

Email Submissions

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [submissions](#)
Date: Water Allowance
Friday, April 12, 2024 12:31:29 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Water

The allocated quota stays the same at 350. Increased excess should be \$2.50.

Council needs to take a harder view on "want to haves" v's "needs to do".

As a couple, now on a fixed income, the council needs to be very mindful of their residents who are paying the rates. This is becoming harder every year.

Thank you

Robbie

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: EAP Submission
Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024 12:09:46 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Please find below my submission to the draft EAP:

I support the continued funding of Destination Wairarapa:

- Destination Wairarapa is the only local organisation solely focused on growing tourism in the region.
- Tourism is vital to the South Wairarapa and residents benefit in many positive ways from tourism including employment and direct contribution to the economy
- Tourism has returned to being the second biggest export industry in NZ
- Wairarapa visitor spend is up 21 per cent from pre-Covid 2020
- Increased national attention indicates a promising future for Wairarapa tourism and increased GDP growth because of tourism

I support the continued investment and support of Destination Wairarapa at current levels.

Barry Saunders

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION AND FEEDBACK FORM

Name: Andrew Roland Wilson DAYSH

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Do you wish to speak to your submission at the public hearings scheduled for 15 & 16 May 2024?

X No

Is your home or place of residence either connected or able to be connected to water services? **Yes**

FIRST DECISION

How much should we spend on operating and maintaining our water services?

X \$5.61m: Maintain the current level of funding with an allowance for unavoidable extra costs.

\$6.33m: Maintain the current level of funding with additional priorities to increase planning and resilience. This is an additional 4.1% added to the proposed total rates increase.

\$7.44m: The highest level of investment for planning and resilience. This is an additional 7.3% added to the proposed total rates increase.

Do you have any additional comments about the first decision? - YES

It is logical that to answer the question of how much should SWDC spend ratepayers need to know how SWDC are currently operating. We are being asked a question like – how much should a family spend on a car without knowing either what the existing car is or what the family’s current and future needs are.

To provide a considered response to the consultation question - how much should we spend on operating and maintaining our water services? – there is important contextual information that should have been provided to achieve meaningful consultation:

- there needs to be an understanding on what is planned to be achieved by that expenditure. There is no reference in the consultation document on the long-term outcomes that SWDC plans to target from this expenditure. Examples of the water services outcomes I would expect to see are:
 - there is 100% compliance with the new drinking water standards and aesthetic values by a certain date
 - the impacts of increased flooding risk due to climate change will be mitigated by (list activities)
 - the impact on drinking water supply risks due to climate change and/or contamination risks will be mitigated by (list of activities)
 - the impact of population growth on drinking water and wastewater will be mitigated by (list of activities).
- A key context is what is the existing base-line. What is the existing capacity and what is the current efficiency / effectiveness of this existing water services capacity. Also, what is the age of the infrastructure, what are the obsolescence and age-related replacement needs of the infrastructure, and what future investments are growth pressures requiring. This type of

information was not disclosed in the consultation document. For drinking water SWDC has provided this information to Taumata Arowai (the water services regulator); so, it was available.

My position is – I would advocate to spend more and increase rates (with appropriate performance controls) if the current position was an underperformance of water services (i.e. not meeting the drinking water standards, source water supply was unreliable, supply lacked capacity, infrastructure was obsolete, risk of flooding had increased, SWDC was not complying with obligation to provide firefighting water etc). But in the absence of information on current performance I have responded that spending the least possible was the appropriate precautionary response; noting that with hindsight and improved information this is likely to be an inappropriate response.

SECOND DECISION

How should we charge for water use?

I do not support either of the options in the consultation document

- Maintain the current allocated quota (350 m3) of water provided to all users, and the current user charges (\$1.84 per m3) for litres of water used above this.
- Reduce the allocated quota to 250m3 of water provided to all users (household or commercial) and increase the excess water charges to \$2.50 per m3 for water used above this.

Do you have any additional comments about the second decision? - YES

What strikes me is this is a multi-variable issue, but the consultation document only presents two options.

How I would approach this issue is to determine the required outcomes from the pricing/charging strategy then identify all the options to achieve these outcomes and evaluate these options based on the agreed outcomes.

The outcomes I would expect from a water charging system are:

- water is valued as a scarce resource (te mana o te wai) and any charging regime creates incentives to conserve and protect the water
- water is considered within a wider eco-system and risk exacerbators pay (through the charging for water) for the risks that they create for water services (i.e. there are no free riders)
- water that is consumed as a private good should be charged based on 'user pay' or targeted rates principles (that are more nuanced than the existing two-step process) and there could be consideration of a development charge for significant incremental new water users
- water that is consumed as a club or public good should be charged based on an equitable allocation of costs over the club or the whole region
- the charging system is administratively efficient

The two options put forward do not address the first four outcomes listed above. The focus of the SWDC seems to be only on administrative efficiency.

All rates should be outcome based and there needs to be fairness and equity principles applied to how the costs are allocated to ratepayers.

The options in the consultation document creates the outcome:

- that a pensioner living alone is subsidising a family for water services – this is not fair or equitable; and
- of encouraging excess consumption of water above the average use as there is no additional charge until the next limit is reached – this encourages excessive use and waste and does not give effect to te mana o te wai.

THIRD DECISION

How should we pay for the replacement of our assets?

Manage debt through cashflow analysis and only borrow what is needed as needed. Continue to fund an appropriate level of depreciation to fund future renewals.

X Continue to charge rates to fund both a loan reserve (to pay for the existing assets) and depreciation (for future replacement of the assets).

Do you have any additional comments about the third decision? - YES

I think this whole section is drafted in a biased / predetermined manor to justify option 1 (the preferred SWDC option) which does not provide for future development.

Example of the bias / predetermination in the consultation document:

“It means that the people living in the present are paying for things that will benefit both them and future generations, without those future generations contributing their share.”
(page 23)

This statement is trying to re-write an historically accepted social contract that New Zealanders have had for generations with both central and local government – that people are happy to fund public goods that will benefit future generations. To give a simple example an elderly taxpayer will usually be happy to pay taxes to fund the education of a younger generation with no expectation of a personal benefit from the tax payment. To deny this social contract would create chaos – imagine a system where primary school children had to fund their own state provided primary school education.

The risk with option 1 (combined with pressure to minimise future rates increases) is that the existing infrastructure gets run-down and future generations have a huge underinvestment problem to address due to pressure to make short term decisions. Which is essentially were we are at the moment with infrastructure across most local authorities.

The fundamental issue is that infrastructure investment should be based on a 50-year multi-generational plan that takes into account all the variables like climate change, population growth, technology development, replacement at the end of the economic life etc. There will be an optional level of debt and reserves to fund this 50-year plan (taking into account debt limits etc) that can then be developed to support the 50-year plan that will inform the setting of the annual rate.

Option 1 creates a real risk that short term decisions will not deliver good long-term infrastructure investment decisions. But it might produce lower rates for a short period of time.

I support Option 2 as the right long-term intergenerational approach to infrastructure investment.

Do you have any feedback that has not been raised previously? – YES

General Comments

1. Enhanced AP for 2024-25

With the current level of uncertainty in relation to water reforms the decision to defer the adoption 2024-34 LTP and instead produce an Enhanced AP for 2024-25 was a rational option to consider.

As part of the consideration, it is worth noting that the legislative amendments for the water reforms may take more than 12 months to resolve so there is a risk that SWDC is left in a 'holding pattern' in 2025 while decisive leadership on SWDC's water services may be required now.

In the consideration of the deferral of the 2024-34 LTP it would have been important to note that there are other significant areas of uncertainty, other than water reforms, that will not be resolved in the next 12 months. The deferral decision may negatively impact on these additional areas. The additional areas include:

- the ongoing impact of climate change on water services
- compliance with the new drinking water standards and aesthetic values
- impact of population growth on the water infrastructure

If the deferral of the 2024-34 LTP makes the future water services decisions more urgent, reduces future options, adds costs, and does not add value in terms of improved future decision making, then with hindsight the 2024-34 LTP deferral will be seen as the wrong decision.

2. Aggregation of water services

To frame the consultation document at the 'water services' level means that important detail, impacts by location, and the differential impact on rates, is lost in the aggregation of:

- Drinking water
- Wastewater
- Stormwater

The only commonality between these services is they involve water. To ask for a generic decision covering all three services is at best misleading.

The Water Services Act 2021 clearly separates out these three uniquely different activities and requires that SWDC reports to Taumata Arowai separately on these activities. It is questionable why SWDC chose to aggregate these unique, separate and distinctly different services into one category for the consultation options.

The importance of not aggregating these services is highlighted by the consultation question on how these services are charged for. Drinking water, being a private good, is amenable to a user pay regime while wastewater and stormwater is more of a club good (the club being the urban areas) and the discussion should be in terms of how wastewater and stormwater costs are allocated to the ratepayers within this club.

004

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 9:23:50 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

I strongly support continued investment in destination wairapa at current levels.

Kind regards Wayde

Email Submission 005 Tim
Smith included with online
submission

Submission.

Ann Gray

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I do not wish to speak on line or in person.

Submission regarding the Financial Assistance paid to the ongoing promotion of the whole region by 'Destination Wairarapa'

Without the funding from the three Councils in the Wairarapa the Visitor numbers the area currently benefits from would in no way be the numbers we are seeing.

I have been involved for over 30 years. Firstly with very occasionally renting our coastal holiday home and working voluntarily at the Featherston Visitor Centre. That led to me becoming the South Wairarapa Representative on the Board of then 'Tourism Wairarapa'. At that time there were changes made and proactive moves to boost the Visitor numbers. Destination Wairarapa now attracts large numbers of Visitors for the many activities the area now provides. This of course boosts our local economy. I still run a Holiday home and have a very solid number of bookings months ahead and not just for weekends. I

encourage all of the three Councils to consider carefully what financial gain Visitors mean to this region when working out the very limited finances for the 'Long Term Plan.'

007

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Fw: Tourism investment - Long Term Plan
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2024 7:48:48 PM

For inclusion in consultation feedback please

Warm regards

Melissa Sadler-Futter
Deputy Mayor and Councillor SWDC

From: Allan Hogg [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 11:41 AM

[REDACTED]

Subject: Tourism investment - Long Term Plan

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Dear acting Mayor

The Martinborough Business Associations (MBA) core objective is to grow local businesses through the promotion of the town and area . We do this by collaborating with industry organisations ,digital platforms, and Destination Wairarapa . In this regard our Association is a member of the regional tourism organisation (RTO), Destination Wairarapa. As you will be aware the three Wairarapa district councils provide funding to enable the core work of that organisation.

In considering the Long-Term Plan, the MBA wants to take the opportunity to reinforce to Council the critical link between the promotional and marketing work of Destination Wairarapa and the visitor numbers to South Wairarapa and wider region. The visitor spend directly impacts local business and jobs. Tourism investment is not an extravagance for our district and region. Nationally, tourism represents 3.7% of GDP. Wairarapa tourism filled jobs were 1379, a growth of 19% in 2023. Tourism overall in the Wairarapa grew 21% from Feb 2022 to Feb 2023

I know the RTO will be making a submission to the Councils seeking sustainable long-term funding to support the previously Council agreed destination management deliverables .

Our Association looks forward to the continued support and providing certainty to Destination Wairarapa from Council to foster the contribution that tourism plays in our area and regions economy and wellbeing.

Allan

Chair

Martinborough Business Association



website www.martinboroughnz.com

Facebook [Martinborough Wine Village](#)

Instagram [martinboroughwinevillage](#)



From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Long Term Plan//Enhanced Annual Plan (SWDC only) submission in support of Destination Wairarapa
Date: Sunday, April 28, 2024 6:05:32 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Hi,

I would like to register my support for Destination Wairarapa and I support the continued investment and support of Destination Wairarapa at current levels or higher.

Anna Howarth

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Submission to South Wairarapa District Council's Long Term Plan / Tourism Funding
Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 2:24:54 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image892173.png](#)
[image042832.png](#)
[image607645.png](#)
[image734232.jpg](#)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

On behalf of Jenna Snelgrove, General Manager at Transit please find below Transit's submission to South Wairarapa District Council's Long Term Plan, specifically around tourism funding.



Wednesday, 1 May 2024

To: South Wairarapa District Council

RE: Submission to South Wairarapa District Council's Long Term Plan / Tourism Funding

Transit Group welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on South Wairarapa District Council's Long Term Plan.

Transit supports the continued investment and support of Destination Wairarapa at current levels.

Destination Wairarapa is a respected regional tourism organisation and the only local organisation focused solely on growing tourism in this region and helping drive results that benefit the whole community.

These benefits include the ability to attract visitors all year round, who in turn stay in accommodation, spend their money visiting local attractions, attending events and supporting local businesses such as restaurants and cafes enjoying our warm hospitality; as well spend at our supermarkets and petrol stations. This in turn helps sustain local businesses and creates employment opportunities. It also helps drive a vibrant prosperous region to live and work in and encourage more families/ people to move here.

As a fourth-generation family-owned New Zealand transport and tourism company, with our roots proudly in Wairarapa, we value the crucial role Destination Wairarapa plays in encouraging domestic and international visitation to our region.

Wairarapa is a smaller region in New Zealand and to ensure we maintain a thriving visitor economy, it is vital that experts are in charge of destination marketing to ensure it remains cohesive as well as furthering key relationships with off-shore sellers / inbound tourism operators who champion New Zealand and Wairarapa to their clients. Destination Wairarapa already holds these important relationships as well as relationships with Tourism NZ, Tourism Industry Association, TECNZ and

WellingtonNZ – with whom they regularly collaborate with and host famils in this region to showcase all the unique attractions and visitor experiences that make this an aspirational place to visit.

Tranzit also plays a key role in the tourism industry here. We bring various international and domestic coach groups to the Wairarapa through our partnerships with companies such as Grand Pacific Tours and Gate 1 while through our partnership with Greater Wellington Regional Council we operate public transport services here that regular brings visitors via connecting rail to the wine village of Martinborough and unique destination that is Greytown.

Destination Wairarapa’s expertise in promoting and championing what we have to offer has also directly contributed to the region being able to successfully navigate several very difficult years across the Covid pandemic, and also during the winter months, which have traditionally been very quiet. Thanks to their support of the Dark Sky Reserve and assistance with helping create key events, such as the Greytown Winter Festival, we see visitors here all year around.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Tranzit would like South Wairarapa District Council to continue the current investment for Destination Wairarapa and we look forward to seeing the positive impact of your decision on our community.

I am also available to present in person should this be required.

Kind regards
Jenna Snelgrove
General Manager – Tranzit

	<p>Katie Farman Communications, Media and Marketing Manager, Tranzit Group</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p> </p>
	

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

This email contains information that is confidential and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not peruse, use, disseminate, distribute or copy this email or attachments.
If you have received this in error, please notify us immediately by return email and delete this email. Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Fw: Long term plan submission
Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 2:49:08 PM

Please add this to the formal submission feedback.

Is it possible for Karly to speak to her submission?

Warm regards

Melissa Sadler-Futter
Deputy Mayor and Councillor SWDC

From: Karly Polaschek [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 12:24 AM
To: Councillor Melissa Sadler-Futter [REDACTED]
Subject: Long term plan submission

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Hi Melissa,

I hope you don't mind me emailing you about the LTP but I wanted to put my two cents worth in about the long term plan as I couldn't find anywhere in the documents about tourism and future funding levels to be provided by rate payers.

During covid-19 our business (a beekeeping operation) went through an incredibly rough patch, with cancelled export orders, plummeting honey prices, local markets shut down and no end in sight we were forced to re-evaluate our position within the region and if we could continue or not. We were incredibly fortunate to be filming for Country Calendar at the time and were encouraged by the camera crew to launch into agritourism and share our passion with people about what we do every day and showcase our products in a different light. We jumped in boots and all with any funds we could muster together and with the support of Destination Wairarapa we've now been welcoming both domestic and international guests every single week from the past few years.

These guests come into our region and boost our local economy significantly. We know that many of the visitors come to the South Wairarapa to join our tour and will stay at least one night, eat at the local cafes and restaurants, shop in our towns, engage in wine tasting, fill up their vehicles at the local gas stations, walk our trails, visit our beaches and book other experiences during their time here - all directly impacting positively other businesses through employment, services and product sales.

The majority of our bookings are through either inbound operators (directly as a result of the work Destination Wairarapa are constantly doing on the ground) or through word of mouth from people who have previously been done and experience with us.

I urge you to look at the level of funding given to our tourism team - I was at an event tonight

where the rural farm consultant spoke of the potential visitors on our doorstep, their average spend in the region and what that means for businesses in a time of economic uncertainty, especially in the rural sectors.

We, as a business would not have survived the last few years if we didn't have agritourism. We are reliant on the flow on effect that the constant promotion of our region is proving to have, we see a boost in visitor numbers, increased spend and thus creating return customers - many of whom will 'pop' over the hill to restock supplies and enjoy a day out because they didn't know the region had so much to offer. As we know, this then gives us, as families in the regions, more opportunity, employment, activities and income potential on our doorstep so we too can enjoy all the things that make our region so special.

I'm really happy to have a discussion with you if you think it could add any value (or of there was a more appropriate way to add this to the table for discussion), but really wanted you to hear from grassroots how current funding impacts so many different businesses especially with the gains made in the dark sky project now getting some major traction with international tourists.

Thank you for considering us in your discussions and decision making processes.

Regards,
Karly Polaschek
Owner

Greytown Honey



012

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: [submissions](#) [REDACTED]
Date: Long Term Annual Plan Submission
Thursday, May 2, 2024 1:36:07 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Good afternoon

Bevan and I would just like to state that we support the continued investment and support of Destination Wairarapa at the current levels. As a small business hospitality owner it is important for the growth of our region to promote the Wairarapa as a destination to visit and the work that Destination Wairarapa does is a big part of this.

Thanks

Jacqui Morland
Director
Administrator
3BL Ltd T/A The Offering

013

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Submission - Long Term Plan
Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024 2:14:08 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.jpg](#)

You don't often get email from [Redacted]

South Wairarapa Councillors

The South Wairarapa tourism industry (both international and domestic) is held together and driven forward by the expertise of the team at Destination Wairarapa. The benefit we receive from our membership with Destination Wairarapa has played a significant role in our journey to grow the White Swan Hotel by more than double since December 2019.

