



**SUBMISSION ON:
Proposed Plan Change 2 –Te Awa Lakes Private Plan Change, Hamilton
City Council (November 2017)**

29th November 2017

1. Acknowledgement

- 1.1. The Waikato District Health Board (Waikato DHB) is extensively engaged in providing services in the region both directly through the provider wing of the organisation and indirectly through other providers. These include personal health services and public health or population based health services. Waikato DHB has a statutory objective to improve, promote and protect the health of communities and to reduce inequalities in health outcomes.
- 1.2. The following submission represents the views of Population Health, Waikato DHB. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the Waikato DHB. Population Health is focused on providing early intervention services that improve, promote and protect the health of population groups within the Waikato DHB region. It works to help ensure all people in the Waikato have opportunities to access services and make choices that enable them to live long and healthy lives.
- 1.3. Population Health, Waikato District Health Board (DHB) commends Hamilton City Council (the Council) for publically notifying this Proposed Private Plan Change (Perry's Group Ltd) on 1 November 2017. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on it through this consultation process.
- 1.4. Population Health, Waikato DHB has existing relationships with key staff at Council, in regard to growth management planning and implementation and other public health related matters e.g. drinking water. We value joint work occurring to improve growth management outcomes for communities across the combined Hamilton City Council, Waipa and Waikato district councils area e.g. Future Proof Strategy planning and implementation.
- 1.5. Our service has framed submission comments from a public health perspective which recognises that:

- The ability to prevent illness and stay healthy is largely attributed to the way in which we live our lives and the environments where we live. Those things that determine how healthy we are include housing, safe neighbourhoods, clean air and water, diet, and easy access to transport, recreation, education and employment.
- Many of the organisations who are responsible for these services and environments lie outside of the health sector and may not realise that their work strongly influences health outcomes. Local government who provide and manage infrastructure and services to support urban development is one e.g. local roading, pedestrian and public transport infrastructure and/or services.
- The activities of local government are vital to public health and in many respects are key determinants of health including provision of facilities and amenities, access to water supply, public sanitation, and licensing/inspection services.
- Councils draw from an extensive range of legislation and make decisions about the types of services they will provide and the level of rates and fees they will charge to fund these services. They are also responsible for planning for future urban development. These decisions shape the environment and context in which people live, work and play, and influence the overall health and wellbeing of individuals and communities¹.

2. Submission

- 2.1. The Waikato DHB supports local government initiatives aimed at improving population health and wellbeing through urban planning. Quality urban planning is a prerequisite for improving community health and wellbeing for all. It can help prevent negative health outcomes for populations living in urban environments.

These can include: traffic congestion, overloaded urban infrastructure, a lack of distinctive cultural identity, social isolation, and reduced physical activity which is an identified risk factor for obesity, diabetes and heart disease. There is also a need to ensure access to health and other services is not compromised in urban environment planning processes².

- 2.2. A well designed urban environment supports good health outcomes through improved social connectedness and community cohesion³. To achieve this it should also meet personal, community and Council requirements and outcomes related to liveability and affordability.
- 2.3. Population Health, Waikato DHB accepts and supports the need to consider how best to provide for urban development across Hamilton City and broader Future Proof sub-region.

¹ Waikato DHB Urban Environments Position Statement (2014)

² Ibid

³ Public Health Advisory Committee (2008) Review on International Evidence Linking Health and the Urban Built Environment. Wellington: Ministry of Health

This is needed to accommodate projected demand, and to meet national legislative requirements e.g. the NPS on Urban Development Capacity. This urban development should be provided in an effective and efficient manner at the standards required, and at a cost that all ratepayers can afford.

- 2.4. It is important that the health determinants of our urban settings are optimised to achieve the best possible public health and wellbeing outcomes for all.
- 2.5. Our service acknowledges that there will be community benefits of the proposal and some related to health and wellbeing e.g. easy access to Te Awa Walkway/Cycle trial –opportunities for physical activity. However there will also likely be areas where health and wellbeing determinants related to urban design, quality affordable housing, active transport (i.e. walking and cycling and public transport services and infrastructure), and/or accessibility can be strengthened.
- 2.6. Given the centrality of good quality urban planning to health and wellbeing outcomes for current and future residents, we ask the Council to ensure that the Proposed Plan Change 2 is designed and implemented with consideration of those future residents and ratepayers whose health is most likely to be impacted by it.
- 2.7. Population Health, Waikato DHB recognises that there are development demands related to population growth, future urban land use and infrastructure servicing facing Council. Given this, our service would like to work alongside the Council and Perry's Group Ltd on the Proposed Plan Change 2 to help ensure that public health impacts and outcomes for all future residents are considered as part of any decision-making.
- 2.8. There may be opportunities to explore possible health impacts related to the proposed plan change and our service is therefore keen to discuss this further with staff involved.

As one example, Population Health, Waikato DHB suggests that Council and Perry's Group Ltd consider working alongside Waikato DHB staff to complete and fund a health and well-being impact assessment on the draft proposal if it is agreed to be of mutual benefit. This impact assessment could provide evidence on the likely health and wellbeing impacts of the proposal and identify what areas there is greatest potential for health and wellbeing gain to be realised.

- 2.9. In 2011-2012, Population Health, Waikato DHB worked collaboratively work with Hamilton City Council and other organisations on a health impact assessment of the Hamilton Central City Residential Intensification Plan to inform the Hamilton City District Plan Review. It explored the direct and indirect health impacts associated with residential intensification in the City and informed associated planning and decision making.

Key identified determinants of health themes related to the Hamilton Central City Intensification health impact assessment were:

- accessibility,

- connectivity and public transport,
- safety; and
- Maori heritage and cultural identity.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Proposed Plan Change 2 –Te Awa Lakes Private Plan Change. We look forward to opportunities to further discuss the proposed plan change with Council, and to working alongside Council and Perry's Group Ltd to strengthen it from a community health and wellbeing outcomes perspective.

Should you have any queries regarding this feedback please contact Greg Morton, Senior Policy Advisor directly on (027) 5952119 or greg.morton@waikatodhb.health.nz.

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