



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Kia Reretahi Tātau

AGENDA

Strategy Working Committee Meeting Long Term Plan 2025/34 Deliberations Wednesday, 14 May 2025

I hereby give notice that a Strategy Working Committee Meeting will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 14 May 2025

Time: 9:00 am

**Location: Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street
Martinborough**

**Janice Smith
Chief Executive Officer**

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1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

Kia hora te marino
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana
Hei huarahi mā tātou i te rangi nei
Aroha atu, aroha mai
Tātou i ā tātou katoa
Hui ē! Tāiki ē!

May peace be widespread
May the seas be like greenstone
A pathway for us all this day
Let us show respect for each other
For one another
Bind us all together!

2 APOLOGIES**3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST****4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES****5 URGENT BUSINESS**

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2025

Author: Amy Andersen, Lead Advisor, Democracy and Committees

Authoriser: Janice Smith, Chief Executive Officer

File Number: N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the minutes of the Strategy Working Committee meeting held on 16 April 2025 are confirmed as a true and correct record.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Minutes of the Strategy Working Committee Meeting held on 16 April 2025

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY WORKING COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE SUPPER ROOM, WAIHINGA CENTRE, TEXAS STREET, MARTINBOROUGH
ON WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL 2025 AT 9:00 AM
HEARINGS ON THE LONG TERM PLAN 2025/34**

- PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter (Chair), Mayor Martin Connelly, Cr Alistair Plimmer, Cr Aaron Woodcock, Cr Colin Olds, Cr Pip Maynard, Cr Rebecca Gray, Ms Violet Edwards (from 10:16am) and Cr Kaye McAulay (until 11:45am).
- APOLOGIES:** Cr Aidan Ellims and Cr Martin Bosley.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Janice Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Nicki Ansell (Senior Policy and Projects Advisor), Alex Pigou (Team Lead Communications) and Amy Andersen (Lead Advisor Democracy and Committees).
- SUBMITTERS:** Cobblestones Museum - Lynn Bushell, Clare Barton and Graeme Gray, Michelle Dawson, Wairarapa Dark Sky Group – Viv Napier and Charlotte Harding, Martinborough School Board of Trustees – Dylan Firth, Michael Smith, Featherston Community Centre Charitable Trust Board – Jay Jensen and Darren Goulding, Jenny Boyne (via Teams), Martinborough Community Board – Storm Robertson (Chair) and Angela Brown, Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Trust – Greg Lang, Claire Bleakley, Sue Fox, James Brodie, Robert Perry Cameron, Dean di Bona, Featherston Community Board – Tui Rutherford (Chair), Pete Smith, Democracy Now – Warren Woodgyer, Norris Everton, Greytown Community Board – Louise Brown (Chair), Dan Riddiford, Leah Hawkins and Jim Hedley.
- CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:** This meeting was held in the Supper Room, WaiHINGA Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough and via audio-visual conference. This meeting was recorded and live-streamed, available to view on our YouTube channel. The meeting was held in public under the above provisions from 9:10am to 2:15pm except where expressly noted.

OPEN SECTION

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING

All in attendance opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/35

Moved: Cr A Plimmer

Seconded: Cr C Olds

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to accept apologies from Cr Bosley, Cr Ellims; and Ms Edwards for lateness.

CARRIED

3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No interests were disclosed relating to items on the agenda or interests not already recorded on a relevant register.

4 SUBMISSIONS ON THE LONG TERM PLAN 2025/34

The following individuals and groups presented to the Committee on their submission:

- Cobblestones Museum - Lynn Bushell, Clare Barton and Graeme Gray
- Michelle Dawson

Cr Woodcock left at 9:32am.

- Wairarapa Dark Sky Group – Viv Napier and Charlotte Harding
- Martinborough School Board of Trustees – Dylan Firth

Cr Woodcock returned at 9:48am.

- Michael Smith
- Featherston Community Centre Charitable Trust Board – Jay Jensen and Darren Goulding
- Jenny Boyne (via Teams)
- Martinborough Community Board – Storm Robertson and Angela Brown

Ms Edwards joined the meeting via Teams at 10:16am.

- Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Trust – Greg Lang
- Storm Robertson

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am.

Meeting resumed at 11:15am.

- Claire Bleakley
- Sue Fox
- James Brodie
- John Coveney's submission was read aloud as he was unable to attend in person
- Robert Perry Cameron

Meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

Cr McAulay left during the break.

Meeting resumed at 12:31pm.

- Dean di Bona
- Featherston Community Board – Tui Rutherford (via Teams)

- Pete Smith
- Democracy Now – Warren Woodgyer
- Norris Everton

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Meeting resumed at 1:30pm.

- Greytown Community Board – Louise Brown
- Dan Riddiford
- Leah Hawkins
- Jim Hedley.

Additional information provided by submitters at the meeting can be found on the SWDC website meetings page: [Long Term Plan Hearing 16 April 2025 - SWDC](#)

5 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

5.1 LONG TERM PLAN 2025/34 HEARINGS

Ms Ansell spoke to the report and clarified the process of submissions, collation of information which is available for all to read on the SWDC website, including formed letters.

Members acknowledged the process and the work conducted in order to connect with and support the community to engage in the process.

Members queried engagement with Kuranui College.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION SWC2025/36

Moved: Deputy Mayor M Sadler-Futter

Seconded: Cr R Gray

The Strategy Working Committee resolved to:

1. Receives the full set of submissions on the 2025/34 Long-Term Plan.
2. Note that 218 full submissions and 600 formed letters were received.
3. Notes that of the received submissions 29 individuals are scheduled, 24 are heard.
4. Notes that deliberations will take place on 14 May 2025.

CARRIED

5 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

All in attendance closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 2:15pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)

..... (Date)

..... (Chief Executive)

..... (Date)

7 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8 PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution	Plain English reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter
8.1 - Featherston Greenspace	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7	Relates to potential Featherston greenspace.

9 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

9.1 DISESTABLISHING THE WAIRARAPA LIBRARY SERVICE

Author: Stefan Corbett, Group Manager, Infrastructure and Community Operations

Authoriser: Janice Smith, Chief Executive Officer

File Number: N/A

PURPOSE

To seek the approval of Councillors to disestablish the Wairarapa Library Service (WLS) between Carterton District Council (CDC) and South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) and return management of the libraries to the respective councils effective 1 July 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wairarapa Library Service (WLS) was established as a shared service between the South Wairarapa and Carterton District Councils in 2000. Despite continuous efforts to improve operations over the past few years, significant issues continue to hinder WLS from functioning as a modern library service. These issues impact productivity and staff morale and ultimately compromise the quality of service to our communities. CDC and SWDC management have considered options to address the challenges faced by the shared service but have been unable to find one that was both achievable and affordable. Reluctantly, both Councils are asking for approval to discontinue the WLS shared service. This would mean that managing the libraries for each Council would become simpler and allow a more customer-focused undertaking. Where it is of benefit to customers CDC and SWDC are committed to exploring collaboration through the formation of an MOU, and we will be actively engaging on possible areas of cooperation. It is the intention of both Councils that the dissolution of the WLS does not change the level of service delivered to our customers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Officers recommend that the Strategy Working Committee:

1. **Note** that since its inception the Wairarapa Library Service has been struggling with significant operational challenges, stemming from different financial, IT, staffing, budgeting, planning, and service delivery systems/business processes between the two Councils. These challenges have generated inefficiencies that have affected productivity and customer focus.
2. **Note** that attempts have been made to improve our operational efficiency and streamline our systems, however unfortunately, we have not been able to improve the model to the point that both Councils can achieve their strategic objectives through the shared service model.
3. **Approve** disestablishing the WLS and return the management of our libraries to respective Councils effective from the 1st of July 2025.

4. **Note** there is expected to be no impact to customers and levels of service will remain the same. Both Councils have agreed and will implement a detailed transition plan with minimal disruption.
5. **Note** that SWDC and CDC will continue to cooperate closely on shared activity to the benefit of customers. We will actively explore that future cooperation via an MOU.

BACKGROUND

The Wairarapa Library Service (WLS) was established as a shared service between the South Wairarapa and Carterton District Councils in 2000.

Prior to 2020 the four WLS branch libraries operated as silos, even though they shared a joint catalogue and despite modern public libraries typically functioning as integrated networks with staff organised by specialised skills. In 2019 a review was undertaken which resulted in the appointment of a shared Library Manager, whose role was to consolidate and modernise the shared service. Since 2020, WLS has started shifting towards an integrated network operating model for collections, technology, programming and communications.

Despite continuous efforts to improve operations over the past few years, significant issues continue to hinder WLS from functioning as a modern library service. These issues impact productivity and staff morale and ultimately compromise the quality of service to our communities.

The current operational arrangements also place an excessive burden on the WLS Manager, demanding seamless coordination of two different councils with different budgets, invoicing processes, staff, staff management systems, and ICT environments. This requires extensive cooperation and goodwill from staff at both councils, across management and administration. However, this approach not only consumes time but also impedes the development of strategy and policy at a management level, as the WLS Manager is frequently caught up in double-handling issues and facilitating cross-council and library operational matters.

Drivers for Change

- The current WLS staffing structure uses a traditional site-by-site approach rather than a functional skill-based approach. This promotes silos and inefficient service delivery rather than an up-to-date coherent network service. It also fails to capitalise on staff professional development and/or career opportunities.
- Modern libraries need various specialist skills to operate effectively, including technical skills for online services. Ensuring staff expertise is crucial for delivering modern library services to our communities. The current WLS staff structure does not reflect this.
- Staff are employed and paid by two different councils through different software and at different times meaning sign-off and viewing of leave is not clear-cut across the entire operation. It also means double the work for library management to set rosters, and process timesheets and leave.

- There are different remuneration packages at each council, including disparities in salaries, pay raise decision-making, performance review process, and leave/allowance provisions.
- The current contracts (e.g., varying part-time hours, days worked, and sites) fail to provide the best options for coverage of the libraries' current operation, future direction, opening hours, staff entitlements, and professional development needs.
- All 19 WLS staff, including 6 full-time, 10 part-time, and 3 casual employees, report directly to the WLS manager. As a result, the manager is responsible for completing 16 performance plans per year, including quarterly one-on-one meetings with each staff member. The different staff development systems across the councils further complicate the manager's ability to engage in meaningful staff development.
- Two of the three SWDC libraries are also service centres. Performing service centre functions requires a SWDC login to Magiq. CDC staff are unable to access SWDC Magiq which means they cannot perform service centre tasks. This restricts staff movement between the branches and hinders functioning as a network. Similarly, casual staff do not have access to Magiq. This means that there must always be a SWDC library staff member at Featherston or Greytown Libraries and if they are with a CDC employee, or a casual, it puts undue pressure on the SWDC staffer and can cause long queues at the desk. This particularly affects operations during peak times such as quarterly rates and dog registration periods.
- Logins and passwords to respective council environments mean most staff have multiple logins and passwords to council-specific applications (e.g. Magiq, MyStaffInfo) as well as the library management system and other software. This is confusing, time-consuming, and cumbersome.
- Staff ICT is provided separately by each council, with some staff using SWDC IT equipment, and some using CDC equipment. This fragmented approach is inefficient and can lead to inconsistencies in operations.
- To streamline the different ICT environments, WLS uses a CDC-platformed domain to provide a unified WLS email address and a shared MS Teams environment. This not only doubles (or triples for the manager) the IT environments for staff but also means SWDC ICT staff cannot support or access this environment and places the burden on CDC ICT staff.
- Budget is held separately in each council, with different arrangements for activity codes, reporting, access, and management. This leads to inconsistencies and inefficiencies. WLS must also align with two Long Term Plans (LTP), requiring both councils to agree on fees, charges, and long-term projects. Differing LTP timetables can make it difficult to coordinate WLS requirements efficiently.
- Invoices are generated and paid by each council, with reconciliation required to ensure equity of operational costs and expenditures across the two councils. However, there are no memorandums of understanding regarding how invoices and costs are split,

which leads to inconsistencies, confusion, frustration, and potential inequities in payments. Sitting within two councils also means WLS is often invoiced as two separate entities instead of one library system. As a result, WLS ends up paying more than other libraries serving similar populations.

