

**I give notice that  
an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday, 23 May 2022</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>10.00am</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Council Chamber 107 te Heuheu Street Taupō</b>

# **AGENDA**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Chairperson** Mayor David Trewavas  
**Deputy Chairperson** Cr Christine Rankin

**Members**

- Cr John Boddy
- Cr Kathy Guy
- Cr Tangonui Kingi
- Cr Kylie Leonard
- Cr John Mack
- Cr Anna Park
- Cr Kevin Taylor
- Cr Kirsty Trueman
- Cr Yvonne Westerman
- Cr John Williamson

**Quorum** 6

**Gareth Green**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## Order Of Business

- 1 **Apologies**
- 2 **Conflicts of Interest**
- 3 **Confirmation of Minutes**  
Nil
- 4 **Policy and Decision Making**
  - 4.1 To hear and deliberate on the Annual Plan 2022-23, Fees and Charges 2022-23, Significance and Engagement Policy, and TownCentre Taupo Targeted Rate .....3
- 5 **Confidential Business**  
Nil

**4.1 TO HEAR AND DELIBERATE ON THE ANNUAL PLAN 2022-23, FEES AND CHARGES 2022-23, SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY, AND TOWNCENTRE TAUPO TARGETED RATE**

**Author:** Temi Allinson, Policy Advisor

**Authorised by:** Nick Carroll, Policy Manager

**PURPOSE**

To hear and deliberate on the submissions received on the Annual Plan 2022-23, Fees and Charges 2022-23 and Significance and Engagement Policy.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Council prepared a consultation document for the Annual Plan for the 2022-23 year
- There were material changes compared to year two of the Long-term Plan
- At the same time Council also consulted the community on a review of the Significance and Engagement Policy and the proposed fees and charges for the 2022-23 year
- A total of 53 submissions were received on the draft Annual Plan, Fees and Charges 2022-23 and Significance and Engagement Policy and hearings will be held on 23 May
- Council needs to make decisions on the proposed fees and charges and the draft Significance and Engagement Policy
- Council will also need to provide direction to officers on any proposed changes to the draft Annual Plan
- Following the deliberations, officers will prepare the Annual Plan and Council will be asked to consider that at the meeting on 28 June

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Council:

1. receives the written submissions [full submissions attached under Separate Cover 1]
  2. accepts the late submissions from Scott Necklen and Catriona Eagles [submitters 52 and 53]
  3. Adopts the Fees and Charges 2022-23 [Attachment 4]
  4. Adopts the Significance and Engagement Policy 2022 [Attachment 5]
  5. Directs officers to prepare the Annual Plan based on the contents of the Annual Plan consultation document
- Or
6. Directs officers to prepare the Annual Plan based on the following changes:
    - a. (Insert any proposed changes as a result of deliberations)

**BACKGROUND**

Council consulted on the draft Annual Plan 2022-23 (including a proposed increase to the TownCentre Taupō Management Rate), draft Fees and Charges 2022-23 and draft Significance and Engagement Policy over 14 March to 14 April 2022. A total of 53 submissions were received, of which two were late submissions; and 11 submitters expressed a wish to speak to their submission at a public hearing.

Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 May have been set aside for hearings and deliberations.

Attached to this report are the full bundle of submissions, however due to the large size of this attachment it will be circulated separately to this agenda.

Council will need to make decisions on:

- The proposed Fees and Charges

- The draft Significance and Engagement Policy 2022, and
- Whether there are any changes to the draft Annual Plan that officers need to make

Following the deliberations, Council officers will finish preparing the Annual Plan and bring the document back to Council for consideration at the meeting on 28 June 2022.

**DISCUSSION**

Council consulted on a range of issues as part of the Annual Plan consultation process. These issues are grouped into five categories and the salient emerging points are discussed below.

A recurring topic through all the categories was the proposed increase to rates. Most submitters on this topic were strongly opposed to any increase beyond the 7.35% forecasted in Long-term Plan (LTP); and a few submitted that any rate increase be kept below the forecast increase. They expressed concerns about rising household costs and the contribution that increased rates make to that financial stress.

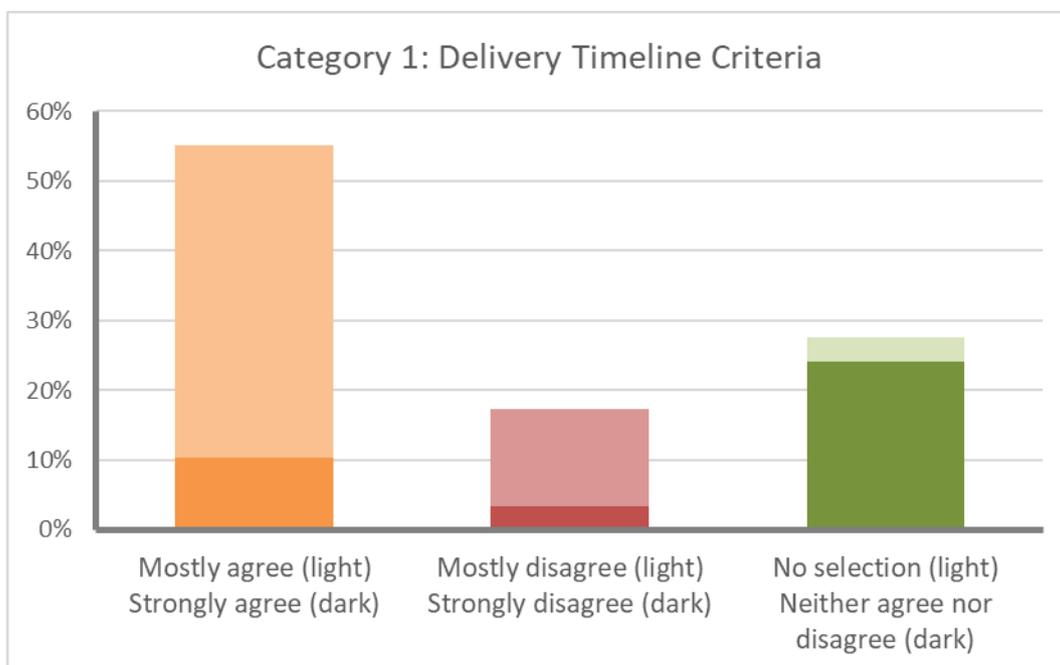
**Category one: Capital projects delivery timeline criteria**

The Annual Plan consultation document highlighted the ongoing effects of Covid-19 and a fast-changing economic environment which are both working in tandem to impact on the costs and timing of projects identified as part of the LTP. Therefore, Council may need to consider delaying the delivery of some projects, bringing others forward, or adjusting the scope and cost of some projects to get the best value for money.

