

# **ATTACHMENTS**

## **Taupō East Rural Representative Group Meeting**

**4 July 2024**

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Taupō East Rural Representative Group Meeting Minutes

2 May 2024

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE TAUPŌ EAST RURAL REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING  
HELD AT THE WAIRAKEI COMMUNITY HALL, KAURI ROAD, WAIRAKEI  
ON THURSDAY, 2 MAY 2024 AT 11.00AM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Kylie Leonard (In the Chair), Mr Patrick Hart, Cr Danny Loughlin, Mayor David Trewavas, Mr Mark Wynyard, Cr John Williamson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive (J Gardyne), Infrastructure Manager (R Stokes), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts), Communications Advisor (R Watts), Community Engagement Advisor - Northern Taupō District (C Dredge), Committee Advisor (N Turnbull)

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC:** 6 members of the public

**1 KARAKIA**

Cr Kylie Leonard opened the meeting with a Karakia, and Cr Danny Loughlin closed the meeting with a Karakia.

**2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES**

**TERR202405/01 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Mr Mark Wynyard  
Seconded: Cr Danny Loughlin

That the apology received from Ms Evelyn Forrest be accepted.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202405/01 above.*

**3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil

**4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 TAUPŌ EAST RURAL REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING - 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

**TERR202405/02 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin  
Seconded: Mr Patrick Hart

That the minutes of the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting held on Thursday 29 February 2024 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202405/02 above.*

## 5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS

### 5.1 PUBLIC FORUM

#### Ms Rachael Canning - Wairakei Village Community

Ms Canning introduced herself to the group and spoke about the Department of Internal Affairs Small Initiative Community Led Development Funding applications that the Wairakei Village Community were applying for. She thanked the Community Engagement Advisor- Northern Taupō District for the assistance in forming that application. She noted that the funding was for the benefit of the community and would help with efforts to improve the village for residents. The funding would also enable the community to acquire various equipment for events such as marquees, BBQs and storage including a covered trailer.

Ms Canning spoke about the surveys that were conducted within the community in 2023. The surveys provided information to help understand the aspirations of the village community such as the need for improvements to the physical appearance of the village entrance environment. Engineering and design work would be required for that project which Ms Canning was working on a second application for funding for. A third funding application was for Cyclone Gabrielle recovery which included restoration of areas along State Highway 5 which had been granted. Ms Canning advised she had made contact with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) regarding the land that the pine trees along State Highway 5 sat on that was extended land owned by Department of Conservation (DOC), to assess further requirements including whether the restoration work aligned with Iwi and Hapū objectives. The project could be a profit making venture for logging companies, but Ms Canning was in touch with a project manager to assist in working through the project and those variables and opportunities.

Members advised Ms Canning of various local organisations that could potentially assist with the project work such as NZ Forest Managers, Contact Energy Community Engagement Team, and the Waikato River Authority. Ms Canning mentioned that any resources available from Council would be very much appreciated. The Chief Executive advised Ms Canning that Council had a funding team who would be suitable to contact for further assistance.

#### TERR202405/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Mr Patrick Hart

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group receives comments from members of the public.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202405/03 above.*

### 5.2 ITEMS OF INTEREST

#### Transport Update

The Infrastructure Manager introduced himself and provided an update on the visibility issue of the LED street light on the corner of Broadlands Road and River Road. He explained that LED lights were the only approved compliant light available to buy but that the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) had high pressure sodium lights they were replacing that Council was seeking to obtain to install on River Road to try and improve visibility of the intersection position.

Community members had advised the Infrastructure Manager of visibility concerns about the White Road turn off outside PermaPine where children get off the bus. Parents doing U-turns when picking kids up from the bus had little visibility of trucks coming from the north. The Infrastructure Manager explained that the PermaPine Site Manager had trimmed back the trees in effort to improve the visibility, but Permapine wanted to avoid having to move back the fence any further. The Infrastructure Manager advised members that he would be in touch with the PermaPine Site Manager to discuss potentially getting more of the hedge behind the fence trimmed back to further assist in increasing visibility for drivers. An update would be provided at the next meeting.