DISCUSSION

CDC and SWDC management have considered options to address the challenges faced by the shared service but have been unable to find one that was both achievable and affordable. We have considered different operating structures, including a shared service led by one council, forming a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO), and a separate business unit/company. Neither Council is attracted to the option of ceding operational control and its staffing contingent to the other. The formation of a CCO was considered overly expensive and complex proportionate to the relatively small size and budget of the WLS. We could not find a workable example of a company or separate business unit within a council libraries environment. However, retaining the status quo is untenable as we must address the downside impacts on staff and customers of the two councils maintaining different budgets, invoicing processes, staff, staff management systems, and ICT environments.

Reluctantly, both Councils are asking for approval to discontinue the WLS shared service. This would mean that managing the libraries for each Council would become simpler and allow a more customer-focused undertaking. Where it is of benefit to customers CDC and SWDC are committed to exploring collaboration through the formation of an MOU, and we will be actively engaging on possible areas of cooperation. It is the intention of both Councils that the dissolution of the WLS does not change the level of service delivered to our customers.

We will be planning and implementing a transition plan over the next 8 weeks, which will ensure the process of dissolving the WLS is well managed. Our aim is to have the staffing separation and future rostering done by 30 June 2025, and a start made on other service elements, recognizing that some may need to be staged.

Our transition plan

A stock take of joint activity is currently being completed. Following the decision by the councils a workshop with effected departments of both councils will be held. This will include but not limited to Comms, IT, Finance and Library management. This workshop will identify areas of action for both councils (Contracts, Invoicing, Subscriptions, Projects, Technology and cataloguing) and enable us to finalise a timeline to undertake this body of work. With most of the work expected to be completed by 1st July there will be some areas such as cataloguing which will need more time invested to achieve the outcome that is beneficial to both organisations. As noted above, this workshop will help us identify if and where there are areas of benefit to explore collaboration opportunities.

Communication

A priority for the Councils is communications with the public. We acknowledge that the libraries hold a special place in our communities, and we want to reassure our communities that this decision

will have minimal to no impact on how each council will deliver on the service. There will be no changes to opening hours, or to the other services we provide in our community including our online services and programmes.

Being a member of the SMART Libraries collaboration (alongside Masterton, Kapiti Coast, Porirua City, Hutt City, WelTec and Whitireia Polytechnic Libraries) enables us to have access to over 600,000 items. Patrons can reserve items from any of the libraries, pick them up and return them at any of the libraries, free of charge.

This service was not in place when the WLS shared service was established. SMART ensures Carterton and South Wairarapa Libraries can remain connected, ensuring our community has improved accessibility to existing resources across libraries, and are able to provide new resources which ensures that public libraries remain a conduit to larger collections from across the Greater Wellington Region.

CONSIDERATIONS

Climate Change

There is nothing in this report that will affect Climate Change mitigation or adaptation issues.

Tāngata whenua

There are no tāngata whenua considerations related to the decisions in this paper.

Financial Impact

It has been identified that through the separation we should see a reduction of costs specifically in the courier costs.

Other areas for consideration are where we have combined contracts with external providers. Some of these contracts are a direct 50/50 split between both councils, while some are split 70%/30%. These contracts will need to be renegotiated as individual councils and will reflect the size of the council operation. At the time of writing this report, officers do not envision this work will have impact to current budgets and can be actioned through existing budgets.

Where further resourcing or funding is required, business cases will be developed to be considered as part of Annual Planning, Long-Term Planning cycles or to seek unbudgeted expenditure through council process.

For South Wairarapa District Council the main additional cost for the transition will be meeting the full cost of the Library Manager role – which was previously shared.

Community Engagement requirements

Community engagement on this decision has not been sought. As discussed above the current operation of the shared WLS is not sustainable. The areas that effect this are all back-office functions that the public do not see.

It is the intention of both Councils that the dissolution of the WLS does not change the level of service delivered to our customers.

Risks

A risk of separation is that the 4 libraries revert to a siloed operating model. While the likelihood of this increases with the separation, we believe that while we continue to operate within the SMART

cohort this will alleviate some of this risk and keep not only the Wairarapa Libraries connected but also the wider network of SMART libraries across the Wellington Region.

COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

Compliance requirement	Staff assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	This is a matter of low significance.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the Long Term Plan) that relate to this decision.	This report complies with the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan strategic objectives.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water.	There are no implications for Māori.
Chief Financial Officer review	The Chief Financial Officer has not reviewed this report.
State the possible implications for health and safety	

APPENDICES

Nil

9.2 2025/34 LONG-TERM PLAN DELIBERATIONS REPORT

Author: Nicki Ansell, Lead Advisor, Policy & Projects

Authoriser: Paul Gardner, Group Manager, Corporate Services

File Number: NA

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to assist the Strategy Working Committee in deliberations and to inform councillors of the financial considerations to assist in decision-making for the 2025/34 Long-Term Plan.

This deliberations report has three purposes:

1. To provide analysis of the information provided during engagement and submissions on the 2025/34 Long-Term Plan.
2. To inform Councillors of any changes or new financial information received since the 2025/34 Long-Term Plan consultation document was adopted on 5 March 2025, and
3. To receive direction on changes to make to budgets in the financial model before the adoption of the 2025/34 Long-Term Plan on 25 June 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Under [section 93 of the Local Government Act 2002](#), the purpose of the Long-Term Plan is to:
 - Describe the activities of the local authority; and
 - Describe the community outcomes of the local authority's district; and
 - Provide integrated decision-making and coordination of the resources of the local authority; and
 - Provide a long-term focus for the decisions and activities of the local authority; and
 - Provide a basis for accountability of the local authority to the community.
- South Wairarapa adopted the Enhanced Annual Plan for 2024/25 on 26 June 2024 and now under the [Water Services Acts Repeal Bill](#) must adopt a Long-Term Plan for the period of 1 July 2025- 30 June 2034 (nine years).
- The purpose of the deliberations process is for elected members to give council officers clear direction before preparing the final draft of the 2025/34 Long-Term Plan, following the consideration of community engagement, consultation, submissions and hearings.
- The 2025/34 Long-Term Plan will set the budget for the next twelve months and describe the activities and spending that the council expects to deliver over the next nine years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Strategy Working Committee:

- 1) Receive the *2025/34 Long-Term Plan Deliberations Report*.
- 2) Resolve to increase the Community & Youth Grant budget to _____ for 2025/26, or
- 3) Resolves the following additions to the 2025/34 Long-Term Plan budget:
 - A. Confirm additional operational budget for an MOU of \$18,400 per year for ____ years for Wairarapa Sports Artificial Surface Trust for the Hockey Turf replacement.
 - B. Confirm additional operational budget for an MOU of \$10,000 per year for ____ years for Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve for operational support.
 - C. Confirm additional operational budget for an MOU of \$20,000 per year for ____ year for Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Trust for governance and operational support.
 - D. Confirm additional operational budget for an MOU of \$80,600 per year for ____ years for delivery of a single South Wairarapa Sports and Recreation service.
 - E. Confirm additional operational budget for an MOU of \$25,000 per year for ____ years for Cobblestones for operational costs.
 - F. Confirm additional operational budget for funding of \$50,000 for 2025/26 for Featherston Community Centre.
- 4) Resolve to include the request from Martinborough Community Board to fence the small childrens area at the Waihinga playground to be funded from the Waihinga Reserve up to the balance of the reserve.
- 5) Resolve to include the Featherston greenspace as requested by the Featherston Community Board.
- 6) Resolve to direct council officers to extending the Arbor reserve in Greytown as requested by the Greytown Community Board and delegate beautification to the Greytown Community Board.
- 7) Resolves to adopt the following options from the 2025/34 Long Term Plan consultation,
 - A.Question 1: Should we adjust the level of uniform charges from 21% to 28%?
 1. Option _____
 - B.Question 2: Should people who live closer to our towns contribute a higher share of funding the service and facilities in the town?
 2. Option _____
 - C.Questions 3: How should we define Separately Used or Inhabitable Parts (SUIPS)?
 3. Option _____
 - D. Question 4: Should we change the Refuse and Recycling charge back to per rating unit instead of per Separately Used Inhabitable Part of a property?
 4. Option _____
 - E. Questions 5: How much should we spend on operating and maintaining our water network?
 5. Option _____
 - F. Questions 6: How much of the roading improvements Programme should we fund?
 6. Option _____

- 8) Note that a Council meeting is scheduled for 25 June 2025 to adopt the 2025/34 Long-Term Plan and set the budget for the 2025-26 Financial Year.

BACKGROUND

The draft budget, consultation document and supporting information for the 2025/34 Long-Term Plan (LTP) was adopted by the [Strategy Working Committee on 5 March 2025](#). As required under section 93A of the Local Government Act (LGA), the special consultative procedure was used, with consultation opening on Friday 7 March and running through until 6 April 2025.

The LTP consultation document asked our communities to have their say on six questions over three big decision areas:

1. Alternative ways to distribute rates
2. Operating our network
3. Prioritising our roading improvements.

The consultation document was supported by a full set of documentation that included the draft Council's financial contributions 2025/26, LTP 25-34 draft accounting policies, financial statement, financial strategy, significant assumption, infrastructure strategy, revenue and finance policy, treasury management and the remission & postponement of rates on Māori freehold land, and remissions of rates, along with draft fees and charges for 2025/26. These documents underpinned the proposed service levels, rates required and debt levels over the LTP. Details of these documents can be found here - [South Wairarapa District Council 2025/34 Long-Term Plan | Have Your Say South Wairarapa](#)

Bookmarks with QR codes, consultation documents and submission forms were available at all three libraries in South Wairarapa and at the council office in Kitchener Street, Martinborough.

During consultation:

- Ten Facebook posts, five Instagram notifications and 33 engagements took place during the consultation.
- 167 submissions were received online via haveyoursay and 30 paper submissions were received. A total of 197 full submissions have been entered into our consultation platform to provide analysis on each of the questions asked.
- 21 email submissions were received.
- 600 form letters were received.

A total of 818 submissions were received, which included 218 full submissions and 600 form letters. Details of all submissions can be found here: [Long Term Plan Hearing 16 April 2025 - SWDC](#)

Hearings for the 2025/34 Long Term Plan were held on 16 April 2025. 29 individuals requested to speak to their submissions, and 24 spoke on the day.

This report outlines the key themes raised in the consultation, submissions and hearings for LTP.

DISCUSSION

1. ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED DURING THE 2025/34 LONG-TERM PLAN CONSULTATION.

Note microsoft Copilot AI has been used to help with thematic analysis of written feedback in this section of the report.

The main engagement received online during the LTP consultation period was from a Facebook post 18 March 2025, asking the community: *Should people living within 10km of town centres contribute a higher share of funding to support services and facilities there (like libraries, public toilets and pools), or should the funding continue to be equally shared regardless of where you live in the district?*

The post received 22 comments, some of which had up to seven responses. The main sentiment of the online exchanges was:

Sentiments:

- Who pays for what. Questions around who benefits from services and roading and who pays
- Questions and frustration around the 10k radius target rate
- The need for more subdivisions in urban areas and new sources of income available for council
- Positive sentiments are expressed towards the council's efforts to engage with the community through social media
- A significant number of comments express concern over the financial impact of rising rates on residents.

Engagement sessions

During consultation 33 engagement sessions took place around the district including local café's, libraries, schools, railway stations and community halls. Full details of all engagement can be found in the [Hearings Report at Strategy Working Committee 16 April](#).

Across the 33 engagements sessions, the following sentiments were raised by the community.

1. Speed Management and Safety:

- Need for speed management plans and signs following accidents
- Safety concerns for cyclists, especially on Princess St & Puruatanga in Martinborough
- Issues with rural road maintenance and the number of road works
- Condition of footpaths with concern about trip hazards

2. Water and Wastewater Management:

- Concerns about wastewater connections and charges for shared toilets (SUIPs)
- Persistent leaks and maintenance issues, such as the leak outside Kitcheners caf.

3. Economic Development and Small Business Support:

- Importance of supporting small businesses in the Wairarapa
- Wairarapa economic development as a priority

4. Rates and Financial Concerns:

- Concerns about the cost of rates and the fairness of rate distribution between urban and rural areas
- Impact of rate increases on residents, especially pensioners
- Concerns about the impact of the 28% UAGC on properties in Featherston

5. Community Services and Facilities:

- Support for amenities like cycleways, walking tracks, and sports hubs
- Suggestions for consolidating services, such as having one "super" library instead of multiple libraries

6. Consultation and Communication:

- Difficulty in accessing consultation information for non-internet users
- Need for clearer communication and easier-to-understand descriptions of options.

As part of the engagement work, council officers and Councillors reached out to our rural community at Tukurumuri, Underhill Rd in Greytown and Ngawi. The general themes from those engagements were:

- Concerns about roading conditions
- SUIP's charges when not using council services
- Impact of rates on pensioners
- Consideration of user pays for services (eg. pool)
- Concerns around the targeted rate and urban paying for urban services and then community wanting rural to pay for rural roads.

Submissions

Consultation for the 2025/34 Long-Term plan ran 7 March – 6 April and during that time 167 submissions were received online via haveyoursay and 30 paper submissions. These submissions have been entered into our consultation platform and full analysis on those submissions can be found in Appendix one.

For those online and paper submissions received (197) we know most people who submitted to the LTP are of pakeha/NZ European ethnicity (80.4%), and in the age group of 24-55 (49.5%). SWDC received eight submissions from Māori representation (4.9%) and only two submissions from the age group 0-24 (1%).

A further 21 email submissions were received of which 11 were from organisations and ten were from individuals.

During the consultation process 600 form letters were received (mainly via the libraries) and were included in the submissions process as they were titled "Submission on South Wairarapa District Council Long Term Plan 2025" and contained reference to Question 1 (uniform charges) and Question 2 (new district targeted rates).

Where appropriate their sentiment has been included below for consideration on the consultation questions.

The consultation document asked our community for feedback on six questions across three key topics.

Question 1: Should we adjust the level of uniform charges?

This question asks our community if we should increase the uniform charges from 21% to 28%, reducing the reliance of property values on rates. The response online and via the paper submissions was an exact split between preferred options, with some support from email submissions and support for option 1 in the form letters (see other submissions below).

Option 1: Increase the uniform charges to 28% of total rates (budgeted option)

- 92 people ticked this option in the full submission
- 4 email submissions supported this option, and several email submissions simply advocated for a 30% uniform charge.

Option 2: Maintain the current level of uniform charges at 21% of total rates

- 92 people ticked this option in the full submission
- 1 email submission supported this option.

Question 2: Should people who live closer to our towns contribute a higher share of funding the services and facilities of that town?

This question proposes a new targeted rate for facilities and services within a 10k radius of our main towns (Featherston, Martinborough and Greytown) based on the assumption that those that live in closer proximity to one of the three towns benefit more.

There is a clear preference from the submissions for option 2, to continue with current funding approach. This question also received a high level of discussions and comments during the consultation both for and against a new targeted rate and with additional comments such as:

I certainly do not agree with a ring @ 10km from town centre for Targeted Rates, the crow may be able to fly directly, but we actually drive on roads which actually take more than 10kms to town centre.

When you are part of a community, regardless of where you live, you are part of that community. Families and individuals who live further than 10km from a town centre, still come into town to shop, go to school etc.

We live beyond the town boundary, we have tank water, septic waste treatment, no internet fibre, no rubbish collection. What benefit do we actually get from the council rates. We value and use the library and the roading network. Why should we and our neighbours be rated more for facilities we have no casual access to.

The 600 form letters also include comments on this question (see other submissions below).

Option 1: Introduce a new targeted rate to fund town-based facilities and services (budgeted option)

- 71 people ticked this option in the full submission.

Option 2: Continue with the current funding approach?

- 120 people ticked this option in the full submission
- Three email submissions supported this option.

Question 3: How should we define Separately Used or Inhabitable Parts (SUIPs)?

This question asks our community if it would be better to refine the definition of SUIP. This is based on feedback that asking ratepayers to apply for a remission is confusing and difficult and doesn't cover all circumstances. A clear preference from the submissions for option 1, the budgeted option.

Comments during the consultation for this option included: *Please fix the definition of SUIP so it is equitable. Our neighbours earn AirBNB income from their self-contained rental studio but it is not regarded by you as an SUIP, whereas our granny flat is treated as an SUIP. This means we pay thousands more in rates than they do because of your SUIP methodology.*

Option 1: Refine the definition by adding exclusions (budgeted options)

- 142 people ticked this option in the full submission

Option 2: Keep the current definition with remissions

- 37 people ticked this option in the full submission
- One email submission supported this option

Question 4: Should we change the Refuse and Recycling Charge back to per rating unit instead of per Separately Used Inhabitable Part of a property?

The Refuse and Recycling charge is a targeted rate that is charged per SUIP of a property. This is a proposed change to return the Refuse and Recycling Charge to being based on the rating unit, with an additional charge for those who require an extra general recycling and glass bin. A clear preference for option 1, the proposed change and budgeted option from the submissions.

Option 1: Charge the Refuse & Recycling Charge per rating unit (budgeted option)

- 127 people ticked this option in the full submission
- One written submission supported this option.

Option 2: Continue to charge the Refuse & Recycling Charge per SUIP

- 51 people ticked this option in the full submission
- One email submission supported this option.

Question 5: How much should we spend on operating and maintaining our water network?

We are asking our community for direction on how much we should spend on operating water services for the year ahead (2025/26). The difference between the options outlined in the consultation document relate to how much we spend on investigations, planned maintenance and

reactive maintenance. This big decision impacts our community differently depending on whether or not houses are connected to water.

We know that out of 197 submissions received online or via paper, 137 are connected to water, 59 are not and one person was unsure. The following breakdown applies:

Ward	Yes, connect to water	No, not connected
Featherston	75	19
Greytown	28	11
Martinborough	31	26
Outside the district	3	3

Option 1: \$6.05m – slightly increase to add inflation to the current level of funding providing a minimum viable option for the delivery of service (budgeted option)

- 85 people ticked this option in the full submission. Of those 85 submissions:
 - 57 are connected to town supply
 - 28 are not connected.

Option 2: \$6.55m – Option 1 plus a contestable emergency fund held by Council

- 40 people ticked this option in the full submission. Of those 40 submissions:
 - 31 are connected to town supply
 - Nine are not connected to town supply
- One written submission supported this option.

Option 3: \$7.08m – Option 1 plus additional priorities to increase planning and resilience

- 32 people ticked this option in the full submission. Of those 32 submissions:
 - 25 are connect to town supply
 - Seven are not connect to town supply.

Option 4: \$8.97m – Option 3 plus the highest level for planning and resilience

- 23 people ticked this option in the full submission. Of those 23 submissions:
 - 19 are connected to town supply
 - Three are not connected to town supply
- One written submission supported this option.

Question 6: How much of the roading improvements programme should we fund?

We asked our community for help in determining how much to invest in Low-Cost Low Risk (LCLR) roading improvements and activities. In 2024 the government reviewed its policy statement and adjusted their prioritised roading programme. At the time of consultation South Wairarapa District Councils request for LCLR projects was not approved, along with reductions in footpath renewals funding. Since the draft budget was approved in March, an additional \$1.1m subsidy has been

approved for LCLR projects. The impact of this budget variation is included in section 2 (changes or new financial information).

The submissions show a clear preference for Option 1, the budgeted option.

Option 1: Fund 100% of the roading improvements programme with additional capital spend (budgeted option)

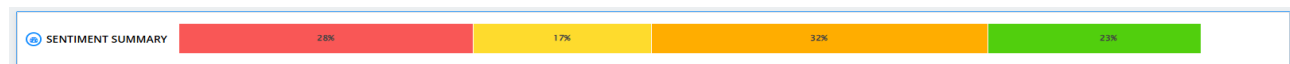
- 112 people ticked this option in the full submission
- One written submission supported this option.

Option 2: Fund 49% of the roading improvements programme.

- 73 people ticked this option in the full submission
- One written submission supported this option

Final question: Do you have any comments about the Council's key decisions or supporting documentation?

Out of the 197 full submissions (online and paper submissions), 100 responded to this question and provided additional comments to the questions asked above. Analytics through the engagement platform (using AI) have the following sentiment summary of the text received:



(28% negative/red, 17% neutral/yellow, 32% mixed/orange, 23% positive/green)

Outside of the big decision topics, approximately ten submitters made general comments requesting no further rates increases. Around ten submitters questioned why rates were increasing if they are not connected to water, wastewater or rubbish collection (including SUIP) and approximately 11 submitters expressed concern around the increase to lower value properties including the Featherston area. Around three people encouraged user payers and approximately 10 expressed concerns over target rates and a move towards user pays concepts. Other comments from individuals included better investment in waters and essential investment only (eg infrastructure), a part-time event manager for the Waihinga centre, a requested the rating model go back to land value, and investment in a second road to Wellington.

The key themes from the final question included:

1. Rates and Affordability

- Rates Increases: Many residents are concerned about the rising rates and their impact on affordability, especially for pensioners and those on fixed incomes.
- Equity in Rates: There is significant opposition to the proposed method of increasing rates based on proximity to town centers, with arguments that it does not fairly account for actual usage of services.

2. Infrastructure and Services

- Water Infrastructure: There is a strong call for investment in water infrastructure to avoid future higher costs and to ensure sustainable water supply and quality.

- **Road Maintenance:** Residents emphasize the need for better road maintenance, particularly in rural areas, and express frustration over the perceived inequity in service provision between urban and rural areas.

3. Service Utilisation and Fairness

- **Service Charges:** Many submissions argue against the uniform annual general charge (UAGC) and support a more progressive rate system based on property value.
- **User Pays Principle:** Some residents suggest that services like swimming pools and libraries should be funded on a user-pays basis rather than through general rates.

4. Community and Growth

- **Support for Community Facilities:** There is support for maintaining and improving community facilities such as libraries and parks, recognising their importance for community wellbeing.
- **Growth and Development:** Residents express a desire for sustainable growth and development, with some advocating for changes in subdivision criteria to allow more housing development.
- Some submissions highlight the need for the council to address climate change impacts and to plan for sustainable retreat from vulnerable areas.

5. Governance and Transparency

- **Consultation Process:** There are calls for more transparent and meaningful consultation processes, with some residents feeling that their concerns are not adequately addressed.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Residents urge the council to manage its finances prudently.

6. Specific Issues

- **SUIPs:** There is debate over the definition and charging of SUIPs, with concerns about fairness and the impact on small businesses and secondary dwellings.
- **Targeted Rates:** The proposal to introduce targeted rates for those living closer to town centers is contentious, with arguments both for and against based on perceived fairness and actual service usage.

Other submission letters

As part of the submission process, 600 submissions of the following letter were received by SWDC, each signed by different individuals.

SUBMISSION ON SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN 2025

Question 1

Support the lifting of the UAGC from 21% to 28% however, Council should go further and lift it to the full 30% allowed.

Question 2

DO NOT SUPPORT the introduction of a new district service rate to fund town facilities.

The rate does not align with those that need those facilities the most and receive the most benefit (urban community) paying the most, instead it is the rural that will pay the higher rates. An example is Average Featherston residential will pay \$482 whereas an average lifestyle is \$1165, an average Dairy farm will pay \$4036.

These urban facilities should be funded by a UAC 75% funded by urban and 25% rural.

These 600 form letters are in support of Question 1, option 1: *Increase the uniform charges to 28% of total rates* (budgeted option). They are to be considered by Councillors alongside the other submissions received.

The second paragraph on the form letter does not support question 2: *Should people who live closer to our towns contribute a higher share of funding the services and facilities of that town?*

Option 1: Introduce a new Targeted rate to fund town-based facilities and services (budgeted option)

Option 2: Continue with the current funding approach?

Without further investigation with each submission, it is unclear whether the form letter is in support of either option in the consultation question. However, it is noted that the form letter does request additional consideration from Councillors. South Wairarapa does not currently have a UAC charge for these activities and to change to UAC rating would require further consultation under section 103 of the [Local Government Act 2002](#).

A number of submissions, including Federated Farmers, requested the uniform charges be lifted to 30%, along with the majority of the 600 form letters. As Council consulted on 21% or 28% a change to 30% uniform charge would require further consultation.

Hearings

On 16 April 2025, 24 people spoke to their LTP submissions at the LTP Hearings. There were six key themes raised during the Hearings process including:

1. Additional funding and support for community organisations
2. Alternative Ways to distribute rates.
4. Rates increases in general
5. Future focused

6. Operating our water networks.

Additional Funding for Community Organisations in submissions.

Cobblestones, Dark Sky Reserve, Wairarapa five town trail trust presented asking for additional funding to help with operations aspects of their community organisations.

Featherston Community Centre presented, requesting to build a stronger relationship with Council and emphasised the benefit a constructed walkway between the community centre and SH2 would have.

Martinborough School presented, and requested consideration for their pan tax in the rates remissions policy and all community organisations expressed an interest to work closely with SWDC and for Council to note the increasing cost for community groups and the lack of funding available for operational needs.

Alternative Ways to distribute Rates

This decision area of the Long-Term Plan consultation received the most feedback during the Hearings and included comments around:

Targeted rate:

- The introduction of a targeted rural rate alongside the urban rate for roading and concern around “user pays” aspect of this rate.
- The need to change the rural boundary to 5km, as those that live 5km outside of the town pay for their own services.
- Charging more for services, like Libraries and pools.

SUIP: A request to review the SUIP model from several speakers. Including motels and hotels, which included the suggestions of to up to 25% of the total room facility count, and a request to review the definition of SUIP as buildings with kitchens.

Uniform Charges: General comments around increasing, including the suggestion of raising to 30% by 2028. Requests from the community to understand why they are being charged this rate.

Land vs Capital value: Concern from speakers that targeted rates for urban are a result of consequences from the change in rating model.

Rates increase in general

Two people spoke of their concerns and protests on continued rates rises and the inability to pay over a nine-year period. This included both farming and those on fixed incomes. Speakers noted that superannuation had only gone up 3% this year and concerns around the community's ability to pay. There was also a request for a First Principles Rating Review.

Future focused

Several speakers noted the need for vision and focus over the Long-Term Plan. Including infrastructure, asset reviews, policies for protecting land and the need to stay away from vanity project and being results driven. The group Democracy Now requested that Council reinstate the principles of the original boroughs.

Operating our water network

The need for investment in wastewater network as a matter of urgency was mentioned, in particular Martinborough and Greytown wastewater and the knock-on effects this will have with growth was raised.

Finally, each Community Boards also presented the following key matters for their wards:

Martinborough Community Board: Requested that Pain Estate be recognised as an independent entity. Emergency preparedness, including the Waihenga bridge readiness for a disaster. Safety around the pump track with increased traffic. To move faster on speed management plans, to improve footpaths and crossings and the wine trail. Budget for improvements and tree maintenance for parks and reserves and a request for fencing for the Waihenga playground (small childrens area)

Greytown Community Board: advocated for the green space, owned by SWDC through to west street to be included in the Arbor reserve area in Greytown. The community board requested the Council shift the boundary and delegate to the community board for beautification work.

Featherston Community Board: talked about the need for parks and community development in Featherston and requested a feasibility study for the purchase of land behind 38 & 40 Fox street Featherston.

As part of the deliberations process, consideration must be given to the submissions received for the LTP, the themes identified through hearings held on 16 April 2025 and any changes or shifts to the draft budget since 5 March 2025.

2.TO INFORM COUNCILLORS OF ANY CHANGES OR NEW FINANCIAL INFORMATION RECEIVED SINCE THE 2025/34 LONG-TERM PLAN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT WAS ADOPTED ON 5 MARCH 2025.

The following section of the report outlines any budget variations since the draft LTP budget was approved at the [Strategy Working Committee on 5 March 2025](#), and includes any additional financial requests for consideration by Councillors as part of the deliberations process for the LTP.

The consultation document consulted on a total rates revenue increase of \$1.24million (4.3%) for the 2025/26 financial year. The consultation document included proposed budgets for the nine years of the LTP, including operating revenue and expenditure, capital expenditure and proposed funding and balance sheet forecasts (assets and debt). These budgets are developed using a financial model that has been subject to scrutiny by auditors.

Budget Model Changes Proposed:

Since March 2025 additional information is available that has resulted in improved budget forecasts, better estimates and new information for the costs and revenue streams and timing of expenditure. The following information updates the Strategy Working Committee on what changes are required to be made to the budgets prior to finalising the LTP adoption.

- Changes to the capital program works. Which have been updated in the budgets, including:
 - The scheduled work on the Tauwharenīkau pipeline will move from 2025/26 and therefore reduce interest costs for 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.
 - As mentioned in question six the LCLR Target Fund has had an additional \$1.1m subsidy approved and will reduce borrowing and interest in subsequent years.
 - Featherston wastewater treatment plant to extend duration and funding for consent process.
 - Featherston wastewater upgrades following issue of resource consent. It was originally deferred however the resource consent application will require work to commence sooner than originally planned.

- Transition from the Wairarapa Library Services model will have a minimal impact on the rating revenue in the 2025/26 financial year and ongoing after that.
- Desludging of Greytown's wastewater treatment plant has been brought forward from 2026/27 into the 2025/26 year (no impact on rating).
- Minor financial variations totalling for the financial year 2025/26.

Changes that are made by the Strategy Working Committee as part of LTP deliberations, will be made to the budgets. Because of this there will be resulting changes to the bottom-line rates requirements for the year ahead and over the nine-year period of the LTP.

Councillors are now asked to consider new financial items that have not been included in the draft LTP budget and have come through the LTP consultation and hearings process.

1. Community Requests for Funding

A - Wairarapa Sports Artificial Surface Trust

Following their workshop to Councillors on 23 April 2025 the Wairarapa Sports Artificial Surface Trust is asking the three Wairarapa Councils to grant them \$80,000 each year, for a period of five years, using a shared service percentage:

Masterton District Council - \$45,600 pa

Carterton District Council - \$16,000 pa

South Wairarapa District Council - \$18,400 pa.

Combined council funding would secure turf replacement and therefore the regions ability to host tournaments and grow players and income.

B – Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve

Following their submission to the 2025/34 Long Term Plan (#205) the Dark Sky Reserve is seeking support for the association and a focus on a steering group action plan to drive action and projects in the region. The steering group action plan includes goals for environmental sustainability, tourism growth and community education. Astro tourism is a growing global market, and the Wairarapa Dark Sky Service provides a competitive advantage in sustainable tourism development.

They are asking the three Wairarapa councils for the following:

1. Commitment to Partnership,
2. Financial Support (combined total of \$30,000 split between the three councils)
3. Policy Alignment,
4. Community Engagement,
5. Infrastructure Development.

C - Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Trust

Following their submission to the 2025/34 Long Term Plan (#209) the Five Towns Trails Trust is seeking support from SWDC for the operational costs. The Trust is requesting a \$20,000 contribution to an overall operating budget of \$120,000 per annum until 2027. This contribution would support:

1. Embed strong governance practices and regional collaboration
2. Implement a fundraising strategy
3. Complete website and brand development
4. Develop a supportive membership base

5. Establish a work plan for stage 1 of the Trail network
6. Review and update the 2021 Masterplan
7. Continue Chairing and facilitating the Wairarapa Trails Action Group.

D - Sports and Recreation Secretarial function

In November 2023 Councillors resolved to instruct officers to investigate options for a district-wide delivery model for Sports and Recreation activities. Two surveys were developed to gather information and feedback from South Wairarapa sports clubs and recreational groups. A Sports and Recreation Advisory Group was also established to provide local and sector-specific expertise on the engagement, and guidance in the analysis and recommendations to Council.

A paper was submitted to [Strategy Working Committee on 12 March 2025](#). This set out a recommended option of 'contribution towards a community-led shared service secretariat for sports and recreation, through a lead body, 2025-2028' and the investment of \$161,200 over two years to be considered as part of LTP deliberations. A resolution was passed (SWC2025/32) to approve the establishment of a South Wairarapa Sports and Recreation Governance Group and approve a two-year funding contribution of \$161,200 towards a single South Wairarapa Sports and Recreation service, as part of the 2025/34 LTP deliberations.

The outcome of this was communicated with the Sports and Recreation Advisory Group, and a message seeking club/group support or non-support of the agreed recommendations. To date there has been 37 responses from South Wairarapa - clubs/groups/providers (30), schools/college (3) and four organisations which deliver sport across the district. Of the 37 responses, 35 have been in favour, with 2 against.

	Featherston		Greytown		Martinborough		District-wide	
	Support	Non-support	Support	Non-support	Support	Non-support	Support	Non-support
Clubs/groups	4	2	17	0	5			
Exercise provider	2						4	
Schools/college	1		1		1			
Total	7	2	18	0	6	0	4	0

In terms of understanding the reason for non-support, feedback from two responders advised their main concerns are that the service will not be reflective of the needs of Featherston clubs/groups/community. They feel that the voices of Greytown and Martinborough are often louder for a number of reasons.

Should Councillors support the funding during deliberations, a paper will be presented to Strategy Working Committee on 4 June outlining the intended tender/EOI process, governance and assurance (subject to LTP adoption). It should be noted that, should this be supported, there is an ongoing risk to the continued support to clubs whilst the new model is set up – with Greytown Sports and Leisure only having funding until 30 June. Councillors will be provided options to support/continue this until the new delivery model is in place to reduce the risk of having a gap in support for clubs – this will be part of the 4 June paper to SWC (subject to approval at deliberations).

E – Cobblestones

During the hearings Cobblestones presented to Strategy Working Committee asking for assistance with enduring funding of \$25,000 per annum for operating expenditure (for a least 3 years) for longer term financial security and to enable Cobblestones to continue to operate and deliver service to the community. There was also a requested for a cultural and heritage grant fund to help with operational expenditure, and to acknowledge and support this work in our community.

F – Featherston Community Centre

The submission received from Featherston Community Centre included a Council Partnership of \$30,000 annually towards resourcing the trust, maintaining the centre and operational salaries.

A further \$10,000 annually towards community connecting, outreach and support and \$10,000 annually towards running events that bring together people in a positive way.

Summary of financial requestions from community organisations:

Community Requests for MOU	Amount for 2025/26	Total Amount	Request for:
Wairarapa Sports Artificial Surface	MOU of \$18,400 pa	For five years (total of \$92,000)	For Hockey Turf replacement
Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve	MOU of \$10,000 pa	For two years (total \$20,000)	For operational support Full details see Hearings Report.
Wairarapa Five Town Trail Trust	MOU of \$20,000 pa	For two years (total of \$40,000)	For trust, governance and operational support Full details see Hearings Report.
Wairarapa Sports and Recreation Services	MOU of \$80,600 pa	For two years (total of \$161,200)	For delivery of secretarial services Full details see Strategy Working Committee 12 March 25.
Cobblestones	MOU of \$25,000 pa	For three years (total of \$75,000)	For operations costs Full details see Hearings Report.
Featherston Community Centre	\$50,000 pa	\$50,000	For operations & event costs Full details see Hearings Report.
TOTAL	\$204,000 FY2025/26	\$438,200 total across the LTP	

3. TO RECEIVE DIRECTION ON CHANGES TO MAKE TO BUDGETS IN THE FINANCIAL MODEL BEFORE THE ADOPTION OF THE 2025/34 LONG-TERM PLAN ON 25 JUNE 2025.

