



Agenda

Hearing of Submissions to:

**Draft 2014/2015
Exceptions Annual Plan**

and

Bylaws Review

**Thursday 22nd May 2014
9.00am**

**Council Chambers
Queen Street
TE KUITI**



NOTICE OF MEETING

A MEETING OF THE WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF HEARING SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT 2014/2015 EXCEPTIONS ANNUAL PLAN AND BYLAWS REVIEW IS TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, QUEEN STREET, TE KUITI ON THURSDAY 22 MAY 2014 COMMENCING AT 9.00AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Brian Hanna
Cr Terry Davey
Cr Lorrene Te Kanawa

Deputy Mayor Guy Whitaker
Cr Allan Goddard

Cr Phil Brodie
Cr Sue Smith

CHRIS RYAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ORDER PAPER

	Page No.
1. Council Prayer	
<i>God Grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can and wisdom to know the difference. These things we ask in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen</i>	
2. Apologies	
3. Schedule of Submitters to be Heard	3
▪ Te Kuiti SPCA (dEAP and Bylaws Review)	4 – 5
▪ Sport Waikato (dEAP)	6 – 8
▪ Paul and Carol Buist (Bylaws Review)	9
▪ Kahu Hohaia (Bylaws Review)	10
▪ Federated Farmers (dEAP)	11 – 20
4. Hearing of Submissions to the Draft 2014/15 Exceptions Annual Plan and Bylaws Review	21 – 22

PLEASE NOTE

1. The business papers attached to this Order Paper set out recommendations and suggested resolutions only. Those recommendations and suggested resolutions do not represent Council policy until such time as they might be adopted by Council resolution.
2. This Order Paper may be subject to amendment either by the addition or withdrawal of items contained therein.

Schedule of Submitters to be Heard

Thursday 22 May 2014

Time	Time Allocated	Submitter Name	Sub No.	Submission Booklet Page Number
9.00	10 minutes	Te Kuiti SPCA		
		- dEAP Submission	004	84
		- Bylaw Submission	002	4
9.10	10 minutes	Sport Waikato		
		- dEAP Submission	012	112
9.20	10 minutes	Paul and Carol Buist		
		- Bylaw Submission	004	6
9.30	10 minutes	Kahu Hohaia		
		- Bylaw Submission	001	3
9.40	15 minutes	Federated Farmers		
		- dEAP Submission	013	115

Apologies received from:

Heather Smith on behalf of Democrats for Social Credit
 Gerri Pomeroy on behalf of CCS Disability Action Waikato
 Maurice and Monica Louis

Submission Form

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL DETAILS

For office use only

SUB No.

004

Full Name: SANDRA SQUIER
 Organisation (if applicable): THE KULTI SPCA
 Address for correspondence: P.O. BOX 324
 Email Address: fetawa@paradise.net.nz
 Phone No. 027 378 5077 Fax No.

I wish to present my written submission verbally to a public Council hearing? Hearings will be held on 22nd May 2014.
 If you do not tick a box we will assume that you do not wish to be heard.

 Yes

 No

A. G. Squier

Date: 24 / 4 / 14

Signature (of person making submission or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making submission)

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE: 5pm, Thursday 8th May 2014

Council would like your views on the draft Annual Plan 2014/15:

THE KULTI SPCA WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

- ① HUMANE EUTHANASIA OF DOGS IN WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL BY NEETHAN INJECTION NOT SHOT.
- ② THE MICROCHIPPING OF ALL DOGS RETURNED TO OWNERS FROM THE POUND.
- ③ CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE TEMPERATURE IN THE POUND. EXTREME HEAT & SOUND.

Waitomo District Council
RETURN TO FILE
 Date: 28 APR 2014
 Doc #: 332684
 File #: 037/013/2015

Submission Form - Review of Bylaws

Please Complete all Details

Sub No.

002

For office use only

Name: TE KUITI SPCA

Postal Address: P.O. Box 324

Email Address: tetawa@paradise.net.nz

Phone No. 027 378 5077 Mobile Phone. _____

Please Complete all Details

Do you wish to speak about your submission(s)?
Hearings will be held Thursday 22 May 2014. If
you do not tick a box we will assume that you
do not wish to be heard.

