

16 April 2018

LTP Project Team
Freepost 118509
Waikato Regional Council
Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
HAMILTON 3240



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ

Taupō District Council

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

46 Horomatangi Street, Taupō 3330

Private Bag 2005, Taupo Mail Centre

Taupō 3352, New Zealand

T 07 376 0633

F 07 377 3583

E cbruckner@taupo.govt.nz

www.taupo.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL'S SUBMISSION ON THE WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL'S
LONG-TERM PLAN 2018-28**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Waikato Regional Council's (WRC) Long-term Plan 2018-28. Taupō District Council (TDC) has the following submission points to make.

Due to the timing of the submission period, the points made are TDC staff comments. Once the councillors and mayor have had an opportunity to consider this submission fully, I will advise you of any amendments.

Pest management

TDC is supportive of option 1. In particular, we support the release of the RHDV1 K5 virus to control rabbit populations across the district.

Community facilities framework

TDC is supportive of option 2. We are supportive of having a robust framework for decision making about regional facilities.

Regional theatre

TDC is supportive of option 4, which would see \$5 million collected from the region to fund the capital component of a new regional theatre in Hamilton. As a second beneficiary area, there would be a \$0.50 rates impact per property across the district. Option 4 was chosen as we do not support the inclusion of \$300,000 per year being collected from the region to be used towards the ongoing asset maintenance reserve fund (included within the preferred option).

TDC recognises we have a role in the broader region and that brings with it responsibilities to, at times, contribute towards projects such as the regional theatre. However, should a decision be made to implement a flat rate (for example, as proposed in option 3 and option 5) across the region, we would no longer support the theatre. Given our district's proximity to other theatres (such as Napier, Tauranga, and Rotorua), our residents would be just as likely to use a theatre in those locations as they would a theatre in Hamilton.

Regional services fund

TDC is supportive of option 3, to include LandSAR as a beneficiary of the Regional Services Fund and increase the funding to Surf Life Saving services. We recognise the value of the range of volunteer emergency services across the region.

Water user charges and information gathering fees

TDC is supportive of the proposed changes to the charges that have been communicated to us directly by WRC staff.

Other matters

TDC welcomes the continuation of the partnership we have with WRC focused on managing erosion around the margins of Lake Taupō. We seek continued financial support through Project Watershed and technical support through WRC's Taupō office for the physical works programme.

We have started a review of the TDC District Plan, which will be a multi-year project. Throughout the review, we will seek assistance from WRC on various aspects of the plan, particularly with the collection of natural hazard data and the development of a biodiversity strategy (expected to be developed over 2019). We would like to ensure WRC sets aside provision within the LTP to allow this to occur.

TDC would like to see provision made for more immediate support in the event of an environmental emergency – for example, the algal bloom outbreak in late 2017. Significant adverse events can occur quickly, and waiting for the appropriately trained staff to travel to the district from WRC's main office in Hamilton during such events can exacerbate the impacts. This could be accommodated by ensuring WRC's Taupō office has the means to respond.

Hearings

Taupō District Council would like to be heard in support of its submission.

If you require further information, please contact Hadley Tattle, Senior Policy Advisor, on (07) 376-0620 or at htattle@taupo.govt.nz.

Kind regards



Gareth Green
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER