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# Umbraco Forms

## Form Results

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**Requirement**

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

Yes

### **The future of Waitomo District Landfill**

#### **My comments on the Landfill**

Go Eco supports the closure of the Waitomo District Landfill and the upgrade of the Te Kūiti Transfer Station. This decision is more consistent with the principles of kaitiakitanga and whakapapa embedded in the Maniapoto Environmental Management Plan. However, we emphasise that simply transporting waste out of the district cannot be seen as a complete solution because it displaces harm onto other whenua and other communities, often already burdened with environmental injustice, and is not acceptable. Whanau and hapū in other districts also have rights to the protection of their lands and waters. Sending waste elsewhere shifts the environmental, social, and spiritual impacts, rather than addressing the root causes of waste. Te mauri o te whenua - the life force of the land - must be upheld everywhere, not just within district boundaries. Therefore, we call on the Council to: Commit to radical waste minimisation, not just waste relocation. Invest in a Resource Recovery Centre that maximises reuse, repair, remanufacturing, and recycling, keeping materials circulating locally, and preventing harm elsewhere. Support local job creation and skills development in waste minimisation, closing the loop and strengthening community resilience. Partner with Ngāti Maniapoto whanau and hapū to co-design waste strategies that reflect tikanga Māori and uphold the dignity of all communities, not just our own. All decisions on the management, treatment, transport, reuse, or disposal of sludge must be made in direct partnership with mana whenua, based on free, prior, and informed consent. Sludge must be managed in ways that protect and, where possible, enhance the mauri of land, waterways, and ecosystems. Council must prioritise on-site or localised treatment methods that minimise the need for transport, and hence additional CO2 emissions, and reduce risks to other communities. Actively collaborate with entities like Xtreme Zero Waste in Raglan, drawing on their expertise to adopt and implement effective, community-led waste management practices. By closing the landfill and focusing on proper resource recovery, Waitomo District can lead in building an economy that restores mauri, strengthens whanaungatanga, and leaves no community

behind. Transitioning away from landfills aligns with the aspirations of Ngāti Maniapoto and global best practice: supporting cleaner land, water, and air, while investing in a thriving green economy. We strongly urge the Council to plan the upgraded Transfer Station as a Resource Recovery Education Centre, not just a waste site. We urge the Council to embed whakapapa-based waste minimisation strategies at the new facility, recognising the connection between human activity and the wellbeing of all living systems.

#### **The future of the Council Owned seawall at Mōkau**

##### **My comments on the Mōkau Seawall**

We oppose further complex engineering interventions, such as renewing the existing seawall, without comprehensive cultural and environmental assessments. The MEMP emphasises a precautionary approach and restoration of natural systems, recognising the importance of coastal processes and the interconnectedness of marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Instead of rebuilding a seawall that could again fail and/or exacerbate erosion elsewhere, we advocate for an alternative strategy that: Prioritises green infrastructure, such as natural coastal regeneration, over grey infrastructure solutions that require ongoing maintenance and substantial financial investment. Explores the necessity of managed retreat where required in response to climate change impacts like sea level rise, storm surge, and coastal erosion. Engages coastal scientists, local hapū, and the wider community in designing adaptive solutions that respect both Te Mana o Te Wai and the mana of coastal landscapes. Recognises the intrinsic value of the moana beyond human utility.

#### **Reduce the District Wide Benefit Rate for water and wastewater**

##### **My comments on reducing the District Wide Benefit Rates for water and wastewater**

step. However, the Council must recognise that: Freshwater must be managed with priority given first to the health of the water and the ecosystems it supports (including flora and fauna), second to meeting essential human health needs, and thirdly to supporting economic needs. Projects must ensure that urban runoff does not further pollute rivers, aligning with the Waipā River Restoration Goals. The council should co-design stormwater solutions with

Maniapoto and other iwi partners, incorporating mātauranga Māori approaches to water management and urban systems planning.

**Do you agree with our amendments to the Rates Remission Policy?**

**Feedback**

**Do you agree with our amendments to the Revenue and Financing Policy?**

**Any feedback?**

**Would you like to make any further comments?**

The Plan should incorporate action to support local resilient food systems and the restoration of food sovereignty across the Waitomo District. Building resilient, community-based food systems is fundamental to:

- Enhancing local climate resilience and food security
- Strengthening community wellbeing and self-sufficiency
- Reducing food waste and organic landfill inputs
- Supporting economic development through local growers and businesses
- Honouring mana whenua aspirations for whenua and kai sovereignty

To address these goals, we recommend that Council:

- Recognise food security and food sovereignty as key to community resilience and sustainability. Support initiatives like community gardens, mara kai, local regenerative farming, and farmers' markets.
- Integrate food resilience initiatives with waste minimisation and environmental sustainability strategies. Partner with iwi, hapū, community organisations, and local producers to design and lead food resilience programmes.
- Protect and prioritise productive land for food growing in future District and Long-Term Planning.

We urge Council to begin planning for food resilience now, particularly as the district faces increased climate risks, economic challenges, and the need to strengthen local self-reliance. Formalise a standing mechanism to embed Maniapoto environmental values into all Council infrastructure planning and decision-making. Support regenerative land-use practices and local food resilience to reduce long-term infrastructure costs and environmental harm. Embed environmental education initiatives at public facilities, including the Transfer Station, to raise community awareness of kaitiakitanga responsibilities. We urge the Council to make decisions that:

- Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi not just in principle, but in practice.
- Protect the mauri of the whenua and the wai wherever Waitomo district waste might otherwise travel.
- Invest in a future that regenerates ecosystems, creates meaningful jobs, and strengthens

community wellbeing, guided by indigenous values of kaitiakitanga, manaakitanga, and whakapapa.

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