

9 July 2021

coordinator@enm.org.nz

Dear Karen

Outcome of consultation on the Manawatū District Council Draft 10 Year Plan 2021-31

Thank you for your feedback on the Draft 10 Year Plan 2021-2031. Council appreciates that you took the time to share your thoughts.

Over the month-long consultation period Council received 128 submissions which addressed the two formal consultation issues as well as a variety of other subjects.

Hearings were held on 18 and 19 May, and 45 submitters gave their feedback to Council in person. At deliberations on 31 May Council considered all of the feedback. The key decisions are summarised below. For more detail on the deliberation outcomes, see the 10 Year Plan page on Council's website.

Consultation issues:

- Council assistance for strengthening earthquake-prone buildings in the Feilding CBD.

Council agreed to provide a discount on consenting fees for owners of earthquake-prone buildings in the Feilding CBD who choose to strengthen their building, including buildings being replaced by a new building within 12 months of demolition.

Council will allocate an annual budget of \$75,000 for year 1-3 of the plan (2021–24) to discount consenting fees in the following ways:

- Building consent fee discount of \$2,500 per consent for all earthquake-prone buildings in the Feilding CBD
- Resource consent fee discount for \$2,500 per consent for earthquake-prone heritage buildings in the Feilding CBD.

- The availability of funding for community events and initiatives.

Council agreed to increase the District Development budget by \$147,000 for year 1 of the Plan in order to support events and other community initiatives. The wider District Development budget will be reviewed for year 2 onwards.

Rates

The total amount of rates required to run Council business for 2021/22 is 7.45% higher than was required for 2020/21. However, because of the population growth across the District in the last year, the total rates required will be distributed across more ratepayers. Year 1 will see an average increase of 5.75% which takes into account this growth.

For year 2 we will have an average increase of 5.70% and year 3, 4.86%. Across years 4–10 the average rates rise will be 2.9%. (Note that individual rates invoices will vary based on a range of factors, including the value of the property. The increases noted here are averaged across the district.)

Other matters

In your submission, you also raised a number of other matters.

- *The impacts poorly managed stormwater have on waterways.*
Council holds a stormwater discharge permit from Horizons. The requirements of this consent include monitoring water quality in the receiving environment. Stormwater from new residential development in growth Precinct 4 will be directed to detention ponds. These detention ponds will serve to both reduce the impact of stormwater on the surrounding area and to improve water quality outcomes.
Council stormwater network renewal planning is based on asset condition and criticality, prioritising more highly critical assets in worse condition. Present indicators show that the network is performing well. The renewal planning and design cycle considers the potential benefits and costs of including stormwater treatment (over and above the current silt and litter management installed across the reticulation network), as well as stormwater detention to ensure more consistent stormwater discharge rates into the aquatic environment. Council has budgeted \$189,000 over the next three years of the 10 Year Plan and \$696,000 over the next 10 years for stormwater renewals.
Council will be reviewing its Drainage and Trade Waste Bylaws in 2022. The implementation of these new bylaws is also expected to lead to long-term improvements in the quality of stormwater discharges.
- *Supports funding and resourcing for Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park to restore biodiversity and protect the podocarp, lichen, and epiphyte collections. Work to be undertaken to ensure Phragmites Karka (waterway weed) is eradicated where possible and not transferred between locations.*
Council provides an annual operating grant of around \$120,000 to the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust to support them in their excellent work at the Reserve.
Council's Reserve Management Plans highlight the importance of biodiversity. To see these plans, visit mdc.govt.nz/Documents/Plans/Reserve-Management-Plans
- *Supports ensuring roads and footpaths are safe to use, while encouraging the community to drive walk or cycle for business or pleasure.*
Council funding submission to Waka Kotahi (NZTA) includes a proposed prioritised programme of walking, cycling and shared pathway projects based on the findings of the MDC Walking and Cycling Strategy. Council's immediate priority is on improving connectivity between areas in urban settings and prioritising routes linked to community facilities including recreational facilities, schools and commercial centres/workplaces. The provision of improved walking facilities to peri-urban and rural locales is prioritised where such facilities will serve both tourist related and District growth areas. The overall aim is to improve accessibility, health and wellbeing.

- *Supports efforts to build community resilience and mitigate the effects of climate change.*
Council is developing an Environmental Sustainability Strategy, and builds resilience into our infrastructure networks.
- *Supports the requirements of the National Policy Statement for the Indigenous Biodiversity and Regional Biodiversity Strategy. Encourage an application of Regenerative Organic farming methods to future proof our ability to produce food while improving the health of our soils and waterways. Support for advocacy for the protection of high-quality (class 1 and 2) soils from urban expansion.*
These points fall under the District Plan, and have been forwarded to the District Plan Team.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to share your feedback on the draft 10 Year Plan 2021-2031. 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.

You told us what you thought and we listened. As your Mayor and Councillors, we aim to represent your interests to the best of our ability, while planning for a vibrant future for our District.

Kind regards,



Helen Worboys

Mayor