

# **ATTACHMENTS**

**UNDER SEPARATE COVER 2**

**Ordinary Council Meeting**

**29 July 2024**

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**INTRODUCTION**

This document provides:

- a summary of the key themes from submissions to the Long-term Plan 2024 – 34 consultation document and online survey, including common reasons given for supporting or opposing Council’s key proposals.
- where submissions have supported or opposed specific Council actions, and key reasons given for the request.
- any specific requests for action from submissions, and key reasons given for the request.

This summary of submissions is intended to support Council consideration of submission requests for action, including:

- the provision and consideration of officer advice
- recording the ultimate decision made by Council for submitters to see.

Reading this summary of submissions is not a substitute for reading the submissions themselves. In most cases we have not retained submitters own language or emotion when summarising and collating submissions into themes, and combining similar points raised by different submitters. While care has been taken to include all specific feedback and requests received, it is possible we have missed or misinterpreted a small number of points.

This report does not include all comments, criticisms, questions raised by submitters, unless they relate to a request for action and accompanying rationale.

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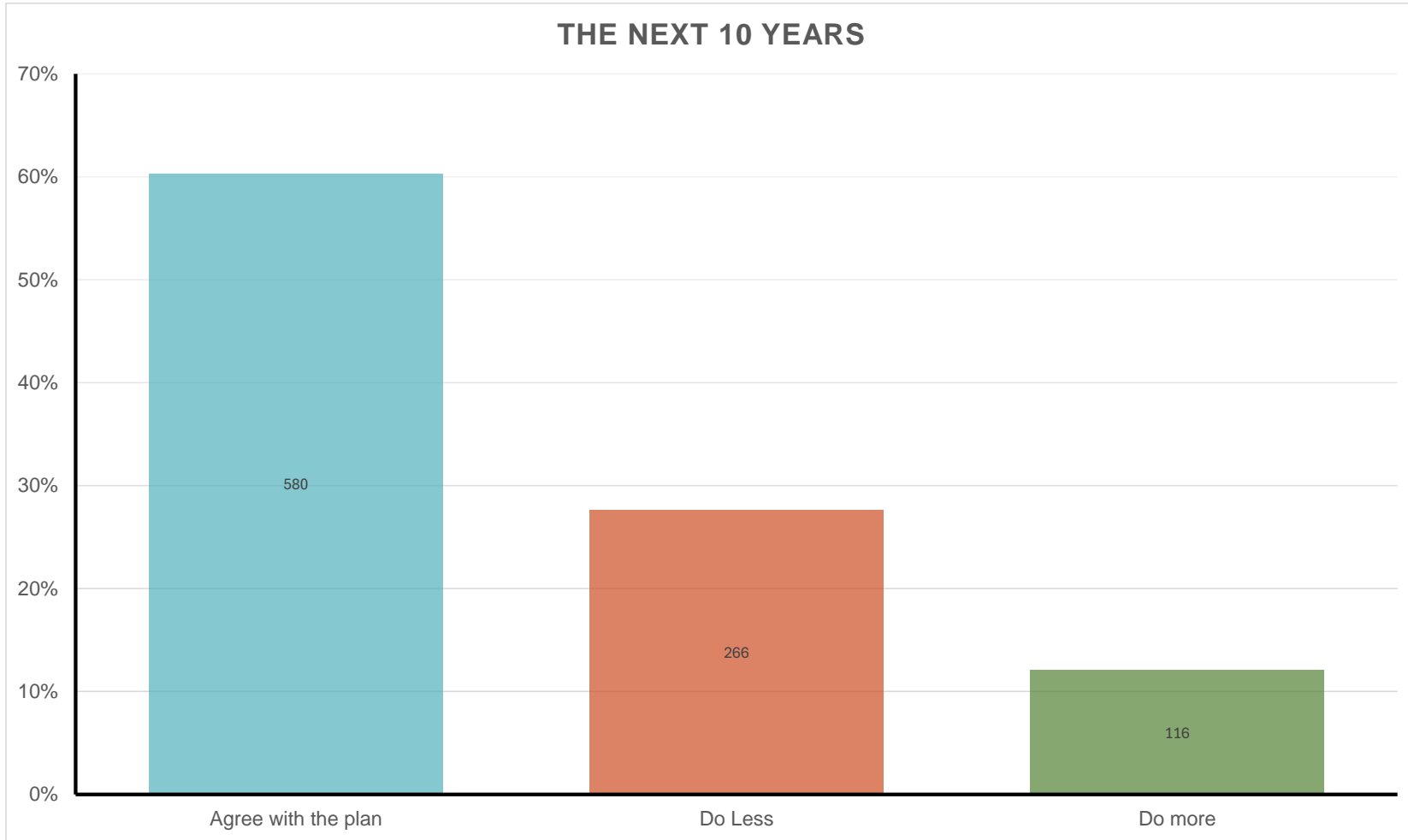
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**DO LESS TO SAVE MONEY OR DO MORE, WHICH COSTS MORE**



