

Submission form

Waitomo District Council Draft 10 Year Plan 2021–2031

Send us your
feedback by 5pm
21 May 2021

You can share your views by:

Completing this submission form and returning it to us by

- **Visiting our office**
at 15 Queen Street, Te Kuiti
- **Emailing to**
haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz
(scan and pdf or take a photo)

- **Posting to**
FREEPOST 112498
Waitomo District Council
PO Box 404
Te Kuiti 3941

Visiting our website
waitomo.govt.nz/10YP and
completing the Online Form

The Local Government Act 2002 requires submissions to be made available to the public. Your name and/or organisation will be published with your submission and made available in a report to elected members and to the public. Other personal information supplied (such as address / email address) will be removed from the public copy.



Your details

Full name

Sheree Heath

Organisation (if responding on behalf of)

Phone (home/mobile)

Email

Address

Postcode

Te Kuiti

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

Yes No

(Hearings are scheduled for 27 and 28 May 2021.
If you tick Yes, we will contact you to arrange a time.)



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Proposal: Postponing the Harmonisation of Water Supply Rates

Council proposes postponing completion of the harmonisation of water supply rates until Year 4 of the 10 Year Plan. This is because of concerns about rating affordability for Te Kuiti ratepayers and because the future model for the delivery of water services is uncertain.

- Option 1: I agree with Council's preferred option to postpone the harmonisation of water supply rates until Year 4 (2024/2025).
- Option 2: I would prefer that Council keeps the status quo and complete this work as planned in Year 1 (2021/2022), noting this will largely impact Te Kuiti ratepayers.

My comment on this proposal

I am concerned that the term/ word " harmonization " has been used ...is this Deflect from the proposal to further increase our high rates by implementing Separate Water rates ? I have experienced to my great cost re 20yrs ago as a long term Papakura resident That rates can almost double. I had wrongly assumed when purchasing here in Te Kuiti that the crazy high rates were due to Water Care in part.?

Horizontal lines for writing a comment on the proposal.

What do you think about our plans for projects and activities? (p.16–25)

I have yet to read your long term plan but will in the near future.

Any other comments?

Horizontal lines for writing any other comments, with a blue pencil icon at the bottom right.

From: Sheree Heath [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 16 May 2021 2:23 pm
To: haveyoursay
Subject: Submission for a designated Safe Dog Park in Te Kuiti.

* re The Council's - Parks and Recreation Forecast and Planning in the 10year Plan.

When I first moved to Te Kuiti one of my immediate concerns which I addressed by visiting the Council - where were the dog designated parks/exercise areas?

Given advice I checked the alternatives for suitability and regularly drove out to Mangaokewa Reserve which was a delight for myself my visitors and of course 2xdogs however for sometime now it has been a no go area being under DOC control , so for the last 2 years I drive out to Otorohanga - which has safe Dog friendly walks and a Reserve which caters for a run off area away from the dog leashed park.

* just a footnote- since I am in Otorohanga for this purpose I also do some of my shopping at the same time - money taken away from local businesses but it's a matter of convenience .

A few residents in Te Kuiti advised that the Redwood Reserve was a dog exercise area but having driven there to investigate - there appears to be no off street parking on this narrow road (apparently there is suppose to be - but it is gated and locked) also the fencing re roadside is low and inadequate if dogs are off leash and could create accidents if dogs jumped the fence straight onto the road and possibly oncoming traffic.

I would be concerned also of the easy access into Mangaokewa Stream for my dog.

One resident also advised the Reserve is prone in part to flooding so it any not be a viable option year round .?

I do not understand the Brook Park status re dog walking as it is longer listed as an official Dog walking area leashed or not ? I would be grateful for Clarity on this matter as to whether or not it is even a public park ?

Upon reading your Plan I noted that the Council includes a walking track and cycle strategy and i strongly urge the council to implement a Dog friendly Safe exercise area for many of your Ratepayers for whom - like myself- do not view walking their Dogs on or around our streets as a safe alternative.

* I have noticed especially here in George Street some dog owners now allow their Dogs to walk themselves unattended and uncontrolled - for which I will start making formal complaints to Dog Control .

Thank you for taking the time to read this Submission.

Regards
Sheree Heath

[REDACTED]
Te Kuiti [REDACTED]
Sent from my Galaxy

From: Sheree Heath [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:49 PM
To: haveyoursay
Subject: Re Submission- General Concerns re Council's Projected 10year Plan.

This is my 3rd and final Submission ..

Previously submitted -

1x Submission regarding Information emailed on form concerning Water "Harmonization " costs etc: re brochure information.

1x Dog Park Submission - in relation to - the Proposed Parks and Recreation Forecast and Planned Work.

In this Submission - as a concerned Ratepayers I wish to raise general concerns re Council's planned expenditure.

A) the Timber Trail annual cost \$15,000 .

My understanding is that this is a roading maintenance expense ? which imo as a Ratepayer should be paid by the Timber Trail Lodge owners ...1 of the owners is a Councillor I also view any costs as a " conflict of Interest " ...I do not believe that given the Nature of the business that Ratepayers should be burdened with the ongoing costs of an expense that only benefits a Private Enterprise.

B) the Stadium - whilst I agree in principle that this Venue/Facility would benefit the community particularly the Youth - the Council must ensure that Stadium and its costs does NOT exceed this Township's affordability nor the Town's Needs. I for one do Not want to see nor pay for a " white elephant " . It's important that the Stadium is Practical in every sense .

C) back to Water charges re : the brochure - it had limited information for which after reading the Council Plan realized I may have misinterpreted the overall projected costs to Ratepayers ie the brochure states in Te Kuiti yr 4 charges per property of \$928.00 pa - I read this to mean an increase of rates per property of that amount ...until I read your Plan which shows (projected) an increase of only \$0.27 per week . ? For overall expenditure - rates increase 0.4%.

Please confirm.

D) HOWEVER - re the Three Water Reform and the comment that our water care may be in future outsourced ? To me this alludes to having on top of our Rates - an *Additional annual Water Rates bill * - which given our extremely high Rates Bill - previous Council Strategy should have future proofed our Water costs / projected in its entirety - and been covered within our current costing. The added burden of an additional Rates bill would be unbearable - furthermore if Council were to state "- we the Council will reduce some of general Water rates charges to assist Ratepayers" - I know from bitter experience re privatization of Papakura's Water costs under Watercare and how misleading the then Council's promises were.!!!

E) last but not least - the Council must ensure the growth of this town - not just so it survives But most importantly thrives and those seeking to buy existing properties in Waitomo (as recently highlighted by media) or build - they will look at Rate costs when exploring our district as potentially their new home - a place to invest in * - if Council can not viewed as good " housekeepers/budgetary Intelligent " then these good citizens will look elsewhere .

We the individual average struggling ratepayer have to cut out luxuries to pay our necessities... Rates included. I for one have the expectation that Council is seeking to spend on essential items only in the foreseeable future especially as Tourism is low post Covid.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Submission.

Regards
Sheree Heath



Submission No. 012

Sent from my Galaxy