



# COMMUNITY WAIKATO

*"Supporting strong communities"*

Hei tautoko kia tuu pakari ai ngaa haapori

13 April 2015

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Email: Submission Due: 13 April 2015, 5.00pm

## **Submission on the Waipa District Council – Long Term Plan 2015-2025**

1. Community Waikato appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on the consultation document, 'Deciding Our Future – The Choices Ahead for Waipa', concerning the Waipa 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 organisations<sup>1</sup> throughout the Waikato region. We work with 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, environmental, cultural 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 so that local service provision is enhanced and social capital to the region is increased.
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. We also offer scholarships to support study towards higher qualifications or for training purposes.

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

5. We facilitate and/or support community networks as they provide necessary opportunities for information sharing, sharing ideas and experience, forming relationships, seeking advice, and support amongst peers. 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 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.
6. Community Waikato provides vital information across the region's social services sector, which includes over 1500 organisations. As well, being a Tindall Foundation regional funding manager we gain invaluable 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 Waipa district**

7. Community Waikato maintains an active presence to support community organisations in the Waipa District townships, such as Cambridge, Te Awamutu and Kihikihi. Key demographics impacted by the work carried out includes children, young people, families/whanau, health and welfare, disabilities, heritage, community houses, Maori, social services, education, and transport, to name a few.

### **We submit as follows:**

#### *Comment on Long Term Plan (LTP)*

8. We note the Council has highlighted "the big issues and focuses on important decisions"<sup>2</sup> including, options around water, wastewater and storm water to cope with projected growth; changes to their rating system; and trade-offs they are facing to optimise the small percentage of overall expenditure they have available.
9. We contend that a long-term social wellbeing focus for communities is also 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 Waipa population of 46,000.<sup>3</sup>
10. In a broader context, we are aware of the importance of ensuring investment occurs equitably throughout the district. We further acknowledge the essential role that community houses/community centres provide to locals. We contend such venues are vital sites for

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<sup>2</sup> Waipa District Council: Deciding Our Future (Consultation Document of the Long Term Plan 2015-2025).

<sup>3</sup> Statistics New Zealand (October 2014), 'Subnational Population Estimates: at 30 June 2014' (provisional).

connecting people and services and for providing information to address local health and social service needs, and local support in general.

11. We encourage the Council to reflect on the overarching benefits of supporting community organisations that provide social and leisure services within each of its wards, and the district overall.

*Comment about Waipa District Council*

12. We reiterate the importance of supporting and investing in social well-being across the entire population of Waipa, including the vulnerable, and for organisations that support and uplift the wellbeing of its communities.
13. 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 Waipa district.

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



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