In the consultation document, we set out how Council’s decision on whether to modify the delivery timeline of a project will be guided by the criteria below and asked the community if they agreed with the criteria.

- the need to maintain a balance across the four pillars of well-being – cultural, environmental, economic, and social
- prioritisation in line with the eight strategic priorities that we identified and developed as part of the LTP
- resource considerations such as the availability of materials, contractors, and appropriately skilled staff

A total of 29 submitters responded to this question, and the graph below shows the breakdown of responses.



**Key emerging themes:**

- Council to place appropriate emphasis on the environment and ensure that when deciding on projects, environmental values do not lose out against economic considerations.

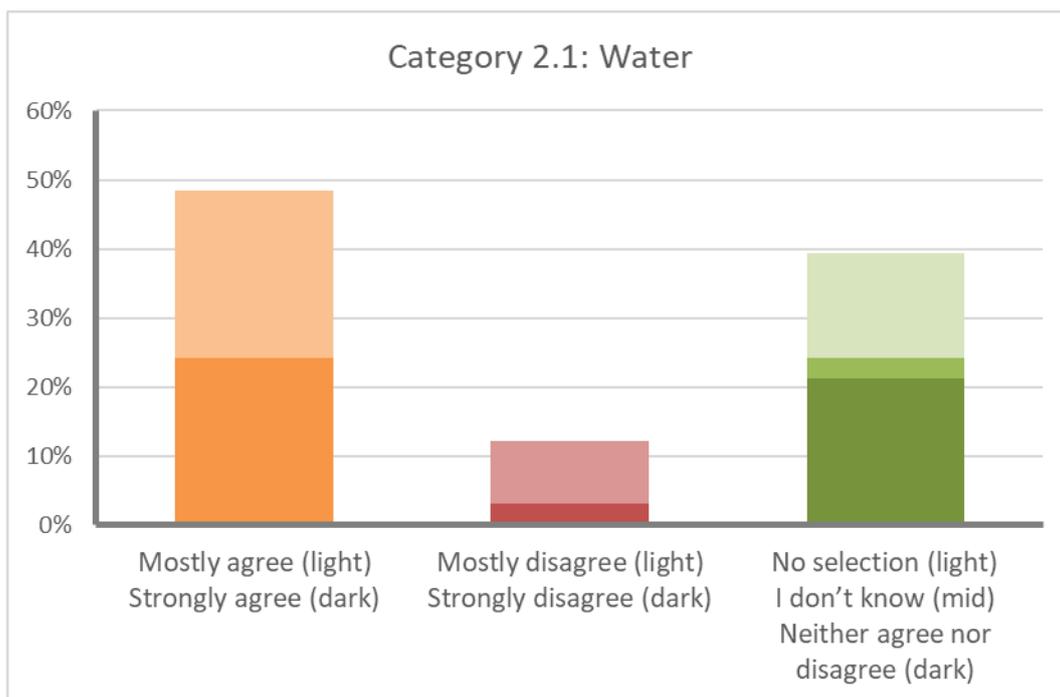
**Officers’ response:**

- The proposed criteria include a focus across the four well-beings with an emphasis on maintaining a balance. The environment is a critical element of the decision-making criteria and underpinned work we previously identified in our LTP. We identified climate change as a key focus area for Council and a senior policy advisor has been appointed to develop a climate change strategy. Council has also undertaken a baseline emissions assessment to understand our footprint and where our emissions come from with a view to setting nationally aligned reduction targets. This is an example of the importance of environmental wellbeing and how environmental values will be considered alongside other factors in deciding whether to proceed with a project or not.

**Category two: Key projects**

**2.1 Water**

The consultation document highlighted a number of differences between what was planned as part of the LTP and what we anticipate delivering in the coming financial year. A total of 33 submitters responded, and the graph below shows the breakdown of responses.



**Key emerging themes:**

- Concern around the impact of the three waters reform on the proposed work plan – (i) the risk of the reform not proceeding, and Council having taken on additional debt with the expectation of these transferring to Entity B; (ii) Council appearing to agree with the planned reforms and basing its decision to proceed with a number of projects on this; (iii) support for the proposal and a desire for Council to proceed with as many projects as possible before the reform is finalised
- Concern around project cost escalations
- Request to reinstate a project earmarked for deferral – Kinloch Reservoir
- Council is proposing to undertake too many projects and should defer some to keep costs down
- Support for the decision to remove the Five Mile Bay targeted water rate and other similar targeted water rating schemes
- Support for the proposal to connect the lakeside area of Motuoapa to the Council’s reticulated water supply
- Request for financial support to help with connection to town water supply by the Taupō Racing Club Inc.