The Infrastructure Manager provided an update on the Broadlands Road landfill intersection visibility issue mentioned by the community at earlier meetings. He advised that designs for an entrance advisory sign 200-300 metres up the road had been priced and accepted and would be installed soon. In regards to there being no deceleration slip-lane into the landfill the Infrastructure Manager advised members that it was not a current project in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP). He further advised that Council was about to consult on the draft LTP 2024-34 and he suggested that if this was a priority of the local community that they use this process to submit as a group to council.

#### **Community Engagement and Development**

The Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō District introduced herself to the group. She provided an update on recent events in the Wairakei, and River Road communities.

She mentioned that applications for the Taupō / Taupō East Rural Community Grants had closed in April, and the Taupō / Taupō East Rural Community Grants Distribution Committee meeting was to be held on Thursday 9 May 2024 at the Taupō District Council Chamber. She thanked the groups that had applied.

She congratulated the River Road Collective Group for recently being granted funding from The Department of Internal Affairs Small Initiative Community Led Development Funding. This was a great achievement that would assist the Collective Group in various projects such as acquiring benches down at the reserve that needed to be replaced.

She reminded the group about the Long-term Plan consultation events occurring in June and July and encouraged the group to make their submissions and provide feedback to Council. She advised the group that there would be a workshop on Tuesday, 21 May 2024 in the TDC Council Chambers where information would be provided on the LTP process, engagement events happening, and there would be an opportunity to ask questions of the Policy and Community Engagement Teams.

#### **TERR202405/04 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Mayor David Trewavas

Seconded: Cr Danny Loughlin

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group receives the Items of Interest information provided.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202405/04 above.*

### **5.3 MEMBERS' REPORTS**

The Chief Executive introduced herself and spoke to the group about the upcoming LTP process. She explained how TDC is required to conduct the process outlined by central government legislation, and that the LTP gives the Taupō community indication of what Council is working on. She explained that Elected Members would be meeting in May to approve the budget for auditors. She mentioned that Council's focus was to prioritise essential work needed in the community such as waste water projects and maintaining infrastructure.

In answer to a member's question regarding rubbish bin boundaries being extended to rural areas, the Infrastructure Manager advised that comparisons of the current levels of service were being undertaken, and while areas like River Road had a bag collection service, a bin service may not be viable for contractors. Members asked the Infrastructure Manager to look further into the services as the rubbish collection was a relationship between Council and ratepayers, not ratepayers and the contractors.

In answer to a member's question about why TDC had GPS speed monitors on fleet vehicles, the Chief Executive explained that it was mainly due to health and safety and ensuring the Council staff arrived to their destinations safely, and in cases of emergency staff could be located in a timely manner if needed.

Taupō East Rural Representative Group Meeting Minutes

2 May 2024

The following members reports were received:

Mr Mark Wynyard and Mr Patrick Hart

- Noted that there had been an increase in road works on rural roads that were taking weeks to complete. There seemed to be a delay in completion of road works, causing disruption to travellers.

**TERR202405/05 RESOLUTION**

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Mr Patrick Hart

That the Taupō East Rural Representative Group receives the reports from members.

**CARRIED**

*Note: All members present at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group meeting voted in favour of resolution TERR202405/05 above.*

**6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**The meeting closed at 12:23pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Taupō East Rural Representative Group Meeting held on 4 July 2024.**

.....  
**CHAIRPERSON**

Extracts from Standing Orders 2022-2025

## **15. Public Forums | Ngā Matapakinga a te Marea**

Public forums are a defined period of time, usually at the start of an ordinary meeting, which, at the discretion of a meeting, is put aside for the purpose of public input. Public forums are designed to enable members of the public to bring matters of their choice, not necessarily on the meeting's agenda, to the attention of the local authority.

In the case of a committee, subcommittee, local or community board, any issue, idea, or matter raised in a public forum, must fall within the terms of reference of that body.

### **15.1 Time limits | Ngā tepenga wā**

A period of up to 30 minutes, or such longer time as the meeting may determine, will be available for the public forum at each scheduled local authority meeting. Requests must be made to the chief executive (or their delegate) at least one clear day before the meeting; however this requirement may be waived by the chairperson. Requests should also outline the matters that will be addressed by the speaker(s).

Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes. Where the number of speakers presenting in the public forum exceeds 6 in total, the chairperson has discretion to restrict the speaking time permitted for all presenters.

### **15.2 Restrictions | Ngā Herenga**

The chairperson has the discretion to decline to hear a speaker or to terminate a presentation at any time where:

- A speaker is repeating views presented by an earlier speaker at the same public forum;
- The speaker is criticising elected members and/or staff;
- The speaker is being repetitious, disrespectful or offensive;
- The speaker has previously spoken on the same issue;
- The matter is subject to legal proceedings; and
- The matter is subject to a hearing, including the hearing of submissions where the local authority or committee sits in a quasi-judicial capacity.

### **15.3 Questions at public forums | Ngā pātai i ngā matapakinga a te marea**

At the conclusion of the presentation, with the permission of the chairperson, elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by a speaker.

### **15.4 No resolutions | Kāore he tatūnga**

Following the public forum, no debate or decisions will be made at the meeting on issues raised during the forum unless related to items already on the agenda. (See the LGNZ Guide to Standing Orders for suggestions of good practice in dealing with issues raised during a forum).

### **15.5 Application of restrictions | Te hāngaitanga o ngā Herenga**

Clause 15.2 above applies to members of the public addressing meetings at any time, not just as part of a scheduled public forum session.

Extracts from Standing Orders 2022-2025**9.1 Items of business not on the agenda which cannot be delayed | Ngā take kāore i runga i te rārangi take e kore e taea te whakaroa**

A meeting may deal with an item of business that is not on the agenda where the meeting resolves to deal with that item and the chairperson provides the following information during the public part of the meeting:

- (a) The reason the item is not on the agenda; and
- (b) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

*LGOIMA, s 46A(7).*

Items not on the agenda may be brought before the meeting through a report from either the chief executive or the chairperson.

**Please note**, that nothing in this standing order removes the requirement to meet the provisions of Part 6 of the LGA 2002 with regard to consultation and decision-making.

**9.2 Discussion of minor matters not on the agenda | Te kōrerorero i ngā take iti kāore i runga i te rārangi take**

A meeting may discuss an item that is not on the agenda only if it is a minor matter relating to the general business of the meeting and the chairperson explains at the beginning of the public part of the meeting that the item will be discussed. However, the meeting may not make a resolution, decision, or recommendation about the item, except to refer it to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

*LGOIMA, s 46A(7A).*



# SUBMISSION

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WATER SERVICES PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS) BILL, JUNE 2024

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### INTRODUCTION

1. Taupō District Council is home to 42,000 people from a diverse range of communities, with a large Māori population. As a district, we experience a fluctuating population due to seasonal tourism, with 1.2 million bed nights booked annually. These large swings in population place significant demands on our three waters infrastructure, which need to be managed effectively to maintain the current high service levels that our community enjoy. We are a growing district and a largely rural council, so balancing growth needs with levels of service is key.
2. The heart of our district is beautiful Lake Taupō, the largest lake in the Southern Hemisphere. Through and from our rohe flows the Waikato River, a vital source of freshwater for large populations downstream from our district. We have a special role as the guardian of these treasured taonga. We take our kaitiaki duties of these unique resources seriously and have demonstrated our commitment with initiatives such as the Lake Taupō Protection Project. Our community cares deeply about these waters that sustain us and our natural environment. Protecting what we value is of critical importance to us and providing safe, clean drinking water in our District is a top Council priority.
3. Our highly distributed water network covers a wide, geothermally active area, which makes water services delivery challenging. Workforce availability and maintenance of our assets are some of the challenges we face.
4. Council operates 17 water schemes around the district and is committed to ensuring the drinking water supplied is safe and available in compliance with the Water Service Act 2021 and supporting Water Services (DWSNZ) Regulations 2022. We operate 11 wastewater treatment plants in some remote areas.
5. Taupō District Council agrees that for some Councils and their communities the status quo on the way water services are delivered cannot be sustained. Changes are needed to improve delivery and affordability for ratepayers. However, any proposed change must be in the best interest of our communities, and provide sufficient time and give due consideration to the process, to allow genuine engagement with our community and iwi partners. Local voice and a close connection with our social, physical and cultural environment must be at the heart of any future changes.
6. We are disappointed in the extremely short timeframe provided to us to make a submission on this important legislation. As a result, our submission has been rushed through the process, with insufficient time for councillors or our community to be adequately informed, or to consider the full implications of this legislation.

### OUR KEY POINTS

#### **The timeframe allowed for Councils to submit Water Services Delivery Plans is unrealistic**

7. We consider that twelve months provided to councils to prepare their Water Services Delivery Plans is unrealistic.
8. Firstly, there is a fundamental disconnect with the timing of the two Bills. Councils are being expected to work on their Water Services Delivery Plan and the possible Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) model, without clarity either on what the economic regulation requirements will be, nor on what possible CCO options will be available.
9. Secondly, the government has committed that councils have options to continue to deliver in the existing model, or alternatively form or join a CCO. However, the work needed to build a compelling case for a CCO, identify and work with our partners, and take our community, iwi

partners and elected members on the journey, and then work through the actual establishment of a CCO, will take much longer than the twelve months allowed in the Bill.

10. Third, councils are already resource-constrained, and the development of Water Services Delivery Plans will take a significant amount of input from already limited resources. Further assistance in the form of guidelines and support is required from central government to enable local councils to be successful.
11. There is a risk that many councils (including ours) that could potentially benefit from a long term partnership arrangement, will stick with the status quo merely to meet the prescribed timeframes and resourcing.
12. We consider twelve months to be grossly insufficient for the due diligence that is needed and the true commitment to getting best outcomes for our community. As a council we have been proactive in considering options for future delivery of water services. Part of our approach has been working with other Waikato councils to consider and investigate possible collaboration opportunities. Our concern with the short timeframe to delivery is not that we feel unprepared, but recognising the amount of work that will be needed to truly create enduring, long-term, financially sustainable solutions.

#### **Recommendation 1**

We recommend that the deadline to submit a Water Services Delivery Plan is extended to at least two years.

#### **Short term view jeopardises the quality of long-term solutions**

13. We consider that ten years is an insufficient time period for many of the strategic and long-term issues with water services delivery to emerge or be addressed.
14. This timeframe is also inconsistent with the 30-year view required of other council processes. We already prepare asset management plans and an infrastructure strategy with this 30-year outlook.
15. Taking the appropriate time to bed down this vital work, ensuring the community is on board and participating in the new model will make the difference between success and failure across our District.
16. We are also concerned that the creation of a Water Services Delivery Plan duplicates work that is already being done, without a clear sense of cohesion as to how it supplements or complements existing processes and documents.

#### **Recommendation 2**

We recommend that the Bill takes a longer-term (30 year) view, to align it with Council's Infrastructure Strategy and Asset Management Plans.

#### **There is insufficient information on key principles and rules**

17. We believe this Bill should include key fundamental principles and rules rather than waiting for the second Bill to clarify these important points.
18. The fundamental concept of a new class of CCOs, namely a CCO that is financially separate but still controlled by Council, is absent. What powers and accountabilities would the CCO possess, and how would key processes be managed, for example what would be its revenue raising powers, and what mechanisms would be in place for it to be held accountable by ratepayers. The important issue of community ownership and how this will be maintained in any future arrangement, has not been addressed.
19. The requirement to be "Financially Sustainable" by June 2028 is problematic, as the term has not been adequately defined. Understanding this concept is a critical element to identify any path

forward, and to be able to compare different service delivery options. Councils will not know where they stand in terms of meeting this requirement until it is more precisely defined.

20. Furthermore, we note that any efficiency gains of a joint operating model are likely to take years to emerge. Any establishment costs of a CCO, "catch up" investment needed, changes to revenue streams etc do not appear to have been factored in.
21. Affordability considerations have also not been addressed in the requirement for financial sustainability. This is an important factor for our community, and it has not been made clear how the legislation will address this.

**Recommendation 3:**

We recommend that the Bill defines the key fundamental principles and rules, particularly on the powers and accountabilities of a new class of CCOs, the concept of financial sustainability and affordability considerations.

