

July 2024

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Dear Helen,

Outcome of consultation on the Manawatū District Council Draft Long-term Plan 2024-34

You took the time to tell us what matters to you in the Manawatū and we thank you for your feedback on the Draft Long-term Plan 2024-2034. We appreciate you sharing your thoughts.

During the consultation month Council received 269 submissions which addressed a range of concerns, including feedback on the four main consultation subjects.

We also thank you for being one of the 57 submitters giving their feedback to Council in person between 2 and 6 May 2024. On 23 May Council considered all of the feedback and submissions and made decisions on the main issues that were consulted on.

The Council decided to:

- gradually remove **roading rate differentials** over a three-year period;
- close the existing **aviaries at Kōwhai Park** and replace them with display gardens;
- **fund the enforcement of parking limits** through 75% General Rates and 25% CBD Targeted Rates;
- **fund activities** in the following ways:
 - o CBD Redevelopment through 100% General Rates
 - o Animal Control through 20% Rates and 80% User Fees
 - o Building Control through 20% Rates and 80% User Fees
 - o Consent Planning through 50% Rates and 50% User Fees
 - o Solid Waste through 30-40% Rates and 60-70% User Fees

For more information on Council's deliberations, please click on this link: [Manawatū District Council Meeting Videos | Manawatū District Council \(mdc.govt.nz\)](#)

You raised a number of specific points in your submission:

- You suggested that the Council should work with Horizons to incentivise the use of public transport by raising costs of parking.

The Feilding town centre parking limit enforcement is primarily to encourage a greater turnover of shoppers in town. The decision to install time limited parking signage was made by Council in late-2023. Previous engagements have been clear that the community does not want parking meters and it is not Council's intention to pursue paid parking at this time.

- That bus and possibly train services between Feilding and Palmerston North be intensified.
Council has membership on the Manawatū Public Transport Governance Group who are reviewing the Feilding Passenger transport services, including the Feilding Orbiter and the Palmerston North to Feilding commuter bus service. We have submitted in favour of the

additional budget that has been included in Horizons draft LTP for implementation of any recommendations coming out of the Regional Passenger Services Review.

Council has advocated to Horizons in support of the establishment and operation of the rural community transport service (an on-demand service for the rural villages of the Manawatū). We have also advocated to Horizons and central government on a possible extension to the Capital Connection rail service to Feilding.

- That the Council collaborate with Horizons to ensure that active transport has a strong commuter focus, not just a health and wellbeing one.

Council has completed their section of the Feilding to Palmerston North shared pathway. We have been advocating through submissions to Horizons and the Palmerston North City Council for a number of years for the Palmerston North City Council portion of this shared cycleway to be completed. Once completed, this will provide a safe commuting route between Feilding and Palmerston North. We again requested the prioritisation of this project through our submission to Palmerston North City Council's draft Long-term Plan 2024-34.

- That the Council provides economic assistance and cycling coaching guidance to retirement home residents to reduce car usage.

Council has not received requests from retirement home residents for this type of assistance.

- You suggested that savings from closing the aviaries could be diverted to Ruahine Kiwi.

The previous \$50,000 operational budget for the aviaries has been removed from the budget. Any proposal to fund Ruahine Kiwi would result in an increase to rates. Ruahine Kiwi could explore the other funding options that Council offers.

- You recommended the introduction of community composting trials to reduce food waste until 2030 when a regional food waste collection service will be mandated by government. You also requested Council to support local food recycling/composting and surplus food redistribution initiatives, for example those associated with Manchester House, Salvation Army, and Community Fruit Harvest Manawatū.

Council runs the Waste Not Want Not fund annually, where we award Waste Levy funding that Council receives from the Ministry for the Environment to community projects aiming to divert waste from landfill, or support community education on waste minimisation. The Council would welcome any application from Environment Network Manawatu to run community composting trials to the 2024 round of funding. Keep an eye on our website and social channels for when the 2024 funding round opens.

Council recognises the importance of reducing the generation of food waste. We would welcome any applications from charitable or waste minimisation organisations to its 2024 round of Waste Not Want Not funding for programmes that manage surplus food redistribution initiatives.

- You requested to know if the Council is involved in conversations with Palmerston North City Council around centralised soft plastics and demolition waste recycling facilities. Want to know what this could mean for local waste diversion.

Manawatū District Council and Palmerston North City Council are actively working together to explore shared opportunities for multiple waste streams. The Council are pleased to see Palmerston North City Council's recent draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, and we have provided a submission highlighting where in particular we feel it makes the best sense to work together. This includes Palmerston North City Council making use of facilities located at the Manawatu Resource Recovery Park in Feilding, such as Central Environmental's construction and demolition waste recycling facility.