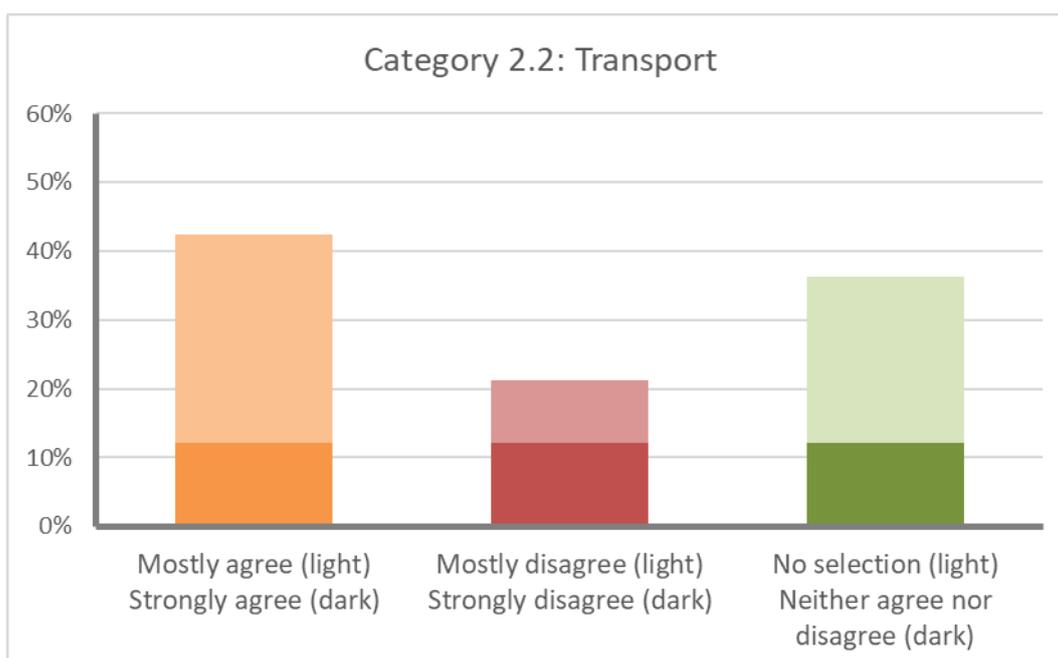
**Officers’ response:**

- We accept that the budgets originally set for some projects were insufficient, and there were particular challenges around budget setting including:

- Budgets were developed during a benign period of low inflation and low interest rates before the current global escalation of costs commenced,
  - The bulk of the plant equipment is manufactured overseas and has been subject to significant and ongoing price increases and extended delivery delays since budget setting. Base materials, equipment, freight, and labour have all shifted considerably and this coupled with the significant tightening of contractor availability has resulted in increased costs
  - Budgets were set in advance of the final detailed scoping of the upgrades necessary at each site
  - Detailed geotechnical investigations at each site were completed after budgets were set and found considerably worse ground conditions than expected based on the initial investigation work undertaken to inform budget setting
  - The new drinking water regulator is in the process of updating the compliance standards which has resulted in changes to the original plant designs on which the initial estimates were based.
- Officers agree that the new Kinloch Reservoir is a very important project. It has been deferred as the land acquisition process has taken longer than expected. Once land is acquired this project will be able to be delivered. It is unlikely we will be able to progress to construction in the 2022-23 year.
  - The water projects included in the draft Annual Plan are required to ensure safe drinking water supply to our communities, to ensure compliance with environmental standards, or to enable growth in the community. Our view is that these projects need to be completed as soon as practicable and should stay in the Annual Plan.
  - The decision on whether or not to provide financial support to the Racing club is for Council to make. The Racing club have been advised of the connection costs. Paragraph 15 of Council’s Grants and Partnerships policy however directs that
    - Council will decline any requests for funding made through the LTP and/or Annual Plan, and submitters will be referred to a grants distributor or advised to apply for a partnership agreement.

**2.2 Transport**

The consultation document highlighted a number of variations between what was forecasted in the LTP and the work that Council proposes to undertake in the coming year. A total of 33 submitters responded, and the graph below shows the breakdown of responses.



**Key emerging themes:**

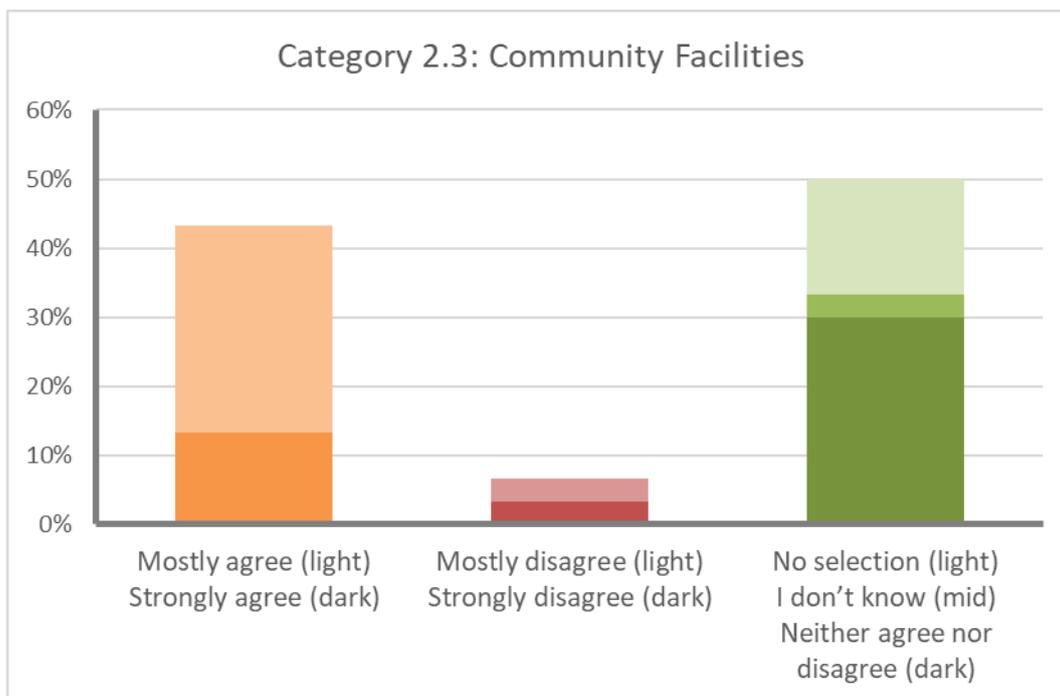
- Council should scale back on the scope or number of projects to be delivered and stay within the limits of the funding provided by Central Government for shovel ready projects
- Concerns around funding shortfall from Waka Kotahi and its impact on the district's roads, especially rural roads
- Requests for new projects – (i) upgrade of Kinloch Road, (ii) extending the Mapara Road foot path, (iii) more cycling infrastructure, and (iv) a bus service to connect Tūrangi to Taupō
- Support for the second bridge crossing scoping and the possibility of adding cycle lanes to it
- Concerns around speed limits