**We need to take our community with us on the journey**

22. A new CCO will take time to setup, and we need to involve our community and take them and our iwi partners and stakeholders with us on the journey. Our community deeply cares about water assets and maintaining ownership and control over these assets.
23. We have a joint responsibility to deliver systems that meet the needs of the communities we serve. We cannot discount the importance of 'local voice' simply to get this reform done faster.
24. We continue to highlight the importance of hearing our community and to continue involving our community in determining their futures at 'grass roots' level. The reform process must be 'done right' rather than 'done quickly'.

**Recommendation 4:**

We recommend that the Bill provides sufficient time for Council to consult with our community, iwi partners and stakeholders.

**Many of the "What if's" remain unanswered**

25. The focus of this Bill is primarily on financial considerations. It doesn't address the other important factors that impact our ability to deliver water services locally. These include workforce capacity and capability, supplier availability, increasing regulation, and overall ability to deliver the sheer volume of infrastructure work that is required.
26. Deliverability of services will be challenging to assess until the overall landscape is known, particularly if councils choose to remain sole providers of water services. Determining our ability to resource and deliver work will be unclear while the new environment and the scale of the various entities emerges.
27. There is no provision for central government funding or support. We consider that central government should support the additional regulatory requests it is making of councils, with appropriate funding. This will be key to ensuring long-lasting, successful arrangements.
28. The purpose of the requirement for the Chief Executive to sign off on the Water Services Delivery plan is not adequately explained or justified. This is at odds with existing Local Government legislation and governance rules, and it is not clear as to why this process should be handled in a unique manner.

**Recommendation 5:** We recommend that central government gives weight to these more challenging questions, and ensures they are addressed in upcoming policy announcements, council guidance, and the second bill.

**We support the proposed consultation changes**

29. We agree with the options outlining requirements for establishing a CCO, namely only having to consult once and consider only two options (status quo and proposed option). However, we are concerned that any curtailed consultation period could have the effect of reducing community involvement in what is considered a critical decision and change process. Working with our community and iwi partners remains a top priority for us as a council, and we would not wish to jeopardise the strong relationships we have built for a “quick fix”.

**In summary**, we are concerned with the pace of change being proposed in all aspects of this Bill, including the short deadline to make submissions. We consider it disingenuous to be requiring councils to make plans now, that will comply with legislation that is yet to be announced. For meaningful change to occur, we must have the support of our community and our iwi partners, which will take significant investment and time. There is no recognition of the extra burden this will place on already resource-constrained councils that are struggling to deal with delayed Long Term Plans, as a result of the change in water delivery planning, in parallel with a rates affordability crisis. We strongly urge central government to consider what additional assistance it can provide as an infrastructure partner, with committed funding and guidance, in order to reduce the heavy local impact being felt by councils.



**David J Trewavas JP**  
**Mayor - Taupō District Council**

Key contact:  
Joanne Walton  
Programme Manager

## **Taupō District Council Submission on the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill**

Submission to: Committee Secretariat,  
Primary Production Select Committee  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

**1 This is a submission by Taupō District Council on the following:**

Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill

**2 Taupō District Council's position on the Bill:**

2.1 Taupō District Council's submission:

- supports changes to Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) requirements.
- opposes amendments related to Te Mana o te Wai and the proposed exclusion of the hierarchy of obligations from resource consent decision making processes.

2.3 We are concerned that the amendments in this Bill have been rushed through without proper consideration of the wider implications for local authorities and their freshwater management agreements with iwi and hapū.

2.4 We are concerned that there has not been enough time given for proper scrutiny of the amendments. We urge the government to slow down and be more measured with reforming the resource management system.

2.5 We are supportive of the submission provided by Taituarā on all other matters pertaining to the Bill.

**3 Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)**

3.1 Taupō District Council supports the proposed new Section 78 (Time-limited modifications to National Policy Statement Indigenous Biodiversity 2023) and the suspension of requirements for councils to identify new SNAs and include them in district plans for three years.

3.2 SNA identification by councils has been both inconsistent and piecemeal, which has undermined the purpose of the provisions and the intended outcomes. The process has also been very contentious with landowners concerned about the impact on land use and land value.

3.3 In the Taupō district most of the land returned in Treaty settlements is rural land and SNA restrictions have had a significant impact on the ability to develop this land. In some situations, entire blocks of Māori land are likely to be deemed a high-value SNA.

