development of Kāpiti Airport, the extension of rail commuter services to Waikanae and economic development in Ōtaki.

3. Governance

The Kāpiti Coast District Council looks forward to continuing to improve relationships with Greater Wellington on a wide range of activities and shared services opportunities.

4. Emergency Management

- 4.1 The Council has ongoing concerns about local emergency management costs being referred back to Council.
- 4.2 The supply of emergency rainwater tanks throughout the region has been well received in the Kāpiti district.
- 4.3 Council welcomes the Community Response Plans which are proceeding well, but we need to see continued leadership. The Community Response Plans will only continue to be successful if GWRC take into account the individual communities they serve and the differences between them.

5. Transport

5.1. Improvement in rail services

Council acknowledges the improvement in rail services reliability. This has improved the travelling experience for Kāpiti commuters and other rail users.

5.2. Waikanae and Paraparaumu Park and Ride

GWRC will be undertaking a comprehensive review of Metlink services in Kāpiti in 2015. The Council requests that this review be closely aligned with our current Waikanae and Paraparaumu Town Centre planning process and the revocation of the existing State Highway. The Council suggests that in the

meantime fliers be distributed to better inform the public about parking options at train stations.

5.3. **Ōtaki public transport**

5.3.1 The Council reiterates the point made in many of its previous submissions that the Capital Connection provides the only passenger rail service link for Ōtaki residents. This needs to be recognised by GWRC as an inter-regional service that delivers commuters into Wellington every day.

5.3.2 GWRC's Community Outcomes assert that public transport activities contribute towards achieving '*a connected community with a transit system that moves people efficiently and relieves congestion from our roads at peak times and provides an essential service for people for whom, whether by choice or circumstance, private vehicle travel is not an option*' (p.34) The Council requests that Greater Wellington includes Ōtaki in its ongoing planning provision of commuter rail services as this continues to be a priority for the Kāpiti Coast District.

5.3.3 GWRC has indicated recently that electrification of the rail service to Ōtaki will not be implemented at any foreseeable time in the future. The Council would like an indication what alternatives to electrification would be viable and actionable over the next five years, as commuter demand is expected to increase.

5.3.4 The Clean Tech Centre in Ōtaki has a key focus on sustainability. This project is co funded with Grow Wellington and the Council wants to see a bus service that serves this growing and important Ōtaki facility. And the commercial industrial area of the town where employment growth is expected.

5.3.5 *Provision of bus-shelters*

The Council asks GWRC to provide information on the number and location of bus-stops and bus-shelters in Ōtaki, to determine whether these are appropriate to the needs of the community.

5.3.6 *Bus Stop Facilities in the Coastlands Shopping area*

The size of the bus shelter opposite Westpac in Coastlands Shopping area needs to be increased as there is limited space for customers waiting for public transport. The footprint for the area would suggest that the shelter could be doubled with little impact as the space required is not currently required for parking. ART Confederation (Āti Awa, Ngāti Raukawa and Ngāti Toa) and the Kāpiti Coast District Council recommend that Greater Wellington Regional Council facilitates discussions with the Council and Coastlands to provide adequate shelter for retail customers.

6. Environment

6.1. **Relationships with Māori**

6.2. *Resilience*

Rongoā is traditional Māori medicine. It includes herbal medicine made from plants, physical techniques like massage, and spiritual healing and focusing on plants used to make medicines including; Harakeke (flax), kawakawa, rātā, mānuka and kōwhai. For the purpose of this submission, we would like to focus on medicines made from plants, including: harakeke (flax); kawakawa; rātā; mānuka; kōwhai. For Māori, these treatments are traditional and contribute to the transfer of significant and precious knowledge in managing our well being. Rongoā Māori is undergoing a resurgence for local use. It is widely recognised that our ability to treat and feed whānau from within our own local spaces contributes to the resilience of a community. In Kāpiti, tāngata whenua have requested the implementation of rongoā Māori spaces within Council reserves with two spaces created annually for whānau to harvest (non-commercially) for private use.

It is recommended that Greater Wellington:

- adopt a similar approach inside reserves across the District to enhance the opportunity for Māori to access rongoā inside these spaces.
- develop signage in both english and te reo Māori to accompany the space to explain the plant and their useage and to provide linkages to experts in rongoā preparation
- develop policies for the use of Rongoā Māori implementation into GWRC reserves.

7.3 *Waahi Tapu*

Tāngata whenua have consistently identified that waahi tapu (sites of significance) require protection from development and/ or degradation. A significant number of Waahi Tapu sit inside reserves and areas managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council.

It is recommended that Greater Wellington:

- actively engage with tāngata whenua by way of whānau, hapū and iwi to conduct research and compile information that will contribute to the protection of waahi tapu within the region;
- develop policy to ensure that waahi tapu research and protection is incorporated as part of the management of reserves under regional council management;
- develop signage that promotes the significance of these sites to be displayed in both te reo Māori and English.

7.3 *Iwi Aspirations and values - environmental planning*

7.3.1 Tāngata whenua were heavily involved in reviewing the Council's District Plan. Their participation resulted in the identification of 193 tikanga (policies) that reflect the values of tāngata whenua in the sustainable management of the District. The tikanga are presented in the document Te Haerenga Whakamua. The document articulates iwi priorities inside the district now, and for the future. This report analyses the social, environmental, economic, and cultural concerns ART have within the Kāpiti district.

7.3.2 It is recommend that Greater Wellington Regional Council:

- reviews the document Te Haerenga Whakamua and utilises the framework within their long term management and planning of the activities and works in GWRC areas within the boundaries of the ART Confederation.

8 **Jim Cooke Park Stopbank**

The Council expects to be adequately compensated for the loss of recreational and amenity space. The Council requests that there must be improved engagement and at a higher level before going out to public consultation.

9 Economic Development and the Regional Plan

The Council acknowledges that the Regional Plan is taking longer than anticipated. The Council wants timing, including community consultation, to be aligned to its proposed District Plan process to facilitate workload management. Economic Development and the Regional Plan are important issues for this Council.

10 Conclusion

A number of considerations are outlined in Council's submission; we look forward to a response from GWRC on these issues. The Kāpiti Coast District Council values its working relationship with GWRC and hopes that the comments made in this submission will assist with delivering the outcomes for both the region and our District.

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