**Officers' response:**

- There have been significant external economic factors at play since the original funding for the Town Centre Transformation project was secured, and which were not visible at the time of the funding application. Record inflation, supply chain challenges, and an extremely tight labour market all add to the challenge of delivering this programme of work as originally scoped and funded. Reducing scope to stay within the funding cap is a valid response, however, the once in a generation opportunity to complete this transformational project is, we believe, worthy of the additional funds. Deferring work from within the TTCT programme would almost certainly result in it costing a significant amount more in the future as there are substantial efficiencies utilising the contractors already employed and established on the site
- Waka Kotahi have limited funding in each activity class for roading, and projects need to meet certain criteria (as per Government Policy Statement) so Waka Kotahi prioritises funding on a national basis. We will continue to work with Waka Kotahi to try and secure funding and/or will reprioritise our roading improvements to work within Council's funding limits, and work with our rural communities in finding a way forward to improve our rural roads
- Due to the Poplar trees on Kinloch Road being notable trees in the District Plan, and the requirement for consents to work within the dripline, this restricts our options to make improvements such as drainage or widening. With that limitation we are looking at what options are available for consideration and inclusion in the 2024 LTP
- The footpath on Mapara Road was funded as part of the Central Government's shovel-ready projects. Extension of the path could be considered in the 2024 LTP
- We are currently working with Waikato Regional Council on a bus service for our smaller urban areas which could see an on-demand service (one or two days per week) where passengers could book a seat on a particular day to travel between Tūrangi and Taupō
- As part of the second bridge crossing project, pedestrian and cyclist safety will be included in the scope i.e., including the links to and from the bridge for all road users.
- Speed limits related concerns will be considered as part of Council's speed management review process

**2.3 Community facilities**

Council consulted on the extra funding needed to complete work on the central government funded Taupō Town Centre Transformation (TTCT) project and provided updates that the rest of its community facilities work plan was underway as planned. A total of 30 submitters responded, and the graph below shows the breakdown of responses.



**Key emerging themes:**

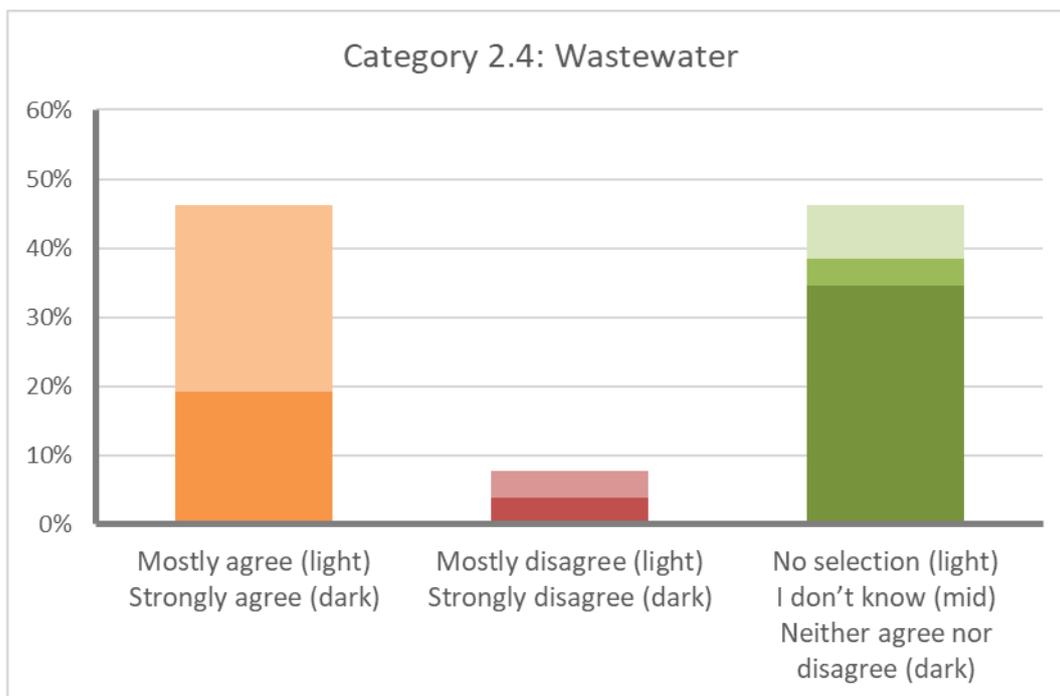
- Council should scale back on the scope or defer delivery of some proposed projects, especially TTCT and libraries
- Request for new services – (i) better utilisation of the Riverside Park and amphitheatre, and (ii) creation of a dog park and amenities along the Kuratau boat ramp

**Officers’ response:**

- There have been significant external economic factors at play since the original funding was secured for the Taupō Town Centre Transformation project, and which were not visible at the time of the funding application. Record inflation, supply chain challenges, and an extremely tight labour market all add to the challenge of delivering this programme of work as originally scoped and funded. Reducing scope to stay within the funding cap would be a valid response, however, the once in a generation opportunity to complete this transformational project is, we believe, worthy of the additional funds. Deferring work from within the TTCT programme would almost certainly result in it costing a significant amount more in the future as there are substantial efficiencies utilising the contractors already employed and established on the site
- We intend reducing our library book budget to \$300,000 in Year 3 (2023-24) as we move to digital platforms. This will be reviewed in the coming financial year and adjusted as required during the next LTP cycle. Our current spend of \$310,000 per year averages out at a cost of \$28 per item and allows us to keep the collection updated, in good condition, and relevant. We believe the current levels of service and funding to be appropriate in light of community demand and feedback
- We agree that the Riverside Park and amphitheatre is ideally located to support increased vibrancy within the town centre. Work continues in looking at ways to broaden its use within the limits of district plan restrictions on noise levels, vehicular movements and parking, and the number of annual events.
- The suggestion of a new dog park in Kuratau is noted. Its feasibility and appropriateness will be considered in future work planning.

**2.4 Wastewater**

The consultation document noted that Council’s wastewater projects were underway as planned and no material changes were anticipated. A total of 26 submitters responded, and the graph below shows the breakdown of responses.



