



# Wairoa In Focus

## Your Community, Your Future

# Draft Annual Plan What do YOU think?

Public submissions are currently open for the Draft Annual Plan. This plan represents the second year of the ten years covered by the 2012–2022 Long Term Plan (LTP), with updated forecasts for the 2013–14 year. People have until 12 noon on Monday, June 10 to make a submission on the plan. A public meeting will be held this evening at 5.30pm at the War Memorial Hall for anyone interested in finding out more about the plan. The full draft plan is available at the Council's office on Queen Street, or visit [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz).



### DRAFT PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

#### Government Policy – Better Local Government

The Government is working on a broad programme aimed at building a more productive, competitive economy and better public services. The first piece of legislation related to this was passed in December 2012. The Act provides for a new purpose statement, new financial prudence requirements, changes to the way councils are governed, and changes to the process for reorganising local government. Work is now underway on the second phase of the reform programme which consists of six streams of work, including investigations and reviews of efficiency, roles, governance structure and performance. Each of these streams of work will feed into a second amendment Act in late 2013.

#### 'A Better Hawke's Bay' Trust Application for Reorganisation of Local Government in the Hawke's Bay Region

The Local Government Commission has received an application from 'A Better Hawke's Bay' Trust for reorganisation of local government in the Hawke's Bay region. The application meets certain statutory requirements and, as a result, the Commission was required to invite alternative applications for Hawke's Bay region being the affected area. Nineteen alternative applications have been made. The Commission will now identify the options for Hawke's Bay region, which will include the status quo, before identifying its preferred option. In November 2012 we released a statement setting out some non-negotiables that are important for our district should reorganisation occur. In May 2013 we made an alternative application to the Local Government Commission regarding our view on Hawke's Bay reorganisation. More

information about this is available on our website [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz).

#### Mahia Beach Community Wastewater Scheme

The construction phase of this scheme is now well underway. The Ministry of Health are subsidising \$5.5 million of the scheme. The LTP forecasts borrowing up to \$7.25 million to fund the balance of the construction costs of the scheme, but those funding requirements may be less if ratepayers elect to make 'up front' payments towards the scheme. With the increased funding available, the Council will be re-examining the allocation of costs and subsidy across the scheme. The ultimate costs will be met by those ratepayers with access to the scheme and not the wider Wairoa community. The scheme is expected to service 371 existing connections and is designed to service up to 619. The surplus capacity is incorporated into the scheme to cater for future economic growth and development of the Mahia township. The rates will be calculated with reference to the actual number of ratepayers with access to the scheme when it is completed. The rates relating to the scheme will not be imposed until after it is scheduled for completion. The rating impact on individual ratepayers and options for ratepayers to make 'upfront' payments towards the scheme will be quantified and available as part of the Annual Plan process for the year ending 30 June 2014. Those ratepayers affected by the scheme will continue to be updated by Council as information becomes available.

#### Opoutama Community Wastewater Scheme

The construction phase of the wastewater scheme has commenced. Council have confirmed their funding and cost allocation model relating to this project as equitable sharing of the subsidy through all the contributing properties.

#### Road Maintenance

There is significant pressure nationally to reduce funding for road maintenance. Council's assistance rate from Government has dropped from 66% to 65% and we expect this may reduce further in the future. We will continue to look for ways to deliver acceptable levels of service with the same or less money. A significant future burden is looming as Council's bridge stock begins to reach the end of its design life. A key project for our asset managers will be to get a better understanding of when replacements will be required and how these might be funded. Rationalised road maintenance contracts are currently being tendered and budgeted savings of 10% are forecast.



#### Implement Reserves Management Plans

Over the past few years Council has adopted Reserve Management Plans for Mahia Beach, Mahia Reserves, Mahanga, Opoutama (draft), Waikokopu (draft), Wairoa Riverbank and Rangi-houa (Pilot Hill). Some provision is made in this plan to fund the capital projects contained in some of the Reserves Management Plans. Approximately \$627,097 is programmed over the next eight years.