They provide us with leading industry advice, hold vital industry and media relationships, and manage the Wairarapa brand and marketing to an excellent standard; all of which lead to significant opportunities for our business.

If Destination Wairarapa had to reduce outputs due to loss of funding, then all the businesses that benefit from tourism (supermarkets, petrol stations, pharmacies, shops, cafes, hotels, wineries, dairies, restaurants etc) would feel the economic impacts of this.

I urge you to maintain (at the least) funding Destination Wairarapa to the same levels, and to commit to at least 3 years of funding at a time.

Thanks
Rosie



Rosie Rogers
Experience Director - The White Swan Hotel
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



South Wairarapa District Council
2024-25 Enhanced Annual Plan Submission
submissions@swdc.govt.nz

Anna Nielsen
General Manager, Destination Wairarapa
[REDACTED]



Destination Wairarapa appreciates the opportunity to comment on the South Wairarapa District Council Enhanced Annual Plan 2024-25.

We support the work of Council and acknowledge the challenge facing Councillors with a number of significant financial decisions to be made. The EAP is an important, guiding document for Council that should reflect the wants and needs of all ratepayers and communities. Developing and delivering this is no easy task, and on behalf of the Destination Wairarapa Board I congratulate your team on a wide-reaching and inclusive community engagement campaign surrounding this submission process.

Who are we?

Destination Wairarapa is the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for the region and one of 31 throughout New Zealand. Our Organisation is responsible for the promotion of the Wairarapa to a national and international audience, with the goal of attracting more visitors to the region, who will stay longer and spend more money. We employ 3 permanent staff and utilise the expertise of a further 2 people in contract positions.

As an incorporated society, we have a membership base of more than 220 tourism and hospitality businesses, who collectively form the Wairarapa tourism proposition.

In addition, membership of Destination Wairarapa allows our members to hold dual membership with Business Wairarapa.

There are five key points we wish to make in our submission:

1. Destination Wairarapa is the only local organisation solely focused on growing tourism in the region
2. Tourism has returned to being the second biggest export industry in NZ
3. Wairarapa visitor spend is up 21 per cent from pre-covid 2020
4. Increased national attention indicates a promising future for Wairarapa tourism and increased GDP growth because of tourism

5. Future Council funding for Destination Wairarapa must be on a sustainable basis and at current levels - as a minimum, to build on this success

1. DESTINATION WAIRARAPA PROVIDES A UNIQUE TOURISM SERVICE AND FUNCTION

Destination Wairarapa serves the local tourism industry by promoting the region in a manner that supports the aspirations of our community and the marketing efforts of our members.

As experts in the tourism sector, we build industry capability throughout the region, working with members to provide visitors an exceptional Wairarapa, and New Zealand, experience. Our email databases and social media following of more than 80,000 allows us to market the region to an engaged audience regularly, which is crucial to local events and businesses.

We also work closely with media and industry partners like Stuff and the NZ Herald, Tourism NZ, WellingtonNZ and the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail. These partnerships position the region alongside much larger, more resourced national experiences, which in turn showcases the Wairarapa as a must-do for visitors.

In addition, on behalf of the 3 councils, our members and the Trust House Foundation, Destination Wairarapa operates the only two iSite locations in the region, Masterton and Martinborough. These services employ 5 permanent part time roles, who provide professional support directly to visitors – on the phone, via email or in person.

Destination Wairarapa is a steward of the Wairarapa Destination Management Plan (DMP), alongside the three Wairarapa Councils, local businesses, Iwi and community. We are however the only organisation in the region focussed on the vital destination marketing aspect of the plan.

We are a key facilitator of growth in the region, whether that be through introducing domestic and international visitors to our International Dark Sky Reserve, getting the region in front of food lovers looking to taste wine at a local cellar door, or helping to attract significant investment into the sector and the region.

2. TOURISM IS THE SECOND BIGGEST EXPORT INDUSTRY IN NZ

New Zealand's tourism industry is once again the country's second biggest export industry, only second to dairy. Visitor numbers to New Zealand continue to show positive signs of growth with January 2024 holiday arrivals having recovered to 73 per cent pre COVID. Tourism's contribution to New Zealand's economy is critical, now more than ever, as the country faces tough economic times.

3. WAIRARAPA VISITOR SPEND HAS INCREASED 21 PER CENT FROM PRE-COVID 2020

The Wairarapa significantly contributes to a tourists' broader experience of New Zealand and is a valuable contributor to the industry. More importantly, tourism (international 22% and domestic 78% ADP Data YE Feb 24) is a valuable contributor to the Wairarapa economy.

During the global pandemic and in the months following the opening of our borders - alongside agriculture, tourism was one of the highest performers in terms of GDP contribution to the Wairarapa economy. This contribution was consistently recognised and referred to nationally, and highlighted by Brad Olsen, CE of Infometrics, at the Wairarapa Business Summit 2023, citing the region as one of the few to show continued and significant growth of domestic visitor spend during this period.

Data released from the Ministry of Business and Innovation and Employment (MBIE) last year indicated an increase in visitor spend of more than 33.8 per cent for South Wairarapa when comparing YE February 2020 (pre-covid, \$40.2m) and YE February 2023 (post-covid, \$53.8m).

Just released accommodation data from MBIE reveals that guest nights were up in Wairarapa 9.9% in February 2024 versus February 2023.

Tourism jobs in Wairarapa were 1379 – a growth of 19% in 2023 (Infometrics regional profile March 2023)

Destination Wairarapa's concerted and strategic approach to marketing and media was key to the success of the region over this period. Additional government funding was secured to position the region for further growth with the creation and implementation of the Destination Management Plan, accepted by all three Wairarapa councils in 2023.

Our organisation is an important pillar of the tourism sector, and our members agree...

Rosie Rogers, The White Swan Hotel

The benefit we receive from our membership with Destination Wairarapa has played a significant role in our journey to grow the White Swan Hotel by more than double since December 2019. The South Wairarapa tourism industry (both international and domestic) is held together and driven forward by the expertise of the team at Destination Wairarapa. They provide us with leading industry advice, hold vital industry and media relationships, and manage the Wairarapa brand and marketing to an excellent standard; all of which lead to significant opportunities for our businesses.

If Destination Wairarapa had to reduce outputs due to loss of funding, then all the businesses that benefit from tourism (supermarkets, petrol stations, pharmacies, shops, cafes, hotels, wineries, dairies, restaurants etc) would feel the economic impacts of this.

Lisa Portas, Palliser Ridge

Our agri-business; Palliser Ridge Station in Pirinoa, has spent the last 10 years pursuing a range of diversification endeavours, one of which has been Agri-tourism. The Destination Wairarapa team have been instrumental in guiding what kind of an offer would work well alongside our core business of sheep and beef farming, and have provided invaluable connections, both domestically and offshore. The advice we have received has been of immense benefit, teaching us how to grow from smaller scale experiences to groups of 40 travelling in by bus, as well as assisting in the re-shaping our accommodation strategy to significantly increase occupancy.

We are just one of the many rural businesses that Destination Wairarapa has assisted with their diversification programme. At a time when Agri-entrepreneurs are all asking questions about what the future holds for their enterprises, the advice and expertise that Destination Wairarapa offer has never been more crucial.

The support and guidance that Destination Wairarapa offers South Wairarapa businesses is apparent at every turn, from Greytown down to Ngawi, and everywhere in-between. Likewise, the negative impacts, or lack of favourable impacts that would occur as a result of reduced funding for Destination Wairarapa, would also be far-reaching and devastating for our local economy.

Katherine Jacobs, Big Sky Wines,

Destination Wairarapa has played a pivotal role in the success of the Wine Industry in this region. We have seen major investment from Wine Industry players such as Foley Wines, Atarangi, Nga Waka, Luna Estate and Urlar in the development of their Cellar Doors/Restaurants because of the economic gains from Wine tourism.

With the global economy making export markets unpredictable it has made sales at the gate a key part of our Industries viability.

We need to be in the face of both the Domestic and International markets as it is extremely competitive to get the Tourist dollar and to many the Wairarapa being on Highway 2 and particularly Martinborough being off the main highway we rely heavily on our region being promoted by DW.

DW has been very active in bringing key influencers to our region and this has resulted in very valuable publicity. They have the expertise that we do not have being mainly small players and with most companies being too small to run a marketing department we really need Anna and her teams help.

DW also plays a key role in supporting events in our region and events are a very important hook to get folks attention and to get eyes and \$ to our region. For these reasons we heartily support DW and this submission to our Councils to ensure the Economic Development continues for the Wine Region.

4. INCREASED NATIONAL ATTENTION

Our region has received increased national attention due to our tourism success through Covid. The growth of visitor numbers and spend into the Wairarapa through product development, marketing for international, domestic, groups, events, conferences, and media by Destination Wairarapa, indicate the future looks bright for tourism in the region.

Now is the time to focus marketing efforts, leverage previous publicity, and continue to build on the success of our work emerging from Covid.

5. COUNCIL FUNDING MUST CONTINUE AS IS

Destination Wairarapa appreciates the financial contribution received each year from South Wairarapa District Council. It is this financial support that enables Destination Wairarapa to

provide high quality services and marketing functions for the benefit of the district, region, and country.

We also acknowledge that times are tough, and Councils must look at ways to reduce costs moving forward. We would implore you **not** to consider Destination Wairarapa in this manner.

Destination Wairarapa is an important contributor to continued economic growth in the region, with direct connections to increased spending and jobs within the South Wairarapa District.

For these reasons we assert that the South Wairarapa District Council continue to support Destination Wairarapa at the same levels of investment - as a minimum, and under the same arrangements beyond the time period this Enhanced Annual Plan relates to.

In addition

What else is Happening? (page 26)

Ratings review

An Economic Development targeted rate would be added, to be levied on commercial properties and providers of short stay accommodation.

The proposed targeted rate on commercial properties and Airbnb accommodation providers has a potential adverse impact on Destination Wairarapa.

As mentioned in this submission, the Organisation is a member-based subscription one with 70% of its fee-paying members being from the South Wairarapa District Council area. Our intel suggests that many members are not prepared to pay a targeted rate in addition to the membership fee to Destination Wairarapa.

We believe this would be an unintended consequence, but one that would negatively impact the sustainable operations and service delivery of Destination Wairarapa.

We would want to meet with Council to discuss ways to mitigate the financial impact on the organisation should this be the case.

Destination Wairarapa requests an opportunity to speak to this submission.

Ngā mihi,



Anna Nielson

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Destination Wairarapa
Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:17:56 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

To the Wairarapa District Councils - Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa.

As Chair of ConArt Gallery and Studios Inc. a cooperative of local artists on the corner of Queen and Bruce Streets, Masterton, and a part of what is becoming known as the Arts Quarter or Precinct in Masterton, I am writing to support Destination Wairarapa.

A large proportion of our visitors are tourists. On weekends, I would estimate that about 70 to 80 percent of the people who visit our gallery and studios are from out of town or from overseas.

The following points are relevant not only for us but for the whole region.

1. Destination Wairarapa is the only local organisation solely focused on growing tourism in the region.
2. Tourism has returned to being the second biggest export industry in New Zealand. Wairarapa visitor spend is up 21 per cent from pre-Covid 2020
3. Increased national attention indicates a promising future for Wairarapa tourism and increased GDP growth because of tourism

ConArt strongly supports the continued investment and support of Destination Wairarapa at current levels.

We support them and they support us.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say in support of Destination Wairarapa.

Yours faithfully

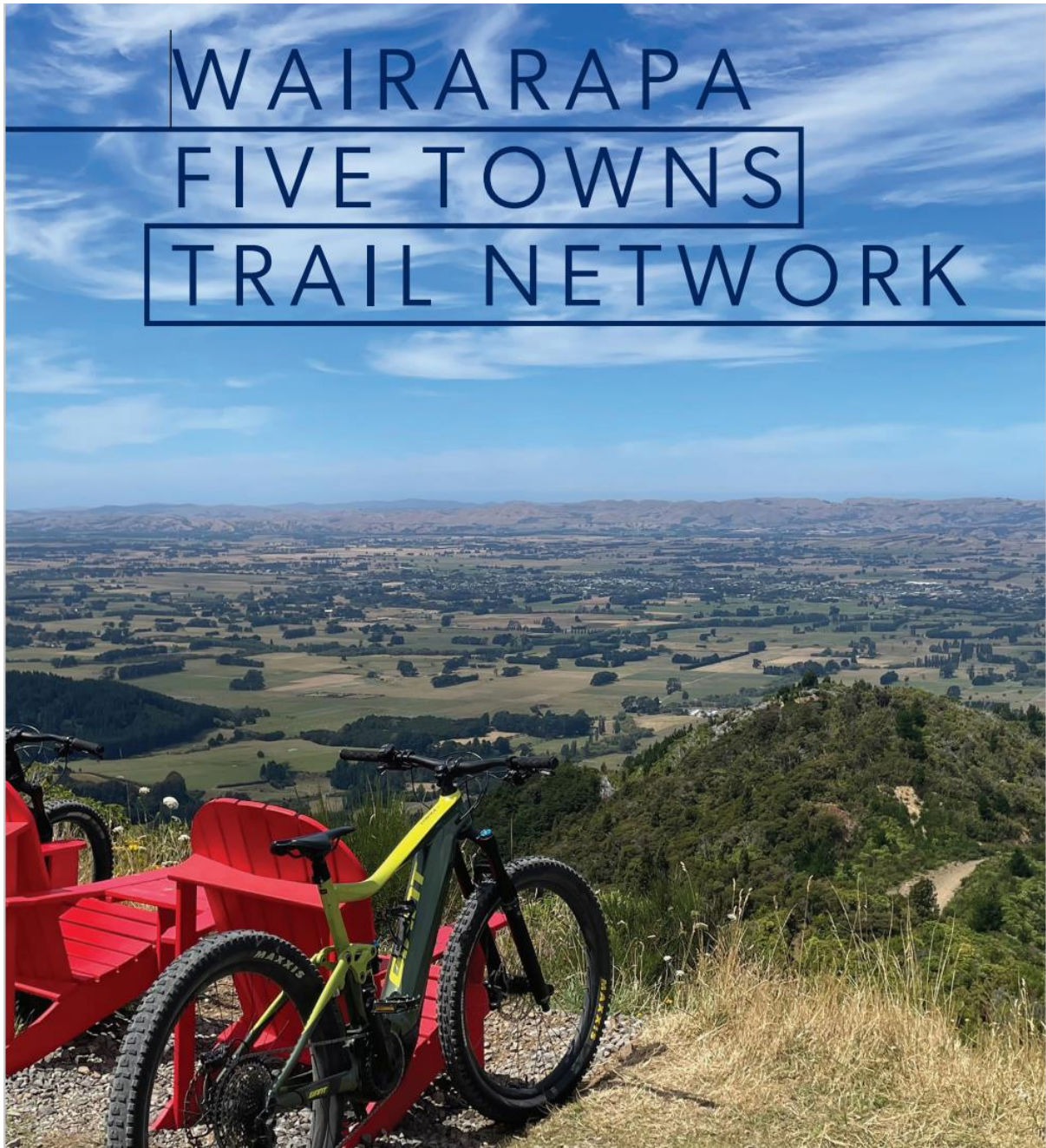
Karen Madoc (Chair, ConArt Gallery and Studios Inc.)

[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION TO ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN 2024-2034

To: South Wairarapa District Council

Submitter: Five Towns Trail Trust



Date: 28 April 2024

POC: Greg Lang, Chair of the Five Towns Trail Trust: [REDACTED]

SUMMARY

The *Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Network* is a strategic opportunity identified by the [Wellington Regional Economic Development Plan - WellingtonNZ](#) . The REDP is owned by the [Wellington Regional Leadership Committee](#), and supported by GWRC to drive initiatives with high economic impact over the next 10 years.

The newly registered Five Towns Trail Trust (5TTT) has been formed to lead the implementation of the Five Town Trail Masterplan (fivetownstrail.co.nz). The 5TTT was funded by WellingtonNZ to establish a legal entity with strong governance, skillsets and ability to provide regional coordination for 200+km of Wairarapa trail development.

The 5TTT is in the process of applying for charitable status, with the aim of leveraging a range of funding mechanisms and grants to progress the trail network. The success of this strategic initiative will require further support from both local & regional authorities.

The REDP acknowledges that the Wellington-Wairarapa-Horowhenua Region has not previously undertaken a coordinated approach to iconic attractions. We hope SWDC see this as an opportunity to collaborate with a modest investment for region-wide benefit.

THE SUBMISSION

The financial support sought from Local Government is strictly for the operational costs of the Trust, and not towards infrastructure work. Funding is sought through the SWDC 2024 AP to activate the following Trust outcomes through to 2027:

1. Embed strong governance practises, foster regional collaboration and emerge as the lead agency behind Wairarapa trail development.
2. Implement a fundraising strategy, targeting sustainable funding sources for ongoing network development, operational and capital costs.
3. Complete website & brand development with regular public communications.
4. Develop a supportive membership base (fee-paying or bequest-based options).
5. Establish a workplan for Stage 1 of the Trail network with clear identification of the hurdles to be addressed (land access, bridge construction etc).
6. Review and update the 2021 Masterplan, taking into account changing risks, benefits & region-specific economic data/visitor trends with support from WNZ.
7. Continue Chairing & facilitating the *Wairarapa Trails Action Group* as a platform for regional collaboration and information-sharing across diverse stakeholders.
8. Induct and support council-appointed Trustees as the formal mechanism for maintaining Council relationships and reporting requirements.

SWDC are invited to participate in the Governance of these outcomes, by nominating a Trustee of their choosing to the 5TTT Board. The Constitution has been developed to

allow each Wairarapa authority the opportunity to participate equally. The Trust is happy to work with SWDC to identify nominees with favourable skillsets to contribute.

To achieve cross-regional investment, our recommendation is to apportion operating funds for the 5TTT at the ratio of 50% from GRWC / 50% from the 3 Wairarapa Councils.

The Trust is requesting an operating budget of \$120,000 per annum until 2027.

This equates to GWRC = \$60,000; MDC = \$20,000; CDC = \$20,000; & SWDC = \$20,000. These figures are GST exclusive, per annum.

The Background

The 3 Wairarapa District Councils and Trust House co-funded development of the Five Towns Trail Master Plan in August 2021: www.fivetownstrail.co.nz/our-master-plan. The Masterplan was commissioned by the *Wairarapa Trails Action Group* (WaiTAG), a group of dedicated volunteers and trail sub-groups committed to implementing this ambitious vision for our region.

The Masterplan followed the successful bid by WaiTAG & *Greytown Trails Trust* to secure \$1M in funding for the Tauwherenikau cycleway bridge in 2020: [MEDIA RELEASE: \\$1M funding granted for construction of the Tauherenikau suspension bridge - SWDC SWDC](#)

This success story reinforces the outcomes that are possible when community groups have consistent, long-term support and engagement with Local Government. This approach has been embedded in the Trust constitution whereby each Wairarapa Council is able to appoint a Trustee of its choosing to the Trust board.

WellingtonNZ recognises the 5TTT as the lead organisation for this initiative in the REDP. As such, WellingtonNZ will continue to support the Trustees with identifying funding and connection opportunities across the government ecosystem and Regional Trails groups.

Masterplan - The Ultimate Network

The Masterplan describes an ambitious vision. The main focus is to develop 200+km of recreational trails linking the five main Wairarapa towns, alongside experiential loops.

The network is formally connected with the *Remutaka Cycle Trail* at the southern boundary in Featherston, and aims to terminate at Pukaha wildlife reserve in the north. The trail has significant touchpoints with the Wairarapa Moana Project and the Wairarapa Pukahaha to Kawakawa aims (WaiP2K). There are significant opportunities to leverage cultural, environmental, tourism and commercial outcomes from the vast network of trail systems.

MBIE undertake an analysis of the 22 NZ *Great Rides* to assess their performance and impact across the Country. The full report along with their research on Cycle Tourism opportunities can be read here: [Evaluation of the New Zealand Cycle Trails | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment \(mbie.govt.nz\)](#). Key findings include:

- Over the 12 months to June 2021, almost 2.19 million trips were taken across the New Zealand Cycle Trail Great Rides network. (98.5% were domestic users)

- 27% of the New Zealand adult population has participated in a cycle tourism activity in the past year.
- Estimated health benefits of \$11 million resulting from trail use for cycling.
- Cycle trail users brought an estimated direct economic contribution to regions of more than \$950 million.

Taking a more localised viewpoint, the *Remutaka Cycle Trail* is now formally extended from Cross-Creek to Featherston. This enables visitors to be funneled to the gateway of the *Five Towns Trail*. This is significant as extended closures prevent visitors from completing the loop via the South Coast, offering an extended experience into Wairarapa.

Data from the Remutaka Trail allows us to assess the nature and number of recreational users in our region. For the past 12 months, the counter at Cross-Creek shows:

Quarter	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023
User no#	2998	3974	2094	1440	2436



Daily Average Cyclists | Pedestrians

445 | 1,017
Q3: 290 | 779



Weekday Average Cyclists | Pedestrians

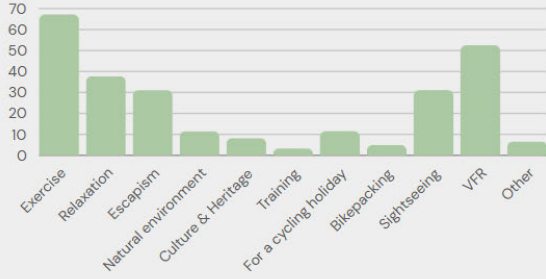
398 | 914
Q3: 215 | 625



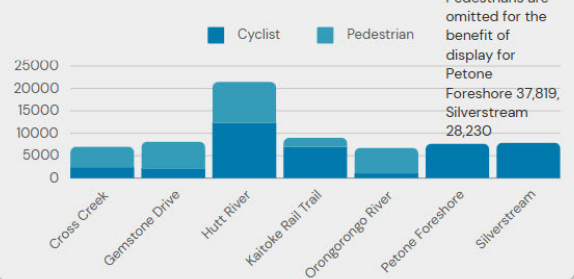
Weekend Average Cyclists | Pedestrians

558 | 1,263
Q3: 472 | 1,148

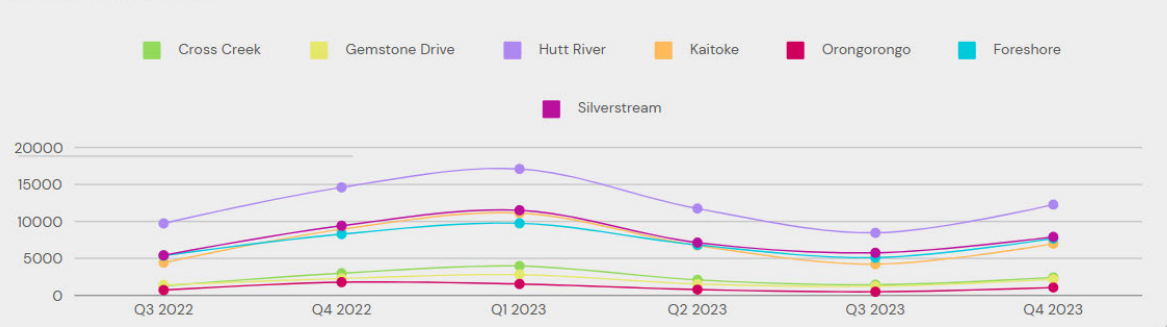
Trail Use Purpose



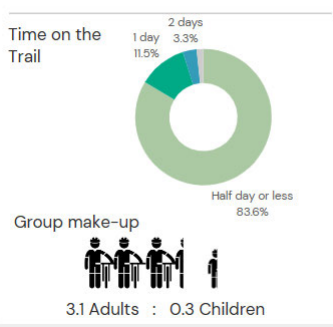
Usage of Trail



Usage Areas | User: Cyclist



Trail use Q4 2023



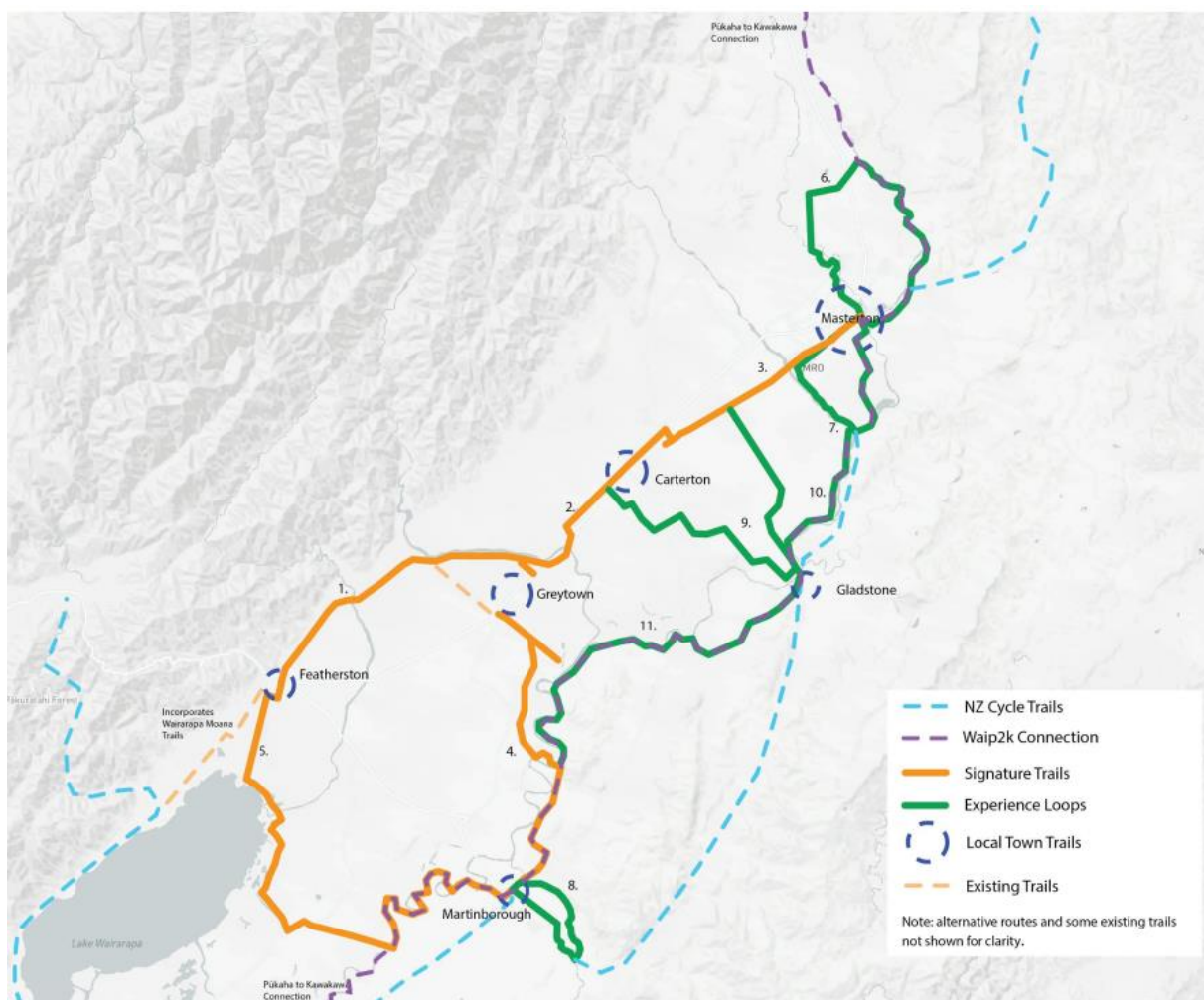
Economic Contribution:

\$219.50/Per Trip
Q3: \$293.20/PP

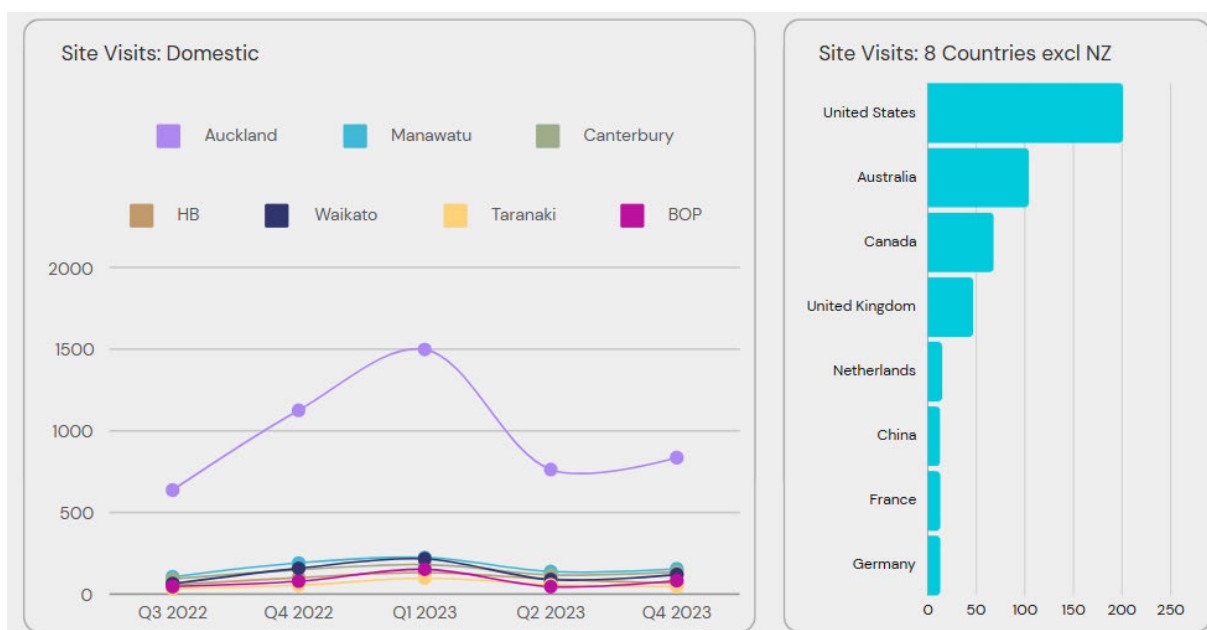


75%
Of non-local trail users primary reason for travelling to the region was RCT

The case for growth is strong, when considering the diverse trail and visitor offerings extending through the entire Wairarapa region. A visual snapshot of the 5TTT vision is included below:



The attraction profile is also strong, showing seasonal demand from Auckland and International Visitors, with 75% stating their main reason for travel to Greater Wellington was to ride the RCT.



Benefits to the Community

The benefits to the region from the Five Towns Project touch all 4 of the wellbeing's.

Social

- Fostering positive physical and mental health outcomes through cycling and walking. The e-bike revolution has enabled a whole new section of the community to enjoy exercise, irrespective of age or physical ability.

Economic

- Drive visitor attraction to the region in alignment with the *Destination Management Plan* with the addition of a signature experience. Stimulate job creation (directly and indirectly) via hospitality, accommodation, tours and a range of other business opportunities.

Environmental

- Reduced emissions activity, increased appreciation of our natural assets

Cultural

- Provides opportunity to highlight some of the history of Manu Whenua and early settlers through storyboards, experience loops and trail artwork.

Role of Local Government

There is no doubt for the Five Town Trails network to be developed and maintained successfully, we will require the support of all 3 Wairarapa Council's and GWRC.

The lack of formalised joint enterprise within the Wairarapa creates a barrier to leading projects through a region-wide lens. The Trust aims to bridge this gap through a combined governance model with a skilled & dedicated Board of Trustees.

The work to date has been predicated on the assumption that the 3 Wairarapa District Council's and Greater Wellington Regional Council formally continue their support through the 2024 LTP and budget.

5TTT Governance

The Trust Deed establishes a model with 4 Community Trustees in place. It also makes provision for each Wairarapa territorial authority to appoint a Trustee for a board of 7.

The 4 community Trustees are:

- **Greg Lang**
Greg's key attribute is enabling community-led projects, and has been the driver of the Five Towns Trail Project for the past 5 years. He is currently Chair of the Wairarapa Trails Action Group, The Gladstone Project, Heart of Arts Gallery, and was Mayor of Carterton District 2019-2022. He is also a Director of *The Wheelwright Hub Ltd*, a committee member of the Wairarapa Multisport Club, and regularly competes in *Iron Man* and Distance Triathalons.

- **Joel Ngatuere**
Joel is absolutely passionate about supporting Whānau, Marae and Hapu through facilitation, research, best governance and strategic development. Joel is currently manager of the Tauranga Oranga Tamariki's Parirau site. His Hapu is Ngati Kahukuraawhitia, and he is also the environmental spokesperson for Whareora Marae.
- **Bruce McCallum**
Bruce is a visionary businessman with a stream of successes and is the current Chair of both Couplands Bakeries Ltd (turnover of \$100M+ with over 500 employees); and of Booth Logistics Ltd (turnover \$200M+ with 800 employees). Bruce is a former competitor in international age group duathalons, and is current owner of NZ's Couplands/Cycling Toms elite cycling team.
- **Jo Gillanders**
Jo is incredibly strategic with a visionary approach to process. She was the project lead for the very successful development of the Five Towns Trail Masterplan. Jo has an extensive planning background and has a current role with Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The inaugural board of Trustees bring a wealth of knowledge and experience across the commercial sector, Iwi, Local Government and the NZ Trails ecosystem. expertise to deliver on the 5TTT vision.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024 8:28:58 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Kia ora ,

Kohunui Marae Trustees support the continued investment and support of Destination Wairarapa at current levels.

- Destination Wairarapa is the only local organisation solely focused on growing tourism in the region.
- Tourism has returned to being the second biggest export industry in NZ
- Wairarapa visitor spend is up 21 per cent from pre-Covid 2020
- Increased national attention indicates a promising future for Wairarapa tourism and increased GDP growth because of tourism

Kohunui Marae has a strong and ongoing relationship with Destination Wairarapa who have support many events and kaupap. Developing a Māori Tourism plan with us was a huge achievement.

Ngā mihi Nui

Kohunui Marae Trustees

D T S Riddiford BA LLB
 Export & Business Consultant

Te Awaiti Station,
 Martinborough RD2

The Councillors,
 SWDC

Email

SUBMISSION ON THE SWDC ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN 5-5-24

I write on behalf of Te Awaiti Station and neighbours, Farmers and Residents alike. I and neighbours (separately) wish to be heard.

Thankyou all for this opportunity for us to present in person.

We support the Submission of Federated Farmers and respect the experience and expertise of Ms Liz M'Grudy their Senior Policy Adviser.

Thankyou to the SWDC and QV for the decision to set aside and not be influenced by any effect on land values from Forestry or Carbon Values.

Consultation as part of the Rules of Natural Justice audi alterem partem

Consultation and the Rules of Natural Justice require that the Council as a consulting party be transparent and provide all relevant information. However QV has delayed 4 times in releasing the latest revaluation figures and I have yet to receive hardcopy figures from the SWDC or GW. SWDC has mislead the ratepayers in not disclosing the double dip from revaluations. This has been aggravated by the failure to date for the SWDC to produce an On Line Rates Calculator and QV only notifying hardcopy Rating Valuations on Tuesday 2 May 2024.

WIAL v Air New Zealand [1993] 1 NZLR 671 Court of Appeal “implicit in the concept is a requirement that the party consulted will be.....adequately informed.” Ms Janice CEO of the SWDC and the GW collecting agent on the phone has informed me that :

1 “The new CV for Te Awaiti will be \$15,350,000 (LV up from \$12,250,000 to \$13m and VI up from \$2,200,000 to \$2,350,000)” ie up 6% However actual revaluations for Te Awaiti Station as received total \$16-7m.

2 “The CV for Lagoon Hill 652ha has increased from \$3-9m to \$5-4m”

3 “SWDC rates for Te Awaiti are projected at \$35,000 pa maximum 2
starting 1 July” However pro rata calculation show rates may be \$38,098pa_

The SWDC by email of 30 June told my neighbour Ms Liz M’Gruddy of Federated Farmers “ Hi Liz.....Not yet – our comms team are working on this.....I’ll let you know once it has been updated...Kind Regards Rates Officer”

Given salaries over \$100,000 and the evident lack of urgency I suggest that all Communication Officers be immediately removed as non productive.

Principles for rural ratepayers to achieve justice

On Monday 22 April there was a public meeting in the Tukurimuri Hall so the SWDC could consult on the Enhanced Annual Plan substituted for the LTP

There was a consensus at the Meeting including the Councillors attending that
(1) QV was correct in removing all potential for Forestry or Carbon Farming to increase the revaluations or influence on comparable sales.

(2) All rates should be set as directed by S101 of the Local Government Act 2002 that Councils must know their “Communities” and “Benefits” they receive.

(3) Rural Households should pay on average no more than Urban Households for their share of the General Rates.

(4) All businesses, whether rural or urban, should pay the same percentage of their business turnover in general rates [“Rateable equality”]

Cr Ellims explained that details of the QV briefing can be seen on UTube.

Many said that the rating structure of the SWDC should align with the MDC since it produced a fairer result and it was inevitable that the Councils would be merge.

Disposable income is dangerously limited for Livestock Farmers. I attach the Summary hand out for the Beef + Lamb Session "Farming for Profit". This shows that a typified farm of a land type and situation better than Te Awaiti Station is projected to just break even if (as the Banks will insist) all fertilizer \$110,000 and R&M \$60,000 is removed. This is a very short term policy! At Te Awaiti we carry slightly over 8000su similar to the typified budget.

However 80% of Te Awaiti is greywacke rock and at most only able to grow 2500 kg of dry matter per annum ie two scrawny ewes per hectare with all inputs. The reality is shown by the attached aerial photo :

However for Te Awaiti Income :

- 1 We spent \$134,000 GST exc on repairs after NIWE culminating in Cyclone Gabrielle.
- 2 Cyclone Gabrielle reduced our lambing % to just over 100% (not 137%)
- 3 For most Farmers cfa ewes were \$50-\$60.
- 4 Prime lambs are \$90 (15kg x \$6) not \$125 or \$116.
- 5 Store lambs in December were \$60 and remain the same.
- 6 Cattle prices are also below budget.

However for Te Awaiti Expenditure :

- 7 We have one only permanent employee, but he has exceptional stockmanship and horse and dog skills
- 8 Freight will be more than \$1500 due to remoteness.
- 9 Typified Wairarapa Rates are stated at \$22,000 \$2-72 per su).....
..... but in the South Wairarapa actual rates for both Ciouncils will be both Councils over \$53,0000 (ie top page 2 \$38,098 plus GW \$5,333 (GW \$11782 plus 9% land value increase plus 19-4% increase. So \$53,000 divide by 8000su = \$6-63 per su at Te Awaiti. Rated off the land?

Please consider always Who are your communities? and Benefits actually received?. S101 LGA remains the solution and the law.

- 1 Please recognise the times have changed.....World Depression.
- 2 Reduce expenditure and reduce the percentage at which general rates are charged to a maximum of the rate of inflation.
- 3 Question the demands of Planners. Despite clear language from the Government both Regional and District Councils continue with projects for confiscatory Significant Areas. SASM's are an example. The clear language of the Supreme Court in *Waitakere v Estates Homes* [1993] 1 NZLR 671 obiter dicta from para 43 shows that property rights still matter in New Zealand. It is established law throughout the Commonwealth that whenever regulation results in a substantial deprivation compensation should be paid or a provision should be read down.
- 4 Align all policies with MDC as described by Federated Farmers. Spread the General Rate first by population, then by CVso 66% to urban ratepayers and 34% to rural ratepayers.
- 5 Follow your own logic in assessing footpaths as 90% urban and 10% rural. Why should not governance be apportioned in the same ratio, since all of governance time in the next 3 years will be spent on the Three Concerns and town concerns.
- 6 Then test the result to ensure that measured by the general rate an average rural ratepayer pays the same amount in rates as an urban ratepayer and also urban businesses pay the same fraction of gross income as rural businesses.

Yours Sincerely Dan Riddiford

Submission to South Wairarapa District Council 2024-2025 Enhanced Annual Plan

19

By Wairarapa Water Advocacy Group

Proposal

The South Wairarapa District Council

1. Contributes \$29,400 of the \$150,000 in total being asked of all other Wairarapa district councils and the Greater Wellington Regional council for a review of community water storage options. These options were part of the original studies undertaken for the GWRC and Wairarapa Water Ltd by several consultants over the previous 10 years. This funding will be available from the financial year beginning 1 July 2024.
2. Supports the recommendations made by Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy by Dame Margaret Bazley in the enhanced annual plan (see below).
3. Supports the need for bulk community water storage to the benefit of the Wairarapa as a whole in the enhanced annual plan.

Wairarapa Water Advocacy Group (WWAG)

The WWAG was formed in response to the failure of the former Wairarapa Water Ltd to secure a consent for the Wakamoekau bulk water storage scheme. The primary purpose of the WWAG is to ensure that key users within the Wairarapa have reliable access to water via an effective bulk water storage scheme. We believe that reliable water is a prerequisite to protect and grow the Wairarapa economy. Without it, the economic viability of the Wairarapa will be threatened due to the inability of the region to adapt to the effects of climate change.

The group is made up of the following key individuals

Simon Casey, former ACT candidate for the Wairarapa and group Chair

Bob Francis, former Mayor of Masterton and group advisor

Geoff Copps, consultant to Wairarapa Water Users Society

Jo Hayes, Rangitane Iwi representative

Robin Potongaroa, Kahungunu Iwi representative

David Holmes, MDC councillor and chair of the Wairarapa Water Resilience Committee

Shane McManaway, leader in Agribusiness

John Stevenson, Dairy Farmer, Wairarapa rep on Fonterra Cooperative Council and former board member of WWL

The initial objective is to have a study to review all the shortlisted options including Wakamoekau in the light of recent changes to the political landscape. This is to ensure that the most cost-effective option is agreed upon and progressed. This review should be completed within 6 months from a contract being awarded.

The group intends to work closely with the recently formed Wairarapa Water Resilience Group. This committee has the support of all district councils and is responsible for multiple

aspects with regards to water including storage, environmental, quality, flooding etc. The WWAG primary objective is ensuring that a bulk water storage facility is built for the Wairarapa.

Background

The Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy was commissioned by the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy in late 2018, under the leadership of Dame Margaret Bazeley. Dame Margaret went on to Chair the first Wairarapa Water Resilience Committee, a collaboration of Local Government, Farmers, Iwi, Water users and the business community. The WWRS was refreshed in 2021 and can be found [here](#).

This report recommended the following actions:

- A review of the allocation system from a consenting approach to a planning approach for the allocation of water.
- A land use adaptation programme be developed and funded.
- A four rooms configuration to governance which includes water storage, river management, water distribution and water adaptation.
- Adopt the principle, intent and general direction of this strategy.
- The GWRC to provide leadership going forward because it has statutory responsibilities for water and scale to address resilience changes.
- The GWRC to act as the lead agency for water allocation and capture as only the GWRC has statutory responsibilities for this.

Following nearly 20 years of activity related to developing community water storage, Wairarapa Water Ltd (WWL) independently studied a number of options for bulk water storage. The GWRC contributed approx \$15M towards this along with grants from the PGF. After a study of 6 shortlisted options, the Wakamoekau site was decided on as the preferred option. A consent application was put forward to the GWRC in 2021

This consent failed primarily due to environmental rules being changed by the planning group within the GWRC at the same time as the consent was being lodged. These changes rendered the scheme unviable and so the consent was withdrawn and WWL was disestablished. All IP associated with the plans and studies were transferred to Kanoa.

With the change of government and their support for strategic infrastructure such as water storage, the WWAG was formed to restart the water storage initiative. Concurrently the Wairarapa Water Resilience Committee is being reformed to continue with the recommendations put forward by the WWRS.

On Wednesday 13 March, Simon Casey was invited to present to the SWDC council on the need for bulk water storage. A very constructive discussion followed and the WWAG invited to put in a submission for assistance in funding the review.

Study

Once funding is secured, the selection of a suitable consultant will be undertaken via an RFP process managed by Wellington NZ. The terms of reference will be defined by members of the WWAG and WWRS.

Funding (GST Exclusive)

As previously mentioned, \$150,000 to fund the review of water storage options is being sought as follows. \$50,000 from the GWRC and the remaining \$100,00 from the other 3 district councils using the agreed funding prorata formula.

SWDC 19.6% or \$29,400

GWRC 30% or \$45,000

MDC 36.4% or \$54,600

CDC 14% or \$21,000

Total \$150,000

Note that this will be a review of all existing documentation previously funded and currently held by Kanoa. It includes geological studies, environmental studies, capital structure plans, and detailed reservoir design and distribution options. It also includes the previous Water Wairarapa studies of alternative sites. The review will be in the light of changes in the political landscape that may make other options more appropriate.

Recommendation

If this latest work to identify and develop suitable community water storage is to succeed, it is imperative that all councils unanimously support the need for a restart of a bulk water storage facility for the benefit for the whole of the Wairarapa region if it has any hope of securing other outside funding including from Central Government..

For this to happen, the SWDC needs to agree to this funding request and inclusion in the 2024-2025 Enhanced Annual Plan.



Submission to: South Wairarapa District Council

Re: Proposed Enhanced Annual Plan 2024

Submission from: Wairarapa Federated Farmers

Address for Service: Elizabeth McGruddy
Senior Policy Adviser

██
██

INTRODUCTION

Wairarapa Federated Farmers (WFF) welcome the opportunity to submit on the Proposed Enhanced Annual Plan (EAP) 2024 and acknowledge submissions from individual members.

WFF support Councils intent to focus on core infrastructure, primarily roading and water.

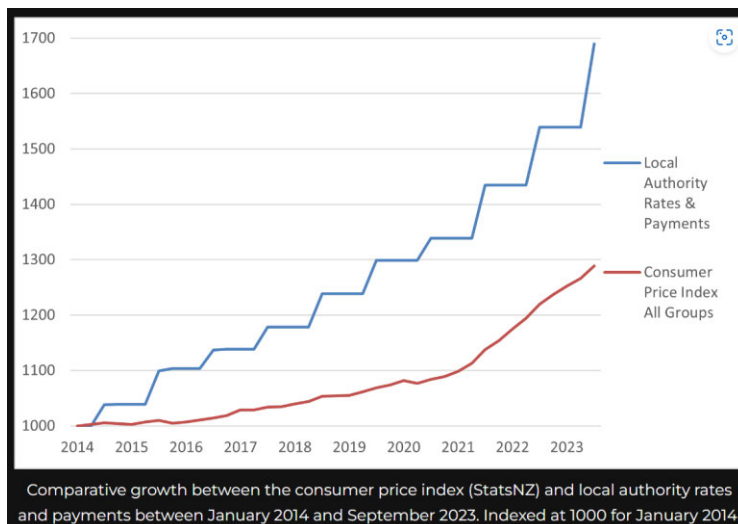
The average rates increase proposed is 15%, comprising 5.7% to cover inflationary increases on the basics, plus 4.3% for roading, plus 5% for “water & community”.

WFF acknowledge pressures on Council but register strong concern that rates continue to increase well ahead of the rate of inflation, and well ahead of increases in farm income.

Members report that the rates bill is becoming “crippling”. WFF urge Council to apply more strenuous and systematic attention to reducing the level of rates on farm properties in the district.

ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN

WFF acknowledge inflationary pressures but record concern that local authority rates have been running ahead of the rate of inflation for many years. The following graph illustrates the discrepancy between CPI increases and local authority rates increases in recent years:



WFF recommend the first imperative should be to strive to manage core business within the rate of inflation (recognising ratepayers are grappling with the same inflationary pressures across all other aspects of their businesses).

Any proposals for rates increases beyond that limit should be robustly tested through specific community engagement (as is provided through the LTP/EAP process). WFF record concern however that the Consultation Document records options/costs only in respect of urban water infrastructure (on which WFF is neutral):

- No options/costs are presented in respect of the other two areas identified as driving increases, ie, “community” and ‘roading”, which makes it difficult to provide considered feedback.

This difficulty is compounded in the context that the online rates calculator only went live on 2 May (just one working day out from the consultation deadline).

In summary: WFF record concern that the level of information provided in the Consultation Document, together with the unavailability of the online rates calculator, have made it difficult for submitters to properly engage with the options and the impacts.

REVENUE & FINANCING POLICY

The Consultation Document requests feedback on “*how should we pay for replacement of our assets?*”. WFF note that the options are not easy to understand for the ordinary reader:

- In part because Option One does not actually quantify impact on debt and impact on proposed rates; and
- The reference to debt limits is not clear (including whether Council has or has not applied for a credit rating which might have increased the debt limit).

WFF request clarification.

Turning to the **General Rate** which Council propose will now be levied based on capital value (CV), WFF reiterate recommendations made last year that the General Rate should not be levied just on CV but should reflect the urban/rural population proportions. Further to this, WFF commend the approach taken by Masterton District Council (MDC), wherein:

- MDC do not use UAGC - instead they spread the General Rate first by population, then to individual ratepayers (MDC use CV, alternately it could be equal)
- The urban/rural population is roughly 80/20 and accordingly, MDC apply Targetted Uniform Charges (TUC) as follows:
 - 80% is targetted to urban ratepayers, and 20% is targetted to rural ratepayers

In the case of SWDC, WFF understand that the urban/rural population is roughly 66%/34%:

- Accordingly, the General Rate would appropriately be apportioned as follows:
 - 66% targetted to urban ratepayers, and 34% targetted to rural ratepayers

WFF submit this option may provide for the most appropriate balance of apportioning costs to benefits and assist in smoothing out the current disproportionate weight of rates paid by a small number of ratepayers.

In respect of roading, WFF reiterate recommendations that roading be split 50/50 between the General rate and a Targetted district-wide rate.

WFF recommend these options be considered by Council in the upcoming year, alongside preparation of the Longterm Plan for the upcoming ten years.

VALUATIONS

Members are reporting steep increases in farm valuations, and querying whether carbon forestry may have artificially inflated values. We understand SWDC may have received advice from QV that this is not the case: we would welcome any further clarification from Council.

CONCLUSION

Wairarapa Federated Farmers thank Council for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Our primary recommendations are that:

- Increases on rates income be limited to the rate of inflation (with any increases above the rate of inflation subject to specific and robust community consultation)
- The General Rate be apportioned via Targetted Uniform Charges proportional to population - 66% targetted to urban ratepayers, 34% targetted to rural ratepayers.

SUBMISSION ENDS

3 May 2024

Long Term Plan (LTP) Submission

South Wairarapa District Council

submissions@swdc.govt.nz

Regional Tourism New Zealand (RTNZ) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 for South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC).

RTNZ is the peak body for the Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) across New Zealand of which Destination Wairarapa is a member. RTOs are each the representative of their Local Governments' (LG) investment in tourism in respect to their community. 90% of funding to RTOs comes from LG with \$40 million invested across 31 RTOs that make up the network.

Tourism is a significant contributor to economic and social wellbeing.

1. In 2019, prior to COVID-19 New Zealand's tourism industry generated \$41b of visitor expenditure, contributed 10% of GDP and employed 340,000 people. It was the second largest export sector behind dairy. With borders once again open and people travelling, New Zealand's tourism sector has rebounded strongly, and visitation is 80% back to pre-COVID levels. By 2025 both visitation and expenditure are predicted to exceed 2019 levels.
2. The tourism industry creates value, employment, prosperity and vibrancy to New Zealand's cities, regions, and communities. \$115m per day in 'additional' spend is generated by people moving around and visiting different places and communities across the country. Visitor spending flows far and wide, well beyond the visitor attraction, activity, accommodation, café/restaurant retail, gas stations and supermarkets as demonstrated in the diagram below.

THE POWER OF TOURISM



Source: Tourism Industry Aotearoa

Value of tourism to the South Wairarapa District and Wairarapa region.

- 3. Just released accommodation data from MBIE reveals that guest nights were up in Wairarapa 9.9% in February 2024 versus February 2023. Tourism jobs in Wairarapa were 1379 – a growth of 19% in 2023 (Infometrics regional profile March 2023). Data released from the Ministry of Business and Innovation and Employment (MBIE) last year indicated an increase in visitor spend of more than 33.8 per cent for South Wairarapa when comparing YE February 2020 (pre-covid, \$40.2m) and YE February 2023 (post-covid, \$53.8m).

Destination promotion is a public good for the benefit and wellbeing of all.

- 4. Destination promotion and stewardship is an important investment that no district and/or region can afford not to make without damaging the future economic and social well-being of communities. Due to collective benefits that extend beyond individual businesses or organisations, tourism promotion is considered a public good that requires collaboration and support from governments, communities, and stakeholders to maximise its positive impact.
- 5. Effective tourism promotion enhances a destination's image and reputation nationally and globally. A positive perception of a place not only attracts more visitors, but also leads to attracting more residents, enhancing business opportunities and more investment, therefore contributing to the long-term growth and prosperity for local residents.

1. Visit

If you built a place where people want to visit, then you have built a place where people want to live.

4. Invest

And if you built a place where business and residents will invest, then you have built a place where people will want to visit



2. Live

And if you built a place where people want to live, then you have built a place where people want to work.

3. Work

And if you built a place where people want to work, then you have built a place where business and residents want to invest.

Source; Destinations International

RTO activities contribute to community outcomes and wellbeing.

6. Tourism is a mechanism for achieving broader community outcomes and the work of RTOs intersects with many of the goals outlined in SWDCs Long-Term Plan (LTP);
 - Economic growth through increased visitor spending, supporting profitability of local business and job creation.
 - Increased visitation leads to improvements in infrastructure such as roads, airports, public transportation, and amenities like parks and recreational facilities. These developments not only benefit visitors but also enhance the quality of life for residents.
 - Environmental protection through supporting tourism operators to develop sustainable tourism practices and support conservation efforts. This includes climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives, aligned to council's goals and plans.
 - Social well-being by promoting cultural exchange, community pride, and social cohesion. This includes developing local ambassadors and supporting the community to be great hosts.
 - Cultural enrichment by showcasing local heritage, traditions, and arts as visitors look to engage more deeply with community stories and experiences.
 - Public safety and security measures to ensure visitor safety and to enhance the destination's reputation. This also includes working with councils on risk and emergency management initiatives so ensure visitors are considered when emergencies strike.
 - Enhanced community engagement and participation by involving locals in destination management planning so that visitors are more respectful of local expectations and behave responsibly.

RTOs play an important role within the destination and tourism system.

8. RTOs play a crucial role in the tourism system, serving as leaders and key facilitators/coordinators of tourism activities within their respective regions. When tourism grows, communities' benefit. However, for communities to capture and optimise benefits, the RTO's functions are enormously important and therefore the RTO requires appropriate resourcing and capacity/capability to be effective.
9. The RTO is the one organisation that has oversight of how the destination functions as a system and is able to bring together multiple stakeholders/actors across the destination's eco-system. They are the glue that connects destinations and businesses to potential visitors so that businesses can prosper, jobs can be created, and communities can thrive.
10. Businesses are key to the economic health and vibrancy of a city, town, and region. Tourism businesses bring significant cashflow and investment to a region through attracting both international and domestic visitors. The RTO works very closely with tourism businesses, bringing private sector investment to further leverage council's investment, and in doing so, creating greater impact.
11. Many tourism businesses are still recovering from the effects of closed borders during COVID-19, and the RTO provides valuable support and capability building for local businesses as they continue to recover and grow.

Developing a sustainable tourism industry which contributes to the quality of life of residents.

12. Over the past five years all regions have developed a Destination Management Plan (DMP). The DMPs provide the blueprint for the sustainable growth of tourism across New Zealand's regions. RTNZ acknowledges the excellent leadership and work carried out by Destination Wairarapa in the development of the DMP. There was strong collaboration across the district and region which reflects the aspirations of communities for what they want from tourism in the future.
13. The destinations eco-system is complex with many interrelated and interdependent parts that need to work in together to ensure tourism benefit communities. The Wairarapa region's DMP is a demonstration of the importance of stewardship, and the RTO performs a leadership, coordination, and facilitation role so that tourism businesses and stakeholders can come together and collaborate and continue to grow sustainably. Through the development of the DMP, a contract with the community has been created. It is important that the DMP remains supported, and the community's goals and aspirations are honoured and delivered upon.

Local government has been a critical partner in New Zealand's tourism success.

14. Tourism takes place in local communities and provides jobs, regional economic opportunities, and vibrancy, and local governments across NZ play a key role in supporting /enabling the tourism system. This includes managing and providing local tourism experiences through place-making, events and community facilities, amenities and services which are a key part of the visitors experience within the destination. The Council has an important role, as it too has oversight over many facets of the DMP which align to Council plans, strategies and investments, helping to advance its implementation with advisory support from Destination Wairarapa.
15. RTOs across New Zealand rely on partnership funding from local government to support their activities. It is critical that Councils remain strong partners of RTOs to ensure tourism continues to contribute to their communities in their district and region.
16. Destination Wairarapa is currently funded by the region's three councils and is a more complex region in New Zealand due to three Councils within the RTO's catchment. RTNZ commends the partnership and collaboration across the councils. This is a successful model that needs to be maintained and strengthened so that each council's commitment and investment is shared and therefore leveraged. As the saying goes **'the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.'** This partnership needs to be committed to a three-year period to enable strategic and operational certainty for the RTO to plan and execute effectively and successfully. Any change to this collaborative model, risk's not only the RTO's functions, but the value and benefits derived by each council from their investment.

RTNZ recognises the substantial financial challenges facing local governments across New Zealand to meet the needs of their communities.

17. RTNZ acknowledges that the significant financial challenges facing councils at a time when there needs to be ongoing investment to maintain and enhance community amenities and services, place making, and mixed-use infrastructure used by both locals and visitors. RTNZ also recognises the councils invest in many visitor attractions that add to the appeal of a place e.g. museums, galleries, gardens, event/conference facilities, and events etc. The RTO supports these visitor assets and works closely with council teams to optimise the value and return that they create for ratepayers through out-of-town visitation.

18. Destination Wairarapa’s funding has remained at the same level prior to developing the DMP and broadened scope of the RTO. The RTO is performing an excellent job working alongside the sector on new product/experience development initiatives for Dark Sky, Agritourism and Trails (walking and cycling). This is valued by the tourism sector and other stakeholders, however, Destination Wairarapa’s funding and capacity has remained the same. Consideration needs to be given to how this situation can be addressed so that Destination Wairarapa can continue to strengthen the region’s tourism proposition through their development work, as well as continue to promote the district and region effectively. RTNZ encourages stakeholders to come together to explore future solutions so that Destination Wairarapa can continue this broader destination stewardship/development function.

Conclusion

RTNZ commends South Wairarapa District Council’s commitment to maintaining its support for the region’s tourism sector and retaining the current level of funding for Destination Wairarapa. It also applauds the collaborative model across the region’s three councils and encourages SWDC to work in good faith with neighbouring councils to maintain the nature of this partnership.

It is important that the district’s DMP is honoured and implemented through effective leadership and collaboration with stakeholders across the destinations eco-system.

RTNZ encourages the region’s councils to work collectively on finding a suitable solution which will provide Destination Wairarapa with additional resources to continue to champion the implementation of the DMP so that the tourism sector can grow sustainably and contribute to improving the quality of life for South Wairarapa residents.

RTNZ is grateful for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Ngā mihi,



David Perks
Chair



Kiri Goulter
Director Destination Management

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Destination Wairarapa
Date: Friday, May 3, 2024 10:07:26 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Hi there, just messaging in support of the work Destination Wairarapa does for my business. They are most definitely an essential support for The Land Girl, Pirinoa and we definitely need as much help as we can get at the moment. Thanks very much

Andrea Didsbury
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Destination Wairarapa
Date: Friday, May 3, 2024 1:21:14 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

The idea of a group like Destination Wairarapa to promote tourism is excellent. The I-sites are excellent and constructively promote businesses in the area.

From my experience the implementation within the rest of Destination Wairarapa is not so good.

Destination Wairarapa has favoured one group to the detriment of others including ourselves, Stonehenge Aotearoa. It is not just us, as I have been approached by other unrelated businesses who feel the same way.

The group that Destination Wairarapa seem hell bent on promoting have threatened us. I think we will pay a massive price for having ever been involved with them. We don't want to harm them but we do not want anything to do with them. We did sign a trust with them when we really believed in them but when I realised the depth of the mistake I deregistered the trust. The organisation who facilitated this was the IRD. They took immediate action to do so. They were extremely helpful.

Over the last couple of years, we have been visited by Destination Wairarapa personnel and they have asked for details of our business, sometimes with the promise of help such as setting up discounts to travel firms. The help has never eventuated.

When we have asked for details of the proposals they say they promoted in Asia our requests have not been answered. In fact emails to personnel at Destination Wairarapa have been blocked more than once.

I have to be careful what I say, but it is not good enough.

Kay Leather and Richard Hall
Starlore Ltd T/A Stonehenge Aotearoa

Submission to: South Wairarapa District Council

Re: Proposed Enhanced Annual Plan 2024

Submission from: Alistair and Jenny Boyne

Address for Service: Tora Station
130 Tora farm settlement road
MARTINBOROUGH 5782
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hearing: We wish to be heard in person.

No we are unable to be connected to water and sewerage.

ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN

We support Wairarapa Federated Farmers and Dan Riddifords submissions to the Enhanced Annual Plan.

We also support Councils intent to focus on core infrastructure, primarily roading and water, but hold serious concerns to the rates and how they will be levied.

RATES

Council should set rates at the rate of inflation, and if more is needed for targeted / specific project expenses like the waste water and water supply then a portion of the overall cost of administration and office running costs needs to be also taken out of the general rate and apportioned to these specific projects. IE who benefits - pays.

We are very disappointed that you have waited until 3 days out from the closing of submissions to supply the rates calculator, and yes it is a shock, with increased well in excess of what we had

conservatory budgeted going by what information on your website and from the information provided at the Community meeting at the Tuturumuri Hall on the 22nd April 2024.

The General Rate should not be levied just on CV but should reflect the urban/rural population proportions.

In the case of SWDC, we understand that the urban/rural population is around 70/30%:

- Accordingly, the General Rate would appropriately be apportioned as follows:
 - 70% targeted to urban ratepayers, then spread to individual properties using CV
 - 30% targeted to rural ratepayers, then spread to individual properties using CV

In respect of roading, we support WFF recommendations that roading be split 50/50 between the General rate and a Targeted district-wide rate.

We do not support the Economic development rate as a target rate based on CV, this is unfair and inequitable to a number of rural ratepayers when offering a Cottage as a homestay to supplement income in these challenging times as the building would also be used by contractors when working on the property. A flat rate of no more than \$200.00 would be palatable or tied to income.

Effectively you have switched rural ratepayers with a second dwelling and rating as commercial operators, this is totally unreasonable.

CONCLUSION

- Increases on rates income be limited to the rate of inflation (with any increases above the rate of inflation subject to specific and robust community consultation)
- The General Rate would be apportioned as follows:
 - 70% targeted to urban ratepayers, then spread to individual properties using CV
 - 30% targeted to rural ratepayers, then spread to individual properties using CV
 - Remove the ED rate from rural properties and replace with a per house rate.

SUBMISSION ENDS

25

South Wairarapa District Council
19 Kitchener Street
Martinborough 5711

Tēnā koe,

South Wairarapa District Council's Enhanced Annual Plan 2024–25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission on South Wairarapa District Council's Enhanced Annual Plan 2024–25.

This submission has been written by Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora National Public Health Service (Health NZ) in the greater Wellington region. The National Public Health Service is a directorate within Health NZ. Health NZ believes the submission process provides an opportunity for public health perspective to be considered by Council in planning and decision making. Incorporating public health aspects helps to support the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Health NZ has statutory obligations under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 and the Health Act 1956 to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities. Of particular focus for Health NZ is embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi as its foundation toward improving health outcomes for Māori.

The feedback provided in this submission aligns to Health NZ's commitment towards healthier and more resilient communities by reducing inequities and promoting good health, particularly for Māori, Pacific peoples and disabled people.

For any clarification regarding the submission, please contact Health Protection Officer, Phil Vernon healthprotection@huttvalleydhb.org.nz.

Ngā mihi,



Paula Snowden

Ngāpuhi ki Whāingaroa

Regional Director, Te Ikaroa Central Region
National Public Health Service

[TeWhatuOra.govt.nz](https://www.TeWhatuOra.govt.nz)

Private Bag 31907, Lower Hutt 5040
Waea pūkoro: +64 4 570 9002

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

General comments

Health New Zealand notes the commitment Council has shown in working with the Māori Standing Committee to advocate on behalf of tāngata whenua in the district. Health NZ encourages continued partnership with mana whenua in the planning and delivery of essential infrastructure projects, particularly in water management, as an integral aspect of Council operations. The commitment to work with iwi is critical for progress towards a partnership approach and to achieve equity in wellbeing and health outcomes for Māori.

Health NZ also acknowledges financial challenges Council is currently managing and the difficulty in finding balance between affordability for ratepayers and planning critical infrastructure. Health NZ wishes to comment on the first two key decisions, but has no comment on the third decision regarding how to pay for asset replacements.

Response to enhanced Annual Plan key proposals

First decision: How much should we spend on operating and maintaining our water services?

Health NZ acknowledges the ongoing work on water infrastructure while also understanding the importance of reducing cost impacts to ratepayers. The provision of a safe and adequate supply of drinking water and other water infrastructure is critical to public health.

Health NZ's preferred option is Option 3 – the highest level of investment for planning and resilience in water services.

Health NZ acknowledges financial constraints faced by councils around funding of water infrastructure, alongside critical maintenance and operations to ensure compliance, such as at the Martinborough wastewater treatment plant. Should Council decide on the budgeted option (Option 1 – maintaining the current level of funding with an increase for unavoidable extra costs), Health NZ advises that deferred proactive maintenance and upgrades present risks for public health. Any decisions to defer this work should be prioritised for review during the 2025 Long-Term Plan process.

Second decision: How should we charge for water use?

Health NZ has not selected a preferred option but supports Council's commitment to address water conservation and a fairer way of charging higher water users to avoid low users subsidising high users. Decision making around the proposed changes should include consideration of the possible impacts implementation may have on different users.

Health NZ recommends consideration of the principles of equity to adequately mitigate any potentially negative health impacts on those groups already disadvantaged. For example: careful review of the water meter charging implementation so that large households are not disadvantaged by a threshold designed for small household usage; and low income households are not penalised for private leaks they cannot afford to repair in a timely manner.

Other matters

Rates relief and equity

Health NZ recognises household costs are rising and that points raised in this submission may increase rates and have associated socioeconomic implications. Health NZ supports any work that Council undertakes toward ensuring mitigations are in place to support those most disadvantaged by rates increases.

South Wairarapa District Council
19 Kitchener Street
Martinborough 5711

3 May, 2024

Submission to South Wairarapa District Council Enhanced Annual plan 2024-25

Aratoi Wairarapa Museum of Art and History was founded in 1969 with the intention to be the centre for art and history in the Wairarapa. For 55 years we have proudly showcased the artists and stories of this great community. With 25-30 diverse exhibitions a year, a collection housing 4000 artworks and taonga, alongside events and a vibrant education programme Aratoi provides the people of South Wairarapa free entry into an environment that celebrates our history, creativity, and place in the world. The support of South Wairarapa District Council has been integral to our success as a cultural institution and we are incredibly grateful for this ongoing partnership.

Aratoi congratulates South Wairarapa District Council's commitment to culture and heritage and ways in which the Council champions the power of these spaces to uplift our community. At Aratoi we see ourselves as a key part of South Wairarapa's cultural, arts and heritage, as the holders of significant collections of South Wairarapa taonga and showcasing many of the amazing artists who make the South Wairarapa their home. We see ourselves as contributing to the Council's fulfilment of social goals and objectives whilst also being a significant way finder in the community, ensuring individuals and communities are connected and enriched through shared interests and community spirit. We bring together people across demographic groupings and help grow common understandings and collegiality through art, history, and social connection. To this end we are a critical connector of Wairarapa and South Wairarapa residents to iwi history and te ao Māori – in this we can assist the Council in expressing its embodiment of and commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We are a key holder of knowledge and storytelling for the region - together with our local historical societies, archives, Library Services, and our museums colleagues we provide spaces where our communities can affirm their sense of place in the Wairarapa, and how the journey our ancestors have taken have shaped our community. This is evident in our new 'Pop Up Museum' launched with the Wairarapa Library Service which was launched at Featherston Library in March 2024 and will visit Greytown and Martinborough later in the year. We are also working closely with members of the Martinborough community towards bringing parts of George Pain's collection of taonga from Wellington to be exhibited in the Wairarapa. We are in a unique position to be able to work with Destination Wairarapa to add strong tourism value and have further economic benefit to South Wairarapa in our development of artists through our changing exhibition programme. Encouraging and fostering artistic expression it makes the Wairarapa an attractive place for artists and makers to live and thrive.

As one of the central pou within the structure of the Wairarapa’s cultural whare we consider it our duty to engage with the council’s crucial Long-Term planning. The consultations items – maintaining water services, water charges and asset replacement – highlight the importance of history in the shaping out our present and future. These essential infrastructure projects must be maintained and improved for future generations while mitigating the financial burden on our community today. For the health of our people, environment, and the enhancement of our communities Aratoi support the council’s preferred options.

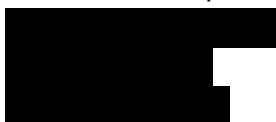
We encourage South Wairarapa District Council to re-establish a funding partnership with Aratoi given the benefit we give the Council in the support we give to South Wairarapa artists and communities, the professional care we give for significant South Wairarapa taonga and collections, and the ways in which we act as leaders in the Wairarapa heritage sector. Collaboration will be key for the maintenance and development of our cultural facilities, to protect our heritage, and grow our arts community. Aratoi has a strong desire to bring like-minded organisations together to explore long term sustainability approaches, with the proven ability to provide leadership in this space. There are also opportunities to be explored in working directly with the SWDC to share resources for the benefit of the wider community - specifically in the space of shared storage solutions to meet long term needs, sharing information, and expanding the reach of our stories and collections.

A strong, vibrant, and resilient Aratoi reflects positively on the Wairarapa and South Wairarapa District Council. We have proven our ability to stage world-class exhibitions, showcase the unique arts and heritage of our region, and all within a carefully controlled budget funded through a diverse range of supporters. Aratoi’s relationship with South Wairarapa District Council is one we feel positively and practically benefits both organisations and our district. We look forward to working together with South Wairarapa District Council in the future to preserve and showcase the diverse history and creativity that abounds in South Wairarapa and the Wairarapa.

Sarah McClintock



Director
Aratoi Wairarapa Museum of Art and History



From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Destination Wairarapa Funding
Date: Friday, May 3, 2024 3:15:40 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

On behalf of Cobblestones Museum we would like to submit our request that the Council continue funding Destination Wairarapa at the current level. We would like to acknowledge the excellent work Destination Wairarapa has done over the last few years to provide support and advice in marketing, not just Cobblestones but the whole region extensively and successfully.

Now that tourism is beginning to pick up again it is essential that Destination Wairarapa can continue to do their job as well as they have in the past and bring their excellent marketing strategy to fruition. I consider that Destination Wairarapa's efforts provide very good value for money and they spend their limited budget very cleverly and for best value.

Attracting high spending visitors to Wairarapa is an essential part of their role and it must continue if the region continues to flourish economically.

