

13 May 2015

Richard Briggs
Chief Executive
Hamilton City Council
Private Bag 3010
Hamilton 3240

Tena koe Richard

Submission on Hamilton City Council's 2015-2025 Draft Long Term Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Hamilton City Council's 2015–2025 Draft Long Term Plan (LTP).

Firstly, Waikato Regional Council (WRC) would like to acknowledge the overall positive working relationship that exists between our organisations. This relationship is demonstrated by the progress being made over the last few years on projects such as Hamilton Halo, the Hamilton River Plan and the Waikato Mayoral Forum projects (e.g. Waikato Plan and Waikato Means Business).

Waikato Regional Policy Statement – resourcing priority projects

The Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement (RPS) will become operative later this year. The successful implementation of the RPS will be achieved through our organisations partnering together to achieve mutual outcomes. The following comments are made to help ensure that together we can deliver on some key priorities for Hamilton City.

Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategies

A key implementation method of the RPS is the development of local indigenous biodiversity strategies. These will enable a more strategic and collaborative approach to managing biodiversity. Our draft LTP budgets \$175,000 per year in years 2016/17 to 2018/19 to assist territorial authorities throughout the region to develop local indigenous biodiversity strategies.

We encourage Hamilton City Council to make provision in its LTP to support these strategies. We are seeking funding of \$50,000 in 2016/17 to enable the development of a local indigenous biodiversity strategy for Hamilton City. We believe this strategy will assist the future vision that the community has for the City.

Regional Heritage Forum

The Waikato Regional Heritage Forum is another RPS method that has direct applicability to the Hamilton City Council. Waikato Regional Council encourages the allocation of staff resources in the LTP that are supportive of building regional heritage capacity.

Waste minimisation

WRC supports the proposed expansion to Hamilton City Council's recycling service from 2017/18. WRC also supports Hamilton City Council investigating options for a user-pays rubbish bag system.

Public transport

As part of the implementation of the new Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP), WRC would like to work with Hamilton City Council and the NZ Transport Agency to develop a coordinated three-yearly programme of works for the provision of future public transport infrastructure in Hamilton based on the investment priorities set out in the RPTP. The programme of works will identify future infrastructure requirements including new bus stops and bus priority measures to support the delivery of the new public transport network in Hamilton.

The new RPTP also includes a performance measure to increase the total number of accessible bus stops in Hamilton. We look forward to working closely with Hamilton City Council on the development of accessible bus stops in the city.

Infrastructure

WRC would like to acknowledge the interest being made by Hamilton City Council to upgrade existing water and sewerage infrastructure due to rapid urban growth which has placed considerable pressure on infrastructure.

WRC appreciates Hamilton City Council's communication with us through the Pukete wastewater treatment plant upgrade project and for quick responses to occasional spills. We also appreciate you keeping us fully informed on initiatives to ensure appropriate potable water management over successive and predicted dry summers.

Hamilton City Council has funded the development of catchment management plans (CMPs) to assist in the growth of new areas in the city such as the Peacocks Growth Cell, Rotokauri and the proposed Ruakura area. Side by side with these CMPs, we encourage you to provide for the monitoring requirements and infrastructural improvements required by the current comprehensive stormwater discharge consent.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit on Hamilton City Council's draft LTP.

Yours faithfully

Vaughan Payne
Chief Executive