A medium-high response rate was received, and a broad range of comments and recommendations were recorded from the community in response to the consultation for the 2025/34 Long-Term Plan.

During the consultation process key themes of affordability, fairness and the need for infrastructure came through, along with transparency and the need to support community organisation and growth. The proposal to introduce targeted rates for those living closer to town centers is contentious, with arguments both for and against based on perceived fairness and actual service usage.

Councillors are now being asked to decide on the six questions over the three big decisions areas that were consulted on as part of the 2025/34 LTP.

Prior to deliberations SWDC are proposing a total rates revenue increase of \$1.24 million (4.3%) for the 2025/26 year, based on the budgeted options presented in the consultation questions.

Key budget changes have been described above (both increases and decreases), and dependant on decisions taken, the 2025/26 total rating increase could change from 4.3% up to 4.8% for the 2025/26FY. Council staff are now seeking any further decisions from the Strategy Working Committee that may result in changes to the 2025/34 LTP budget. Noting that final budget approval will be at the Council meeting 25 June 2025, and that changes will impact our community in different ways depending on rates applicable.

NEXT STEP

At the conclusion of deliberations, council officers will be tasked with preparing the final draft of the budget for the 2025/34 Long Term Plan for the Council meeting on 25 June 2025.

- Council officers will have six weeks to prepare the 2025/34 Long Term Plan and the final financial budget, and this will include a further review by council auditors.
- The draft LTP will be presented to councillors at a workshop on 18 June 2025 for a chance to review wording and layout. This will not be an opportunity to amend budgets.
- The final draft of the 2025/34 Long Term Plan is scheduled to be made public when it goes to Council for adoption on 25 June 2025.
- Under LGA section 93(10) the 2025/34 Long Term Plan is required to be published on South Wairarapa District Councils website within one month of adoption.

COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and

traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.

2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

Compliance requirement	Staff assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	This is a matter of medium-high significance.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the Long Term Plan) that relate to this decision.	This report complies with Local Government Act 2002, Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, Water Services Acts Repeal Bill.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water.	There are no implications for Māori.
Chief Financial Officer review	The Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report.
State the possible implications for health and safety	There are no implications for health and safety

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Analysis of Survey Responses



Online submission form - 2025/34 Long-Term Plan

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

06 March 2025 - 09 April 2025

PROJECT NAME:

South Wairarapa District Council 2025/34 Long-Term Plan

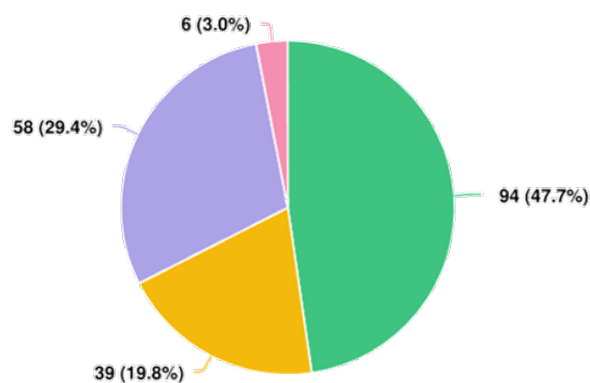


Online submission form - 2025/34 Long-Term Plan : Survey Report for 06 March 2025 to 09 April 2025



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Online submission form - 2025/34 Long-Term Plan : Survey Report for 06 March 2025 to 09 April 2025

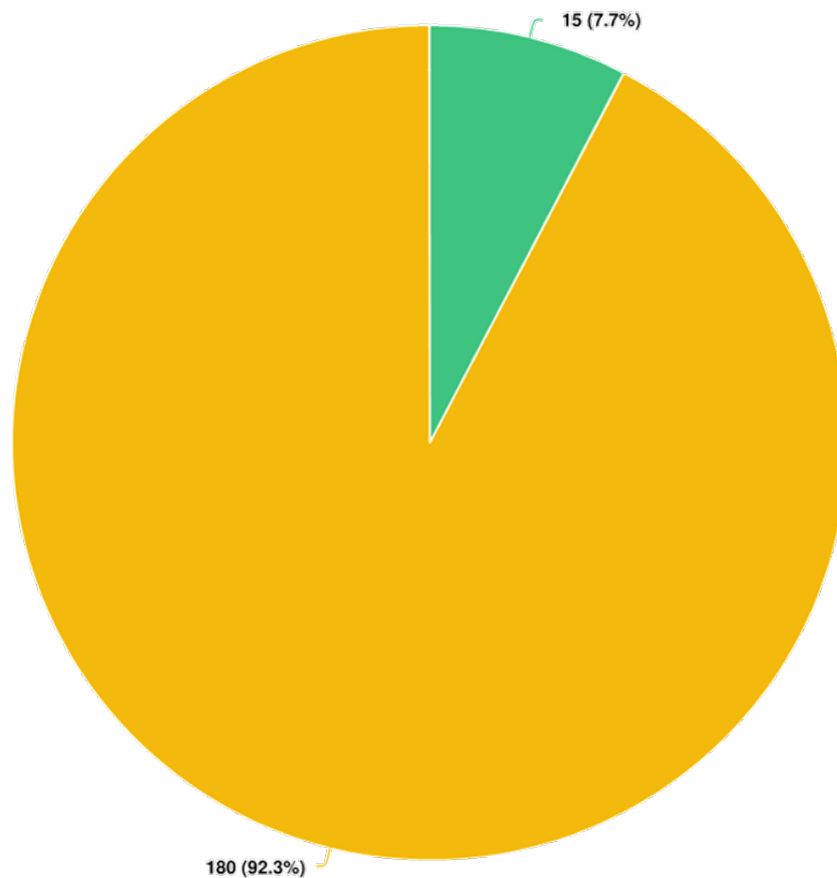
**Q1 Which ward do you live in?****Question options**

● Featherston ● Greytown ● Martinborough ● Outside of district

Mandatory Question (197 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Online submission form - 2025/34 Long-Term Plan : Survey Report for 06 March 2025 to 09 April 2025

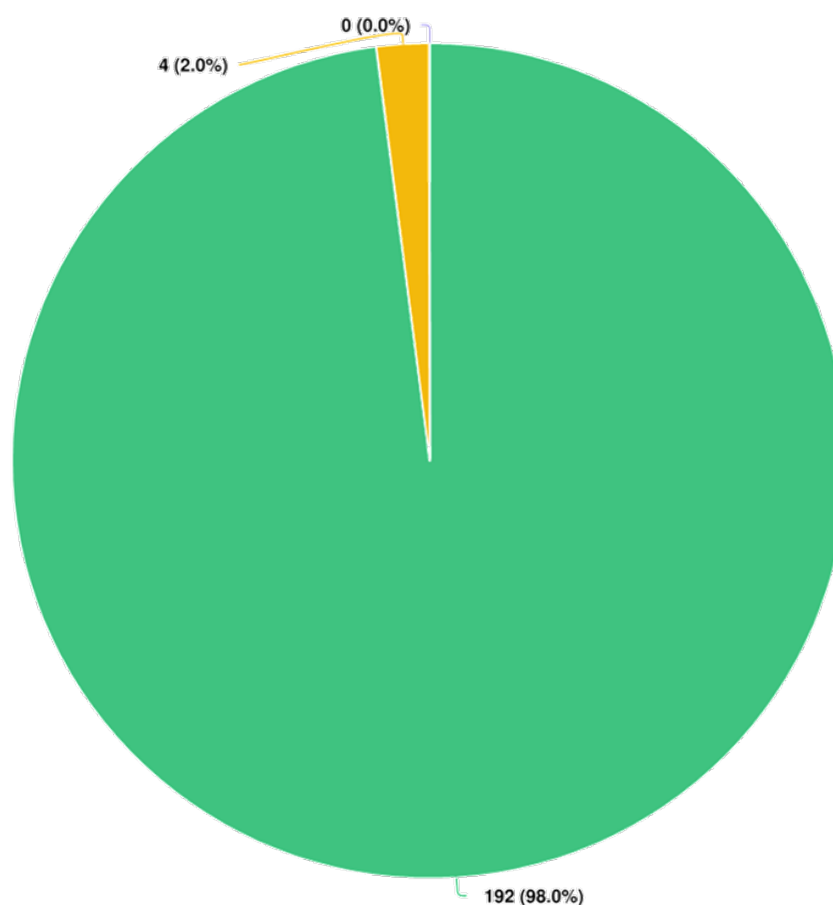
**Q2 Do you wish to speak to your submission at hearings on 16 April?****Question options**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Optional question (195 response(s), 2 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Online submission form - 2025/34 Long-Term Plan : Survey Report for 06 March 2025 to 09 April 2025

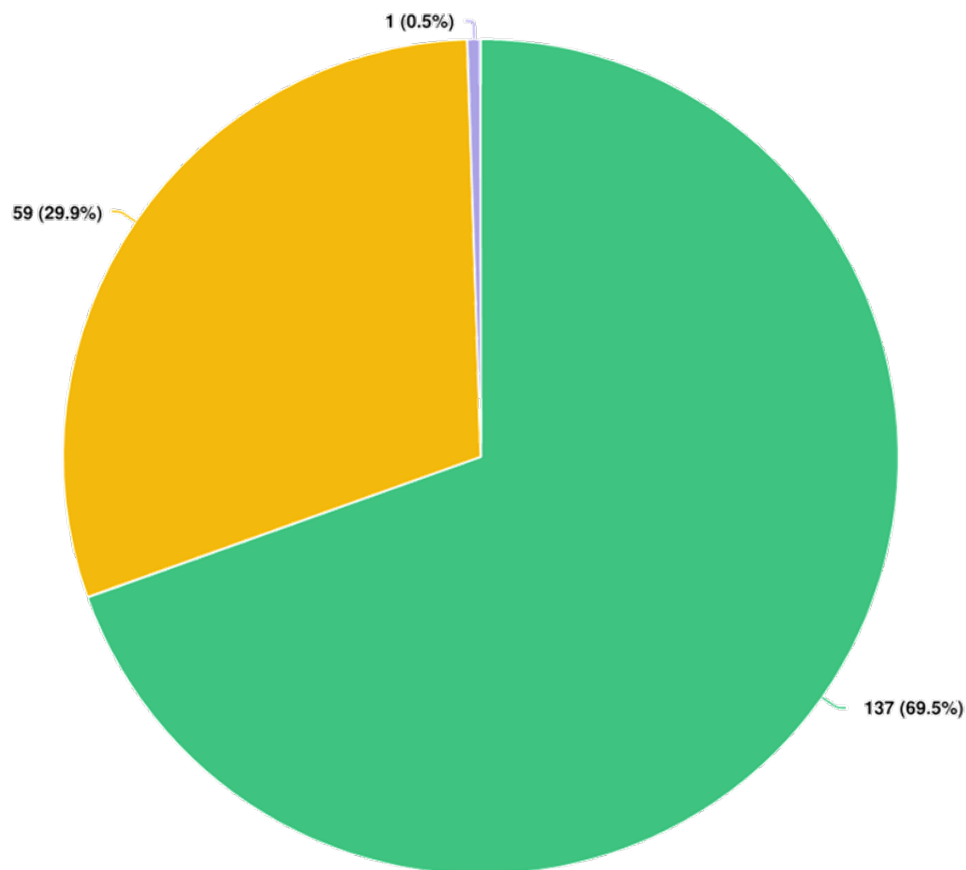
**Q3 Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?****Question options**

☒ No ☐ If yes, which organisation? ☐ Yes

Optional question (196 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Online submission form - 2025/34 Long-Term Plan : Survey Report for 06 March 2025 to 09 April 2025

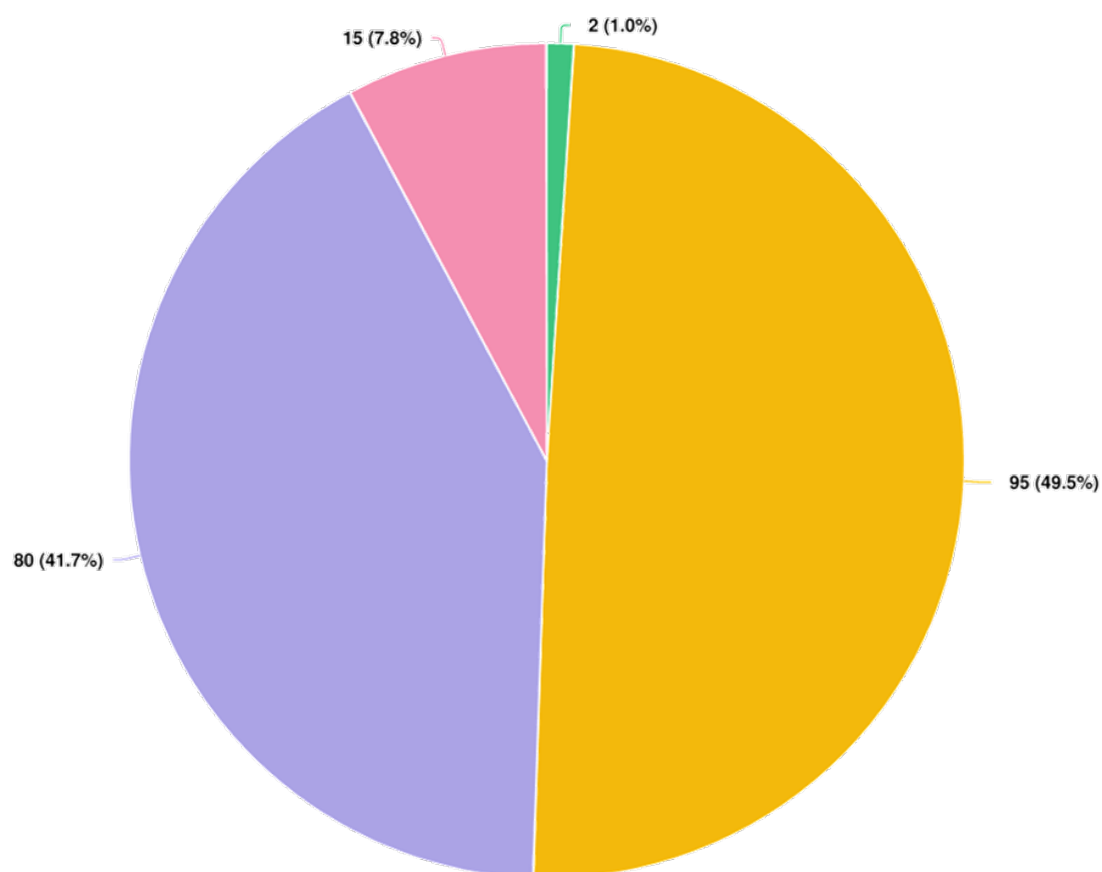
**Q4 Is your property connected to, or can be connected to the town water supply?****Question options**

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

Mandatory Question (197 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Online submission form - 2025/34 Long-Term Plan : Survey Report for 06 March 2025 to 09 April 2025

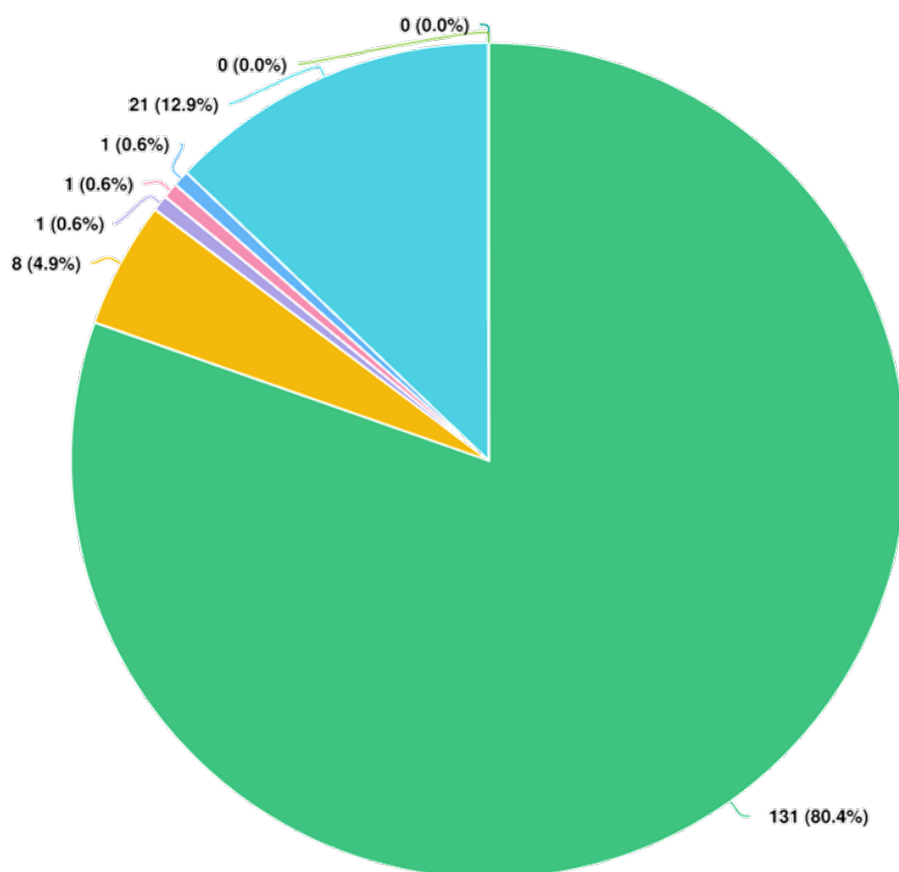
**Q5 Which age group are you in?****Question options**

0-24 24-55 56-75 76+

Optional question (192 response(s), 5 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Online submission form - 2025/34 Long-Term Plan : Survey Report for 06 March 2025 to 09 April 2025

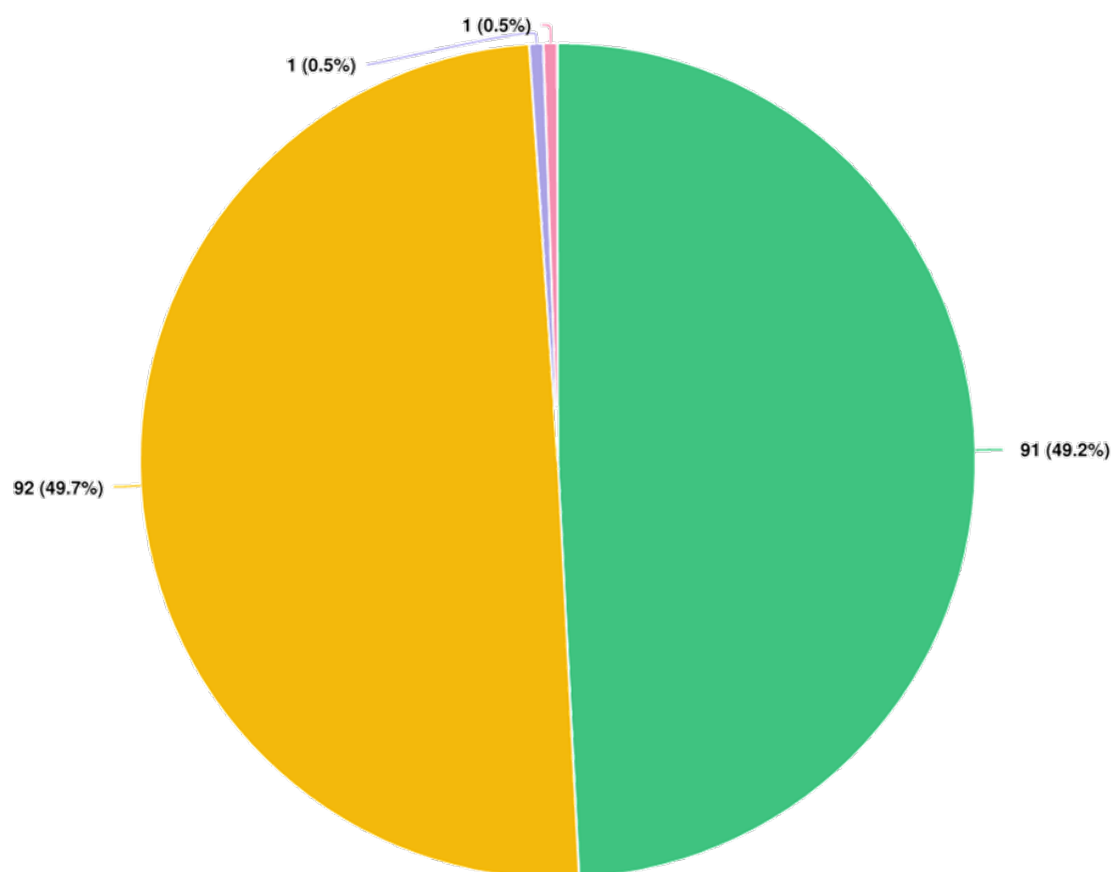
**Q6 Which ethnicity or cultural background do you belong to?****Question options**

Pakeha/NZ European Māori Pasifika Latin American African Other (please specify) Asian
Middle Eastern

Optional question (163 response(s), 34 skipped)

