



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

**I hereby give notice that the
Council Hearing
for Consideration of Submissions on the Annual Plan 2023/2024
will be held on:**

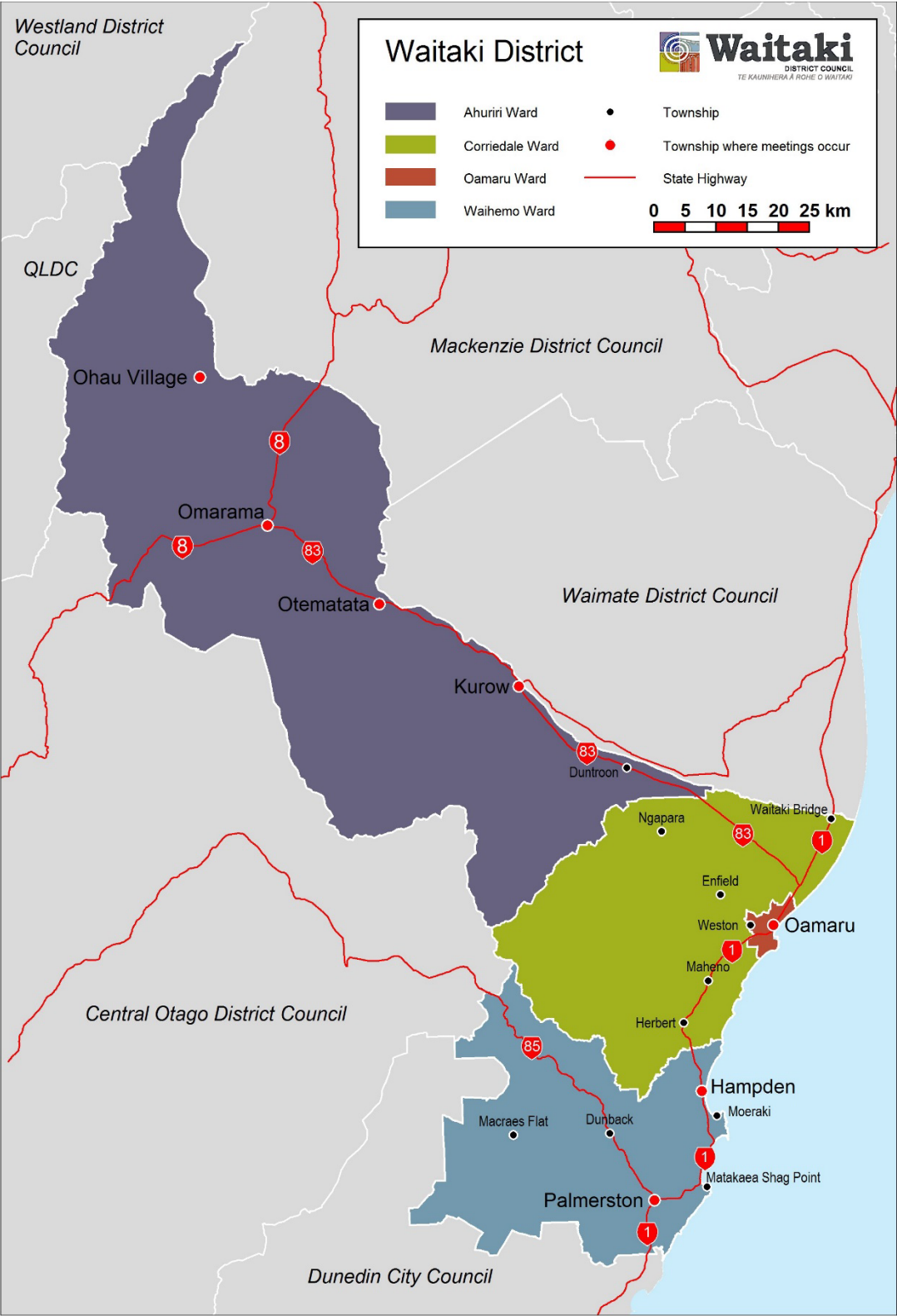
**Date: Tuesday, 16 May 2023
Time: 9.00am
Location: Council Chamber, Third Floor
Office of the Waitaki District Council
20 Thames Street, Oamaru**

Agenda

Council Hearing

16 May 2023

**Alex Parmley
Chief Executive**





Agenda Items

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3.1	Consideration of Community Feedback on the Draft Annual Plan 2023-2024 and Deliberations	6
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- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3 DECISION REPORTS

3.1 CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2023-2024 AND DELIBERATIONS

Author:	Mandy McIntosh, Strategy and Performance Manager
Authoriser:	Paul Hope, Finance and Corporate Development Group Manager
Attachments:	1. 2023/24 Annual Plan Engagement Submissions Booklet 2. Community Engagement Analysis of Submissions 3. 2023/24 Annual Plan Submissions with a Financial Impact 4. Effect of Decisions Made

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the information.
2. Agrees to receive and consider the submissions that were received after the closing date of the Annual Plan engagement period.
3. Provides guidance to officers on the consideration of feedback received through community engagement.
4. Provides direction to officers on the draft 2023/24 Annual Plan so that a decision report can be prepared for the 30 May 2023 Council Meeting.

PURPOSE

The aim of these hearings is for Council to:

- Provide guidance on the consideration of feedback received as a result of the community engagement on the draft 2023/24 Annual Plan; and
- Provide direction to officers on the draft 2023/24 Annual Plan so that a decision report can be prepared for the 30 May 2023 Council Meeting.