#### Community Centre and Skatepark

Council assumed ownership of the Wairoa Community Centre in 2011. A programme of refurbishment and upgrade is proposed costing \$1.4 million, including around \$350,000 for a range of renewal projects such as painting, upgrades to pool equipment, carpeting etc., and approximately \$1,050,000 for a new learners' pool. In addition, a further \$100,000 is provided for an upgrade to the skatepark. This overall \$1.5 million project is expected to be funded with \$500,000 from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, \$500,000 from 'other sources' such as trusts and lotteries, with the remaining \$500,000 coming from loans.

#### Public Cemetery at Mahia

This project was approved in the 2009 LTP but not progressed to completion. A public advertisement in 2011 seeking land for the purpose returned some interest, but no land that was deemed suitable. Council has decided that if a public cemetery is to be established in Mahia, that the reserve land adjacent to the Ruawharawhara Urupa be explored as a possible location for this cemetery. To this end, Council will initiate wider public consultation on this matter with the Mahia community and in particular tangata whenua and the Ruawharawhara Urupa Trustees. \$100,000 is allocated for this project.

#### Wairoa Sewerage Investigations

The Wairoa sewerage scheme is deteriorating, often resulting in breaches of resource consent due to overflow. Council is undertaking investigations into long term solutions. Further consultation will occur as we attempt to minimise overflow incidents through remedial work on the sewerage system. A major issue for the wastewater treatment plant is the renewal of discharge consent, which is valid until 2018. A key issue to address over the next few years is whether continued discharge of treated effluent direct to the Wairoa River is acceptable and what the costs of alternatives might be.

#### Liquor Licensing

Alcohol reform legislation now comprises three Acts:

- Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act
- Local Government (Alcohol Reform) Amendment Act
- Summary Offences (Alcohol Reform) Amendment Act.

The purpose of the legislative change is to improve New Zealand's drinking culture and reduce the harm caused by excessive

drinking.

For updated information on what these changes bring, please refer to [www.justice.govt.nz](http://www.justice.govt.nz).

#### Tuai Water Supply

This project is currently underway. A subsidy of \$197,000 has been obtained from the Ministry of Health to upgrade the Tuai water supply. \$35,000 is required as 'local share' to complete the works. In addition to this, a \$57,000 project has been identified to relocate the water main on the Tuai bridge to remove the risk of damage from vehicles.

#### Wairoa Water Supply

Council have completed an investigation into the use of liquid treatment chemicals rather than the granulated product we currently use at the Frasertown Treatment Plant, in keeping with modern practices. This plan makes an allowance of \$259,750 loan funding, to upgrade the plant to use the liquid product, depending on the outcome of the study in year 1.

#### Mahanga Water Supply

The Mahanga water supply does not meet drinking water standards – it is in fact designated as a nonpotable supplementary supply. Furthermore the pressure available from the supply means it is not suitable for firefighting, even though there are hydrants in the reticulation.



Preliminary work carried out several years ago indicated capital investment of around \$300,000 was required to upgrade the supply. \$50,000 has been set aside to fund the planning stages of an upgraded supply.

#### Local Body Elections/Māori Standing Committee Appointment

The next elections will be held on 12 October 2013. Council will retain the status quo of six members elected at large from the district, and the Mayor. There are no proposed community boards. The first past the post electoral system is retained for the 2013 elections. The Māori Standing Committee is an official standing committee of the Council, whose term of office expires at the end of the year in which the triennial local body elections are held. The Māori Standing Committee shall schedule district-wide hui for the selection of next Māori Standing Committee by the end of November.

## For the diary:

Council Meetings	Forum
June 11	June 11
July 9	July 9
August 13	August 13
September 10	September 10
October 8	October 8
November 12	November 12
December 10	December 10
Maori Standing Committee	
May 31	October 25*
June 28*	November 29
July 26	*Meeting held on a marae
August 30*	
September 27	

For more information phone (06) 838 7309 or visit [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz)