
From: Jeremy Mayall <jeremy@creativewaikato.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 1:06 pm
To: haveyoursay
Subject: Fees and Charges consultation submission
Attachments: Waitomo - Fees & Charges 2026_27_CreativeWaikato_submission.pdf

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Kia ora,
Please find attached our organisational submission on the *Draft Fees and Charges* consultation as part of the annual plan process.

This submission is on behalf of Creative Waikato.
Our submission is attached as a PDF.

Nga mihi nui,

-J

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Dr. Jeremy Mayall (he/him)
CEO

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Submission by: Creative Waikato

This submission is made in response to **Waitomo DC's Fees & Charges 2026-27**

1. Council's activities

- Creative Waikato would firstly like to thank Waitomo District Council for the work in its district.
- We acknowledge the council will undertake one of its most significant changes this year with the transitioning of water and wastewater activities to its Water Controlled Council Organisation - Waikato Waters Ltd, and the work ahead to prepare for this.
- Waitomo District Council is an important part of the wider ecosystem in supporting and enabling arts, cultural and creative activity in its district.
- In addition to this submission, Creative Waikato has also provided an LTP Councillor briefing summary and high-level infrastructure plan for your consideration. We outline these briefly in this submission.

2. Strategic initiatives

We have provided an overview of some of the key strategic initiatives we have led, which have contributed to long-term impact in the areas of arts, culture and creativity in Hamilton and the wider Waikato region.

- **Waikato Arts Navigator 2023** - A shared framework, including a vision and strategy, for supporting and strengthening our arts and culture in the region. It guides planning and decision making.
https://creativewaikato.co.nz/site/uploads/Waikato-Arts-Navigator-Regional-Strategy_2023.pdf
- **Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan 2024** - A high-level update on the Waikato Creative Infrastructure report originally prepared in 2014.
https://creativewaikato.co.nz/site/uploads/Waikato-Creative-Infrastructure-Plan_2024-final.pdf
- **Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in the Waikato 2022** - Social impact report that assesses the impact of arts, culture and creativity on the people of the Waikato region.
https://creativewaikato.co.nz/site/uploads/HS_Creative-Waikato_Wellbeing-and-Arts-Culture-and-Creativity-in-the-Waikato_FINAL.pdf
- **Creative Waikato Briefing to Councillors 2026** - provides localised insights and strategic advice, connecting the different areas within council which facilitate a more integrated approach to issues and problems.
https://creativewaikato.co.nz/site/uploads/Creative-Waikato-Briefing-to-Councillors_Summary_Screen_Mar-26.pdf

Additional Strategic Outcomes: Maintaining relationships with Creative New Zealand, Ministry of Culture and Heritage, NZ Music Commission, Regional Arts

Network Aotearoa, and Te Ora Auaha to support positive outcomes through funding and support for Waikato artists.