Thank you for your consideration.
Janette Wallace Gedge
Chair, Marketing Committee, Cobblestones Museum, Greytown

--

Janette Wallace Gedge



Janice Smith
Chief Executive
South Wairarapa District Council
submissions@swdc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe,

Submission on the South Wairarapa District Council Enhanced Annual Plan 2024-25 Consultation Document

Introduction

The Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust is a Post Settlement Governance Entity who have settled with the Crown for historical Te Tiriti o Waitangi breaches. The Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Settlement includes cultural redress, financial redress, commercial redress, and relationship arrangements with key government agencies through He Kawenata Hou. The Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust is the mandated iwi authority for Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa.

The Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust is a subsidiary of the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust and has been established to deliver various components of the settlement for Wairarapa whānau, hapū and marae. In addition to this, we have been mandated to work directly with our three Wairarapa District Councils on matters regarding taiao (environment); three waters; district plan and resource consenting; te reo me ōna tikanga; culture and heritage; education; housing; and economic development (including tourism).

Enhanced Annual Plan 2024-25

Rates Affordability

The SWDC's proposed rates increases are not affordable. Our whānau continue to be disproportionately affected by the cost of living crisis. They are experiencing high inflation, rising interest rates, ever increasing insurances and mortgage/rental costs as well as price hikes across various good and services. Proposed rates increases will negatively contribute to the existing cost of living crisis.

Key consultation issues

In terms of spend on operating and maintaining water services, while we want to keep rating increases down for our whānau, we do not support Option 1. Not having adequate water services puts both our whānau and taiao at risk. SWDC need to strongly advocate to the Government to get funding support to help pay for increased water services.

Areas of priority for us

Areas of priority for us include:

- progressing a Memorandum of Partnership to formalise our relationship.
- an on-going commitment from SWDC to ensure that we are receiving resource consent applications so we can provide advice in a timely manner, including meeting legislative obligations under section 30 of the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Claims Settlement Act 2022.
- active participation as a member of the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board.

- being engaged on issues that relate to the matters we listed in the introduction section of this submission.

We do not wish to be heard at the enhanced Annual Plan 2024-25 Hearing.

We look forward to a response.

Nāku, nā



Tia Tuuta
Pou Whakahaere (General Manager)
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: submission in support of Destination Wairarapa
Date: Friday, May 3, 2024 7:58:01 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

To the South Wairarapa District Council

This email is to confirm that we support the continued investment and support of Destination Wairarapa at current levels.

Our understanding is that Destination Wairarapa is the only local organisation solely focused on growing tourism in the region. As such, Destination Wairarapa performs an incredibly important function in attracting visitors to the Wairarapa and assisting the local economy.

As the owners of Molewood Orchard in Greytown, we have been very grateful for the support Destination Wairarapa has provided to us in publicising our Pick Your Own Apple weekends, and the recent Greytown Apple Harvest Festival. Destination Wairarapa has featured us in many online posts on Facebook, Instagram and Neighbourly, plus in the Autumn edition of the Wairarapa Lifestyle magazine. Their support has helped us achieve a much wider reach with our marketing. On a personal level, we have also greatly appreciated the advice and support we've had from Barb Hyde.

We have seen increased numbers attending our PYO weekends this year over last year. One of our most recent visitors said they came to the orchard because they read about us in the Wairarapa Lifestyle magazine in their Airbnb in Martinborough. We also had thousands of people attending the Greytown Apple Harvest Festival on 27 April, which benefited not only the orchard and stall holders/food trucks at the festival, but also businesses in Greytown itself.

We also recently attended an agritourism event in Carterton organised by Destination Wairarapa. This was a very useful event full of practical discussions about opportunities in the Wairarapa to develop and grow agritourism. We came away with several new ideas we can use in our business, and new contacts to follow up on.

We hope that you will agree to continue the current support of Destination Wairarapa.

Kind regards

Juliet and Ed Cooke (Molewood Orchard)

[REDACTED]

We need a fair and equitable rating system. How the functions that are funded by the General rate are the main impediment to achieving this and council have the tools to fix it. It is not transparent.

Unfortunately the information provided is of limited use as it does not show the relevant information needed.

We don't have our revaluations at the time of writing much of the information is not easy to see instead hidden in documents its not up front for all to see easily. The amount of UAGC on general rate fixed charge for roading the amount of UAGC and what makes up that amount why was a rates example not given like that in the consultation document. Even the CEO and the deputy Mayor could not answer those questions, does not show the percentage increase for urban and rural separately. This basic information should be highlighted and readily available.

With the new valuation that Council show in their rates example is very misleading as it does not show the true picture because it uses total rates as most of the rural (farmers) do not get water wastewater and refuse collection. The whole process has not been transparent.

Because with the new valuations urban has gone up a lot less than rural. AV Urban residential Featherston CV about 8% whereas a diary farm AV up about 30% which is well above the average so sees rural paying even more compared to urban. As there is no differential on the pool funded functions. As I have said before the rates review was a total sham.

The rate for water wastewater and refuse recycling collection are funded by those who are connected or have that service so benefit from it. Then go to footpaths the consultation document states that. There will be a targeted rate to be levied on urban zoned properties and that the change is because it "recognises that urban people benefit more from footpath than those who live rurally" Council have done an analysis and that is what Council have come up with for the above functions. But Council have not been consistent with that for the general rate. Those functions that are pool funded.

Then go on to Council amenities which was funded by a UAC 70% urban 30% rural about the same as the population split because urban get a bigger benefit because rural have and fund their own so need the urban amenities less than urban.

Now with no analysis have done away with that targeted amenities rate and put it in with the rest of the pool funded functions this is a backward step which see rural paying 60% plus of the C/V portion. So rural subsidises urban. Which sees a shift of \$1 million from urban to rural where as if they had done the same analysis as

for footpaths it would show urban get a far greater benefit than rural. So the UAC should be reinstated but at 75% urban 25% rural. As the populations split is about 66% urban 34% rural and urban get more benefit.

Then comes the remaining functions funded in the general rate, these functions if analysis was done are for the benefit of the people of the district equally therefore should be funded by the people of the district equally so at first it should be split on population urban and rural which would see urban pay about 66% and rural pay 34% and then by UAC. and then by SUIP . This is a targeted rate which Mr Phil Jones stated at day 2 of the rates review deliberation meeting said could use population on a targeted rate the same as Masterton has done and council states above for amenities was a targeted rate. The advice Mr Jones gave Council that could not use population was wrong and he has admitted it.

If Council is to continue with the use of C/V on the general rate then that results in an unfair and inequitable rating system for the same benefits with rural (farmers) paying many times more than AV residential Featherston the average properties following will pay times more than an average Featherston residential property for the General Rate (pool funded functions) C/V portion.

Greytown 1.6 times more

Martinborough 1.5 times more

Lifestyle 2.4 times more

Pastoral 6.55 times more

Dairy 8.38 times more

Horticulture 4.82 times more

Forestry exotic 8.26 times more

then it should be split on the basis of population between urban and rural which would see urban paying about 66% and rural paying 34% e.g. the population split then on C/V. But then Council should use the full 30% allowed for the use of the UAGC as far as I can make out Council apply \$428 on general rate compared to \$1005 in the last annual plan. Then they include \$177 for fixed charge on roading which are the only 2 amounts that are available to the whole district that \$605 because they then use refuse and recycling collection \$555 which is already funded by a AGC in the calculation for the 30% allowed that means 47% of the 30% is not available to the district as a whole then on top of that Council reduce the use of a UAGC from 30% to 21% that's a reduction of 30% of the 30% allowed that only leaves 27% of the 30% allowed for the use of UAGC that leaves only about 9% of the allowable 30%.. The whole 30% of UAGC should be used and the calculation should not include refuse and recycling.

Then there is roading as its a network it should be funded 50|% fixed charged which sees rural paying 46% because that's their rateable properties split and 50% on C/V

To be consistent infrastructure resilience should be funded the same as roading and water and wastewater as it for those functions in an emergence.

There needs to be a 10% reduction in the cost of the functions funded by the general rate (pool funded).

Water Races

As long as cattle are allowed to enter the water race to drink then the rate should be a fixed charge per rateable unit with access to the race and then on per Ha as it is the area that is farmed (e.g. the number of animals that are farmed so watered) it is not the value of the land that determines the amount of stock that needs the water. If stock are not allowed into the race to drink then do away with the race or if the community want to keep them then let the community pay for them but not at the landowners expense.

Council have not been consistent and have not identified the different communities eg urban rural and the percentage of benefit each get from the General Rated funded functions. Council have ended up with a rating system that sees rural (farmers) paying a disproportionate amount for the benefits received compared to urban.

I support Federated Farmers submission.
I wish to be heard.

Jim Hedley


30/4/24

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Enhanced Annual Plan 2024
Date: Saturday, May 4, 2024 8:42:49 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Submission to the SWDC Enhanced Annual Plan

I wish to support Federated Farmers submission on the above Plan 2024.

I wish to support Jim Hedley's submission on the above Plan.

Pauline Hedley

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Enhanced Annual Plan Submission
Date: Saturday, May 4, 2024 12:07:30 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

I am submitting on behalf of Martinborough TOP 10 Holiday Park to express our support for the continued investment and funding of Destination Wairarapa (DW) at current levels.

We have been members of DW and its predecessors for nearly twenty years. As the only organisation solely focussed on developing and growing tourism in the region DW plays a pivotal role in the economic success of our small townships.

The work undertaken by DW during the pandemic and now, during the recovery of international tourism, has seen visitor spend increase by over 20% since pre pandemic 2020. If we are to consolidate these gains during a global cost of living crisis and a slow return of international tourists we will require the knowledge, expertise and experience offered by DW.

The future for tourism in our region is promising but we must retain full funding of DW to make the most of the opportunities offered by our natural beauty, wineries and dark sky reserve status.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit, I do not wish to be heard.

--

Ngā mihi
Lisa Cornelissen
[Martinborough TOP 10 Holiday Park](#)





Submission from Enviroschools Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui On South Wairarapa District Council's Enhanced Annual Plan

This submission:

- 1. Demonstrates how the Enviroschools Programme aligns with South Wairarapa District Council's Strategic Framework to 2050, seeking endorsement of the ongoing programme in schools and early childhood centres across Wairarapa.**
- 2. Highlights how Enviroschools could be involved in Zero Waste Education as part of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP), which we will be discussing with Council Officers separately.**

Sent by email: submissions@swdc.govt.nz

Contact: Karyn Burgess, Senior Enviroschools Advisor, GWRC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sunday 5 May 2024

We would like the opportunity to speak to this submission in person.

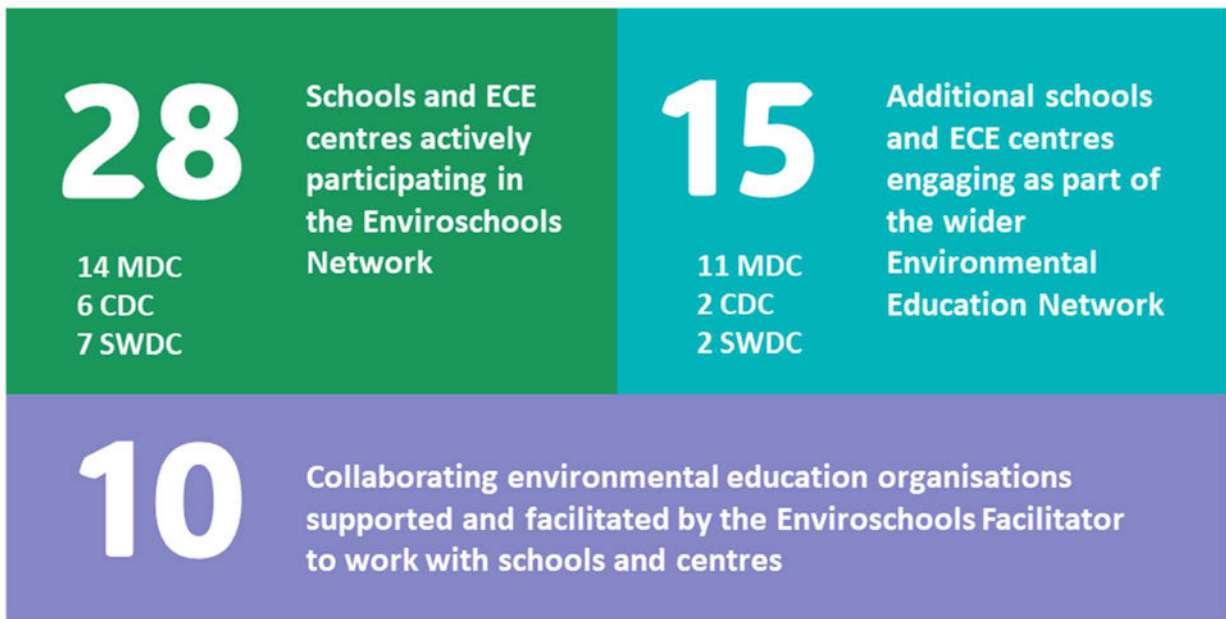
About the Enviroschools Programme

South Wairarapa District Council is part of a regional collaboration of funding partners supporting an Enviroschools Network in Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui. The programme sees a local facilitator providing guidance and support for kaiako and ākonga to learn in, about and take action for the environment, and intentionally creates meaningful connections with local community groups and iwi.

Participating Wairarapa schools and centres have access to, and benefit from, an incredible network regionally and nationally.

Locally, Enviroschools has been fortunate to have had Gill Stewart as the Wairarapa Enviroschools Community Facilitator for many years, resulting in strong connections between schools, mana whenua, education providers and community groups. For the past three years a Memorandum of Understanding between Enviroschools and the three Wairarapa councils has meant that the programme can be planned in an integrated way across the Wairarapa, and Gill has been able to leverage connections between schools and communities across catchments.

Over the last three years, the Enviroschools Network in the Wairarapa has attracted an increasingly wide range of participating schools and centres from all three districts. Significant numbers of those schools and centres are deepening their sustainability practice and sharing this within the network.



Highlights of the past year that align with South Wairarapa District Council’s Strategic Framework to 2050

The Enviroschools Programme aligns well with South Wairarapa District Council’s Community Outcomes and delivers particularly on the Strategic Driver highlighted below:

Strategic drivers				
TAUTOKO	Creating better connections & social wellbeing	Supporting sustainable growth, employment, economic wellbeing & development	Enhancing three waters delivery & environmental quality	Nurturing & creating the district’s special character, qualities and culture
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen social connections within the community Encourage civic pride and participation Provide universally accessible, safe and diverse spaces to strengthen connection between people and place Advocate for better transport and technology to improve social and business opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for growth that protects rural land and character Contain rural residential expansion Support quality urban development Limit growth in coastal and other areas subject to climate change impacts Support the transition to a low carbon economy Encourage economic diversity and local vibrancy Leverage partnerships with central and regional agencies to enable economic development and employment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver sustainable, clean, clear, safe and secure drinking water Design and implement innovative, sustainable, efficient and affordable wastewater and stormwater systems Protect and replenish our natural environment and biodiversity Minimise waste and provide environmentally sustainable Council services Take active measures to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change Empower and enable our community to drive behavioural change for the benefit of the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership with mana whenua and iwi, respecting tikanga (customs), kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and taha Māori (heritage) Take opportunities to embrace and celebrate diversity Take opportunities to advance and showcase arts, culture & heritage Protect town and rural community character, retaining our unique look and feel Improve urban design and integrate what we build with natural features

“Empower and enable our community to drive behavioural change for the benefit of the environment.”

Below we are pleased to provide a few examples of Enviroschools events and workshops that align with this Strategic Driver.

Wetland Wonderings Event

This collaborative event in August 2023 at Wairio Wetland helped ākonga and kaiako to learn about catchments, and the important role that wetlands play in keeping the waterways in a catchment healthy. It provided an opportunity for mana whenua to share their stories of place, while actually being in that place, and for the students to do some hands-on monitoring and restoration work.



Tracking and Trapping Programme

Gill has been collaborating with Pukaha to support student networking and sharing best practice in relation to tracking and trapping pests. A large number of schools across the whole of Wairarapa participate, and Gill has supported students through both on-line and in-person workshops. Bird count (and bird identification) is now also part of the programme. Enviroschools have also developed complimentary Noticing Nature Workshops for ākonga and kaiako.



Ecological Building Workshop

This workshop helped tamariki learn about ecological building principles, by observing what is built in nature followed by some hands-on experimentation. Using clay, straw, water and sand, they danced and stomped to form a cob, which was used to develop structures. They then tested qualities and design theories in the process.



Douglas Park School reflects on twenty years of Enviroschools

At a recent celebration, students and teachers shared key stories of their Enviroschools journey with mana whenua, Enviroschools Reps and students from other schools across Wairarapa. These included:

- Carbon Zero Initiative – where they are incorporating solar panels and building energy efficiency into property decisions
- Wairarapatanga – all classes visit local nature spaces (Mt Holdsworth, Castlepoint, Rangitumau) and link their experiences back to what they are learning in school
- Learning about the school's Zero Waste journey involving litterless lunchbox initiatives and gifts of wax wraps to all new students
- Using their boundary creek as a context for learning and a way of exercising kaitiakitanga.



The level of action and leadership taken at Douglas Park has positive benefits for schools across all of Wairarapa.

After the celebration the reflection team discussed future directions that the school could take on its sustainability journey, including growing their connection with the local environment, and discovering the area's history through mana whenua knowledge.

Other Key Work: Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP)

We note that Council is working on the regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and will deliver this with Masterton and Carterton District Councils.

Education can be a key lever in successful implementation and Enviroschools is an obvious fit. Across the region Enviroschools has been increasingly involved in teaching about food waste in schools and communities in collaboration with Garden to Table, and we see benefits in delivering the Waste Education elements of the WMMP in tandem with the Enviroschools programme. We have begun discussions with Council staff to further develop this concept, which would be mutually beneficial for all for the following reasons:

- Enviroschools facilitators are already actively engaging with schools and ECE centres
- Currently Zero Waste Education is not able to be prioritised at Council
- By delivering the two in tandem, schools and centres would have a single point of contact for the two programmes
- The nationally reputable Zero Waste Education programme would be delivered to more schools and could be followed up by the Enviroschools facilitators to support students to take action related to their learning experiences.