3.4 The suspension of requirements to identify new SNAs will give councils more time to ensure that biodiversity planning is both comprehensive and achievable, while not impeding on individual property rights or undermining tino rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga rights of Māori on Māori land.

3.5 Taupō District Council has existing SNAs in the District Plan, since 2013, these will continue to provide a layer of protection for those sites while the Government considers potential policy changes.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain proposed Section 78</li> </ul>

**4 National Policy Statement – Freshwater Management (NPS-FM)**

- 4.1 We oppose the exclusion of the hierarchy of obligations contained in the NPS-FM from resource consenting processes and decision making. The Te Mana o Te Wai hierarchy is crucial in ensuring sustainable water management practices that respect and uphold the intrinsic value of our freshwater resources. This framework ensures that the most critical and non-negotiable needs are met first, to prevent the exploitation and degradation of water resources.
- 4.2 We are concerned that the proposed amendment will undermine the progress Taupō District Council has made with freshwater management. We have worked closely with iwi, hapū, stakeholders, and partners, to ensure both the day-to-day and long-term management of our three-waters reflect the principles and hierarchy of obligations within Te Mana o te Wai. We are concerned that this amendment will dilute the genuineness of this work.
- 4.3 Given the significance of freshwater and the Te Mana o te Wai framework to iwi, hapū, and Māori, we don't believe there has been adequate engagement or analysis of the potential impact of these changes on Māori. The Taupō District is home to Lake Taupō and the Waikato River, and other significant tributaries. The Waikato River is a tupuna (ancestor), a taonga (treasure), and the mauri (life force) of Waikato-Tainui, Raukawa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa and the Te Arawa iwi. Taupō Waters, inclusive of all the streams and tributaries that feed into, and flow out of, Lake Taupō, are a taonga tuku iho and of paramount importance to Ngāti Tūwharetoa. As kaitiaki of these water bodies, iwi have an inherent obligation to ensure that the mauri, and the physical and spiritual health of these waterbodies is maintained, protected, and enhanced. We urge the Government to take more time engaging iwi and hapū to ensure their role as kaitiaki is not undermined by the proposed amendments.
- 4.4 We do not believe that there is data or evidence to support the proposed amendment. The Regulatory Impact Statement prepared by the Ministry for the Environment states that there is limited evidence on how the hierarchy of obligations is impacting resource consent applications across the country. This amendment could result in commercial use of water being elevated over cultural and ecological values, and we would like to see more analysis of the potential impact of the amendments.
- 4.5 There has also been limited consultation with local authorities about the impact of this proposal.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove 2F and 2G from amended Section 104 (Consideration of applications).</li> <li>Uphold the Te Mana o Te Wai hierarchy of obligations in resource consent decision making processes to ensure that freshwater resources are managed sustainably and equitably.</li> </ul>

**5 Te Tiriti o Waitangi Settlement Obligations and Joint Management Agreements**

- 5.1 Taupō District Council is committed to meeting its statutory Tiriti O Waitangi obligations and acknowledges partnership as the basis of Te Tiriti. We have a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe with Ngāti Tūrangitukua and Joint Management Agreements with our iwi partners. We want to safeguard the

commitments made in these agreements. We have concerns that the proposed amendments will undermine the commitments made under these agreements. Our reasons are set out in the following points.

- 5.2 It is unclear if the government has considered Treaty settlement commitments and whether processes and engagement obligations provided for in certain settlements have been met. For example, the Waikato River settlement includes a Crown commitment to “a new era of co-management in respect of the Waikato River”, with “the highest level of good faith engagement”<sup>1</sup>.
- 5.3 Taupō District Council has obligations under these agreements to talk to iwi and hapū in our capacity as a consent applicant. We have built up good relationships to do this and don’t want those undermined by the Government removing the legislative legitimacy that underpinned those relationships.

#### Recommendations

- In the spirit of partnership and recognising the role of Māori in environmental management, pause the Bill to give iwi/hapū more time to understand and analyse the proposed amendments.
- Ensure the proposed amendments do not undermine joint management agreements between local authorities and iwi/hapū.