3. Specific comments on Fees and Charges 2026-27

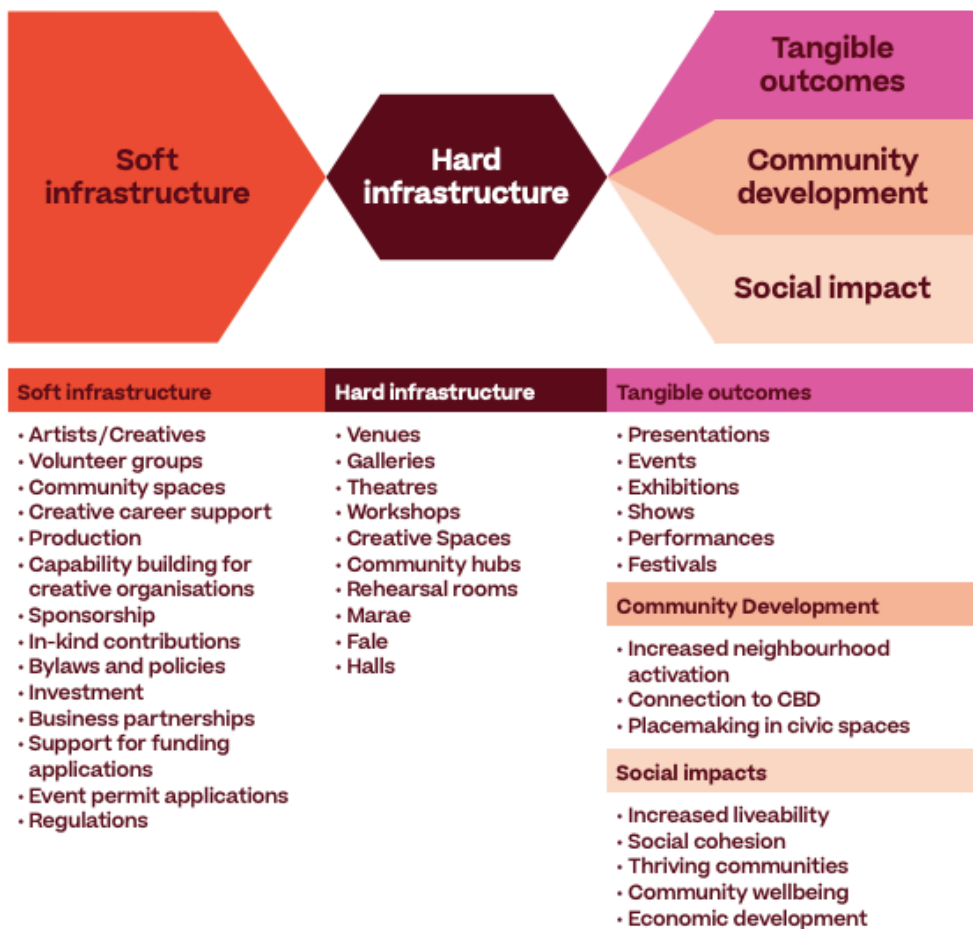
Creative Waikato provides the following comments on the *Draft Fees and Charges 2026/2027*.

- Creative Waikato acknowledges the balance that council needs to make between reflecting the real cost of services and maintaining rates at an affordable level.
- The Les Munro centre is an important facility where people can engage, connect and enjoy events that are important to the community.
- We acknowledge the proposal to make the Supper Room at Les Munro available for at a cheaper rate to encourage use of this facility.
- We support the provision of spaces that support community wellbeing.
- We acknowledge the council for making the distinction between commercial and non-commercial use of facilities, to make these more accessible to their community.
- We also acknowledge no increase in fees for Community Halls and Aquatic Centre and minimal increases for Parks and Reserves and Library services.
‘Libraries, museums, reserves and community amenities are all important services of council that enable the community to participate and celebrate. These are core facilities that enable opportunities for learning, play and communities coming together.’ (Briefing to Councillors Summary 2026, p 7).
- Creative Waikato supports the proposed changes to the Draft Fees and Charges 2026-27

4. Importance of soft infrastructure - people and services

The Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan 2024, provides an initial high-level scan of hard and soft infrastructure in the Waikato, building on an initial report that was developed in 2014.

- We acknowledge that while hard infrastructure (facilities, venues etc) is important, it is the people (soft infrastructure) that are most important. Supporting those people and services which provide programmes and facilitators in libraries, museums and other community resources contributes to thriving communities.
- We encourage the council to continue to support soft infrastructure that provides community service (this includes council provision of service through internal council staffing - including libraries, museums, and community hubs, and also external investment through grants).



5. Investing in communities and arts, culture and creativity

Creative Waikato encourages council to continue to enable and support soft infrastructure, which provides tangible community outcomes such as community cohesion, connection to place, land and self.

We have provided a summary copy of our Briefing to Councillors 2026, to provide guidance on a cross organisational approach to integrating arts, culture and creativity within council departments.

We thank the council for the opportunity to make this submission.

Submitted by:

Sam Cunnane
Board Chair

Dr. Jeremy Mayall
CEO

On behalf of Creative Waikato
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