PROCESS

Council has received, and is likely to receive further, late submissions. Council will need to decide at this meeting if it wishes to consider these.

Part 1 Hearings (9.00am – 3.00pm)

Officers suggest that the 248 submissions (excluding late submissions) received on the 2023/24 Annual Plan are considered first (Attachment 1).

There are 30 submissions to be heard. The first speaker is scheduled to start at 9.10am, allowing an initial ten minutes for the Chair to open the hearings and outline the process that will be followed, to the Governance team, other participants in the Council Chamber, and those watching online. Non-verbal submissions and provision of feedback on them will occur between speakers, and time has been allocated in the schedule for this to occur.

Part 2 Deliberations for Annual Plan and Economic Development (3.15pm – 5.00pm)

Officers suggest that Council works through the memorandum, concentrating on the decision points in order to achieve no more than the 8.06% rates increase indicated in the Annual Plan engagement document for the 2023/24 financial year.

Annual Plan matters will be considered first, followed by those related to Economic Development.

The table on the final page of Attachment 4 to this report will be updated as submissions on the Annual Plan are reviewed.

BACKGROUND

At the 14 March 2023 Council Meeting, the Council:

- Confirmed the updates to the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan Year 3 operating budgets as discussed at workshops held on 20 December 2022; 14 February 2023; and 7 March 2023; and
- Agreed to the changes to the operating budgets; and
- Confirmed the updated Long Term Plan Year 3 projects; and
- Agreed to include additional proposals; and
- Noted the current level of rates increase is below that indicated for Year 3 of the Long Term Plan; and
- Agreed that proposed changes to Year 3 of the Long Term Plan constituted a significant or material difference to Year 3 of the Long Term Plan, and that a number of proposals are deemed significant under the Significant and Engagement Policy; and
- Confirmed to engage with the community and the format of that engagement and directed officers to bring content to support community engagement to the 28 March 2023 Council Meeting for approval.

At the 28 March 2023 Council Meeting, Council:

- Confirmed the change to the indicative rate increase for 2023/24 (to 8.06%); and
- Approved for engagement purposes the 2023/24 Annual Plan Engagement document subject to minor edits; and
- Confirmed implementation of the Engagement Plan agreed at the 14 March 2023 Council Meeting.

Community engagement ran for the period 31 March 2023 to 30 April 2023. During this period, 248 submissions were received. Following the close of the Annual Plan engagement period, there was one (1) late submission received.

This is a significant increase in feedback numbers from previous years, with the Sports and Events Centre being a matter of interest to the wider community, and associated parties encouraging feedback on key topics including the Sports and Events Centre, closure of Harbour Street, and funding for the information centre.

Summary of Community Feedback

Council officers have analysed the feedback received from the draft 2023/24 Annual Plan engagement in Attachment 2.

Officers have noted comments made to the Economic Development Engagement that relate to the 2023/24 Annual Plan. These comments have not been included in the submission count, but feedback has been considered in the submission analysis.

Any submissions or feedback that would have a financial impact on the Annual Plan have been identified on a separate sheet (Attachment 3).

There are additional attachments to this report provided for information and consideration at this workshop:

- Attachment 4 – Brief summary of changes made at previous meetings.

Late Submissions

At the time of writing this report, one (1) late submission had been received, and there may be others that will follow. The one (1) late submission received has been included in the submissions book.

Any additional late submissions will be tabled on the day. Council will need to make a decision about considering the late submissions at the start of the hearing.

Significant or Material Difference

Under the Local Government Act 2002, a local authority does not need to consult on their Annual Plan unless there are significant or material differences from the content of the long term plan for the financial year to which the annual plan relates.

If the Council decides that there is significant or material differences, then it must decide on an engagement approach that reflects the level of change or difference.

At the 14 March 2023 Council Meeting, Council resolved that:

- Proposed changes to Year 3 of the Long Term Plan constitute a significant or material difference to Year 3 of the Long Term Plan (based on the proposal to unfund a portion of the 3 Waters and Property depreciation), and that a number of proposals are deemed significant under the Significant and Engagement Policy.

The Policy includes a guide to identify the degree of significance attached to proposals relating to issues, assets, and other matters. The most relevant criteria in relation to the draft 2023/24 Annual Plan is the financial consequences criteria, but this largely relates only to new expenditure.

The policy is silent on the consideration of a reduction in revenue, which is proposed by the decrease in the rates forecasted in year 3 of the Long Term Plan (9.3%) to the proposed level of 8.06%.

Next Steps

30 May 2023 Council Meeting

- Key Directions for the draft 2023/24 Annual Plan

27 June 2023 Council Meeting (27 June 2023)

- 2023/24 Annual Plan adopted
- Rates for 2023/24 financial year to be set by resolution
- Receive and note the fees and charges that Council agreed at its 9 May 2023 Meeting for the 2023/24 financial year.

Attachment 1

Waitaki District Council 2023-24 Annual Plan Engagement Submissions Book
(circulated separately)

Attachment 2 Community Engagement Analysis of Submissions

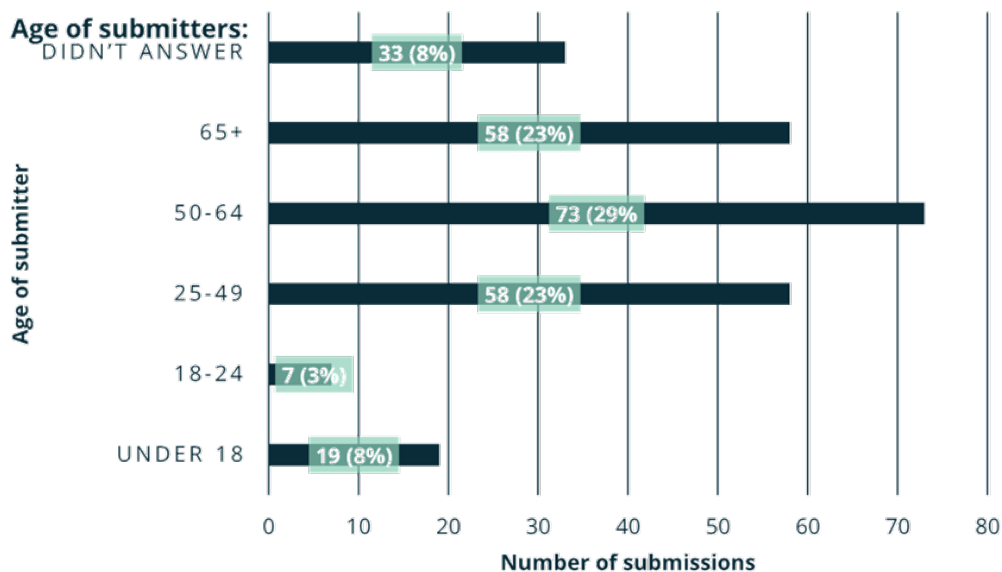
Overview

249 submissions were received in total (including one late submission).

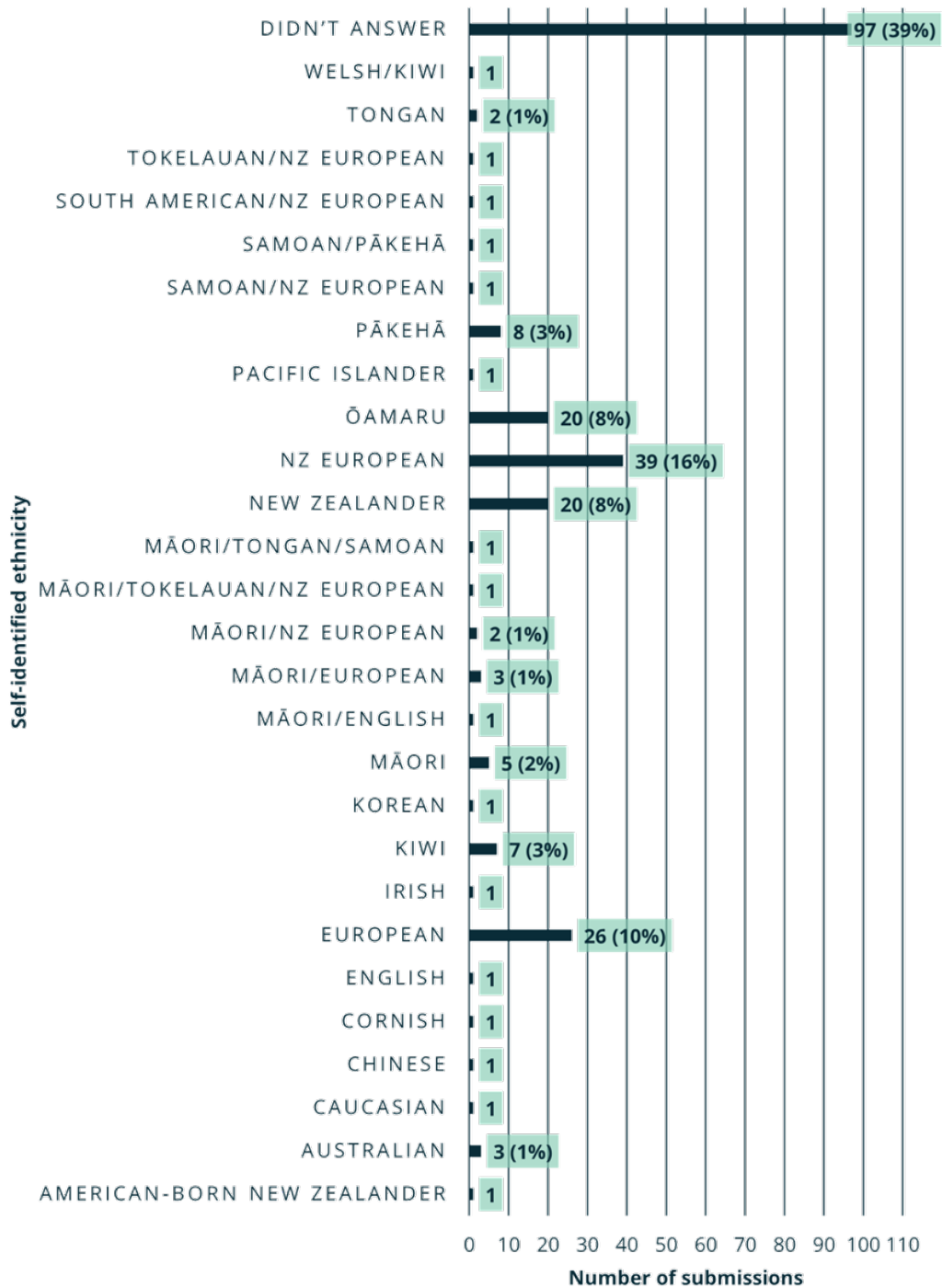
The late submission, # 249 from Business South, has been considered in the following analysis, but submission # 248, from the Otago Museum, has not been considered in the following analysis, as it was only decided to be treated as a submission after the engagement period closed.

The engagement document asked a total of 7 questions (6 directed questions and 1 non-directed question). A summary of the responses to the engagement questions can be found on pages 4-14 of this Attachment.

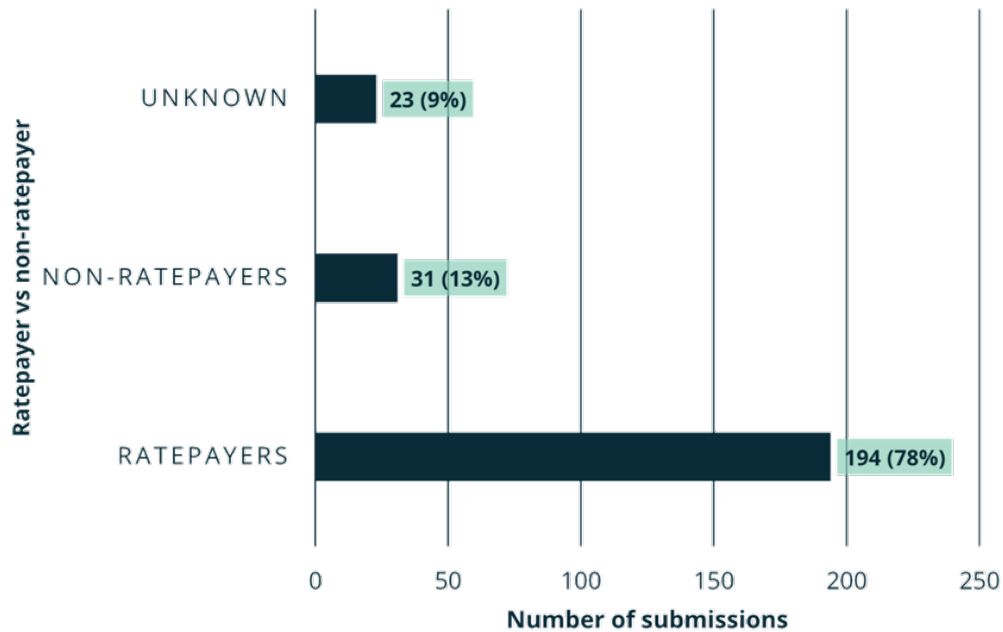
The bar graphs on pages 1-3 of this Attachment provide an overview of who we heard from via the submissions:



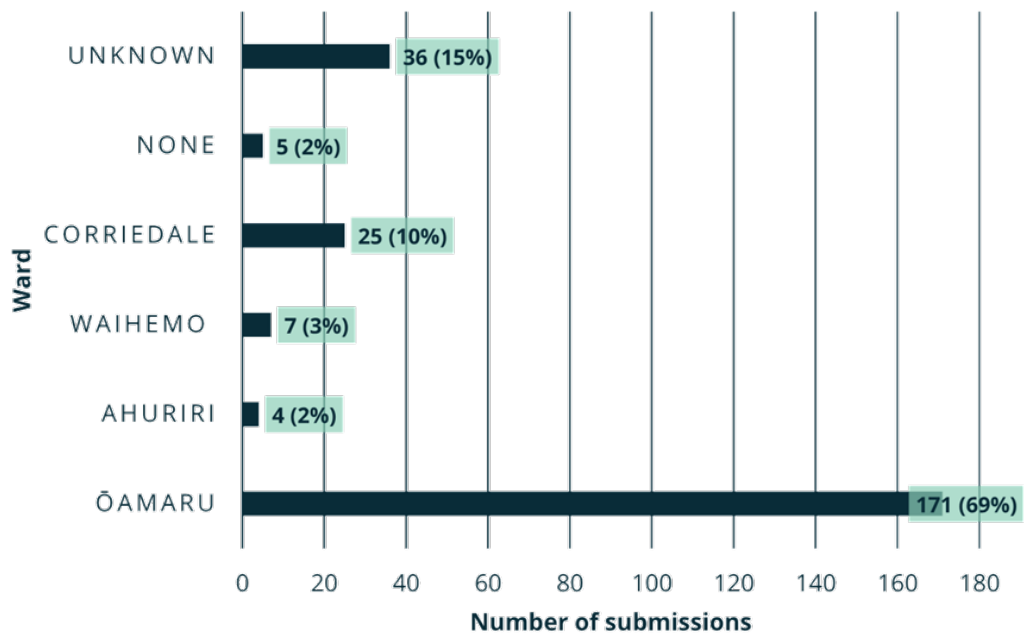
Self-identified ethnicities of submitters:



Submissions from ratepayers vs non-ratepayers:



Submissions by ward:



1. Waitaki Event Centre

We asked: Would you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

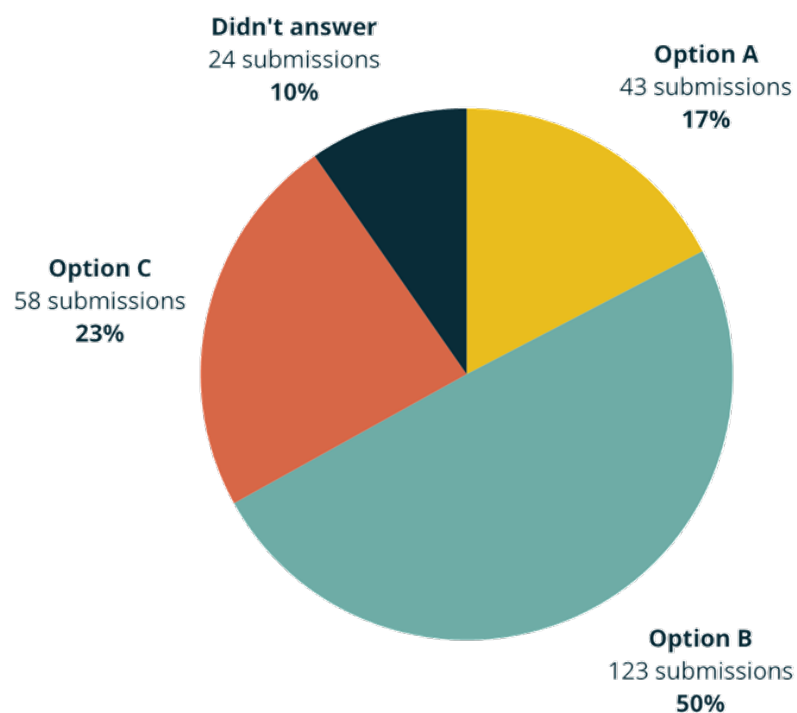
We provided the following options to choose from:

Option A: Proceed with Council's contribution of \$10 million as committed in the 2021-31 LTP, loan-funded over 20 years.

Option B: Increase Council's contribution from \$10 million to \$15 million, loan-funded over 20 years.

Option C: Discontinue the Event Centre project based on increasing costs.

What we heard:



Option A	Option B	Option C
<p>Of the 43 submissions who opted for Option A, 19 of these provided additional comments explaining their choice. Common themes arising from these comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust the design of the Event Centre to remain within the original budget, so there would be no need for Council to contribute an additional \$5 million. • Investigate other sources of additional funding, including prospective users of the Centre fundraising for the additional funds themselves. • Consideration of the future OPEX of the Centre once built, which would be a financial cost over and above any Council contribution to the build as part of the 2023-24 Annual Plan. • Keep the rates increase affordable given the current economic environment. 	<p>Of the 123 submissions who opted for Option B, 73 of these provided additional comments explaining their choice. Common themes arising from these comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sense of urgency for the Event Centre to be built. • The district needs a multi-use, fit-for-purpose facility, which can host a range of sporting and cultural events. • The Event Centre would provide a range of economic benefits to the whole district (economic development). • Attraction and retention of visitors and residents alike. • Fostering community wellbeing. • Consideration of the needs of future generations. • An increased Council contribution might allow the incorporation of the grandstand into the build of the Centre. 	<p>Of the 58 submissions who opted for Option C, 40 of these provided additional comments explaining their choice. Common themes arising from these comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Event Centre is a luxury, not a necessity. • A Council contribution would be unaffordable for ratepayers, especially given the current economic environment. • Ratepayers are grappling with cost of living. • Invest in necessities such as infrastructure before considering an Event Centre. • Council borrowing is too high. • Some individuals and groups don't envision using the Event Centre once it is built.

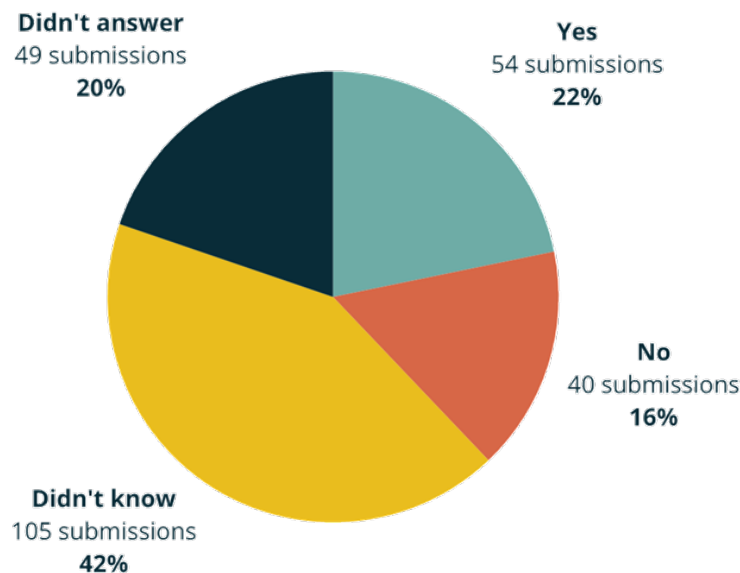
2. Unfunding depreciation

We asked: Do you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

We provided the following options to choose from:

- ❖ Yes
- ❖ No
- ❖ Don't know

What we heard:



Of the 54 submissions who opted 'Yes,' 10 of these provided additional comments explaining their choice. Some of these comments saw unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets as a means for temporarily lowering the rates increase, while others saw it as a means of resisting the Affordable Water Reform.

Of the 40 submissions who opted 'No,' 19 of these provided additional comments explaining their choice. The common theme across these comments was concern unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets would not be planning for the future and could mean insufficient funds are available for renewals and/or replacements of 3 Waters and Property assets if and when the need arises.

