

**From:** web-submission@waitomo.govt.nz  
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Iwishtopresentmysubmission: Yes

Question1: Yes

Question1comment: Economic Growth is essential for the region. It does appear that the most efficient use of WDC resources is to undertake this role as a part of councils core business. Council should provide forums for Innovation and Research discussions to take place. Particularly in regard to encouraging better and more efficient use of land and resources. Attracting investment to the district should be included in the role. Investment brings jobs requiring more people to come and live here and spend their money here. We need to address the reducing population by marketing Waitomo as a great place to live and raise a family. We are only 2 hours or so from Auckland Airport.

Question2: Yes

Question2comments: Waitomo has a lot going for it particularly in regard to; Farming, Forestry and Tourism. One area that should be explored for economic development is horticulture. Waitomo lands can produce more High value crops like blueberries and ginseng for the Asian markets which are huge. Research & Innovation may reveal other high value crops that may be in demand around the world and that waitomo can produce. Central govt is providing funding for Innovation & Research and we should be accessing these funds. The Timber Trail is also bringing 100s of visitors to Pureora each month and most travel from Auckland driving through Te Kuiti and Benneydale. Te Kuiti railway development is an added asset to attract visitors to stop. Whilst having signs dotted around the town is a good idea although most people will only read the signs where they stop. Perhaps a large TV screen at the railway Hub showcasing what waitomo has to offer would get the message across better and have them stay in town or the district longer. Benneydale needs more investment also with better footpaths and a proper park or parking area for visitors to stop. Pureora has the makings of a Tourism Hub like Waitomo but the roads need sealing badly. Sealing Maraeroa Road should be a priority as hundreds of visitors use this road each month and are welcomed with dust and pot holes at present. Some funding for the newly formed Destination Pureora Inc would be welcomed by the volunteers that are working to attract more people to the region and ensure visitors find the best solutions for their needs whether it be accommodation, shuttles, cafes etc.

Question3: Yes

Question3comments: Appears a logical change to a more equitable funding model

Question4: Yes

Question4comments: Good to see a plan in place for debt reduction without placing too much of the burden on today's ratepayers.

Furtherfeedback: Would like to see a greater commitment by Council to the Treaty of Waitangi and to address the current inequity around Maori representation at the Council table. This can be addressed immediately by way of the establishment of a Maori Advisory Committee to council made up of members of Ngati Rereahu and Ngati Maniapoto. Or a referendum held to canvas opinion on the introduction of two or more Maori Seats on Council. Maori make up a large percentage of the Waitomo Population and Maori land Trusts are significant rate payers in the district. Therefore this needs to be reflected in the make up of Council if council is to be truly representative of the residents and ratepayers of the District.

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