Question type: Dropdown Question

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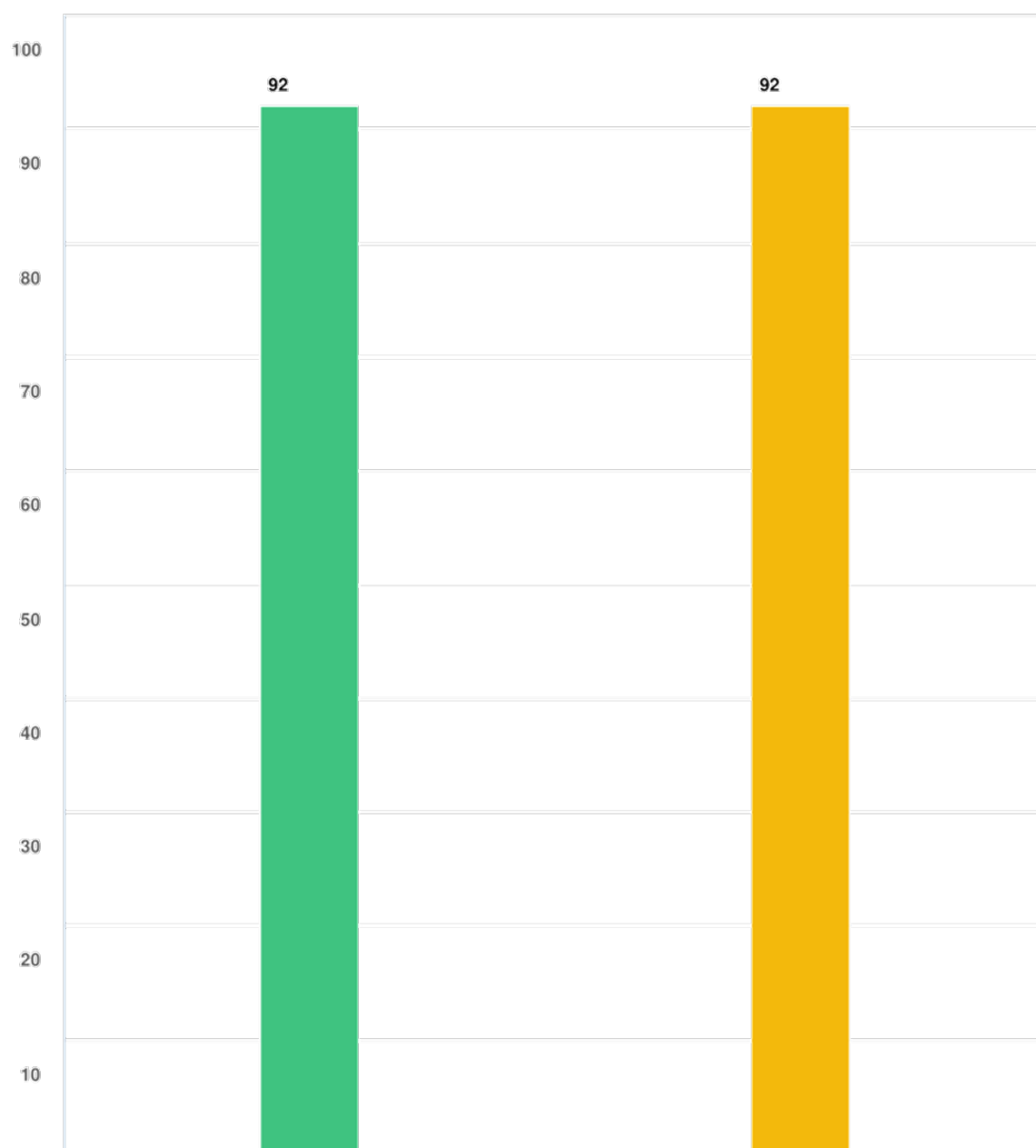
**Q7 Which gender do you identify with?****Question options**

Female Male Gender diverse Prefer not to say

Optional question (185 response(s), 12 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

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**Q8 Should we adjust the level of uniform charges from 21% to 28%?****Question options**

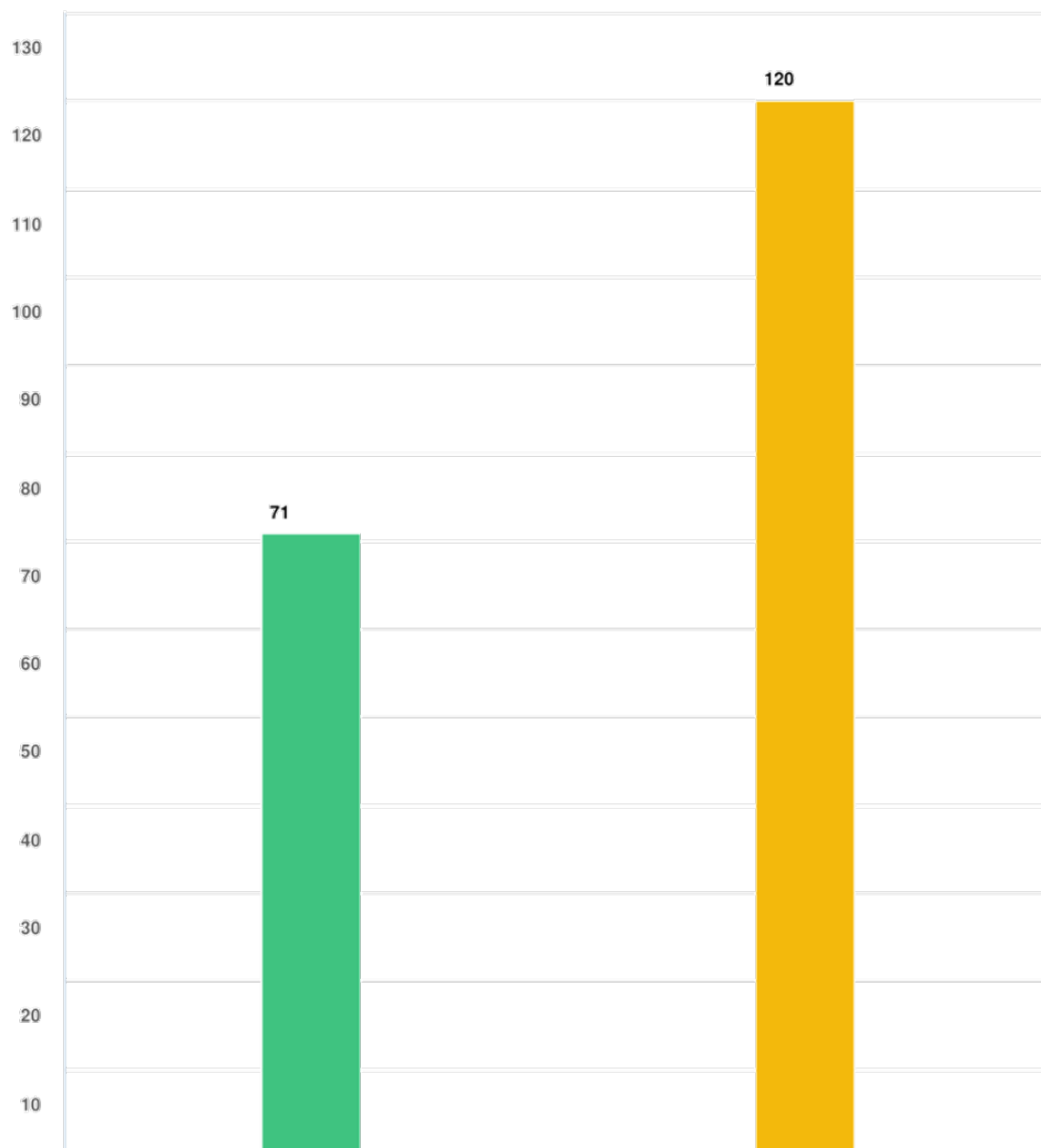
- Option 1: Increase the uniform charges to 28% of total rates - This is the option we think works best.
- Option 2: Maintain the current level of uniform charges at 21% of total rates.

*Optional question (184 response(s), 13 skipped)**Question type: Checkbox Question*

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Q9 Should people who live closer to our towns contribute a higher share of funding the services and facilities in the towns?

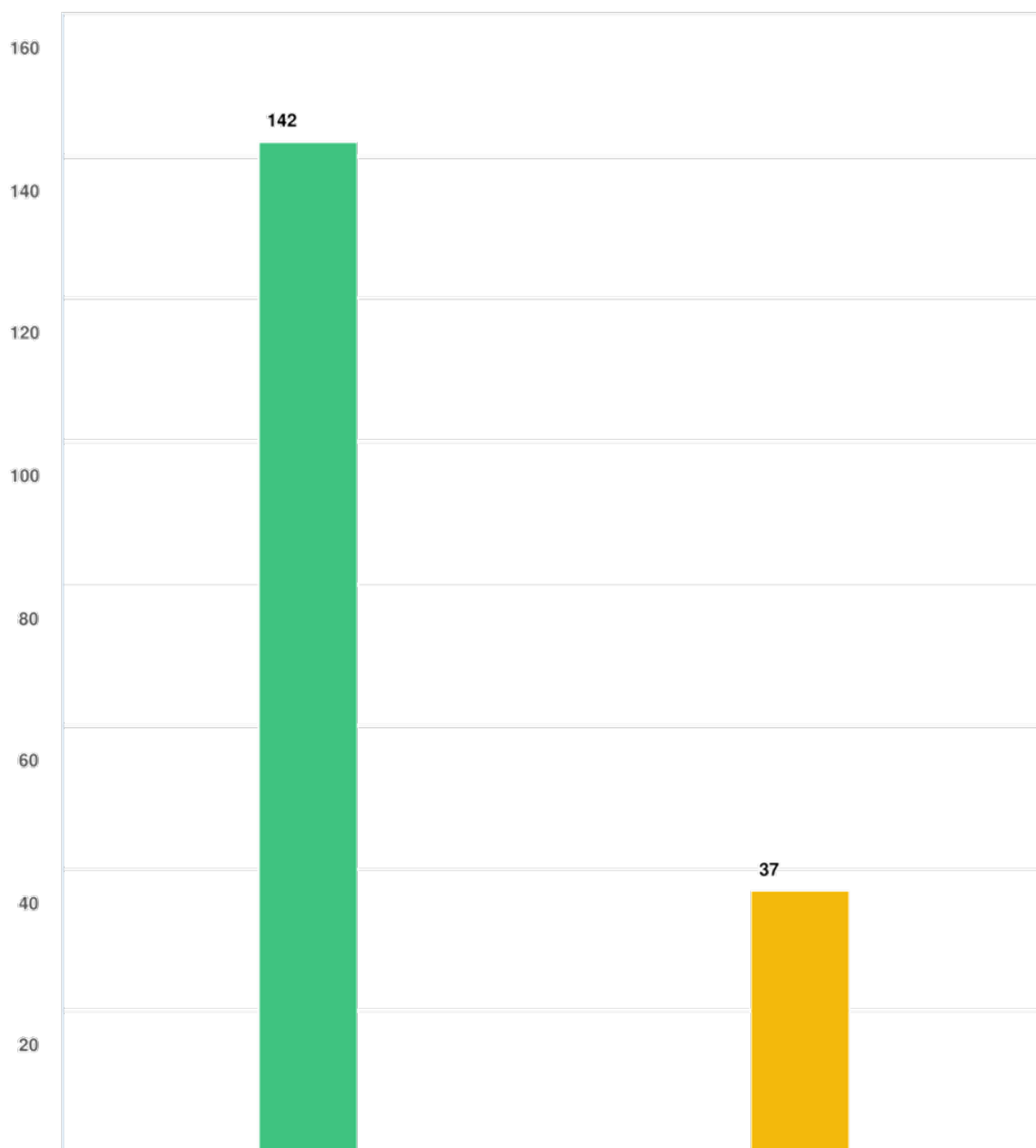
**Question options**

- ☒ Option 1: Introduce a new Targeted Rate to fund town-based facilities and services. This is the option we think works best.
- ☐ Option 2: Continue with the current funding approach where everyone pays the same regardless of where they live.

Optional question (191 response(s), 6 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Online submission form - 2025/34 Long-Term Plan : Survey Report for 06 March 2025 to 09 April 2025

**Q10** How should we define Separately Used or Inhabitable Parts (SUIPs)?**Question options**

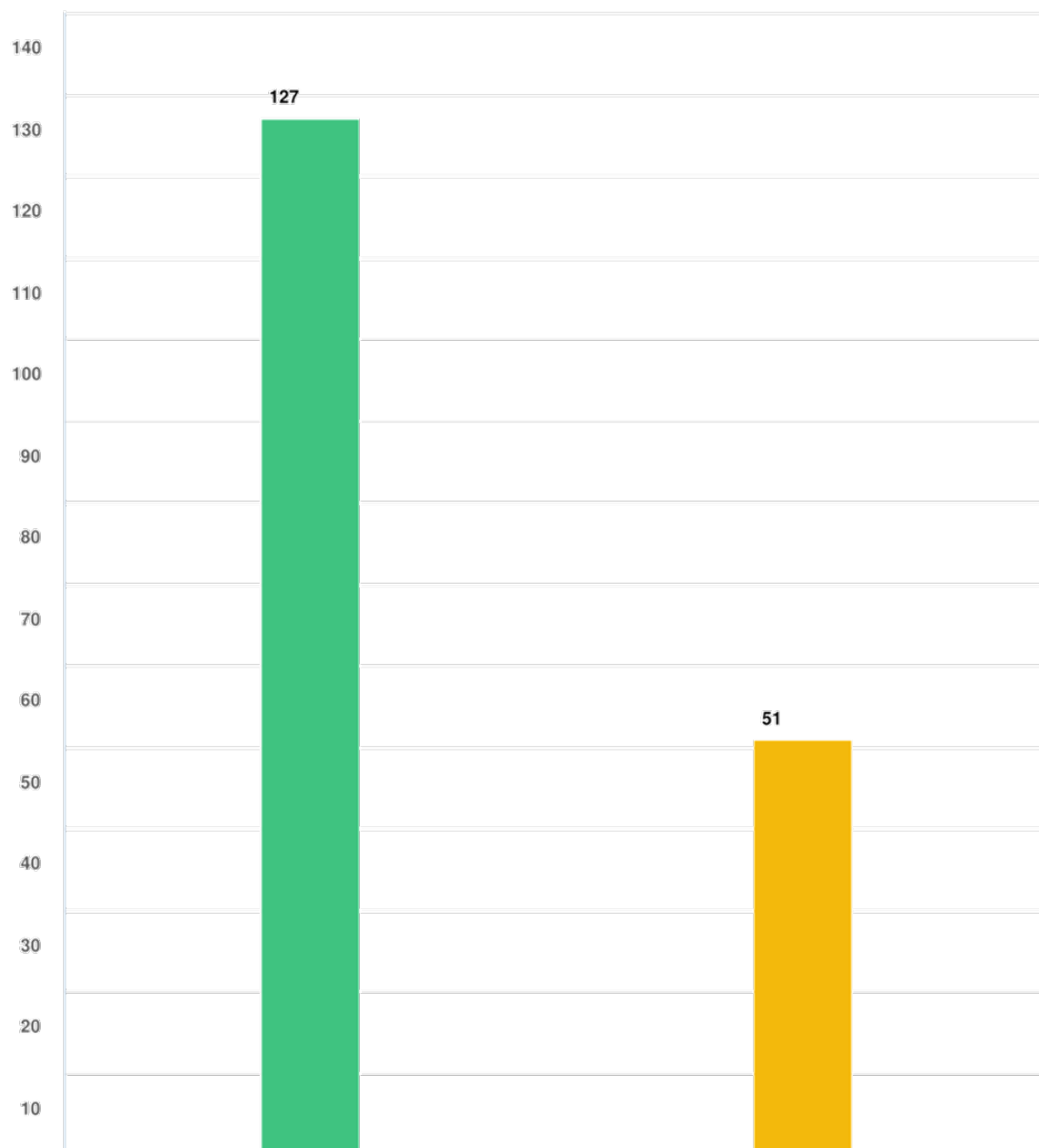
- Option 1: Refine the definition by adding exclusions. This is the option we think works best.
- Option 2: Keep the current definition with remissions.

*Optional question (179 response(s), 18 skipped)**Question type: Checkbox Question*

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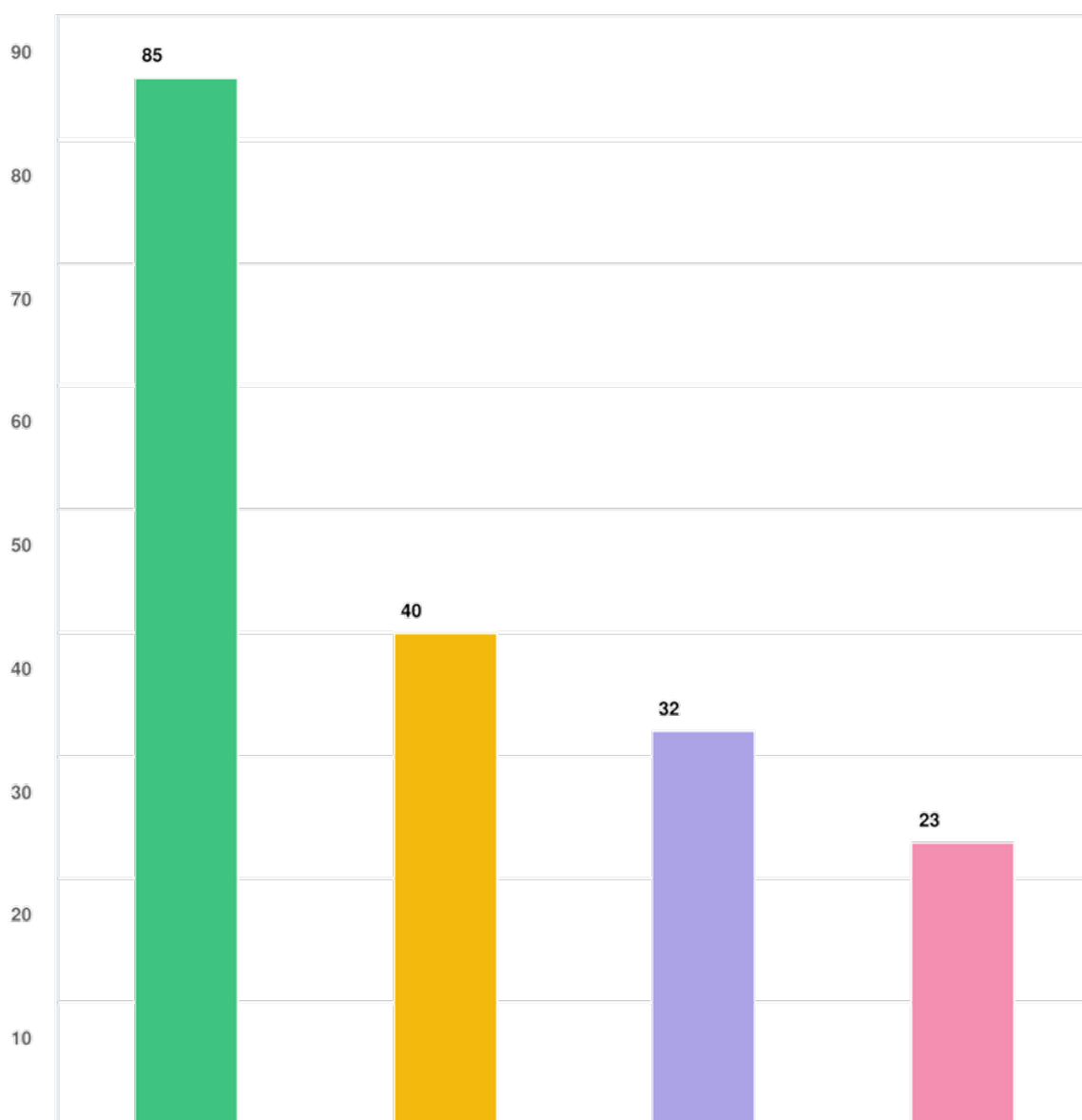
Q11 Should we change the Refuse and Recycling Charge back to per rating unit instead of per Separately Used Inhabitable Part of a property?

**Question options**

- Option 1: Charge the Refuse & Recycling Charge per rating unit. This is the option we think works best.
- Option 2: Continue to charge the Refuse & Recycling Charge per SUIP.

Optional question (178 response(s), 19 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

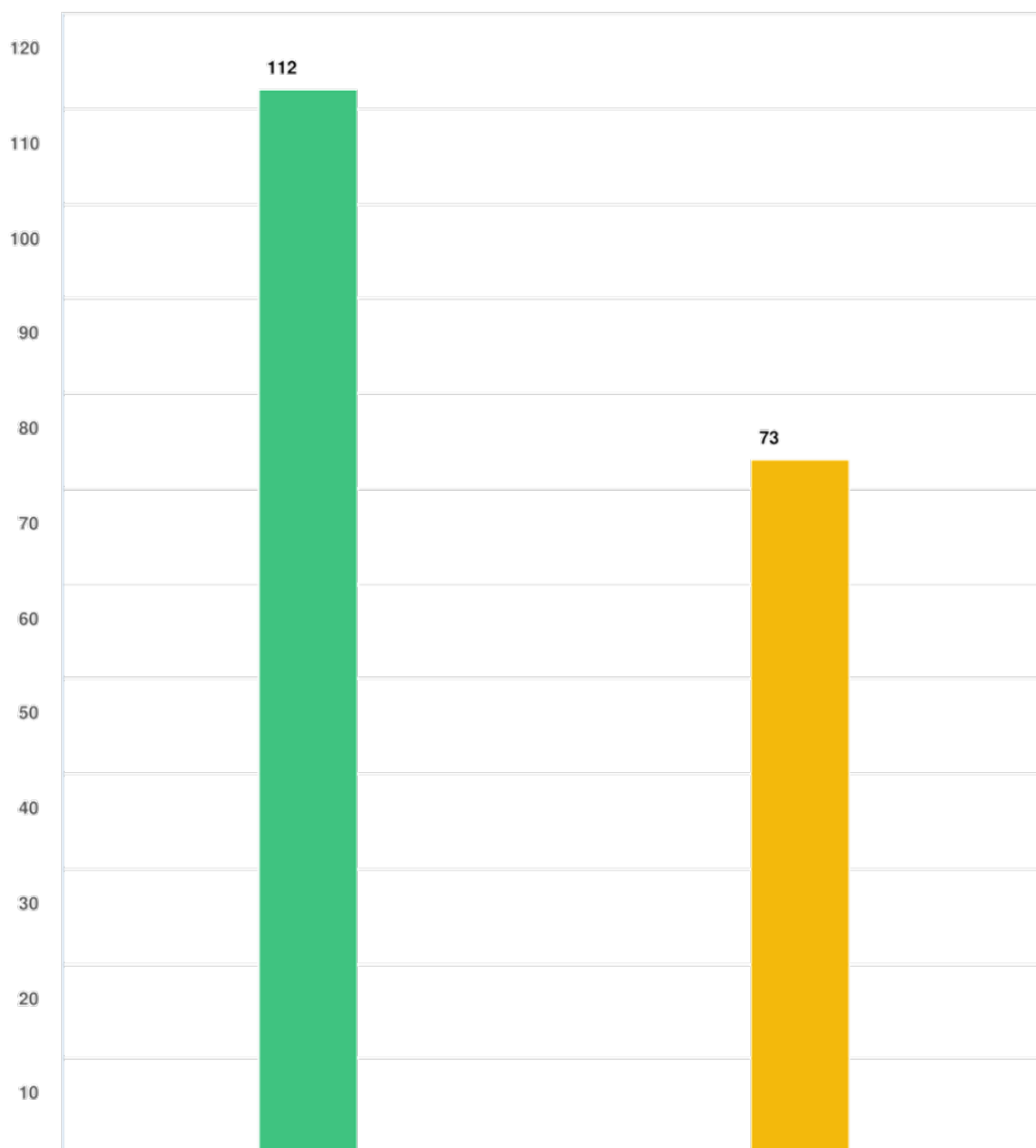
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**Q12** How much should we spend on operating and maintaining our water network?**Question options**

- Option 1: \$6.05m - slight increase to add inflation to the current level of funding providing a minimum viable option for the delivery of services - This is the option we think works best.
- Option 2: \$6.55m - Option 1 plus a contestable emergency fund of \$500k held by Council.
- Option 3: \$7.08m - Option 1 plus additional priorities to increase planning and resilience.
- Option 4: \$8.97m - Option 3 plus the highest level for planning and resilience.

*Optional question (180 response(s), 17 skipped)**Question type: Checkbox Question*

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**Q13** How much of the roading improvements programme should we fund?**Question options**

- Option 1: Fund 100% of the roading improvements programme with additional capital spend. This is the option we think works best.
- Option 2: Fund 49% of the roading improvements programme.

*Optional question (185 response(s), 12 skipped)**Question type: Checkbox Question*

10 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING

Kua mutu ā mātou mahi
Mō tēnei wā
Manaakitia mai matou katoa
O mātou hoa
O mātou whānau
Aio ki te Aorangi

Our work is finished
For the moment
Blessing upon us all
Our friends
Our families
Peace to the Universe