- You suggested a significantly stronger focus on what climate change means for the people in the Manawatu and the endemic flora and fauna. However, you questioned if the LTP reflects the extent of the urgency needed to avoid or reduce these changes.

Council understands the importance of environmental sustainability in today's world. One of Council's priorities is to protect and care for our District's natural and physical resources to ensure that we have an environment to be proud of.

Council recognises the need for a strategic approach to inform efforts towards environmental protection and improvement. Council is developing an environmental strategy that outlines our impact on the environment and a realistic action plan to reduce this impact.

Progress with this work requires collaboration and collective action. Council commits to engage with our stakeholders, including environmental groups like yours, to co-create solutions that drive positive environmental impact.

- You were concerned about the invasion of *Phragmites karka* in our region.

*In our submission to Horizons 2021 draft LTP, the Council supported the submission by the Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park Trust in respect of the risk posed by *Phragmites karka* and the need for prompt action to contain it. We know that this pest remains a key concern of the Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park Trust and the Council continues to advocate to Horizons on behalf of the Trust for prompt action by Horizons on this matter. The Council also supported Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park Trust's submission to Horizons draft LTP 2024-34.*

MDC's submission to Horizons 2021 draft LTP requested that Horizons consider amendments to the budget for Biosecurity and Biodiversity activities and the Regional Pest Management Plan to address concerns within the Manawatū District.

We specifically requested the following:

- *Horizons fund an officer to work towards eradication of the pest plant *Phragmites karka* across the region and allocates budget to the pest plant management team areas to allow officers to eradicate the plant.*
 - *Horizons lobby on behalf of region to have *Phragmites karka* listed on the national pest plant list.*
 - *Horizons review of the Regional Pest Management Plan address known pest management concerns in the Manawatū District, including in relation to *Phragmites karka*, *Senecio glastifolius* (pink ragwort), old man's beard, and feral rabbits.*
- You requested the Council to introduce a cat licensing and microchipping scheme

The microchipping of cats was considered as part of the Animal Control Bylaw Review in 2019. It was not pursued because it was decided that it would be too difficult to enforce and there was not an appetite for this kind of control generally.

This request would be best addressed as part of the next review of Council's Animal Control Bylaw, in 2029.

- You encouraged the Council to support local initiatives towards reuse and advocating for improved national policy on packaging and implementation of product stewardship schemes.

The Council has responded to central government consultations in relation to transforming recycling in New Zealand. We have advocated for and supports the inclusion of variable scheme fees to incentivise more recyclable and reusable packaging to encourage manufacturers to change their packaging to sit higher up in the recyclable waste category. Council has advocated for maximised use of existing infrastructure to reduce waste to landfill. Council recommended the review of the product stewardship scheme every 3- 5 years with room for adjustments to factor in inflation and other market forces.

Council has advised central government through our submissions that the additional costs associated with improving product stewardship will pass on to consumers, thereby impacting our ratepayers. Council has recommended that central government provide the needed financial, technical and research support needed to implement product stewardship schemes and other recycling initiatives.

- You requested Council to investigate the potential and work with other interested parties to draw up plans for a regional cycle trail to encourage cycle tourism.

Council supports this proposal as there is already provision for the Te Araroa Trail within the programme for years 4 – 7. The re-drafted Government Policy Statement (GPS) on Land Transport has shifted funding priorities away from public transport, rail, and walking and cycling to local/highway operations and pothole prevention. The shift in GPS priorities means that there is greater uncertainty as to whether this project will attract a New Zealand Transport Authority subsidy. The funding of this project will therefore be reviewed as part of the next Long-term Plan (2027-37).

Council intends to review its Walking and Cycling Strategy in the next 12 months and welcomes the involvement of Environment Network Manawatu and other interested parties in this review.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to share your feedback on the draft Long-term Plan 2024-34. To keep informed about what else Council is working on, be sure to look at our website, www.mdc.govt.nz, or search "Manawatū District Council" on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or Twitter.

Helen, your feedback is important to us and we really appreciate the fact that you made a submission. We look forward to your continued engagement on future consultation issues and policies. Look out for more opportunities to have your say at [Home | Make your mark Manawatū \(manawatudc.govt.nz\)](http://Home | Make your mark Manawatū (manawatudc.govt.nz)).

Kind regards,



Helen Worboys

Mayor