**Key emerging themes:**

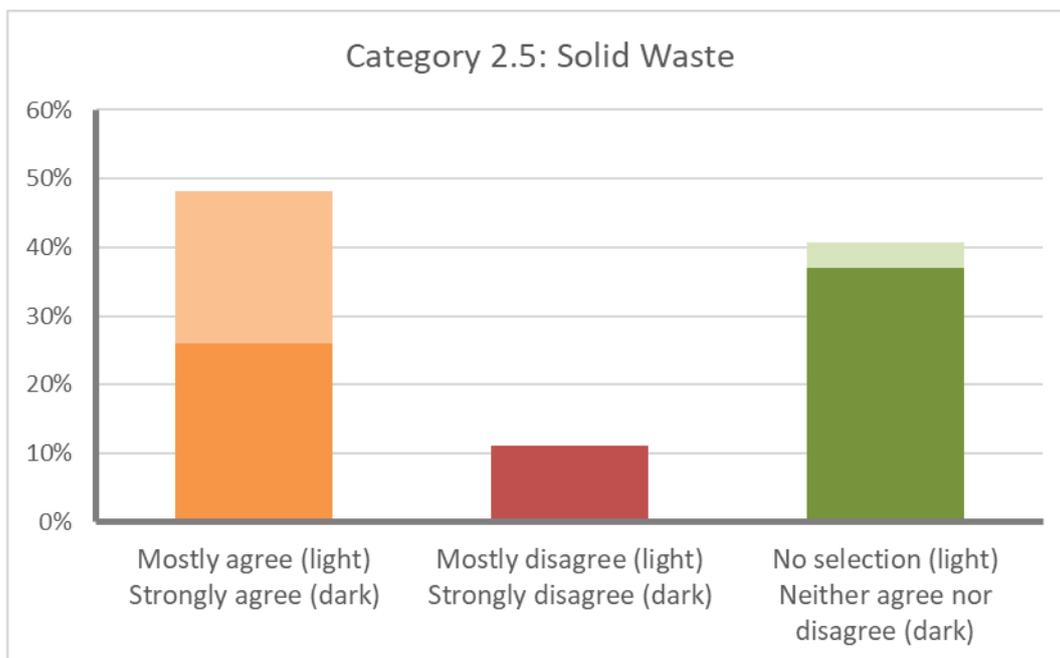
- Concern around the impact of the three waters reform on the proposed work plan – the risk of the reform not proceeding, and Council having taken on additional debt with the expectation of these transferring to Entity B
- Council is proposing to undertake too many projects and should defer some to reduce costs.

**Officers’ response:**

- Officers do not think it is appropriate or practical to stop new investment in the three waters space until the reform process is complete. One of the purposes of the reform is to increase investment in this area. It should be noted that debts associated with these assets will also be transferred to the new water entity as part of the reform process.
- The projects included in the water and wastewater areas of the Annual Plan are required to ensure safe drinking water supply to our communities, to ensure compliance with environmental standards, or to enable growth in the community. Our view is that these projects need to be completed as soon as practicable and should stay in the Annual Plan.

**2.5 Solid waste**

Council consulted on the proposal to defer the delivery of two planned projects. A total of 27 submitters responded, and the graph below shows the breakdown of responses.



**Key emerging themes:**

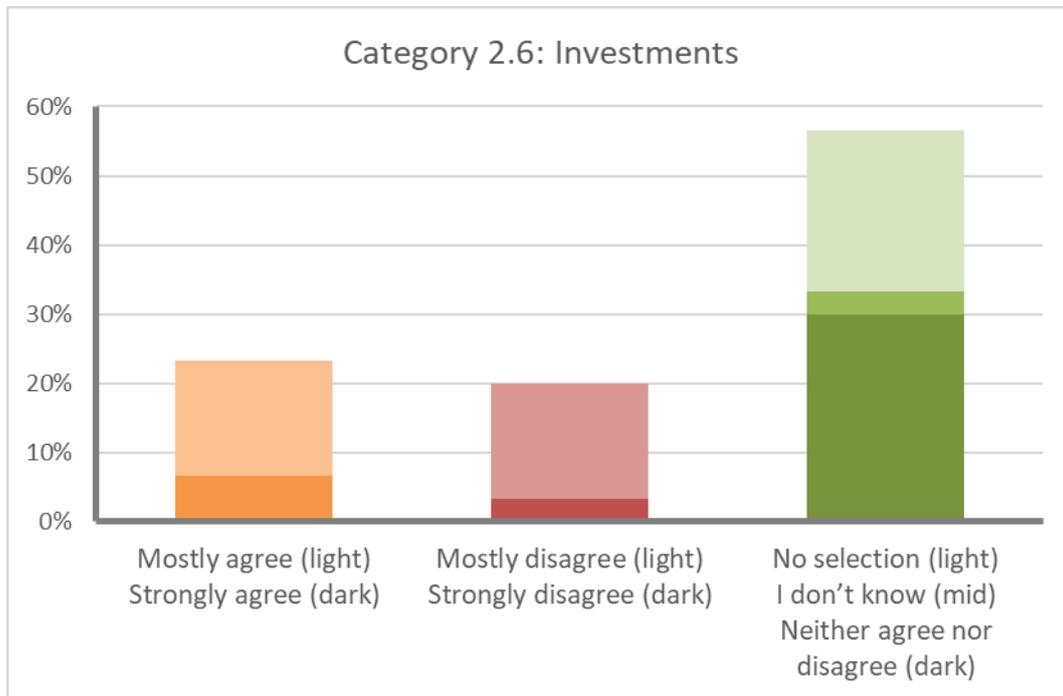
- Need for increased efforts at reducing Council’s carbon footprint and minimising waste – especially in the construction industry
- Dissatisfaction with the requirement to purchase carbon credits and the flow on effect of this on increased waste disposal costs, and the increased risk of littering
- Concern regarding levels of service at the Tūrangi transfer station
- Consider making the Tūrangi dump station a free service for all Tūrangi residents and introducing a targeted rate instead

**Officers’ response:**

- Council continues to look at opportunities to reduce waste going to landfill and we are working to introduce support for construction waste diversion through the Solid Waste Bylaw. However, there continues to be limited markets for recovered materials from the construction industry. We are also investigating the option of an emissions capture and flare at the Broadlands landfill and have set aside funding for this work. However, this is a significant expense and will only proceed if we are able to extend the life of the landfill through a regional council consent which is up for renewal in 2027. We have commenced discussions with Iwi and the Waikato Regional Council to determine the future of the landfill
- Council has a legal obligation to purchase carbon credits to offset emissions from solid waste under the emissions trading scheme. It is not a choice
- We will work with the contractor to improve service delivery. We will also look to provide a concrete drop-off pad at the green waste area to avoid the mud in future.
- The current funding model is a mix of ratepayer and user pay funding. The user pays portion helps incentivise recycling and waste diversion whereas a fully targeted rate would not achieve this outcome.