Yes

No

Signature

A. E. Squier

You can submit on all or any of the following four Bylaws.

1. Dog Control Bylaw

2. Solid Waste Bylaw

Wairarapa District Council
RETURN TO FILE
Date: 28 APR 2014
Doc #: 332682
File #: 306/003/2014

3. Public Places Bylaw

THE PROHIBITION OF HORSES ON THE
STREETS. WITHIN THE TOWN BOUNDARIES.

4. Public Health and Safety Bylaw

If you need to use extra pages, include your name on each page and attach them to this form. Thank you for your interest.

Michelle Higgle

From: Mike Maguire [MikeM@sportwaikato.org.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 8 May 2014 11:20 a.m.
To: Consultation
Subject: Sport Waiakto submission to the annual Plan
Attachments: Submission to Waitomo District Council 2014 - 2015.pdf

Please find attached Sport Waikato's submission to the annual plan

Thank you

Mike Maguire

Mike Maguire

General Manager

[sportwaikato](#) | p 07 858 5388 | f 07 858 5389 | m 027 444 7865

Reward a Waikato **Sport Maker** by nominating them **now!**

Click on the link below to nominate a local Sport Maker. Someone who volunteers their time and effort for sport in the Waikato region. All nominees go in the draw for the chance to receive some awesome sporting gear!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Sportmakernomination>

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Submission to Waitomo District Annual Plan



Sport Waikato would like to acknowledge and thank the Waitomo District Council for their ongoing commitment to supporting sport and recreation.

We would request that the Waitomo District Council continue to fund the salary and overheads of the District Coordinator's role in Waitomo for \$73,434 plus GST until 30 June 2015

We are committed to ensuring the District Coordinator position works at a level that impacts on the Council objectives and community outcomes.

We have responded to the Waitomo District Councils request by reviewing and refocussing the role. We have worked to develop a more planned and proactive approach around projects and reporting on progress of these.

The District coordinator is working with community groups in Te Kuiti, Piopio, Aria, Bennydale and Taharoa on projects, developing new projects, and providing ongoing services across the District to make our communities better places to live through sport, physical activity and recreation.

While some projects are nearing fruition such as the KC Junior Hockey project which has resulted in a complete overhaul, many have made good progress but are not complete such as the NKC Junior Football and others are just getting underway such as the user groups of the Piopio Domain.

Some new projects that are on the radar include:

- Work with organizations around recruiting more volunteers targeting groups such as Waitomo Miniball around succession training.
- Work with Stephen Cox around the Caves to Coast Road cycle event
- Work with Piopio College to establish a sports Council and a Swimming Pool Trust to manage the facility
- Extending on the success of the NKC Junior Hockey and sharing the model and / or investigating setting up an administration center / governing group to manage North King Country junior sport.

We have had great commitment and engagement of community with the projects worked on and good feedback from the work being done to make groups and clubs successful and meet the needs of local communities. Our work has been valued by Waitomo residents.

If our request for the continuance of funding for the Waitomo District Coordinators role is successful we would be keen to work with our relationship manager at the Waitomo to jointly develop the schedule of services. This process has been a great help in putting a structure around our work in the Waitomo District.

We would like to build on the work that has been achieved which will contribute to the health and wellbeing of both residents and ratepayers through achieving the following outcomes:

Participation

Coordinating opportunities to reduce barriers, increasing use of Council parks, reserves, facilities and the natural environment the district offers

Community development

Building capable and sustainable organisations, ensuring the volunteer base remains strong and improving local collaboration to strengthen the delivery of community sport, recreation and physical activity

Quality of life

Providing a vibrant, healthy and happy place where people want to live and visit

Improved information and promotion

Increasing awareness of all sport, recreation and physical activity opportunities

Creating Pride in the community

Promoting the celebration and success in all aspects of sport and recreation.

Sport Waikato values the relationship we have with Waitomo District Council to contribute to Council's objectives and outcomes. These benefit the residents and ratepayers, contributing to making Waitomo a great place to live work and play.

We are keen to work more strategically with the Waitomo District Council and other key local partners, growing opportunities to participate in sport, recreation and physical activity options within the Waitomo district.