3 May 2024

34

Subject: An open letter to the three Wairarapa councils from the tourism industry

To Wairarapa Councillors

As representatives of some of the Wairarapa's major tourism businesses, we are writing to thank you for your support of Destination Wairarapa and to outline the reasons why it is essential for this partnership to continue.

Tourism is on the rise in our region, reaching unprecedented heights following the major setback caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The most recent data indicates that guest nights have increased by 10% in the past 12 months and visitor spend in the year to February 2023 hit a record level of \$155m. This is the result of an increase of 33.8% in South Wairarapa, 16% in Masterton and 9.2% in Carterton.

In a time of nationwide economic recession and growing unemployment, a total of 1,379 people are currently employed in tourism roles in the Wairarapa, which represents a jump of 19% over the past year. That's a lot of families who are relying upon the success of our industry to put food on the table during a major cost of living crisis.

But none of this happens by accident. The glue which holds the region's tourism together is our Regional Tourism Organisation – Destination Wairarapa. We simply couldn't reach anything like our current levels of contribution to the local economy without the work they do. If you take away their expert promotion of our region as a destination, everybody loses and the social wellbeing of our communities takes the biggest hit.

Destination Wairarapa plays a leadership role, an advisory role, an advocacy role and a facilitation role, ensuring that our tourism businesses work together to achieve the best possible outcome for the region. And the results of their work are everywhere.

It is no coincidence that just about every time you pick up a lifestyle magazine, whether in the supermarket or on an Air New Zealand flight, there is a glowing article about some aspect of Wairarapa's tourism industry. And have you ever wondered why our region always seems to feature in those '5 great places to visit this long weekend' and 'New Zealand's hidden gems' lists which the tourism media rolls out on a regular basis? Once again, this is no accident. It's the work of the Destination Wairarapa team, enticing journalists and travel writers to come and experience the area for themselves, hosted by our biggest advocates and taken seamlessly through a carefully-manicured itinerary.

Just this week, they organised for the popular Australian breakfast news and current affairs programme The Today Show to broadcast live from Martinborough Square, with a series of live crosses highlighting the best of Wairarapa tourism to a massive television audience.

The packed Martinborough wineries, the 'No Vacancy' signs along SH2, the dozens of visitors enjoying Queen Elizabeth Park by day and the Dark Sky Reserve at night and the overflowing

car park at the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre are the results of a great deal of hard work by many people. But Destination Wairarapa plays a vital role behind the scenes, adding the strategy, innovation and collaboration required to bring our region to life, every single week of the year.

Once again, we thank you for the support you have given to our industry through Destination Wairarapa. Regional tourism in New Zealand is reliant upon partnerships with local government and the current three-year funding model is essential to provide the certainty and continuity required for Destination Wairarapa to be able to plan and operate effectively.

Thank you on behalf of each and every Wairarapa tourism business, the 1,379 people they employ and the countless others who benefit from living and working in a thriving visitor destination.

Regards,

Rosie and Nick Rogers, The White Swan Country Hotel and Tui Brewery
Hari Mogosanu, Star Safari
Lisa Portas, Palliser Ridge
Katherine Jacobs, Big Sky Wines
Tim Smith, Martinborough Hotel
Jenna Snelgrove, Tranzit Group
Emily Court, Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre

**Submission for continued investment and support of Destination
Wairarapa at current levels.**

35

To: South Wairarapa District Council

On: Support for the continued investment and support of Destination
Wairarapa at current levels as part of Enhanced Annual Plan.

Submitter; Wairarapa Racing Club Inc

Address: 1498 SH2
Tauherenikau
5771

Contact Name: Garrick Emms
President Wairarapa racing Club Inc

Matthew Sherry
General Manager
Tauherenikau Racing & Events

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1. The details of the submission and the decisions sought from the council are contained in the attached paper.
2. We wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Background;

The Wairarapa Racing Club has had a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Destination Wairarapa. With 160 years of racing history the Club developed from a local country race track into a respected national events centre, wedding venue, motor home park, community events venue, Jet Sprint venue and music venue.

2019-2020 Tauherenikau was recognised by NZTR as NZ Community Racing Club of the year.

2021 the club won the Wairarapa Business Supreme Award.

Our association with Destination Wairarapa has also developed over the years, but we are much more than a traditional Tourist Destination. When assessing the economic contribution that “Tourism” makes to a region one needs to be aware of the definition used but the economic agencies involved.

To Quote:

Infometrics NZ

Regional Economic Profile Wairarapa 2023

The tourism sector is not an industry but rather comprises parts of various industries including accommodation and food services, retail, arts and recreation services and transport. This section describes the contribution of tourism to total GDP in Wairarapa. It shows how tourism ranks as a contributor to the economy in Wairarapa relative to the broad ANZSIC industries.

The tourism contribution to a region is more than just accommodation and restaurants. It includes retail, vineyards, transport operators, sporting clubs and the major regional events. All of those benefit.

Tauherenikau Events Centre is now a major tourist destination contributing financially to the regional tourism sector which in 2023 generated \$113.4 million to the collective Wairarapa GDP (Infometrics NZ)

Covid:

New Zealand Tourism has recovered since Covid.

International tourists are returning. Now is not the time to cut back on destination and event marketing.

Long Term Strategy :

Our position would be that it is important to retain our experienced staff so that as the economy improves, Destination Wairarapa is in a position to continue delivering and marketing a quality tourism product and quality events.

Anna Nielson and Barbara Hyde have extensive experience in the NZ Tourism Industry. Additionally their extensive local knowledge and personal contacts are invaluable in promoting our region. Now is not the time to reduce budgets or risk losing experienced staff.

The Wairarapa visitor spend is up 21% from pre-covid. We are seen as an exciting destination and Wellington is on our doorstep. Now is the time to develop new events and experiences; Music in the Country, Dark Sky, Cycle Trails, Carkeek Observatory, Toast Martinborough.

Let us not think short term.

Garrick Emms

Matthew Sherry

5 May 2024

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Submission - support continued support for Destination Wairarapa
Date: Sunday, May 5, 2024 5:42:43 PM
Attachments: [image001\[483041171\].jpg](#)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Dear Councillors,

I'm writing to express my strong support for the continued investment and support of Destination Wairarapa at its current levels.

Destination Wairarapa provide a fantastic and essential service for our region, bringing together coordinated and targeted marketing to give a strong voice, and attract visitors to Wairarapa to enjoy what we have to offer, spend money and help our region thrive.

As an event organiser and marketer I've worked with Destination Wairarapa on a number of different events and businesses for a number of years, and I've witnessed the impact first hand. Their impact through their marketing support, relationships with other regions, media and tourism support is significant.

The events and tourism operators I've worked with DW on include Toast Martinborough, The Festival of Christmas, The Tora Coastal Walk, The White Swan Country Hotel, The Hendrick's Hootenanny, Wines from Martinborough. They do an incredible and critical job, which elevates awareness of our region and the wonderful things there are to see and do here. This, in turn, increases visitation and spend.

Our region punched well above its weight with both visitation and spend during COVID, and soon after, and there is no doubt that much of our regions success was down to the work, marketing and support they provide their members and the region in general.

I wholeheartedly support the continued investment and support of Destination Wairarapa at its current levels, and thank you for the support you have provided so far..

Kind regards,
Rachael Fletcher

signature_1112764860

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Submission Enhanced annual Plan
Date: Sunday, May 5, 2024 11:48:54 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Dear SWDC

Please find my preference on the presented decisions:

First decision Option 1

Second decision Option 2

Third decision Option 1

Thank you for this opportunity.

Anastacia Kirk

From: [REDACTED]
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Submission to SWDC on Enhanced Annual Plan 2024-25
Date: Monday, May 6, 2024 1:40:11 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

I am a ratepayer on a property in Greytown. My residence is connected to the town supply but we also have installed two water tanks with a capacity of 50,000 litres so we collect and use rain water.

I

On the First Decision, I support the highest spend on operating and maintaining water services - \$7.44m – because it will future-proof the water supply. if that is unacceptable then the \$6.33m spend is okay but it will not give us the results we need over the next several years.

On the Second Decision, I support Option 2 to reduce the quota to 250m³. However, it may be necessary to phase in the price rise over more than one year.

On the third Decision I support Option 1 because it is a fairer intergenerational approach to funding infrastructure.

With regard to your proposed rating amendments, I support Capital Value rating, and I support the other proposed targeted rates.

I am sending this submission while travelling overseas – hope I have got the time/date right. I am unable to appear to support this submission on the hearing dates.

Yours sincerely

Fran Wilde

Dame Fran Wilde

[REDACTED]

Submission to: South Wairarapa District Council

Re: Proposed Enhanced Annual Plan 2024

Submission from: Kiri and James Elworthy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Introduction:

We are long time residents of rural South Wairarapa. We run several businesses over multiple properties. We care deeply about our community and our environment.

We are concerned about the rates increases and the effect this is having on our community. In addition we are increasingly alarmed at how SWDC are conducting their business. We welcome the opportunity to record these concerns in our submission.

We support the submission of Wairarapa Federated Farmers, Dan Riddiford and submissions from others in our community.

Enhanced Annual Plan:

We support Councils intent to focus on core infrastructure, primarily roading and water.

We acknowledge inflationary pressures but have concerns that local authority rates have been (and continue) to rise more rapidly than the national rate of inflation.

The General Rate should not be levied on CV alone, but should reflect the urban/rural population proportions.

Further concerns and requests:

It is astounding the Rates Calculator only became available to rate payers one business day prior to the submissions deadline. This is not a fair amount of time for rate payers to acquaint themselves with new information let alone comment via a Submission on their resulting outcome once the calculator has been used.

We do not support the Economic Development rate as a targeted rate based on CV. This is unfair and anti-enterprise. Businesses who help to bring money into the region should not be disincentivised in this way.

The Tora Coastal Walk continues to pay a membership to both Destination Wairarapa and the Martinborough Business Association, not because of any reciprocal value for that money, but rather to support the Greater Good. Our walkers make their bookings based on our reputation and our own marketing efforts. A targeted Economic Development Rate is double dipping and feels especially mean-spirited in these tough economic times when farmers are being encouraged to diversify to survive.

In addition, we would argue the rise of rural BnB businesses is not impacting the housing crisis in a negative way. Many of these redundant farm cottages would remain empty if not being used for accommodation businesses as it's not easy to find a good calibre of tenant in a remote area with very few employment opportunities.

We note Dan Riddiford requests emails be sent to ratepayers outlining latest news and developments. We would welcome such an approach - as busy people living in a remote area it can be easy to miss important announcements (such as the Rates Calculator finally being bolted to the SWDC website).

CONCLUSION:

Increases in rates should be limited to align with the rate of inflation.

The General Rate should be levied proportional to population based on the data, showing roughly 66% urban population and 34% rural population.

The Economic Development Rate should not be charged to rural properties, or at the very least should not be charged to properties/businesses already paying a membership/levy to Destination Wairarapa or other similar supporting body.

SUBMISSION ENDS

41

Submission and feedback form

6 pages follows

MON - THUR.

Name Garry Dittmer Phone [REDACTED]
 Email [REDACTED] Organisation _____
 Address _____

Do you wish to speak to your submission at the public hearings scheduled for 15 & 16 May 2024?

- Yes (in person)
- Yes (online)
- No

Is your home or place of residence either connected or able to be connected to water services?

- Yes
- No

It is a requirement that all submissions are made available to the public. As a result, your name and feedback will be available to the public on the Council's website following consultation. However, contact details will remain private.

FIRST DECISION

How much should we spend on operating and maintaining our water services?

More information about this on page 8

X

- \$5.61m: Maintain the current level of funding with an allowance for unavoidable extra costs.
- \$6.33m: Maintain the current level of funding with additional priorities to increase planning and resilience. This is an additional 4.1% added to the proposed **total rates** increase.
- \$7.44m: The highest level of investment for planning and resilience. This is an additional 7.3% added to the proposed **total rates** increase.

Do you have any additional comments about the first decision?

SECOND DECISION

How should we charge for water use?

644

More information about this on page 18

- Maintain the current **allocated quota** (350 m³) of water provided to all users, and the current user charges (\$1.84 per m³) for litres of water used above this.
- Reduce the **allocated quota** to 250m³ of water provided to all users (household or commercial) and increase the excess water charges to \$2.50 per m³ for water used above this.

875
+ 281

1/2

Under the Affidavit of Conditional Acceptance that SNDC accepted, you all become legally liable, you have new conditions to meet, the Staff and Councillors need to do your own homework. we need transparency for 24/25 year.

This new 2024-25 Annual Plan document "Have Your Say" was presented to a group of people in Featherston on 17/4/24 by [redacted] who stated 2023/24 income is \$28.3m

This 2024/25 document contains total conflicting information and shows basic addition of basic numbers cant even be added correctly.

1/ Water services \$5.61m Option 1 add Option 2 \$1.62m = \$6.63m then go to Submission and feedback FIRST DECISION page 30 this says \$6.33m a 4.5% error and how many times did this take place in this document.?

2/ Water services Option 2, \$1.02m is 4.1% more, quote, "This is not included in our budgeted option and would add 4.1% to the proposed total rates increase" This means $\$1.02m \div 4.1\% (.041) = \$24.878m$ that has the 15.3% rate increase already included in this figure, so last years income is confirm as being $\$24.878m \div 15.3\% (1.153) = \$21.576m$ for year 2023/24 income ? page 15

3/ Water service Option 3 as above in 2, $\$1.83m \div 7.3\% (.073) = \$25.068m$
 $\$25.068 \div 15.3\% (1.153) = \$21.741m$
another income figure for 2023/24 year ? page 17

4/ Third Decision Assets Option 2 as above in 2/
 $\$2.5m \div 10\% (.10) = \$25.000m$
 $\$25.0m \div 15.3\% (1.153) = \$21.682m$
another income figure for 2023/24 year. ? page 25

5/ We have many incomes for 2023/24 year.

- (a) \$21.576m refer 2/ Water service Option 2
- (b) \$21.741m " 3/ " " 3
- (c) \$24.882m " 4/ Assets " 2
- (d) \$24.734m " 2023/24 Have Your Say
- (e) \$28.3m " 11/8/23 [redacted]
- (f) \$29.382m " 4/4/23 CEO Jarce Smith
- (g) \$31.9m " last year Ru ar x 19.8% increase
- (h) \$33.9m approx " Q.V. 2022 with SNUX rate charges.

Which income is the correct one above for 2023/24 income?
and why do we have this many..?

6/ Where does this put [redacted] when he put his assertion of a matter of fact, he stated on 11/8/23 as [redacted] income for 2023/24 is \$28.3m, He being fully aware of this fact, but did he inform these pensioners the 2023/24 income was around \$21.5m or was he in passive agreement, or a maxim.? why didnt the SNUX Corp show transparency declaring the figure clearly, for this community to see?

7/ We know from last year 2023/24 that council forgot to add GST, so we will add GST to \$21.5m and we get the magic figure \$24.7m, this being the first stated intent of the income the SNUX Corp required for 2023/24 year in Have Your Say.

8/ The above information will cancel any form of a contract with the Community, un acceptable conditions, no truth no honesty and bad maths.

9/ Water 24/25 year \$5.3m 23/24 year \$4.16m this is a 27.1% increase, not page 5 2% increase; How does \$4.781m or \$5.11m relate to \$5.3m expenditure on page 7.

Water Errors excl GST

The 24/25 Have Your Say states water expenditure @ \$5.3m divided by the 2% increase = \$5.196m being 23/24 income meaning 5756 RU paid \$902-60 = \$5.196m for 23/24 year.

Take 23/24 Have Your Say Option 1 - \$3.541m
Option 2 - \$4.871m
Option 3 - \$7.496m

$350\text{m}^3 \times \$1.60/\text{m}^3 = \560
SNDC RECD $\frac{\$5.196\text{m}}{5756\text{RU}} = \$2.58/\text{m}^3$ paid for by the RU.

But if the truth is, SNDC say, RU only use 150m^3 of water
 $\frac{\$5.196\text{m}}{5756\text{RU}} \div 150\text{m}^3 = \$6.02/\text{m}^3$ - they paid, not
 $\$2.58/\text{m}^3$

Take 24/25 Have Your Say

So if we go to the $250\text{m}^3 \times \$2.17/\text{m}^3$ we get the result \$542.50/year, if we have $5756\text{RU} \times 350\text{m}^3 \times \$2.17/\text{m}^3 = \$4.371\text{m}$ (\$0.825m less) - the result less income by \$0.825m for the same amount of water supplied by SNDC.

Take 23/24 Have Your Say

But to confuse you, take Option 1 \$3.541m on to get to Option 2 \$4.871m, the difference being \$1.33m, so at the stated rate of \$3.82/week it takes $6697\text{RU} \times 52\text{weeks}$ to get \$1.33m

Take Option 1 \$3.541m on to get to Option 3 \$7.496m the difference being \$3.955m, so at the stated rate of \$11.62/week it takes $6545\text{RU} \times 52\text{week}$ to get \$3.955m

So we take an av. $\frac{6697 + 6545}{2}\text{RU}$ we get 6621RU who paid \$902-60 to SNDC resulting a income of \$5.976m

if the stated figure \$3.82 or \$11.62/week do, incl GST it only gets worse.

CREDIT OPTIONS

Option 1 This means if SNDC has 6621 ru, paying \$5.976m but declared only \$5.196m a credit is reqd \$780 000 divided by 6621 ru's = \$117.83 + GST = \$135.50 CREDIT/RU

Option 2 as above but council received \$5.976m less expenditure figure \$4.168257m credit is reqd \$1.807m divided by 6621 ru's = \$272.92 + GST = \$313.86 CREDIT/RU

Option 3 if council did receive \$5.196m but expenditure was \$4.168m credit reqd \$1.028m divided by 5756 ru's = \$178.60 + GST = \$205.39 CREDIT/RU

Option 4 if we go back to H.Y.S. Option 1 \$3.541m and SNDC gets \$5.196m this leaves a credit of \$1.655m divided by 5756 ru's = \$287.53 + GST = \$330.66 CREDIT/RU

Option 5 if we go back to H.Y.S. expenditure \$4.168257 take of \$1.004 loan and \$679k = \$2.485m and SNDC receives \$5.196m credit reqd = \$2.711m divided by 5756 ru = \$470.98 + GST = \$541.63 CREDIT/RU

MISSING INCOME Road tankers that take this water supply for tanks and for roading. why town supply for roading when there are rivers, ? Ru's over run charges missing. ?

this also means the water supply cost was \$2.485m divided by 5756 ru's = \$432 ÷ 250m = \$1.73/m³ water cost

OR \$2.485m divided by 5756 ru = \$432 ÷ 350m³ = \$1.23/m³ water cost.

