

Submission for Waitomo District Council Draft 10 Year Plan 2021-2031

Full name STANON BELL

Organisation (if responding on behalf of)

Phone [REDACTED]

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Address [REDACTED] Te Kuiti

Postcode 3910

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

Yes No

(Hearings are scheduled for 27 and 28 May 2021. If you circle Yes, we will contact you to arrange a time.)

Proposal:

Postponing the Harmonisation of Water Supply Rates Council proposes postponing completion of the harmonisation of water supply rates until Year 4 of the 10 Year Plan. This is because of concerns about rating affordability for Te Kuiti ratepayers and because the future model for the delivery of water services is uncertain. Please circle your choice.

Option 1

I agree with Council's preferred option to postpone the harmonisation of water supply rates until Year 4 (2024/2025).

Option 2

I would prefer that Council keeps the status quo and complete this work as planned in Year 1 (2021/2022), noting this will largely impact Te Kuiti ratepayers

For the WDC 10 Year Plan, I would like to submit the following

1. The Timber Trail annual payment of \$15,000.00. I believe this should never have happened because this is a private business on DOC land and one of the Directors of the Timber Lodge (which is where the trail leads to) is the Deputy Mayor. If the Timber Trail want funding for promotional purposes they should be applying to Tourism Waikato. I would also like to express my concerns

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around the \$430,000.00 that we have already paid to this private business as not in the best interest of our district on a whole and would not like to see this happen again.

2. The annual payment of \$7,100.00 to an Incorporated Society to support a sister city in Tatsumo, Japan. I oppose this payment because we are in a worldwide pandemic, it is not safe to travel abroad and the world will never be the same. We should stop the payment altogether and they apply for grants like all the other Charitable and Incorporated Trusts because they offer no financial benefit to our district as a whole.
3. \$80,000.00 to develop a walking and cycling strategy. I don't think this is necessary and we should be focused on maintaining and developing what we have like Motakiora and possibly extending the walkway on Esplanade to get to the start of the Te Araroa Track. This money should no way shape or form go towards the Timber Trail.
4. The Annual Hamilton – Waikato Tourism Payment of \$60,000.00. I don't understand why we are having to pay for advertising an industry that clearly in its hay day before covid hit could easily pay their own way, and now in covid times some of those industries have received huge funding from central government to help them. We are all struggling and if covid hits us again putting this money to better use would be an advantage. If the council does not agree with me then I would like to suggest that we use this money to market our District ourselves.
5. I don't see it essential to pay \$20,000.00 to develop a marketing strategy and branding. This is a huge cost for just the start of the process, we will still have to factor in all the costs of changing everything. If and when this cost is necessary, I would like to see council engage with Iwi to think about weaving Te Rohe Potae/King Country within the strategy and branding.
6. For the Aerodrome - I find it ludicrous that this is not a user pays facility and ratepayers are having to subsidise Top Dressing companies and the Aero Club. I see other clubs and businesses in the district having to uphold their own costs and charge fees to their members without a handout from ratepayers and wonder why this is not the case for the Aerodrome users, just because the land is councils this should not be happening and council should be running this like a business.
7. I also don't see the value in Installing Licence Plate Recognition technology at Te Kuiti Transfer Station to the tune of \$40,000.00 with ongoing renewal costs. My other concern around this is loss of employment for refuge workers.
8. The proposed North King Country Indoor Stadium – I would like to express my concerns around this, the independent review from SportsNZ identified 12 major problems that will undoubtedly cause much hardship for the district on the whole for the next 30 years. I feel that there will be more budget blow outs if the steering committee does not reign it in. I am not happy that the previous council decided to loan 1.5 million dollars that raised debt, then gave it out as a grant that had no conditions attached to it. I am thankful that the present Mayor had the common sense to place conditions on the 1.5 million loan and find it interesting that none of those conditions have been met. In saying all of the above I support a new gym for TKHS if the costs are realistic.
9. Maori who are from this district are more than likely to be buried in their own urupa because of this, I would like to ask that our Marae receive their portion of payment for their urupa upkeep from rates revenue aligning with the public cemetery.
10. Waste Minimisation – It would be good to see initiatives around this that encourages and grows a community space that collaborates ideas to reduce and recycle waste and diverts waste from land

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fill. This could include an educational space providing tours and workshops, a drop off point for reuseable's, a reuse shop and an art space.

11. Water Harmonisation Information - The Pamphlet that was sent out was not enough information to make an informed decision. This makes me question how much money it cost to have ratepayers and residents none the wiser. I suggest a short video put up on the councils website and facebook page that gives us the information we need as well as advertising in the Newspaper.

In summary I would like to see the distribution of the above money being put towards better use. It can either be put back into supporting community groups which purpose aligns with the WDC Vision, Community Outcomes and Priorities, or help towards our large debt. I'd like WDC to also look internally at ways that they can save money with their structure and daily running costs, as well as keep in mind that we are living in covid times.

Thank you

 21/05/2021