Sport Waikato would also like to thank Waitomo District Council for the development and maintenance of sports fields and facilities. The Waikato Regional Facility Plan that is being developed will provide valuable information that will enhance good decision making around facility development in the future. Sport Waikato has always and will always value the relationship with Waitomo District Council to contribute to council's objectives and outcomes.

We would like to speak to this submission and answer any questions council might have.



Matthew Cooper

Sport Waikato Chief executive

Submission Form - Review of Bylaws

Please Complete all Details

Sub No.

004

For office use only

Name: Paul - Carol Buist.

Postal Address: 16 Liverpool St
Te Kuiti

Email Address:

Phone No. 07 854 0414 Mobile Phone. 029 963 9270

Please Complete all Details

Do you wish to speak about your submission(s)?
Hearings will be held Thursday 22 May 2014. If
you do not tick a box we will assume that you
do not wish to be heard.

Yes No

Signature

Paul Buist
Carol Buist.

You can submit on all or any of the following four Bylaws.

1. Dog Control Bylaw

Council is able to and should
adopt a by-law to restrict/eliminate
the ownership of the dangerous
breeds of dogs.

2. Solid Waste Bylaw

3. Public Places Bylaw

4. Public Health and Safety Bylaw

Council should
- totally prohibit sale of any "legal highs"
- prohibit the establishment of premises for
commercial sexual services in all urban areas

Waikato District Council
RETURN TO FILE
Date: - 1 MAY 2014
Doc #: 333022
File #: 306/003/2014

If you need to use extra pages, include your name on each page and attach them to this form. Thank you for your interest.

Submission Form - Review of Bylaws

Please Complete all Details

Sub No.

001

For office use only

Name: KAHU Hohana

Postal Address: RDS MAROKOPA Road
TE Kuiti 2500 No 4

Email Address: _____

Phone No. 8767520 Mobile Phone. _____

Please Complete all Details

Do you wish to speak about your submission(s)?
Hearings will be held Thursday 22 May 2014. If
you do not tick a box we will assume that you
do not wish to be heard.

Yes

No

Signature

K Hohana

You can submit on all or any of the following four Bylaws.

1. Dog Control Bylaw

_____ // _____

2. Solid Waste Bylaw

TRANSFER STATIONS time to open
and Closed.

3. Public Places Bylaw

a safe structure in a public place like wall
wahi tapu and damage, Fencing.

4. Public Health and Safety Bylaw

_____ // _____

Waikato District Council
RETURN TO FILE
Date: 28 APR 2014
Doc #: 332681.
File #: 306/003/2014

If you need to use extra pages, include your name on each page and attach them to this form. Thank you for your interest.

Michelle Higgie

From: Hilary Walker [HWalker@fedfarm.org.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 8 May 2014 11:39 a.m.
To: Consultation
Subject: FFNZ submission on draft annual plan
Attachments: Federated Farmers submission to WDC draft AP 2014.docx

Good morning

Please find attached Federated Farmers submission to the draft annual plan

Kind regards,

HILARY WALKER
REGIONAL POLICY ADVISOR

Federated Farmers of New Zealand
Box 447, Hamilton, New Zealand

P 07 858 0815
F 07 838 2960
E hwalker@fedfarm.org.nz



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SUBMISSION

TELEPHONE 0800 327 646 | WEBSITE WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ



To: Waitomo District Council
PO Box 404
Te Kuiti 3941.

Submission on: **Draft Annual Plan 2014-15**

Date: 5 May 2014

Submission by: Waitomo Branch of Waikato Federated Farmers

CHRIS IRONS

WAITOMO BRANCH CHAIR

Federated Farmers of New Zealand

P 07 876 7473

M 027 461 6980

C.Irons@xtra.co.nz

Address for service: **HILARY WALKER**
REGIONAL POLICY ADVISOR
Federated Farmers of New Zealand
PO Box 447, Hamilton 3240
P 0274 360560
F 07 838 2960
hwalker@fedfarm.org.nz

We wish to be heard in support of our submission.

