

Submission No 124

2 August 2019

Environment Network Manawatu Inc.  
PO Box 1271  
Palmerston North 4410

Dear Submitter

### **Palmerston North City Council Annual Budget 2019/20**

The Council consulted on its proposed Annual Budget for 2019/20 in March/April of this year and would like to thank you for your submission. Your feedback has helped the Council to make informed decisions on what is important to local communities and the City. The Council adopted its Annual Budget on 24 June 2019. You can get a copy of the final document by:

*Visiting the web ...* <https://www.pncc.govt.nz/annualbudget>

*Collecting one ...* from the Customer Services Centre, Civic Administration Building, The Square, Palmerston North; or from the City and Community Libraries

*Telephoning ...* the Customer Services Centre on 06 356 8199 and asking for a copy to be sent to you

*Emailing ...* the Customer Services Centre at [info@pncc.govt.nz](mailto:info@pncc.govt.nz) and asking for a copy to be sent to you

**This year the Council received a total of 179 submissions.** We used social media as well as more traditional methods to raise awareness of the proposed Annual Budget and promoted different ways for people to tell us their thoughts.

The Council decided to consult on the Annual Budget with the key issue being the proposed changes to the rating system, to help moderate the impacts on rates as a result of the 2018 city revaluation. As well as seeking feedback from the community on two other issues: the concept of a new flag for the City and, whether free entry should be given for under five year olds to access Council pools.

The rest of this letter summarises Council's decisions on the matters you raised in your submission. We hope you will support us as we implement these decisions - and many of the actions will only be successful if residents, organisations and Council all work together. That way we will create a city that we can all be proud of.

You made a comment on the following issue(s). The Council's decision regarding the matter is set below each issue.

#### 1. Totara Road Wastewater Treatment Plant - Consent Renewal Upgrade Options Analysis

The Council has read considered and noted your comments. As a result of consultation and finalising the Annual Budget this programme remains funded for.

#### 2. Low Carbon Road Map Development

The Council has read considered and noted your comments. As a result of consultation and finalising the Annual Budget this programme remains funded for.

#### 3. Publicity - Increase in Awareness of Climate Change

The Council has read considered and noted your comments.

#### 4. Dedicated Senior Staff Member for Climate Change and Sustainability

The Council has in-house expertise in climate change and is implementing a sustainability programme across Council. The road map (year 2 programme) will provide the basis for any further resource required in this area which will need to be approved by Council. The Chief Executive then determines staffing requirements.

#### 5. Mitigating Climate Change

Climate change is addressed through a variety of budgets not just road map budget. The Council will monitor progress towards the current target of a 25% reduction by 2028 and reassess this target as part of future 10 Year Plans.

#### 6. Change to Diesel Bus Fleets

Council is working closely with Horizons to identify cost effective ways to ensure transport solutions are as sustainable as possible. Buses regardless of the fuel used result in significant carbon footprint reductions due to the reduction in total vehicle use. This has been most powerfully demonstrated by the free tertiary student bus service. Horizons are however committed to exploring renewable fuel options and to that end an electric bus will be added to the contractor's fleet later in 2019. Horizons are also exploring options to incentivise further conversion to renewable fuels as part of the re-tender of the public bus contract timed to occur in 2020.

## 7. Adaption to Climate Change - LTP 2021-24

The Council has read considered and noted your comments. Climate change adaption will be addressed as part of asset management planning.

You can contact the Council's Planning and Reporting Coordinator, Courtney Kibby, on 06 356 8199 extension 8243, or by email at [courtney.kibby@pncc.govt.nz](mailto:courtney.kibby@pncc.govt.nz) if you would like further information on these issues, or a summary of all the Council's decisions in response to submissions. You can also contact The Mayor or any Councillor.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Grant Smith (Mayor)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Shotter', written in a cursive style.

Heather Shotter (Chief Executive)

## **Palmerston North City Council Annual Budget 2019/20**

**The following briefly outlines some of the common issues raised in submissions:**

**What do you think about the idea of providing Under 5 Year olds with free entry to Council pools?**

91 submitters commented. Majority of which (76) support the idea, three against and 12 neither for or against. This question did raise other proposals including free swimming lessons and other subsidised options.

**What do you think about replacing the current City crest flag with a new flag for the city?**

83 submitters commented. Most do not support the idea of replacing the flag, with 31 in favour and 44 against (8 commenting neither in support or opposed).

**What do you think of the proposed change to how we calculate rates?**

8 submitters commented. Majority (27) support the proposed change, 5 were against and 6 neither supported or opposed. Majority saw the change as a fairer method of calculation, while others saw it as unfair to rural and commercial properties.

**Access and Use of Hokowhitu Lagoon**

32 submitters commented, all submitting on the continued access and use of the Hokowhitu Lagoon for recreation purposes. This seemed to be an issue arising out of possible feedback from residents and restricting the use.

**Social Housing – Papaioea Stage 2 (programme ID 1219)**

19 submitters commented. Of those that submitted, all supported bringing forward the second stage of the Papaioea Place Social Housing project.