**2.6 Investments**

Council consulted on the cost escalation associated with the delivery of the Council office fitout. Whilst the consultation was underway, Council also announced its decision to proceed with Waiora House at a higher build price than was originally forecasted. A total of 30 submitters responded, and the graph below shows the breakdown of responses.



**Key emerging theme:**

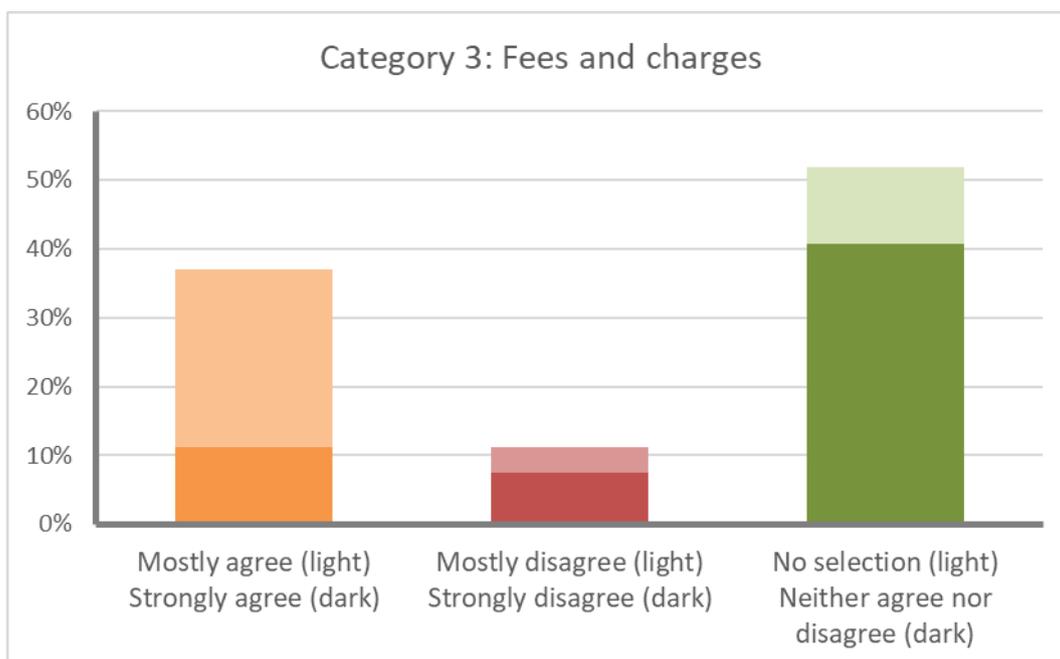
- Concerns around Waiora House and Council office fitout project cost escalations with suggestion of them being deferred

**Officers' response:**

- The cost variance for these projects is attributable to unprecedented market conditions in the construction industry that have seen materials in increasingly short supply, long lead in times, and rapidly rising costs across many of our projects. With these trends expected to continue for the foreseeable future, efforts have been made to mitigate further supply chain and cost escalation risks
- There is a growing need within the community to replace Waiora House. In the time it has taken to get to this point, the demand for social services has increased. Council has therefore taken a decision to proceed as trends suggest a decision to defer would only see both costs, and the need for social services, increase further.

**Category three: Fees and Charges**

The majority of Council's fees and charges were set as part of the LTP, and these remain largely unchanged. Consultation was undertaken on the small number of fees that had not been set or where operational changes required some adjustments. A total of 27 submitters responded, and the graph below shows the breakdown of responses.



**Key emerging themes:**

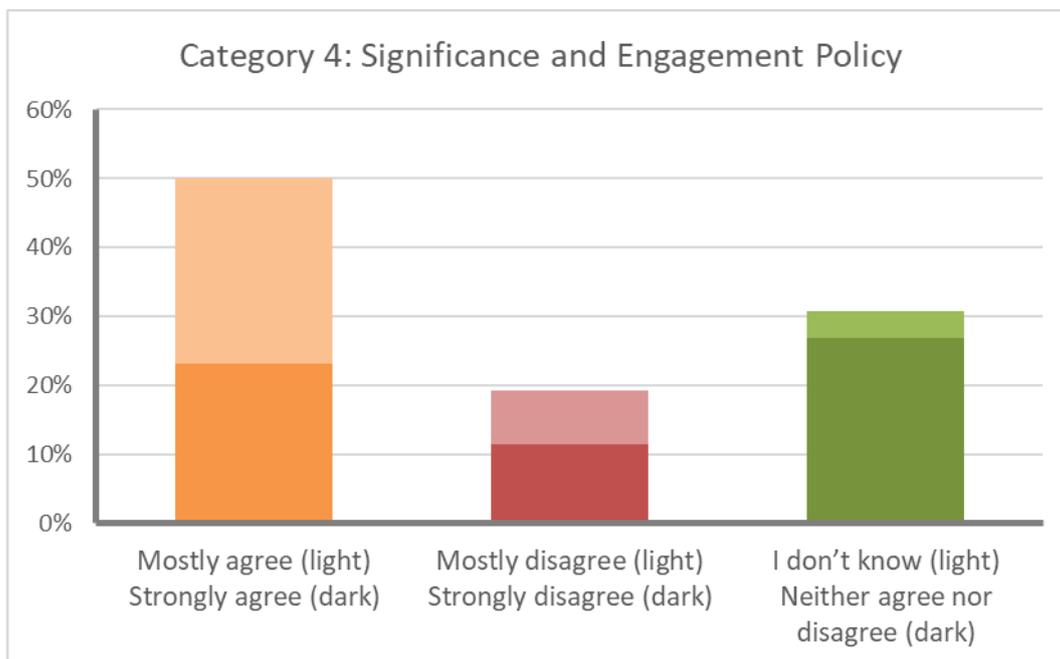
- Council's fees should be adjusted in line with cost-of-living increases
- Concern that increased waste disposal charges will result in increased littering