1. INTRODUCTION

- Federated Farmers appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Annual Plan 2014/15
- We would like the opportunity to speak to Council about our submission
- Federated Farmers nationally is focused on the equity and transparency of rate setting, and the overall cost of local government to agriculture and ratepayers
- We acknowledge any other submissions from individual members of Federated Farmers

2. GENERAL COMMENT

Federated Farmers has a strong interest in the effective performance of local government. As an organisation that submits on over 60 annual plans or Long Term Plans each year, our members and staff have a good understanding of the challenges faced by councils in meeting the growing legislative requirements of recent years - while saddled with an archaic system of property value rates where landowners are disproportionately charged higher on behalf of the whole community.

Rates are one of the most significant, fixed expenses for our farming businesses. A rural property in Waitomo will pay on average 3.5 times the amount of rates that other ratepayers do and yet do not derive any special or particular benefit. The affordability of rates is a significant issue for farm businesses, given that in a large part they are allocated on the basis of property value as opposed to income. Waitomo's current rating mix which does not make full use the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) allocation and thus over relies on the general rate contribution does not help to alleviate this problem.

Federated Farmers consistently supports use of the UAGC to ensure a more equitable contribution from ratepayers across the region and has previously supported and encouraged Waitomo to use this instrument greater. Federated Farmers is disappointed that not only have council not taken the opportunity over the last few years to increase the UAGC but has in fact this year reduced it down to 21% (page61).

Federated Farmers does acknowledge that council is proposing a prudent draft annual plan with a smaller overall increase in total rates than indicated in the Long Term Plan (LTP). It is pleasing to once again see the council concentrating on its efficiency and effectiveness, and prioritising spending. Further the ethos of collaboration which Waitomo has embraced is also fully supported as it should help to reduce costs and we are encouraged by the shared services initiatives.

We know council is not making any significant changes to the Revenue and Financing Policies within this exceptions report however urge Waitomo District Council (WDC) to seriously consider the recommendations in this submission as the policies are reviewed during the review of the Long Term

Plan over this coming year. The recommendations identify how the financing policies can be improved for the benefit of rural ratepayers to enhance existing principles of fairness and equity

3. SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

3.1 District Economic Development Board

Federated Farmers continues to support the proposal to delay the establishment of this board until the outcomes of the Waikato Mayoral Forum Economic Development Strategy are known and can be used to inform any future decision making in this area.

We continue to have an active interest in this issue and will be particularly interested in the funding stream if and when the proposal gets to that stage.

Recommendation:

- That the Council adopts the proposal to delay the establishment of a District Economic Development Board

3.2 Transparency

Transparency of rate funding sources and spending is extremely important to Federated Farmers and it is usual for us to make a comment about it when given the opportunity.

Once again we wish to congratulate WDC for the high level of transparency displayed in the draft annual plan.

The tables on pages 67 and 68 displays good transparency when reporting the percentage of rate increases that will be experienced for the example properties. Federated Farmers becomes concerned when councils around the country report percentage of rates increases as an average. Averages can be deceiving as the percentage of rise and the dollar impact can be hugely variant for different types of properties, with rural properties often shouldering the majority. The table clearly shows the total dollar increase and percentage for each individual property, which allows readers to compare rates increases for the example properties throughout the district.

Recommendation:

- That the Annual Plan and summary document continues to include example rates for a wide range of properties which enables readers to compare rates and understand how rates are allocated.

3.3 Solid Waste Management

Federated Farmers notes that council has a focus over this year to continue waste reduction initiatives and review facilities to identify hazards and safety issues (page 30). We would like council to include a

review of the services as they apply to rural and commercial businesses to ensure operating hours are appropriate and facilitating. Further, the current range of recycling options could be extended to better accommodate electronic equipment recycling and batteries for example. One suggestion is to dedicate a few shipping containers for these items which means they are available to use at a time convenient to the disposer and should reduce the likelihood they end up in the landfill or illegally dumped.

Recommendations:

- That council look to include a review of the solid waste management services as they apply to rural and commercial businesses. A targeted survey could provide useful information.
- That council look at different options to improve the rate of electronic and battery recycling

3.4 Rural Stormwater Services

Whilst Federated Farmers accepts the cost per property is not significant, in the interests of transparency we do query this charge and seek clarification on what the \$53,000 is used. In our opinion a good road design should address a lot of rural stormwater issues and whilst we accept work could be required to reduce the erosion impact of culverts directing runoff onto pasture we don't see evidence of that either. Further the comment on page 34 indicates that all rural drainage assets are included under the Roads and Footpath activity. One would assume that means it is also funded under that category.

