

Terms of Reference Waitomo District Youth Council

Tō tātou reo, ki tua – Our voice, your future

Vision	Encouraging active youth participation in a meaningful way both now and in the future.
Role	<p>The role of the Waitomo District Youth Council is to promote youth leadership, sound social responsibility and positive action for youth within the District.</p> <p>Develop and maintain collaborative partnerships and relationships that encourage and foster engagement in community, joint decision-making and group cohesion.</p> <p>Parties participating in the Youth Council include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waitomo District Council • Waitomo District High Schools • Key Community Stakeholders
Values	<p>Guiding principles and values that underpin the Waitomo District Youth Council are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect of each other and the vision of the Youth Council • Collaborative Partnerships • Focus on promoting the wellbeing of youth within our District community
Aims and Objectives	<p>The aims and objectives of the Waitomo District Youth Council are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To engage the youth of our district • To facilitate a communication channel between youth and decision makers within our community and nationally • Promote the development of community awareness within our youth • Advocate for youth issues with the intent of improving the quality of life for young people within our community • To support and mentor youth leaders with the aim of creating confident leaders to guide future generations • To encourage active youth participation in the community • Advocate for positive outcomes for Waitomo District Youth • Develop and deliver project to enhance wellbeing within the community
Membership	<p>The Waitomo District Youth Council will be made up of up to 15 appointed youth representatives.</p> <p>The annual membership term will run from February to November of each calendar year.</p>

	<p>Criteria for Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged from 14 – 25yrs • Have the ability to work with other people and work as part of a team • Be committed to attending meetings and actively participating in projects throughout the membership term
Appointment	<p>Secondary Schools within the District will be invited to nominate members representing their school.</p> <p>Expressions of interest may also be invited by way of public advertising via a range of media.</p>
Meetings	<p>Facilitated by the Mayor and/or an Elected Member of Council, with administrative support provided by the Waitomo District Council, the Waitomo District Youth Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence with an induction/planning meeting • Conduct subsequent formal meetings on a regular basis <p>Youth Council members are expected to attend set meetings.</p> <p>In the event that a member is unable to attend a scheduled meeting, then a meeting apology will be required via the agreed communication pathway.</p> <p>Should two consecutive meetings be missed and/or a planned event the retrospective member should consider whether they are able to continue with their commitment to the WDYC.</p>
Responsibilities	<p>Youth Council members are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Youth Council meetings • Actively participate in the planning and implementation of activities and projects throughout the term of membership • Be available to attend planned training that may occur from time to time • Pass Youth Council information onto their networks, schools, etc • Attend and present at one Council Meeting per year • Actively contribute to the Waitomo District Youth Council Annual Work Programme <p>Elected Members and Waitomo District Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide administrative support to assist Youth Council activities • Support Youth Council members with appropriate development opportunities where possible • Mentor Youth Council members • Provide exposure to other examples of leadership roles (Tuia candidate) • Support Waitomo District Youth Council initiatives to be implemented
Review of Terms of Reference	<p>The Terms of Reference for the Waitomo District Youth Council will be reviewed in February of each calendar year.</p>