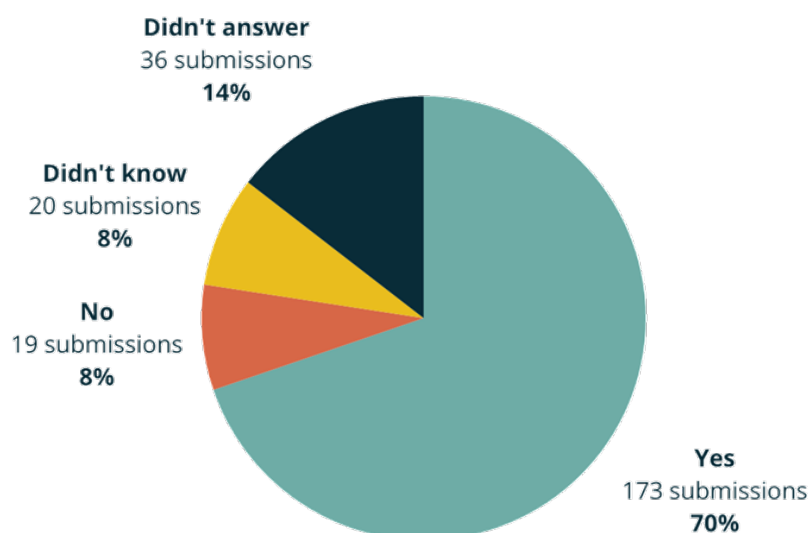
3. Preparing for emergencies

We asked: Do you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

We provided the following options to choose from:

- ❖ Yes
- ❖ No
- ❖ Don't know

What we heard:



Of the 173 submissions who opted 'Yes,' 42 of these provided additional comments explaining their choice. Many of these believed Council should already be investing in community readiness in an event, while others saw an increasing need for Council's investment in this, as adverse weather events become more frequent. There was mention of Council continuing to invest in educating residents on how to be prepared for an event and continuing to collaborate with other organisations to build community capacity.

Of the 19 submissions who opted 'No,' 7 of these provided additional comments explaining their choice. A common theme arising from these comments related to the role, if any, Council should play in emergency responses, and which tools specifically might be needed if they are involved.

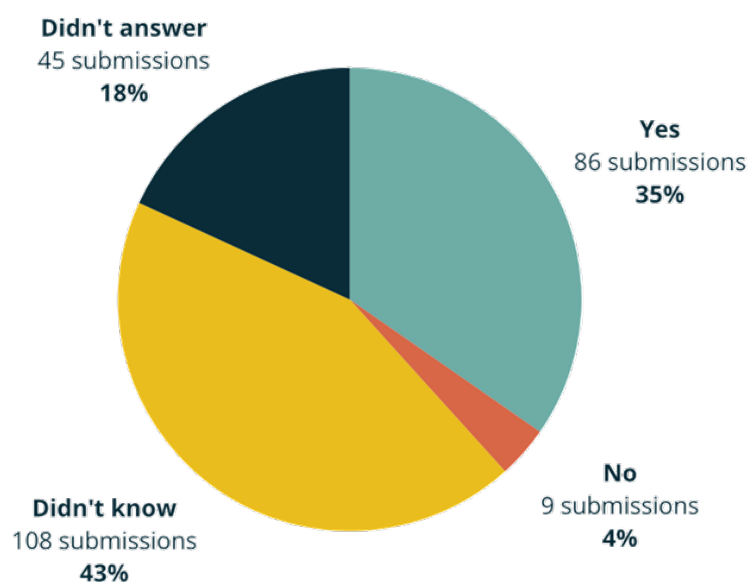
4. Maheno water

We asked: Do you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

We provided the following options:

- ❖ Yes
- ❖ No
- ❖ Don't know

What we heard:



Of the 86 submissions who opted 'Yes,' 17 of these provided additional comments explaining their choice. A common theme arising from these comments was the need for Maheno residents to have an affordable, reliable, and safe water supply. Some of the comments in support of Council taking over the Maheno water supply stipulated there should be no cost to non-Maheno residents.

Of the 108 submissions which opted 'Don't know,' 19 of these provided additional comments explaining their choice. A commonly-cited reason for opting 'Don't know' was submitters felt Maheno ratepayers should be the ones to decide on this matter.

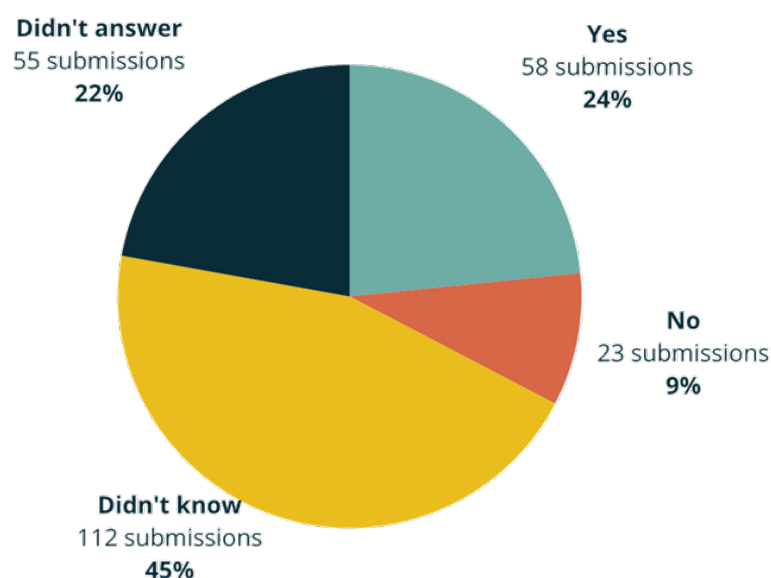
5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023

We asked: Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

We provided the following options:

- ❖ Yes
- ❖ No
- ❖ Don't know

What we heard:



Of the 248 total submissions received, 25 made comments in response to the proposed Significance and Engagement Policy and Guidelines 2023 and the updated list of Council's strategic assets. Most of these comments indicated the engagement materials we provided surrounding the Significance and Engagement Policy and Guidelines 2023 were difficult to understand and didn't provide enough context for submitters.