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Submission Point	Submission numbers				
<b>Common themes on overall balance</b>					
2. Council needs to tighten its belt to keep rates down. Cut costs. Do not increase rates by so much.	2	8	30	109	116
• Just like households, organisations and businesses are doing.	119	130	135	153	154
• We are in a recession. Things are too tight for too many people right now. We need the basics only.	155	160	170	175	176
• Rates increases are too high.	180	182	184	202	207
o Council cannot keep increasing rates.	209	221	232	236	240
o Rates are increasing by \$1000 in two years.	271	281	283	289	307
o Develop plans based on current levels of funding, not increases.	308	329	330	332	337
• Reduce to essentials. I.e.:	343	347	361	362	371
o Water	375	377	381	389	425
o Wastewater	427	432	436	455	460
o Roads	476	503	504	522	579
o Infrastructure	581	582	586	591	531
o Maintenance of what we have.	599	630	635	678	679
• No nice to haves, no frills	682	685	686	702	711
o Nice things come later / wait till we are better off.	739	743	744	746	752
o Many of the proposed projects are nice-to-haves.	761	777	791	793	794
o Don't do nice to haves / extravagant vanity projects (Dinosaur sculpture, for example)	802	806	819	829	830
o Other things are nice to have and could be user pays.	843	846	849	857	860
• Stick to the basic functions of a Council.	868	869	870	895	897
o Don't get involved in social issues.	932	933	935	939	940
o Less woke social stuff / virtue signalling.	942	944	947	961	965
• Pause new projects until we can afford them.	969	1016	1027	1035	1052
o Delay some proposals to spread out large rates increases.	1074	1094	1102	1112	1113
• We cannot afford big city things.	1119	1123	1124	1125	1126
• Look for efficiencies and cost savings.	1140	1140	1149	1166	1169
• Increasingly large burden for low / fixed income / retirees	1204	1207	1341	1412	

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Submission Point	Submission numbers				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less nice to have like cycling tracks</li> <li>• Don't just focus on the big projects, but review and reduce everyday spending and operational costs.</li> <li>• Ensure value for money with all spending / value every dollar</li> <li>• Cut back spending and reduce debt.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The more infrastructure you build the more you are increasing ongoing costs, and rates will have to be higher in future. Like a runaway train.</li> <li>○ Council has too much debt. Stop doing any more until debt is paid down.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					
<p>3. Less on beautification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Now is not the time.</li> <li>• We have enough statues / memorials / art decorations in Taupō.</li> <li>• Less nice to have things and promotion of the town for tourists and shop owners only.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Affordability is more important than looks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	30 130 322 471 672 761 857	38 207 333 571 679 768 1005	54 214 343 579 685 791 1027	109 266 375 591 686 796 1047	119 268 408 624 746 843 1074
<p>4. Reduce staff costs / numbers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut staff pay.</li> <li>• Cut unnecessary jobs / cut staff numbers.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At April 2018, of the 361 employees, 38 were Managers.</li> <li>○ At April 2024, of the 430 employees, 57 are Managers.</li> <li>○ 60 off them are being paid over \$100,000 a year. Paid by us the rate payers</li> <li>○ The ratio of Council staff to ratepayers is 1 FTE to every 68.2 ratepayer. This is the sixth highest in NZ.                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cut top heavy staff.</li> <li>○ Firstly, have a look at your organisation and how many people are employed compared to 6 years ago.</li> <li>○ Plan to reduce staff numbers by up to 20% and spend 20% less in areas like community leadership, community facilities, district development and planning, and regulatory areas.</li> <li>○ Employ an outside consultant to review Council costs, structures and staffing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Do less in house and make more use of private firms.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Don't spend so much on consultants - \$50,251,729</li> </ul> </li> <li>• With 80 managers on over \$100,000 and three on over \$200,000, surely they should have the knowledge to do their jobs without needing consultants.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Make cuts and restructure like they are going with central Government.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	4 330 591 843	69 427 597 895	192 436 687 911	272 461 724 1049	281 469 806 1412

