



COMMUNITY WAIKATO

"Supporting strong communities"

Hei tautoko kia tuu pakari ai ngaa haapori

22 April 2015

Hauraki District Council
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Submission Due: 22 April 2015, 4.30pm

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

1. Community Waikato appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on the consultation document concerning the [Hauraki] 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 providing capacity building, strengths-enhancing services for community organisations¹ throughout the Waikato region. We work to strengthen community organisations so that they can be effective and sustainable to maintain social wellbeing within their own communities. In turn, such wellbeing underpins and enhances the development and achievement of economic, cultural, environmental and social wellbeing of the community and its wider district.
3. Our services build and add to the knowledge and skills of personnel within community organisations to enhance local service provision and in turn, increase the region's social capital.
4. Community Waikato works one-to-one with community organisations to support their capacity and we provide training, support, and advice to organisations about: governance, management, planning (operational, strategic, financial and funding), financial systems, funding applications, accountability, legal structures, risk management, compliance and some employment matters. As well, we offer scholarships to support study towards higher qualifications or for training purposes.
5. We facilitate and/or support community networks to provide opportunities for sharing information, advice, ideas, support and experience and it encourages strong relationships amongst peers.
6. We support collaborative projects, many of which arise from the networks that identify a common issue and then they work together towards a viable solution. Such projects range from local to

¹ "Community organisations" includes: charitable trusts, incorporated societies, not-for-profit organisations, marae and community centres.

regional, through to nationally related matters, and they are intended to benefit people, and communities in the district, and/or at times, for the whole Waikato region.

7. Community Waikato provides vital information across the region's social services sector, which includes over 1500 organisations. As a Tindall Foundation regional funding manager, Community Waikato contributes to the economic wellbeing of community organisations and therefore of the district. We also gain helpful insights into the work and needs of organisations, which informs our overall knowledge and sector overview. So we are able to advocate for the sector.

Community Waikato in the Hauraki district

8. Community Waikato maintains an active presence to support community organisations in the Hauraki District, including the townships of Paeroa, Waihi and Ngatea. Key demographics impacted by the work carried out include children, young people, families/whanau, health and welfare, the elderly, community houses, Maori, and social services.

We submit as follows:

Comment on Long Term Plan (LTP)

9. We note the Council has indicated it wants *"to increase the effectiveness of its involvement in economic development, and invest in new initiatives to improve the District economy and increase social and economic opportunities for the communities"*.² We note the aged nature of the district, as well, the level of annual personal income at \$20,000 or less for almost 45% of the population. We are heartened to note the specific reference to increase 'social opportunities' alongside the 'economic opportunities' focus, for communities.
10. We acknowledge the Council's proposed commitment of funding towards Community Development (\$1.7m) and Community Services (\$4.7m) which appears promising. We view a long-term social wellbeing focus for communities as vital to ensure there is no dire or adverse effect on the wellbeing of the district's communities generally. We further emphasise the importance of investing in social sector organisations as they contribute significantly to maintaining the social fabric and wellbeing of the Hauraki population (17,811).³
11. We suggest that Information Technology (IT) infrastructure/support is an important need for townships and communities of Hauraki district. The Council's support for such related projects would be invaluable for both social and economic purposes of households, organisations and businesses, and this could well contribute towards its future focused opportunities. IT contributes

² Hauraki District Council, Consultation Document, for the proposed 2015-25 Hauraki Long Term Plan, p11.

³ Ibid, page 4.

towards connecting peoples and communities, locally, nationally and globally – which is vital and relevant for locals and visitors alike.

12. In a broader context, we note the importance of ensuring investment occurs equitably throughout the district. We further acknowledge the essential role that community houses and community centres provide to locals. We contend such venues are deserving of funding support because they are vital sites for connecting people and services, and for providing information to address local health, social service needs and local support. We encourage the Council to reflect on the overarching benefits of supporting community organisations that provide social and leisure services within the district.
13. We note and support the importance of working collaboratively and the Council's intention to continue working on key projects with neighbours and peers within the Waikato region, regarding for example, the Hauraki Rail Trail, the Waikato Plan and Treaty settlements.
14. We note and support too, one of the key changes relating to drinking water compliance to ensure water treatment plants in the district are compliant with the 2008 New Zealand Drinking Water Standards.

Comment about Hauraki District Council

15. We reiterate the importance of supporting and investing in social well-being across the entire population of Hauraki and via organisations that support and uplift the wellbeing of its communities.
16. Mindful that the social services sector employs a sizeable population of residents, we submit that social wellbeing and community development are of key importance and need to feature, in terms of community related expenditure for the Hauraki district.

Request for funding

Community Waikato request funding of \$10,000 to support the work of our Community Advisor, Aroha Waetford and colleagues so that they may continue to support community organisations in the Hauraki district as outlined above in points 2 – 8. This funding will be utilised towards Salary and vehicle running expenses.

We thank you for this opportunity to submit, and would like the opportunity to speak to our submission.



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