A lot of these comments also claimed the relevant information was not provided, or was difficult to find as part of the draft 2023-24 Annual Plan engagement materials.

A small number of submitters made suggestions for additional assets they believed should be included in the updated list of Council's strategic assets, but there was no common theme amongst the assets suggested for inclusion.

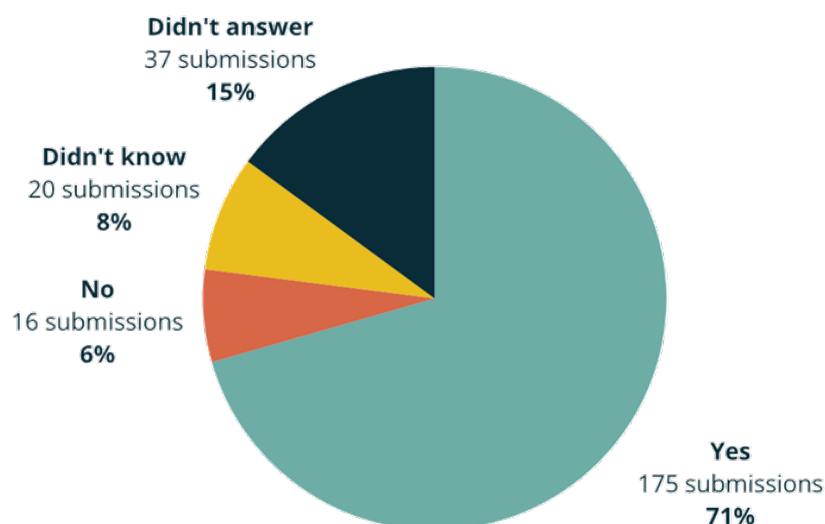
6. Coastal erosion

We asked: Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

We provided the following options:

- ❖ Yes
- ❖ No
- ❖ Don't know

What we heard:



A total of 60 comments were made in relation to Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion. 47 of these comments were made by submitters who opted 'Yes.' Themes arising from the comments in support of addressing coastal erosion include looking at collaborating with and seeking funding from Regional Councils and Central Government, being strategic about which coastal areas are addressed, prioritising coastal roads to maintain a network of connectivity, and ensuring money is invested in the implementation of a plan, rather than on the development of a plan. Four comments who opted 'Yes' stated they would not like to see money spent on consultants as a part of this investment.

One of the reasons cited for opting 'Don't know' was a requirement for more information about what the investment would entail and which areas would be addressed.

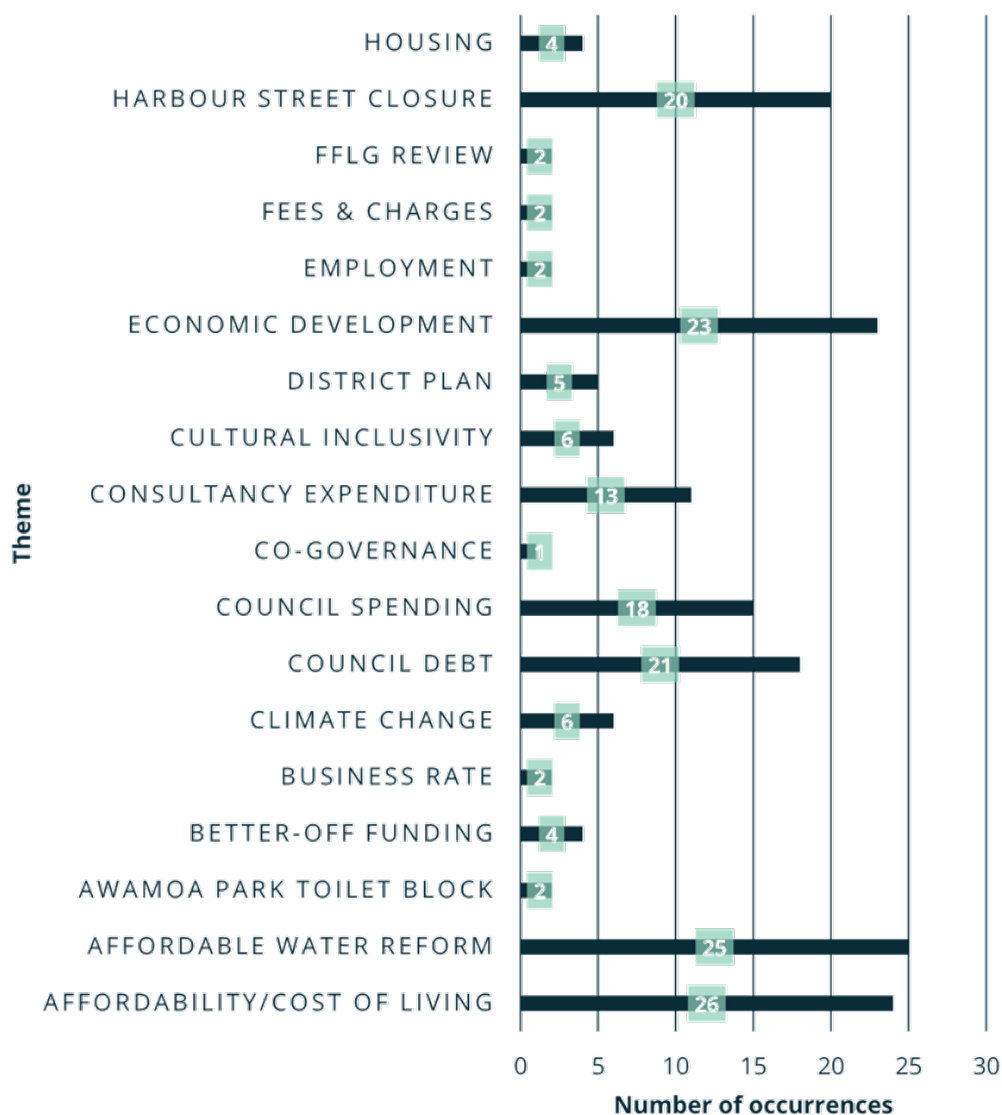
Across all 60 comments made, regardless of which option was submitted, 7 comments referred to the concept of a 'strategic' or 'planned retreat.'