Submission Point	Submission numbers				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Too many staff, paid high wages all from the rates money which is getting harder for a lot of people to afford.</li> <li>○ Reduce the operating costs of your offices.</li> <li>○ Do more of your own cleaning and turn lights and heat pumps off each night.</li> <li>○ Council shouldn't go into the new Tūwharetoa building / avoid the new Council office rent of \$1.2m pa</li> <li>○ No fancy tables chairs desks etc for office buildings (it's an office not a 5 star hotel).</li> </ul>					
<p>5. Less waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like lights at the Taupō waterfront</li> <li>• because of poor planning</li> <li>• we do not need to be told how to light household fires, or how to ride a bike.</li> <li>• Don't fix what isn't broken.</li> <li>• Expensive fences and parks are ridiculous.</li> <li>• Stop unnecessary projects                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ like the roundabout at Huka Falls.</li> <li>○ concreting on a path to nowhere at the intersection of Kinloch Rd and Whangamata Rd</li> <li>○ traffic lights</li> <li>○ Cultural Precinct project</li> <li>○ Titiraupenga bypass</li> <li>○ \$1m moving costs from the old Council buildings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Stop the excessive spending and reckless decisions</li> <li>• Minimise costs by doing things correctly in the first place and listening to the public.</li> <li>• Stop patronising videos and glossy documents.</li> <li>• No more roading changes</li> <li>• "Town Centre Transformation" and the roading revamp which succeeded only in making it more difficult to drive around Taupō.</li> <li>• The excessively expensive cycle way.</li> </ul>	54 280 380 477 685 824 1049	192 321 389 528 743 834 1112	226 330 393 583 746 835	265 333 424 613 808 895	273 361 474 635 815 899



### FEEDBACK ON AREAS FOR DOING MORE OR LESS

The below tables split the matters raised into topics for do more and do less. These matters have been split so decision makers can see both those asking for Council do more of something and do less of something side by side and consider the key points raised.

Submission Points – do less		Submission numbers	
<b>Placemaking</b>			
<b>Infrastructure</b>			
7.	Less growth / less building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep Taupō affordable for its own people.</li> <li>Growth for growth's sake is destructive.</li> <li>Concentrate on quality of life in Taupō rather growth.</li> <li>Less development, there are already too many residents for the support resources e.g. doctors to cope with.</li> </ul>	387 968	396 1169
9.	\$15 million on building resilience is too much	455	

Submission Points – do more		Submission numbers	
<b>Placemaking</b>			
6.	Spend more on Taupō like a city. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep Taupō nice clean town and keep up doing the work to make it a nice town for visitors.</li> <li>Spend more to keep Taupō looking attractive.</li> <li>Keep Taupō looking good for visitors and find way to improve to the place more.</li> <li>Focus on keeping our town tidy and looking good e.g entrances to town off ETA (mowing, plantings etc).</li> </ul>	14 283 1150	24 428
<b>Infrastructure</b>			
8.	Future proof infrastructure as much as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is never going to be cheaper than today,</li> <li>Think and plan ahead. Brave visionaries see a need and build it.</li> </ul>	252	
10.	Support the \$15 million funding to build resilience and prepare for the impacts of a rapidly changing climate, such as floods and weather events.	1348 (TMTB)	
11.	Do significantly more to investment in infrastructure, roading, water treatment and resilience for civil defence.	1185	
12.	It is important to be spending on infrastructure as the Taupō district is growing and we need to accommodate the new houses and population.	677	















































































































































































































































