



COMMUNITY WAIKATO

"Supporting strong communities"

Hei tautoko kia tuu pakari ai ngaa haapori

30 April 2015

Waitomo District Council
PO Box 404
Te Kuiti

Email: sandrab@waitomo.govt.nz

Submission Due: Friday 01 May 2015, 5.00pm

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

1. Community Waikato appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on the consultation document concerning the Waitomo 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 Waitomo 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.
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 Waitomo District

7. Community Waikato actively supports community organisations in townships of Waitomo district, particularly at Te Kuiti and Piopio. We are nurturing relationships with district based Maori organisations and marae to determine the nature of advice that may be supportive and compatible to strengthening their needs. This specific reference to the Maori population is highlighted having noted it is sizeable, being 41.8% of the district's 8,907.
8. Key demographics impacted by the work and advice we provide include families/whanau, women, health and welfare, the aged, Maori, a community house and social services. As well, we deliver the "Awesome Organisations – Te Kuiti Wednesday Club" which supports community sector managers and coordinators. We undertake, and welcome opportunities to work with tangata whenua, community and voluntary social service sector organisations across the Waitomo district.

We submit as follows:

Comment on Long Term Plan (LTP) consultation document

9. We appreciate the recognition of our organisation as a stakeholder in the 'Community Support' sector for the Waitomo District Council.²
10. We note the Council's vision of "*Creating a better future with vibrant communities and thriving business*" and that "*the essence of this next LTP 2015-2025 is to bring life*" to the implementation of plans "*to grow and develop the District*".³
11. We note the update of two additional Community Outcomes concerning 'Effective Leadership'. Of key relevance, to us, is "*...the development of partnerships for the delivery of programmes and services is encouraged and pursued*". We contend we contribute and play a current role in terms

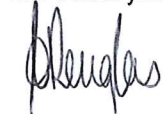
² Waitomo District Council, Community Development Activity Management Plan 2011, Doc 349200, p26.

³ Waitomo District Council, Consultation Document, for the proposed 2015-2025 Waitomo District Council's Long Term Plan (LTP), p5.

of service delivery towards this outcome because of the training workshops and one-on-one engagement we undertake with various community organisations in the Waitomo district.

12. We believe the capacity building support we provide is vital. We therefore respectfully signal a desire for a more formal relationship of a partnership/service level agreement nature, in terms of the services we bring to the area.
13. We are particularly mindful that the issues of depopulation and job creation are significant to your community populations too. 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.
14. We emphasise the importance of investing in the work carried out by social sector organisations throughout the district, because their contribution to maintaining the social fabric and wellbeing of the wider population is vital and significant.
15. 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 marae communities, particularly when decisions 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.
16. 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.
17. We acknowledge the importance of promoting economic development and funding investment, especially when it's essential for achieving a vision of '*a vibrant community and thriving business.*'
18. 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 significant population; we submit that social wellbeing and strengthening community development would be a key growth contributor to the Waitomo district. Therefore, job maintenance and job creation in the social services sector is encouraged for the wider betterment of the district.

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



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