**Officers' response:**

- The increase to the solid waste disposal charges is a result of the increased costs associated with purchasing carbon credits. However, Council is statutorily required to purchase carbon credits to offset emissions from solid waste under the emissions trading scheme
- The current funding model is a mix of ratepayer and user pay funding. The user pays portion helps incentivise recycling and waste diversion whereas a fully targeted rate would not achieve this outcome

**Category four: Significance and Engagement Policy**

Council is proposing to make some changes to its Significance and Engagement Policy to help strengthen the policy as a whole, as well as make it user-friendly and easier to understand. A total of 26 submitters responded, and the graph below shows the breakdown of responses.



**Key emerging themes:**

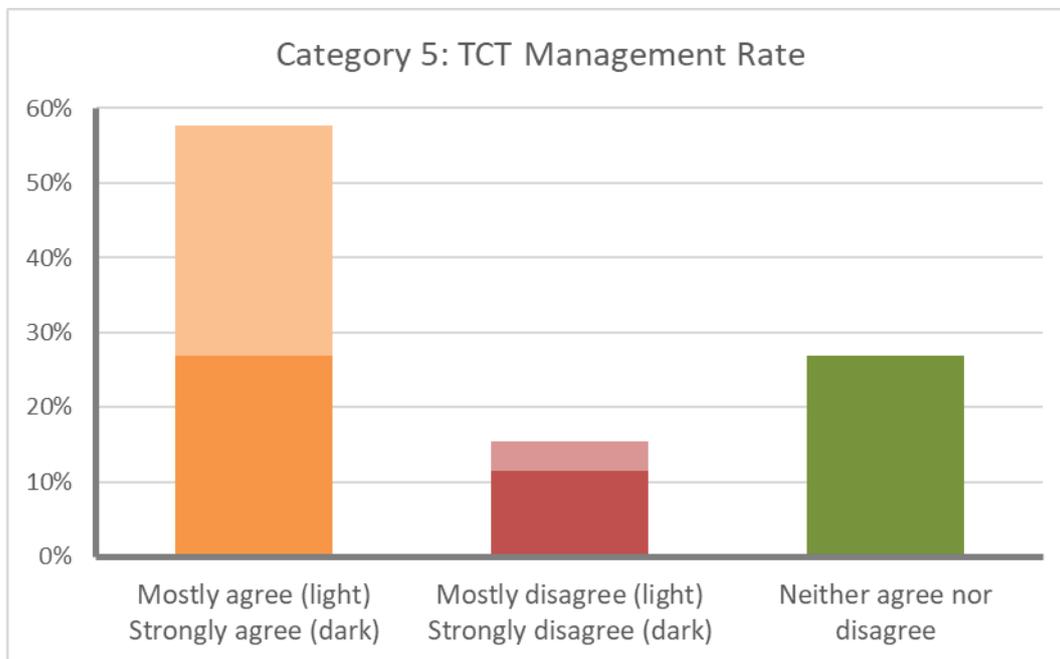
- Engagement with Māori to be resourced and possibly remunerated to better enable Māori to engage meaningfully
- Engagement with Māori should acknowledge pre-eminence of kawa and tikanga of Ngāti Tūwharetoa, and their treaty settlement mechanisms above any JMAs, MOUs and other high-level agreements.

**Officers' response:**

- Council has engaged external support to draft a Māori engagement framework. We are mindful of Māori/iwi's limited capacity to engage and respond to Council requests, and how they may be fairly remunerated for their time and input. We have sought feedback from other local authorities on how they address remuneration and how they support Māori/iwi capacity to engage. Internally, our project teams are working out how to factor in remuneration for Māori/iwi input into project plans. This may take some time to bed in and make it business as usual across our projects
- Officers have reviewed the draft policy and amended it to clearly include treaty settlement mechanisms. The proposed change is highlighted in the copy of the policy attached to this report.

**Category five: TownCentre Taupō Management Rate**

Council consulted on an increase (\$18.38) to the TownCentre Taupō management rate. While some concerns were raised about the impact on this to businesses who were likely still struggling with the lingering effects of the pandemic on their business, there was widespread acknowledgment of the value of TownCentre Taupō and their need for greater financial support. A total of 26 submitters responded, and the graph below shows the breakdown of responses.



**Category six: General feedback**

The general feedback from the community covered a range of issues and these are fully detailed in the attached Submission Category Report. A number of the issues raised have been discussed in the categories above, and full details of officers’ responses to the categories are in the attached Submission Category Report. Below is a snapshot of some of the feedback not already responded to previously.

**Key emerging themes:**

- Condition of the control gates bridge
- Request for new services – (i) repair of Taupō Golf Club carpark, (ii) safe school crossing in Kinloch, (iii) need for a Kinloch foreshore plan, and (iv) expansion of Council’s GIS (Mapi) functions
- Consultation document was complex to understand and vague on some details
- Council’s response to topical issues like climate change and housing
- Free access to Tūrangi Turtle Pools for all school age children
- Request for funding by community groups
- Request for Council to proceed with Mangakino lakefront and basketball development projects as planned
- Where will the funding be sourced from to meet project cost escalations and Central Government funding shortfalls
- High level of support for the decision to bring forward the second bridge crossing scoping study

**Officers’ response:**

- The guard rails on Control Gates bridge are planned to be repaired shortly. The bridge is inspected regularly, and maintenance work identified is programmed

