

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

Full name

Kahutoi Te Kanawa

Organisation (if responding on behalf of)

Waitomo Ratepayers and Residents Collective

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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:

This is a submission for council to take into consideration for the 10-year Long term plan.

The following areas are of deep concern for some of us that have listened and heard residence concerns on the following;

- The high debt that the council still owes
- The possible increase of water charges
- The rates increase for the next coming years
- Māori Ward

The concerns have been that if we don't start reducing the debt immediately, the next generation is going to be left with an even higher rates debt. Some of the concerns are that this area will no longer be able to build an economy that has such a high debt, within a low socio-economic underdeveloped area, due to the effects of Covid-19 and a high percentage turn down in tourism.

The capacity building of the economy is detrimental to the urban and rural areas. Going through the long-term ten-year plan, it is hard to ascertain why we need to keep upholding a relationship with a Japanese sister city, when we can't afford the outlay of money annually when we are struggling ourselves. Paying out for promotion of the Timber Trail needs to end. Private enterprise should be paying for their own promotion.

With one of the highest rates levies in this country, we need to start reducing costs at all expense. This we hope will help reduce the debt.

### **Debt reduction.**

We recommend that the council spend is only on capital expenditure for the maintenance of;

- Roads, bridges and pathways.
- Storm water, wastewater, solid water and water care for all districts.
- Parks, gardens and public council buildings.
- Public library, pool and camping grounds.
- River care and reserves.
- Waste management
- Housing and council land leases
- Recreational and community property partnership
- Local government administration and leadership
- Resource Management regulations and planning

### **Water Charges**

In these times of not knowing if the three waters reform programme will be run by a centralised governing body or not, still remains questionable. Will the services be any better as far as safety standards of water and use is concerned?

Rural water supplies and private supplies, how are they supported? and what is the transition period from council to centralised governing agency?

All this costs money, so are we prepared for the changes as an area that is already experiencing high costs?

### **Rates Increase**

As we are already aware, Waitomo District council has one of the highest rates per capita of people and area in this country. It is inevitable that the increase will happen again. As rate payers we are pleading that the less spend on the nice have's as opposed to what is needed will keep the rates at a reasonable rate and hopefully, we could look forward to some reduction in rates. If the Otorohanga District Council have been able to

### **Māori Ward**

With the advent of Ngāti Maniapoto going through PSGE, it would be advantageous to consider a Māori ward representative. However, with the population of the Waitomo District being at least 40% Māori, the fair representation would be to have Māori fill council general seats as well. We do hope this current council will consider a Māori ward representation in the next coming agenda, with a consultation process in place with Ngāti Maniapoto iwi and hapu who reside within the boundaries of the Waitomo District Council.

Thank you  
Kahutoi Te Kanawa