Recommendation:

- That council outlines the specific rural stormwater services which require funding of \$53,000.

3.5 Roothing

FFNZ has taken keen interest in the NZTA's review of the FAR because of the vital role roading plays in enabling primary production in New Zealand, and the significant contributions farmers and rural road users make to the national roading network through road user charges, fuel taxes, licensing and registration fees, and local government rates.

The Federation lodged a comprehensive submission aiming to ensure that the allocation of funding for New Zealand's roading network is efficient, effective and aligned with sound principles. We are particularly interested in ensuring that New Zealand's road funding regime contributes to the needs of all New Zealanders by enabling the vitally important primary sectors and related rural communities to function effectively.

Roading is also important from a social perspective, connecting rural people to neighbours and communities that are relatively distant compared to more urban centres, and connecting isolated rural communities to education, social and emergency services and other basic needs. Those roads are not exclusive to farmers and anyone including tourists, cyclists and Dept of Conservation staff can use them at any time, as well as the businesses based in urban areas that service farmers.

Most farmers consider the main item of benefit from council for farmers is the roading infrastructure.

We make these comments as we are concerned at the effect reduced subsidised funding will have on the district's roading infrastructure and urge council to prioritise the roading work which is currently subsidised before any changes are made. Within this context the position outlined on page 50 which seems to suggest that subsidised roading maintenance and capital expenditure programme is being reduced does not make sense to us.

Recommendations:

- Federated Farmers strongly encourages WDC to proactively engage with central government to ensure decision makers are well aware of the significant and detrimental impact changes to funding mechanisms could have on roading infrastructure in the district.
- Federated Farmers is happy to lend our support and expertise in this matter to council to ensure the best outcomes are achieved.
- Prioritise the roading work which currently receives NZTA subsidies.

4. FUNDING POLICIES

4.1 Uniform Annual General Charge

UAGC's are a fair way for Council's to rate for services that provide an equal or indistinguishable amount of benefit across ratepayer groups. Especially when compared to a general rate calculated by capital value which results in groups such as farmers paying more for an activity which they are unlikely to use more than any other group in a community.

Where a Council is aware that they have not reached their maximum 30% UAGC allowance and choose not to rectify the situation then they are actively choosing to disadvantage groups such as the farming community.

Broadly speaking we believe the Council has a good understanding and makes appropriate use of uniform charges. However we will reiterate our concerns that Council's interpretation and focus on 'affordability' stifles the opportunity to more fully utilise this funding tool.

We think that the assumption that the value of a property indicates the ability to pay is incorrect. This is especially highlighted where the low land value of industrial or commercial properties is looked at, as land value does not indicate use of council services or ability to pay, or that the main value of this type of property is in the improvements and assets. Likewise a high property value, such as a farm, does not directly co-relate to income or ability to pay, or the demand for council services.

Low-income ratepayers can already receive assistance from the central government's Rates Rebate Scheme. The government has revised this scheme to increase its accessibility from July 2012 by increasing the maximum income threshold, and also increased the maximum rebate amount. We accept that the changes didn't result in significant increases but they are tracking upwards at least. The Council does not need to disproportionately gather rates from a particular sector of the community in order to shelter others from costs.

Federated Farmers appreciates the level of transparency in the draft annual plan with regards to the council's philosophy towards the use of the UAGC funding method and how it is calculated.

Recommendations:

- That the Annual and Long Term Plans continue to include detailed information on the UAGC.
- That Council continues to explore ways to achieve maximum use of the UAGC funding mechanism.

4.2 Targeted rates

Federated Farmers applauds the Council's extensive use of targeted rates as a funding mechanism for a range of activities. Funding these services on a user-pays basis means that there is a direct link between benefits and funding sources.

The great strength of targeted rates, whatever their basis, is the fact that they are transparent by appearing as a separate line item on the rates demand and being reported separately from activities funded by the all purpose general rate. This makes it easier to compare the cost of the service to a farm as compared to an urban business or residential property.

