



COMMUNITY WAIKATO

"Supporting strong communities"

Hei tautoko kia tuu pakari ai ngaa haapori

30 April 2015

Matamata-Piako District Council
PO Box 266
Te Aroha 3342

Email: via online: www.mpdc.govt.nz

Submission Due: 01 May 2015, 5pm

Submission on the Matamata-Piako District Council – Long Term Plan 2015-2025

1. Community Waikato appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on the consultation document concerning the Matamata-Piako District Council Long Term Plan 2015-2025.

Background about Community Waikato

2. The core business of Community Waikato is supporting strong communities – we are a charitable trust that provides capacity building and strengths-enhancing services for community organisations¹ throughout the Waikato region, including the Matamata-Piako district.
3. Our work entails strengthening community organisations so that they can be effective and sustainable to maintain social wellbeing within their own communities. Such wellbeing underpins and enhances the development and achievement of economic, cultural, environmental and social wellbeing of communities and its wider district.
4. We advise community organisations about their capacity, provide training and support, and advise about: governance, management, planning (operational, strategic, financial and funding), financial systems, funding applications, accountability, legal structures, risk management, compliance and some employment matters. Our services add to the knowledge and skills of community personnel to enhance local service provision and, in turn, increase the district's social capital.¹
5. We work one-to-one with community organisations and facilitate and/or support community networks to provide opportunities for sharing information, advice, ideas and experience so that

¹ "Community organisations" includes: charitable trusts, incorporated societies, not-for-profit organisations, marae and community centres, as well as, tangata whenua, voluntary and community-based social service, health, disability, education, community development and environmental organisations of the greater Waikato region.

strong relationships amongst peers are encouraged. We also support collaborative projects that may arise from the networks, so that they work together towards a viable solution. Such projects are intended to benefit communities in the districts, and at times, for the whole Waikato region.

6. Community Waikato provides vital information across the region's social services sector, which includes over 1500 organisations. As a Tindall Foundation regional funding manager, we contribute to the economic wellbeing of community organisations, and in turn, their district. We also gain insight into the work and needs of organisations, which informs our overall knowledge and sector overview, and as well our awareness to advocate for the sector.

Community Waikato in the Matamata-Piako District

7. Community Waikato actively supports community organisations in townships of Matamata-Piako district, namely Morrinsville and Matamata. Key demographics impacted by the work and advice we provide include families/whanau, health and wellbeing, Maori and social services support.
8. We undertake, and welcome opportunities to work with tangata whenua, community and voluntary social service sector organisations across the Matamata-Piako district.

We submit as follows:

Comment on Long Term Plan (LTP) consultation document

9. We note the Council indicates that it is in a '*strong financial position*' and wants to maintain that. We support a vision '*to prosper*', and note it's further described in the vision with 'an infrastructure and fair, affordable rates' focus.
10. In light of the proposals of where rates revenue would be invested, over the next 10 years, we would like to highlight too, the importance of investing in the work carried out by community/social sector organisations because their contribution is vital and significant, in terms of maintaining the social fabric and wellbeing of the wider population of the district.
11. We encourage the Council to ensure its strategic development activities consider the cultural, environmental and social influences, values and needs of marae, whānau, hapū and iwi throughout its district. We support and encourage the Council to exercise its decision-making in a manner that is informed by mana whenua and marae communities. This is vital when decisions, about the rate charges and rates expenditure impact on 'key identity features' such as wai, awa, maunga, whenua, waahi tapu and buildings (e.g., such buildings as wharenuī/whare tupuna; whare kai; whare iti etc) including access to and infrastructure of these places.

12. We are aware of the importance of ensuring investment occurs fairly throughout the district. Similarly, with regard to proposed rate charges and which projects such funds will be invested in, these need to be equitably considered.
13. We express concern for the rural townships that experience depopulation of its youth and/or working demographic due to low prospects for jobs or training. Therefore, job maintenance and job creation in the social services sector, and in general, is encouraged for the wider betterment of the district.
14. We reiterate the importance of supporting and investing in social well-being opportunities. Mindful the social services sector employs or has volunteers comprised of a sizeable population of residents; we submit that social wellbeing and strengthening community development could be a key growth contributor to the Matamata-Piako district.

We thank you for this opportunity to submit, and welcome any opportunity to speak to our submission.



Andrea Goble
Chief Executive

Email: andrea@communitywaikato.org.nz

Phone: 07 838-1583