But if \$2.485 divided by 6621 ru = \$375 ÷ 350m³ = \$1.07m³ cost

And that's with the ratepayer also paying for all the missing Road tanker loads.

FOR ALL SWDC STAFF & COUNCILLORS

5/6

2024/25 HAVE YOUR SAY Page 5

Totally and clearly justifies % increases that SWDC can't now change. If you add % increase figures together and say that is the total % increase we need, that becomes FRAUD.

eg. Water exp \$24.0m + 4.9% = \$25.176m
Sewage exp \$10.0m + 10% = \$11.00m
\$34.0m / income = \$36.176m new
in the middle \$2.89m FRAUD TAKES PLACE
Take \$34.00m + 4.9% = \$39.066m

So the SWDC actual increase of 15.3% is divided by 7 examples, results in a real actual increase of around roughly the 2.2% increase being the rate increase the ratepayer should be charged for 24/25 year.

Page 7 - stated income \$41.6m less expenditure \$39.7m = \$1.9m is lost somewhere.

- Ratepayer payments \$17.5m + \$12.1m = \$29.6m + GST = \$34.04m

- [redacted] stated income 2023/24 at \$28.3m incl GST

- It takes a 20% increase in the rates to get to \$34.04m where is this 15.3% increase, could be called

- but if 23/24 is \$24.7m then its a 37.8% increase to \$34.04m

page 28 How could these figures be put together when no one could answer at the Featherston meeting 20/4/21 how many ratepayers are there, this is including CEO, Duty Major and the councillors plus staff.

- We will do the same logic that SWDC used in page 5 and add the % increases together which equals 37.9% increase, now we will do what council didn't do, divide this figure by 19 examples for a rough av of 19.95% increase. Its roughly the same as the 20% rate increase on page 7.

This information needs to be reprinted to the 2.2% approx increase for reasons of why we have certain acts.
So 23/24 income \$24.7m incl GST + 2.2% increase.

6/6.

Using all SNOC figures for 24/25 year income.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 23/24 \text{ year income } \$24.734 \text{ m} \times 2.2\% \text{ increase} = \$25.278148 \text{ m} \\
 \begin{array}{l}
 (6000 \text{ RU}) \text{ LESS water } \$5.3 \text{ m} \\
 (4800 \text{ RU}) \text{ LESS sewage } \$5.0 \text{ m} \\
 \hline
 \end{array} \\
 \underline{\$14.978148 \text{ m}}
 \end{array}$$

- Take $\$14.978148 \div 8454 \text{ RUS}$ you get $= \$1772 \text{ AV/RU}$

- Take Water $\$5.3 \text{ m} \div 6000 \text{ RUS}$ you get $= \$883 / \text{CONNECTION}$

- Take Sewage $\$5.0 \text{ m} \div 4800 \text{ RUS}$ you get $= \$1042 / \text{CONNECTION}$

24/25 INCOME IS

Res. house $467 \text{ RUS} \times (\$1772 + \$883 + \$1042)$ $\$17069049$
 being each house $\$3697$ to pay

Rural house $3837 \text{ RUS} \times \1772 $\$6799164$
 being each house $\$1772$ to pay

Rural water $1383 \text{ RU} \times \$883$ $\$1221189$

Sewage extra $183 \text{ RU} \times \$1042$ $\$190686$

24/25 INCOME $\$25280088$

No land values required at all, just charges for each unit.

THIS IS OUR NEW TRANSPARENCY.



MARTINBOROUGH COMMUNITY BOARD SUBMISSION TO SWDC

ENHANCED ANNUAL PLAN CONSULTATION 2024

The collective MCB are neutral in relation to the three questions as per the Annual Plan consultation document. However, we would like to present the following topics for consideration, as these are areas of significance to our Board and the Martinborough community we represent.

We request that spending across our district is done in a fair and equitable manner.

Wastewater – A matter of urgency still outstanding is addressing the noncompliance issues relating to the Martinborough wastewater treatment plant. The failure of this infrastructure has had major impacts on our community and restricts growth. We ask Council to assess whether the desludging work at the Martinborough treatment plant is occurring fast enough. If there are issues, we ask that Council provide more money to overcome desludging or any other issues until we can allow new connections into the network. We also ask that Council approve the funding of the “Capacity Study” for the Martinborough treatment plant. Council has advised that an agreed and funded project to increase capacity of the plant is only a precursor to allowing new connections, so Martinborough Community Board wants to see all corrective actions required by Council gaining some momentum for Martinborough, until this issue is resolved.

Pain Farm – Martinborough Community Board have previously been advised that a request for the reduction of overhead and personnel charges needs to be raised via a Long Term Plan submission. In lieu of the enhanced annual plan replacing this, we ask that this request now be tabled for inclusion in this EAP. There is works currently taking place on this matter which may need to be considered, including further engagement with our Martinborough community.

Martinborough Community Board note there are multiple rates accounts and valuation numbers held against the Pain Farm by South Wairarapa District Council. As Council pays rates on its other assets in the South Wairarapa, we ask why Pain Farm accounts are being charged rates, across numerous rating valuations, when Council states it is their asset?

Public access and safety – Martinborough Community Board ask that improvements continue to be made to our footpaths and crossings, to allow them to be more suitable and safe for families with prams and fit for purpose for mobility devices.

Pedestrian Crossings – The lighting and safety around Martinborough crossings remains on Councils list for urgent upgrade to ensure they are compliant – this is currently partly being addressed and we look forward to removing this from future list of concerns once Council complete this work on all crossings in Martinborough.

The intersection of Princess St at SH53 continues to be of high community concern. We ask Council to fast track a low cost option for improving the safety of this intersection for the residents and visitors to Martinborough. We would like Council to investigate solutions for

children's safety on Princess Street and solutions explored on Council owned roads eg. speed bumps as raised pedestrian crossings to slow the traffic on Princess Street and most importantly give our children safe access to the Pump Track, the Pool and to the other side of town.

Emergency Preparedness and Resilience – The Martinborough Community Board is seeking additional resources to be made available by Council. On-going work in this space needs more staff hours to assist with the development of Community Hubs and Emergency centres across the region. Also, additional funds are needed from Council to ensure all public hubs and centres are adequately equipped and have the necessary training resources available.

Appearance of township – Feedback from the Martinborough community, is a general feeling of untidiness in the town and that there is a need for a spruce up, like Council taking ownership for the entrance to Martinborough on SH53 and tidying it up, painting the entranceways to our parks and cemetery which all look chipped and tired. Martinborough Community Board would like Council to provide the town with additional rubbish/recycling bins as well as more dog poo bins.

Waihenga Bridge – The community has on going concerns over bridge closures and the impact on our community and businesses. We would like to see Council push this issue as a priority with NZTA on the Martinborough Wards behalf. Is the bridge in good state of repair and how long can it last without upgrade? This is on SH53 and there is strong support within the community to keep this at the forefront of Waka Kotahi schedules. When upgraded the addition of a cycle lane would improve safety.

Rural roads – ensure berms and watertables are maintained to mitigate future potential storm damage. Local people to be supported to carry out this work themselves where possible eg Petrol allowance for mowers/line trimmers.

Tourism - this is critical to Martinborough, and we strongly encourage continued funding in this area. With support for existing events and new initiatives the town will flourish. We ask Council to continue funding of events such as the Balloons over the Wairarapa, which are important to our community.

Developing cycle/walking trails between wineries would enhance visitor experience and these are already budgeted in the 5 trails plan. Work in Featherston and Greytown is completed or nearly done, so we would like to know when they will begin working on the budgeted paths in Martinborough as this will need to be done with input from the Martinborough Community Board. These would also be utilised by locals as a much safer way of travelling around.

Venues - We would like to see Council supporting optimal use of our public spaces and venues – income potential from increased promotion of venues and spaces i.e. consider installing fold back doors to Plunket space in Waihinga centre – this would create an additional small meeting room?

Waihinga Park playground - monies to be made available to rectify lack of fencing this is a health and safety matter – dangerous access to busy road.

Considine Park - The Martinborough Community Board would like to see Council moving forward on updating Considine Park Development Plan – including preparation for installation of Pump Track, to include landscaping. Council should move forward now with the improvements of existing toilet facilities which have already been budgeted for, to prevent taking on future increases to the cost for this as we know they are needed already.

Community Board Grants – there was an increase in demand for Martinborough Community Board grants following the reduction in funds available from Council, with Council directing people they declined at their grant funding rounds to apply to the Martinborough Community Board instead. As Council is setting the grant allocations available to the Community Boards, we ask if you can please consider increasing the grant monies for the Martinborough Community Board to distribute throughout the Martinborough Community.

We request that spending across our district is done in a fair and equitable manner.

BUSINESS WAIRARAPA LONG TERM PLAN SUBMISSION 2024-2027

Background

A member of the National Chambers Central Hub, Business Wairarapa works alongside Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatu, Dannevirke, Hawke's Bay, Kapiti, Porirua, Hutt Valley and Wellington chambers to advocate for robust infrastructure, productive government policy and better business services across the Lower North Island.

Business Wairarapa is a not-for-profit organisation and one of 30 chambers that make up the New Zealand Chambers of Commerce and Industry body (NZCCI), whose network represents over 30,000 businesses throughout the country.

It is Business Wairarapa's stated mission to represent every Wairarapa business, providing leadership, creating opportunities, sharing ideas and leading business development through the principles of *link, collaborate* and *influence*.

Business Wairarapa's formal partnership with the three district councils was formed in late 2020 as a result of the global pandemic and as part of a Wairarapa Recovery Plan that included identifying and promoting opportunities across the region to stimulate business growth.

Since 2021, Business Wairarapa has consistently surpassed its original KPIs, evolving into an inclusive, collaborative, and district-wide mechanism for advocacy, education, training, and support. Business Wairarapa serves as a bridge connecting region-wide businesses, the three district councils, and central government agencies. Our primary goal is to enhance business growth, attract new businesses, and foster economic development throughout the Wairarapa region.

Although Business Wairarapa operates as a Chamber of Commerce, traditionally considered a member-paid association, its impact reaches far beyond the standard model. Business Wairarapa is committed to serving ALL businesses and acts as a direct channel for councils to engage with businesses across the Wairarapa region, fostering mutual understanding and growth opportunities. Business Wairarapa's broader strategic alliances and delivery of wider economic benefits as a district-wide agency, rely on collaboration and partnership with regional stakeholders and the three district councils. Member fees solely cover operational costs.

Strategic Fit of Business Wairarapa within Economic Development

Business Wairarapa aligns with the Wellington Regional Economic Development Plan by building workforce and resilience. Business Wairarapa actively engages with sub-regional business associations and community stakeholders. Wairarapa's economy relies significantly on small and medium-sized businesses, and Business Wairarapa plays a pivotal role in supporting and upskilling this vital sector. Business Wairarapa's collective database serves as an active resource for attracting capability initiatives to the region and provides a platform for workforce research and development.

As a region-wide business umbrella organisation, Business Wairarapa actively engages, partners and includes in its representation the sub-regional business associations, Destination Wairarapa, and a breadth of community stakeholders (Wairarapa Skills Leadership Group, Youth 2 Work Wairarapa, Wairarapa Health Skills).

6,000 businesses employ 42% of the population = 3.5 employees per business average. Business ownership and self-employment = 30% of Wairarapa's total workforce. Business Wairarapa delivers tailored business support activities to the sector to support, equip, encourage and enable a largely SME business community to upskill and grow.

Business Representation: 10% (and growing) of the total businesses registered in the region

Traditionally, government capability initiatives and contracts default to central EDAs, with little to no 'trickle down' to Wairarapa's SMEs.

However, Business Wairarapa's collective database provides an authentic and centralised resource for attracting capability initiatives to be delivered for the region FROM the region. It also enables stakeholders to conduct research/needs analysis for current and future business growth needs, thereby contributing to attraction, retention and development of the workforce.

Recommendation - Long Term Plan

Business Wairarapa proposes a long-term partnership with the three Wairarapa Councils (Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council, and South Wairarapa District Council) by endorsing the following recommendations:

1. **Commitment to Partnership: Sign an MOU, officially acknowledging the partnership.**
2. **Financial Support: Allocate funding in each council's Long-Term Plan, beginning July 1, 2024, to support the delivery of key initiatives as outlined below, being a combined total of \$120,000 per annum, for the three years 2024-2027**
3. **Ongoing Support: Continue supporting Business Wairarapa's initiatives through the councils' internal activities and other funding commitments.**

These recommendations will strengthen the collaboration and momentum established for the benefit of Wairarapa's businesses, solidifying Business Wairarapa's role as a central agency for local and central government strategy facilitation, delivery, and reporting back to stakeholders.

BUSINESS WAIRARAPA INITIATIVES 2024-2027

Continuation of Joint Council Partnership (Business as Usual)

Continuation of Council contribution towards Business Wairarapa's critical activities covers costs of developing programmes and administering and facilitating an events schedule, as well as providing subsidised resources, training and capability to small business owners. The funding also ensures that quality leadership and management capability in the form of a General Manager can be retained. The investment to date has played a pivotal role in fostering the growth of our local business community and ensuring a strong Wairarapa presence in governmental and non-governmental circles.

BAU outputs Include:

- A comprehensive events schedule of at least one training/capability event and one networking and/or advocacy event per month - facilitated by local and national trainers, leaders and speakers
- Facilitation of business development initiatives as funded by Government (MBIE, MPI)
- Opportunities for businesses to engage with and speak to local and national political leaders
- Facilitation of business-to-business introductions and mentorship
- Supply of a region-wide Business App that includes a collaborative events calendar and business-to-business benefits

Since establishment of a combined council partnership in 2021, Business Wairarapa's representation has tripled. Business Wairarapa aims to further grow, encompassing at least 20% of Wairarapa's total enterprises by 2027.

Commitment to WaiHost Wairarapa Skills Training

WaiHost is bespoke customer service, supervision and management training, designed specifically for delivery in Wairarapa. It was established in 2023 to address a vital need recognised by Business Wairarapa, Destination Wairarapa, and the Wairarapa Regional Skills Leadership Group. WaiHost bridges the training gap for employers and ensures the readiness of both emerging and returning workers for employment. WaiHost paves the way for formal qualifications, such as NZ IQ Level 3 & 4, and has a substantial addressable market of over 6,000 individuals within the multi-sector Wairarapa workforce.

WaiHost received funding last year through WEDS to run a pilot programme and has proven to surpass expectations - with high demand from employers of businesses large and small, and uptake from Wairarapa stakeholders such as MSD

	<p><i>Business Wairarapa aims to provide soft-skills training to a minimum of 150 customer/front-facing employees within the first year of implementation, with a gradual increase in the following years.</i></p>
Expansion of a Business Helpline	<p>We propose continuing the provision of FREE HR and Employment Legal advice to every Wairarapa business through a dedicated 0800 helpline. Our team of experienced practitioners assist with a wide range of HR and employment legal queries, from general inquiries to complex workplace issues.</p> <p><i>Business Wairarapa intends the 0800 Helpline to be available to ANY Wairarapa business (regardless of membership) and maintain a 90% satisfaction rate among businesses utilising the service for HR and employment legal advice.</i></p>
Contribution to the Annual Business Summit	<p>A day of breakthrough strategies, inspiration and resources to manage day-to-day business operations.</p> <p>The Wairarapa Business summit brings speakers such as NZ International Business icon Karen Walker to Wairarapa to speak alongside respected commentators on national and regional economic development such as Infometrics' Brad Olsen.</p> <p><i>Business Wairarapa intends to attract a minimum of 200 participants to the Annual Business Summit and at least two nationally recognised speakers, alongside local and regional experts, to enhance the quality and reach of the event.</i></p>
Contribution to the Annual Business Awards	<p>The annual Wairarapa Awards are an opportunity for local businesses and organisations, whether they are a start-up or have a long history, to share their stories, celebrate their success and gain recognition for their brand, team and stakeholders. The awards shine a light on the businesses, organisations and people who are doing amazing things to contribute to a vibrant, sustainable and financially strong Wairarapa.</p> <p><i>Business Wairarapa will continue to grow Award entries by a minimum of 10% year-on-year, reflecting the growth of Wairarapa businesses across the region.</i></p>
Contribution to Amalgamation Discussion	<p>Wairarapa businesses are significant ratepayers in the region and would play a vital role in any amalgamation discussion. Additionally, the alignment between Business Wairarapa and Destination Wairarapa is growing stronger as Business Wairarapa provides essential support to the new tourism enterprises emerging from initiatives such as Wairarapa Dark Skies.</p> <p><i>Business Wairarapa will actively engage with Business Wairarapa's database to support amalgamation discussions, ensuring business perspectives (and those of the sub-regional business associations) are considered and represented.</i></p>

Long Term Partnership

Regarding business growth and attraction in Wairarapa, Business Wairarapa is a trusted organisation for facilitating and delivering business development initiatives that align with the shared objectives of the three distinct Councils. A thriving and aspirational business sector is paramount to us all, and through collaborative partnerships, a clear overarching, inclusive strategy, and a grassroots approach, Business Wairarapa is well-positioned to provide valuable feedback to Councils via quarterly reports throughout the duration of a Long-Term Plan MOU.

Deliver quarterly reports to Councils, highlighting key achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement, ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the duration of an MOU.

Monitor the overall health, vibrancy, and growth of the local business sector by tracking key economic indicators, such as job creation, business expansion, and business retention, and adjust strategies as needed to achieve mutually agreed-upon goals.