Recommendation:

- That the Council continues to make good use of targeted rates to fund services which have a high level of direct and identifiable benefit.

4.3 Rates Increases

We acknowledge that council is exercising restraint in expenditure and urge them to continue to do so. We also acknowledge that council is sequencing and prioritising essential services first and this is strongly supported. Federated Farmers is very pleased council is adopting a pragmatic approach with regards to adopting a rolling review approach of the district plan and delaying the establishment of the economic board until there is a better understanding of any further RMA reforms and other related project work is completed. We believe this will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of those projects in due course.

Rates increases for rural properties are projected to average 3.5 % (page68). This is twice the rate of inflation which for the whole of 2013 was approximately 1.6%¹ and double the increase which urban properties face. Whilst we appreciate council has worked hard to keep the increases lower than those projected in the LTP it would be remiss of us not to remind council that year on year rates increases which are much greater than the rate of inflation are unsustainable for rural communities.

Recommendations:

- That the Council continues to keep rate increases as low as possible, by continuing its intention to maintain existing service levels, strive towards operational efficiency and adhere to sound asset management practices.
- That council identifies why the rural percentage increases are twice that of their urban counterparts.
- That should council not accept our points re UAGC useage above that in the very least they raise the self imposed \$650 UAGC cap by the rate of inflation each year and thus even out effect on the general rate.

4.4 District Development Rate

Over the last few years Federated Farmers has outlined our concerns with the District Development funding split. The feedback we have from Council is that our concerns will be considered during the review of the Revenue and Financing Policy. The subsequent decision to decrease the percentage paid by commercial and industrial businesses and increase the percentage taken from the general rate means that this is still an issue for us.

The funding stream is a 60% general, 20% commercial and industrial business, and 20%rural business split. The use of a targeted rate policy is supported however we do not accept rural businesses should be included and do not support the high proportion of general rate used especially when there is room in the UAGC funding cap for a UAGC contribution to made. It is difficult to understand or identify how rural businesses benefit from the services and activities outlined more than any other member of the community. It is also difficult to understand how a rural business receives 3 times the benefit for this activity than a business based in Te Kuiti does.

A differential applied to Te Kuiti commercial businesses to increase their contribution could help to address this imbalance and is considerably more appropriate than the current funding mechanisms.

Recommendation:

- That in reviewing the Revenue and Financing Policy for the next LTP council adjusts the funding split to better target the businesses and communities that benefit. It is appropriate in the interests of redressing the inequity created by the property based rating system to make use of the remaining portion of the UAGC cap to part fund this activity. This will reduce the reliance

¹ http://www.focus-economics.com/en/economy/charts/New_Zealand/Inflation

on the general rate. Further, it would be more appropriate to apply a differential to Te Kuiti Commercial properties to ensure their contribution is increased and thus better reflect the benefit received.

4.5 Differentials

Federated Farmers understands that council is unlikely to introduce a rural differential via this draft exceptions annual plan process. However we bring the matter before the council this year as we urge Council to consider this option during the review of the Revenue and Financing policies for the upcoming Long Term Plan review. Federated Farmers remains supportive of Council rating on capital value rather than land value, however, we are concerned that the general rate which is charged purely on a capital value basis without a differential, creates inequitable outcomes.

Without a differential, there is no recognition that different property types benefit from Council services in differing amounts. Also, there is no recognition that properties with higher values do not benefit more from Council services than properties with lower values.

As there is no differential, farms will pay significantly more than residential or commercial properties for activities such as liquor licencing, community partnerships, emergency management, tourism and recreation. Farms clearly do not receive a benefit which is proportional to the general rates they pay from these activities and therefore a differential should be applied. Further, large commercial businesses such as supermarkets or pulp mills, which might have similar rateable values as farms, pay the same roading rates as farms when they and their customers and delivery trucks make disproportionately heavy use of the roading network. These business types could also be subject to differentials that acknowledge their use and dependence on the Council roading network.

Differentials are widely used around New Zealand to offset the impact of valuation based rating, including New Plymouth and Wanganui District Councils.

Where Council is concerned that the effects of introducing differentials would be regressive and impact upon lower capital value properties, Federated Farmers submits that the rates remissions scheme, alongside the broader central government welfare system, remain the most robust and efficient methods of income redistribution, with the ability to target each concern on a case by case basis in a way that is not possible using the blunt property value basis afforded by rates. Council is not in a position to assess who is most able to afford its rates. Central government via tax and welfare policies retains all responsibility for income redistribution; this is not a role for councils.

Recommendation:

- That council introduce a substantial differential for rural properties to offset the unfairly high proportion of general rates paid by rural properties

The Waitomo Branch of Waikato Federated Farmers thanks the Waitomo District Council for considering our submission to the Draft Annual Plan 2014-15

Federated Farmers is a not-for-profit primary sector policy and advocacy organisation that represents the majority of farming businesses in New Zealand. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the interests of New Zealand's farmers.

The Federation aims to add value to its members' farming businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities.



Document No: 334522**File No:** 037/013/2015 and 306/001A**Report To: Council****Meeting Date:** 22 May 2014**Subject:** **Hearing of Submissions to Draft 2014/15 Annual Plan and Bylaws Review**

Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this business paper is to provide Council with a copy of the submissions made to:

- Draft 2014/2015 Annual Plan;
- Public Places Bylaw and Statement of Proposal;
- Dog Control Bylaw and Statement of Proposal;
- Solid Waste Bylaw and Statement of Proposal;
- Public Health and Safety Bylaw and Statement of Proposal

and for Council to hear Submitters speak in support of their written submissions.

1.2 Distributed separately are two Submission Booklets comprising copies of **all** submissions received to the Draft 2014/2015 Annual Plan and the Bylaws.

1.3 Attached to and forming part of this business paper are copies of those submissions for which Submitters will be at the Hearing.

1.4 Members are reminded of their responsibility to consider all submissions without any pre-determination and with an open mind. This does not mean that Members' cannot have an opinion – it simply means that as an elected Council Member you must be prepared to listen to alternative views and to change your own views should you be convinced.

Commentary

2.1 Draft 2014/2015 Annual Plan

2.2 At the consultation closing deadline of 5.00pm on Thursday 8 May 2014, a total of 15 submissions had been received.

2.3 On Monday 12 May 2014, six late submissions were received. The six late submissions relate to Sport Waikato and it is recommended that Council accept these submissions.

2.4 Six of the Submitters to the DEAP indicated they wish to be heard in support of their written submissions as follows:

Sub No.	Submitter Name
----------------	-----------------------

4	Te Kuiti SPCA
5	CCS Disability Action Waikato (Apology received)
6	Democrats for Social Credit (Apology received)
9	Maurice and Monica Louis (Apology received)
12	Sport Waikato
13	Federated Farmers

2.5 Apologies have since been received from CCS Disability Action Waikato, Democrats for Social Credit and Maurice and Monica Louis.

2.6 Bylaws Review

2.7 At the consultation closing deadline of 5.00pm on Thursday 8 May 2014, a total of seven submissions had been received to the Bylaws Review. Not late submissions have been received.

2.8 Three of the Submitters to the Bylaws Review indicated they wish to be heard in support of their written submissions as follows:

Sub No.	Submitter Name
1	Kahu Hohaia
2	Te Kuiti SPCA
4	Paul and Carol Buist

2.9 Hearings Process

2.10 Once Council has heard Submitters speak in support of their written submissions, a resolution will need to be passed referring the submissions for Deliberation at the Council Meeting on Tuesday 27 May 2014.

2.11 A separate Agenda will be distributed for the Deliberation Meeting.

Suggested Resolutions

1 The business paper on Hearing of Submissions to Draft 2014/15 Annual Plan and Bylaws Review be received.

2 Council note the verbal submissions made by the following Submitters:

- Te Kuiti SPCA
- Sport Waikato
- Federated Farmers
- Kahu Hohaia
- Paul and Carol Buist

and refer these submissions for consideration at the Council Meeting on Tuesday 27 May 2014.

3 Council accept the late submission(s) and include them for consideration as part of the deliberations at the Council Meeting on Tuesday 27 May 2014.

OR

Council not accept the late submission and the Submitters be advised accordingly.

MICHELLE HIGGIE
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Attachments: Submissions from Submitters wishing to be heard