## 6 Conclusions

- 6.1 Taupō District Council supports the pragmatic approach to delaying identification of SNAs. We strongly urge the Government to retain the hierarchy of obligations within the NPS-FM in resource consenting and decision making. The NPS-FM provides a clear and structured approach that guides the sustainable management of freshwater, balancing ecological integrity with human use. This balance is critical for maintaining the health of our freshwater ecosystems and ensuring that resource management decisions align with long-term environmental sustainability and community well-being.
- 6.2 We are concerned that the Bill and other legislative amendments have been rushed through without proper consideration of wider implications for iwi, hapū, local authorities and the wider community. As an example, the timeframe of this Bill has limited the identification of options, level of analysis, collation and review of evidence, and engagement with stakeholders. We urge the government to slow down and be more measured with reforming the resource management system.
- 6.3 We do not wish to be heard in support of our submission.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mayor David Trewavas**

**Taupō District Council**

Key contact: Erin O’Callaghan, Team Leader Resource Management and Reserve Planning  
[eocallghan@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:eocallghan@taupo.govt.nz)

<sup>1</sup> Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010

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## Introduction and Guidance

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### INTRODUCTION

- Council's Long-term Plan outlines the services, key projects, and initiatives Council intends delivering for our communities over the next 10 years.
- The Long-term Plan consultation document outlines the following:
  - The rates challenge for this year, including the rates increase and how we are proposing to focus on the basics.
  - A plan for Tūrangi Wastewater disposal
  - A plan for Taupō North Wastewater
  - Bag it or Bin it discussion about kerbside waste
  - How we are going to support better housing outcomes
- Additional supporting information is available which includes a more detailed capital works programme, financial forecast information, outlines changes to some fees and charges and a range of policies and strategies such as:
  - Infrastructure Strategy
  - Financial Strategy
  - Development Contributions Policy
  - Community Funding Policy

### GENERAL GUIDANCE WHEN COMPLETING A SUBMISSION

Council is seeking feedback on four key issues, however the Long-term plan consultation period provides an opportunity to give your feedback on other aspects of the Long-term Plan. In addition to providing feedback on the particular questions, below is some guidance on how you may want to provide feedback on any other Long-term Plan matter.

- Identify any areas of the Long-term Plan you disagree with. Provide an explanation/reasoning for why and what solution you are seeking.
- Identify any areas of the Long-term Plan that you agree with and provide an explanation/reasoning for why.
- If you would like to advocate an entirely new idea for the Long-term Plan; provide an explanation, reasoning, and outline what this looks like in context.



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**Submission to the Taupō District Council's  
Long-term Plan 2024-34  
By Taupō East Rural Representative Group**

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**To:** Taupō District Council  
Private Bag 2005  
**Taupō 3352**  
[info@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:info@taupo.govt.nz)

**1.0 PARTICULAR QUESTIONS WE ARE WE SEEKING FEEDBACK ON****1.1 *What we are planning in the next 10 years***

We are proposing to focus on the essentials do you agree with this? Or should we spend less and do less, or spend more and do more?

**1.2 *Tūrangi Wastewater***

Do you support the proposed option for Tūrangi Wastewater?

**1.3 *Taupō North Wastewater***

Do you support the proposed option for Taupō North Wastewater?

**1.4 *Bag it or Bin It***

Do you support the proposed option for Kerbside Waste?

**1.5 *Housing***

Do you support our proposed approach to Housing?

**2.0 Ward Specific Projects**

2.1 The following list are projects that are included in the Long-term Plan related to your ward:

- Rural roads seal extensions
- Poihipi Road improvements
- River Road footpath
- Wairākei Drive and Karetoto Road intersection
- Broadlands Road improvements
- Study of high risk intersections for lighting improvements.
- Rural berm drainage and improvements
- Wairākei Drive steam bridge cycle and pedestrian connection
- Wairākei Drive cycle lane

2.2 Is there anything you would like to tell us about these projects? Do you support or oppose them?

**3.0 ANY OTHER FEEDBACK / IDEAS?****3.1 *Ideas*****3.2 *Feedback*****4.0 CONCLUSION****4.1 Closing remarks**

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

DATED

SIGNED

Community Representative