

Submission to the 10 year plan

Investing in the Game on Trust Stadium is a must.

How often does ‘big picture’ thinking attract over 6 million dollars to a small rural community? The business model may have to be re worked but I believe the council should be behind this opportunity 100% - make it happen. The Les Munro Centre was a similar project and it is now such an asset to the Waitomo District.

Already Te Kuiti is a meeting hub for sporting teams from the north and south “meeting in the middle” to play their games, to avoid long distances being travelled. Having a facility such as the stadium makes that a more attractive option. These sporting groups spend in our towns, they eat in our cafes, buy food from our food outlets and have time to browse in our shops.

For too long, the whanau at the high school in Te Kuiti and College in Piopio have had to travel great distances to support their children playing sports, because there are no adequate venues locally. Quite often they are unable to do so because of the cost and inconvenience. Imagine the benefits for students to be able to play in front of a home crowd.

There are so many other ways that having the stadium become a reality would benefit our community - on page 10 of the long term plan under the Our community outcomes/ a district for our people it says “ we promote health, wellbeing and participation” what better way to do that than to have a first class facility that enables that?

Investing in Tourism

We think investing in tourism – contributing to Hamilton- Waikato tourism and the Timber Trail needs to happen and is money well spent. Again having people travelling into our area, stopping in our towns and villages, eating at our cafes, buying petrol, browsing shops, stocking up at supermarkets and local stores, staying at hotels, motels air b and b’s, farmstays, backpackers, parking at caravan parks - helps our local economy to survive and potentially thrive. They keep our shops open. They keep our accommodation providers big and small open. That doesn’t happen without promotion.

The Waitomo Caves, Hairy Feet, Natural Bridge, Marakopa Falls, Mokau Coastal area are amazing assets for our region, and there are many others I may have missed. The businesses related to the Waitomo Caves and these other areas and ventures (from the adventure tourism operators to the accommodation suppliers big and small) all benefit from the \$60,000 the council intends to spend.

Tourism involving biking is booming at present. The numbers of vehicles travelling through our area to Pureora in the season has increased over the last few years. They stop and fuel up, stock up on supplies, eat and browse. The businesses that are involved in the Timber trail employ people – local people. To turn our backs on that potential boost to our region’s economy seems short sighted.

Things to consider:

- The caravan park area on Te Kumi Road is apparently underutilised. Perhaps changing the signage opposite the Warehouse to “day parking” only would encourage more usage at the Te Kumi Road Park.
- Investing in the development of the Waitomo Landfill is an important part of planning over the next 10 year. Looking at ways to minimise the waste. For example looking at ways to use soft plastics – there is already a large company that sends out large collection bags with their product so that soft plastics can be saved and sent to another company making plastic fenceposts. We need to be innovative in our thinking and look at more ways to minimise what goes into our landfill.
- There has been talk about extending the river walkway from Lawrence St Bridge to the viaduct. Can we afford this? Why would the area already cleared from the Primary School in the North to the Lawrence St bridge not be utilised more. Surely enhancing that would come at less cost.

Thank you for considering my submission

Ross & Janis MacDonald