- Staff are currently scoping the work involved in the Golf Club carpark with the intention of providing accurate costings in the next LTP. Some more work will need to be done to ascertain if this should be Council's funding responsibility.
- The speed management plan will include considerations of reducing traffic speed on Kinloch Road and within the village. As part of this we may need to consider traffic calming improvements including safer crossing points for children
- The Transport team have been involved in looking at summer parking along the foreshore at Kinloch and will work with our Parks and Reserves team to look at how to meet growing needs. The Parks team are working with iwi to develop a planting plan for the foreshore, cliffs and upper reserve at the western end of the beach. They are also investigating options for beach nourishment. Information on this will be shared with the community
- We are currently undertaking an upgrade and improvement planning for Mapi over the next 12 months to align with several other large corporate improvement and data projects. If not already included, the additional datasets can form part of this project
- The LTP allocated funding to develop a housing strategy, which will provide a framework to help address the current housing challenges facing our district. The housing strategy takes a collaborative approach that acknowledges Council as one of many stakeholders that will need to work together to find solutions to current and future housing issues. The strategy is currently in the development phase, and we expect to consult with the community later this year
- Free access to the Turtle Pools currently only extends to children up to 5 years old and that is not proposed to be changed over the next year. Entry fees remain as low as they can possibly be given operational costs and are also subsidised by the general rate. The Contact Swim Well programme also provides free swimming instruction to all primary school aged students across the district
- The Mangakino lakefront plan is currently being developed. Renewal budgets can be utilised in year 2 of the LTP to progress works on the playground. The basketball court needs further scoping to determine user and site requirements so this can be accurately costed. Staff are currently working with the local school to progress this.

## CONSIDERATIONS

### Alignment with Council's Vision

Council's vision is 'to be the most prosperous and liveable district in the North Island'. This is accompanied by a core set of values to underpin decision-making, the following of which are relevant to this particular proposal: World Class; Authentic; Charming; Vibrant; Quality; Resilient and Value.

### Financial Considerations

Council's Long-Term Plan is the starting point for constructing our Annual Plan each year, including the rates requirement we have consulted on for 2022/23 (an increase of 7.35% which is drawn directly from the Long-Term Plan plus approximately 1% extra to cover the rising cost of carbon offsets). In the time since we opened for public consultation on the draft proposed Annual Plan, a number of external factors have significantly changed. In particular, cost inflation in both infrastructure and operating costs has been much higher than anticipated.

Like all businesses, inflation creates extra pressure on Council's budget and first place we look to mitigate the impact of inflation is through cost savings and efficiencies. If cost inflation is too high for Council to offset through savings and efficiencies, it may flow through to a higher requirement for rates income. Elected Members will be provided with an up-to-date view of inflationary pressures (and our planned countermeasures) when deliberations begin on 23 or 24 May.

### Legal Considerations

#### Local Government Act 2002

The matter comes within scope of the Council's lawful powers, including satisfying the purpose statement of [Section 10](#) of the Local Government Act 2002. That section of the Act states that the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. It is considered that social / cultural / economic / environmental well-beings are of relevance to this particular matter.

## **Policy Implications**

The hearings and deliberations are legally required as part of the process of finalising the Annual Plan 2022-23, Fees and Charges 2022-23, and Significance and Engagement Policy.

## **Māori Engagement**

Council is bound by various Acts to consult and/or engage with Māori, including a duty to act reasonably and in good faith as a Te Tiriti o Waitangi partner. Equally, Council has a responsibility to develop and proactively foster positive relationships with Māori as key stakeholders in our district, and to give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi including (but not limited to) the protection of Māori rights and their rangatiratanga over tāonga. While we recognise Māori in general, we also need to work side by side with the three ahi kaa / resident iwi of our district.

Although good faith does not necessarily require consultation, it is a mechanism for Council to demonstrate its existence and commitment to working together as district partners. Appropriately, the report author acknowledges that they have considered the above obligations including the need to seek advice, guidance, feedback and/or involvement of Māori on the proposed recommendation/s, objective/s, project/s or service/s outlined within this report.

Iwi partners were engaged with as part of the public consultation process. Members of the Iwi engagement team reached out to iwi partners and held meetings with those who had the availability. The consultation document was shared with them, and they were provided with the opportunity to submit on, and present at the scheduled public hearings.

## **Risks**

There are no known risks.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DECISION OR PROPOSAL**

Council's Significance and Engagement policy identifies the following matters that are to be taken into account when assessing the degree of significance of proposals and decisions:

- a. The level of financial consequences of the proposal or decision;
- b. Whether the proposal or decision will affect a large portion of the community or community of interest;
- c. The likely impact on present and future interests of the community, recognising Maori cultural values and their relationship to land and water;
- d. Whether the proposal affects the level of service of an activity identified in the Long Term Plan;
- e. Whether community interest is high; and
- f. The capacity of Council to perform its role and the financial and other costs of doing so.

Officers have undertaken a rounded assessment of the matters in clause 11 of the Significance and Engagement Policy (2016), and are of the opinion that the proposal under consideration is significant.

The hearings and deliberations are an important part of the Special Consultative Procedure and ensure that the community have an opportunity to make Council aware of their views and preferences.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

Council engaged with the community using the Special Consultative Procedure. The Public consultation ran from 14 March to 14 April. During this time period, officers held drop-in sessions at community venues in Taupō town, Turangi and Mangakino and some smaller settlements; as well as market days in Turangi and Taupō town. Officers also fielded a number of queries from the community as part of the consultation.

Once decisions on the submissions are made, it is important that the decisions are communicated back to submitters and the general public. Submitters will receive a letter which will advise them of the decisions that were made. Because we will be personalising those letters, they will take several weeks to complete following the adoption of the Annual Plan. Council's decisions will be communicated through media releases and social media to the general public.

## **COMMUNICATION/MEDIA**

A communications plan has been prepared in consultation with the communications team.

**CONCLUSION**

Through the Annual Plan consultation document Council signalled that more flexibility needed to be built into the way we deliver the capital works programme. This reflects the challenging economic environment, difficulties with supply chains and contractor availability. Having considered the submissions officers are still of a view that the proposed work programme should continue. It is acknowledged that this will impose additional rating costs on households, however these projects are considered critical to ensure the desired levels of service are met and urban growth can continue to be supported with appropriate infrastructure.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Attachment 1: Full bundle of submissions for Annual Plan 2022-23. (under separate cover 1) [⇒](#)
2. Attachment 2: List of Submitters
3. Attachment 3: Submissions by Category
4. Attachment 4: Final Fees and charges 2022-24
5. Attachment 5: Amended Significance and Engagement Policy 2021