

---

*Social media submission***Waikato Environment Centre**

The Waikato Environment Centre requests that Hamilton City Council, with the support of strategic partners like Mighty River Power, lead the way in the development of electric vehicle infrastructure. #Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre supports the submission made by Cycle Action Waikato and Living Streets and requests that that a regular 5.5% of the annual transport budget be assigned to cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. #Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre supports the Living Streets submission in requesting that lights at the mosque intersection and at Five Cross Rds be brought forward for immediate action, in the first year of the annual plan. This would make an enormous difference to safety for walkers and cyclists of all ages. #Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre supports the proposed investment in the strategic cycle network. The development of cycling infrastructure and a reduction in carbon emissions is vital to the prevention of climate change. WEC supports Generation Zero and their call for at least \$1 million per year over the next ten years to develop cycle infrastructure. Hamilton City Council must make a strong commitment to funding safe and accessible cycle infrastructure, for a livable and prosperous city. #Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre recommends that HCC identifies opportunities for water harvesting. The harvesting of water will become increasingly important with climate change because there is increased likelihood of extreme weather events. #Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre recommends investment in the ecological restoration of Lake Rotoroa and, as an important first step, determine, with the RESTORE network, some practical strategies for improving the water quality in the lake. #Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre requests greater investment in Public Transport. The focus of transportation development appears to be largely focused on road developments, with no recognition of the importance of developing public transport infrastructure. We need to act now to reduce carbon emissions and prevent climate change. If Hamilton is to become the third city economy it can perhaps learn from the largest city economy, Auckland, by planning and implementing some form of rail/metro or mass transit system. #Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre recommends that Hamilton is developed into a city that is less dependent on fossil fuels and more dependent on renewable energy in transportation. It is important that people are supported to live within their own communities, accessing local schools and local services so that travel distances and energy requirements are reduced. These are some of the fundamental aspects of sustainable development that enable a transition away from fossil fuel dependency and the prevention of climate change. #Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre requests that HCC develops their strategic funding priorities under a framework of full sustainability. For example, there is a stated goal for Hamilton to become the third city economy in New Zealand. WEC suggests that unless this increased economic activity (trade and exchange) and growth is based on sustainable

---

business strategies, moving to this position may undermine the future wellbeing of the city.  
#Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre endorses the recommendations of the Independent Sustainability Panel and requests that HCC commits to a Full and Strong Sustainability Strategy that underpins and directs all Hamilton City Council operations and developments. This strategy should be linked and coordinated with all aspects of the HCC Strategic Plan and Economic Development Agenda. Without a commitment to Full Sustainability as an overarching framework, there is a risk that developments may compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. #Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre requests that HCC implements all of the recommendations of the Independent Sustainability Panel. In late 2013, Hamilton City Council appointed an Independent Sustainability Panel. The panel was requested to critique the current Action Plan Report and was invited to provide additional advice that would assist the development of the strategy. The Hamilton City Council Sustainability Panel made strong recommendations for the underlying principles of Hamilton's Sustainability Strategy including that the sustainability strategy should be based on the principles of full sustainability rather than the current far more limited view and should be a direct application of the HCC Vision statement. Full sustainability recognises that all of human society is contained within natural ecosystems and is ultimately dependent on them. The panel recommended that the sustainability strategy should be an overarching framework for all economic, social and environmental strategies rather than just one of a number of disparate strategies at the same level. #Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre requests that HCC accounts for, and develops specific strategies to protect and enhance, the city's natural assets and ecosystems. The stocks of our natural capital (land and soils, waterways and ecosystems) and the associated flows of ecosystem services are absent in the HCC balance sheets. Ecosystem services are the benefits that people obtain from ecosystems and regionally they have been identified as existing at a similar magnitude to regional Gross Domestic Product. In the consultation document, HCC indicates a focus on core infrastructure and investment in existing assets. WEC is concerned with the lack of recognition of, and investment in, the natural assets and ecosystems of our city, including the ecosystems of the Lake Rotoroa and the gully systems. As nature's limits become increasingly apparent and the impacts of climate change unfold, we need to start to realise the importance of natural capital and enduring links between the environment, our economy and community wellbeing. WEC notes the absence of investment in the environment and requests more obvious and specific investment in the protection of the natural assets and ecosystems of Hamilton City. #Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre recommends that HCC infrastructure design should be aligned to emission reduction targets that are preventative of global warming. The European Union has pledged to reduce carbon emissions by 40% compared to 1990 levels by 2030. WEC requests that HCC, together with Waikato Regional Council and Central Government, makes a similar commitment. The number of motor vehicles in Hamilton is projected to grow by 66% by 2045, and more if Hamilton becomes the third city economy. This kind of growth is unsustainable. There is an inevitability about this forecasting that does not suggest a commitment to the development of sustainable transport and a reduction in emissions.  
#Ham10YP

The Waikato Environment Centre requests that HCC recognises the impending interconnected challenges of climate change, energy availability and cost, water resources and population growth and adequately plans for and resources strategies and developments that ensure a sustainable future. #Ham10YP