

1 May 2015

Chris Ryan
Chief Executive
Waitomo District Council
PO Box 404
TE KUITI 3941

Tena koe Chris

Submission on Waitomo District Council's Draft 2015-2025 Long Term Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Waitomo District Council's 2015–2025 Draft Long Term Plan (LTP). We would like to be heard in support of our submission.

Firstly, Waikato Regional Council (WRC) would like to acknowledge the overall positive working relationship that exists between our organisations. This relationship is demonstrated by the progress being made over the last few years on projects such as the Waikato Mayoral Forum projects (e.g. Waikato Plan and Waikato Means Business) and collaborative community projects such as the Manganakewa stream cleanup project.

WRC would also like to acknowledge the considerable funding and energy Waitomo District Council has committed to over the last decade to upgrade the community wastewater treatment systems and community water supplies.

Waikato Regional Policy Statement – resourcing priority projects

The Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement (WRPS) will become operative later this year. The successful implementation of the RPS will be achieved through our organisations partnering together to achieve mutual outcomes. The following comments will ensure that together we can deliver on some key priorities for the Waitomo district and the wider region.

Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategies

A key implementation method of the RPS is the development of local indigenous biodiversity strategies. These will enable a more strategic and collaborative approach to managing biodiversity. These strategies were supported by territorial authorities involved in the review of the RPS (including Waitomo District Council) as a strategic and non-regulatory approach to determine the most effective and efficient means of managing biodiversity. WRC's draft LTP budgets \$175,000 per year in years 2016/17 to 2018/19 to assist territorial authorities throughout the region to develop local indigenous biodiversity strategies.

We encourage Waitomo District Council to make provision in its LTP in 2018/19 to support these strategies. This will enable the development of a local indigenous biodiversity strategy for the Waitomo district.

Regional Heritage Forum

The Waikato Regional Heritage Forum is another RPS method that has direct applicability to the Waitomo district. WRC encourages the allocation of staff resources in the LTP that are supportive of building regional heritage capacity.

Review of the Waitomo District Plan

WRC supports the planned review of the Waitomo District Plan (page 13 of the Consultation Document). WRC would welcome ongoing discussions with Waitomo District Council to ensure that WRC provides technical and policy support to the plan review process. We would like to discuss the way in which WRC can assist Waitomo District to develop the plan, and particularly what information and research we can provide to assist.

Economic development

WRC would like to acknowledge Waitomo District Council's focus on economic development. The Waikato Regional Economic Development Strategy implementation plan has now been developed and we thank you for your contribution to this.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waitomo District Council Draft Long Term Plan.

Yours faithfully

Vaughan Payne
Chief Executive