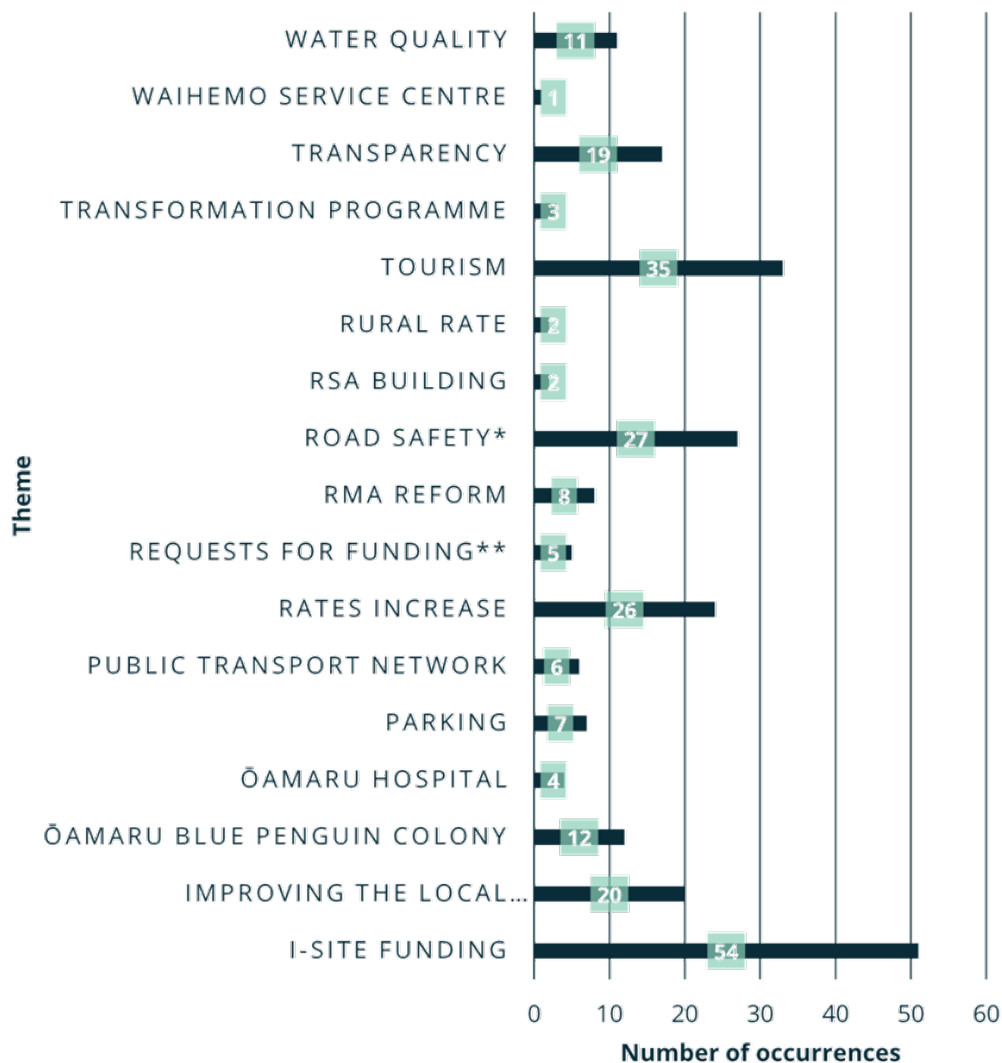
7. Other themes

We asked: Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

What we heard:

The graphs on pages 11-12 of this Attachment provide an overview of the most common themes we heard from the feedback we received, which were not exclusively related to one of the six directed engagement questions:





*Road safety figure includes all submissions which cited road safety reasons for the closure of Harbour Street to vehicles.

**Requests for funding figure reflects only those requests which were non-i-Site-related.

Note also: three submissions submitted to the Economic Development engagement, which was open at the same time as the draft 2023-24 Annual Plan engagement, were relevant to the 2023-24 Annual Plan deliberations and so have been included in the graphs on pages 11-12. These submissions spoke to the following themes: affordability/cost of living; consultancy expenditure; Council debt; Council spending; i-site funding; rates increase; tourism; transparency.

Of the 54 submissions received in relation to the i-Site funding, at least 19 of these were made by individuals or organisations with either an association to the Ōamaru

Whitestone Civic Trust, or are a current commercial tenant on Harbour Street. Most submissions which mentioned the i-Site were requesting for the full funding amount to remain allocated to the i-Site in the 2023-24 Annual Plan. However, there were a small number of submissions which mentioned the i-Site, questioning why Council is subsidising the tourism industry but not other industries.

Similarly, of the 20 submissions received in relation to the closure of Harbour Street to vehicles, at least 14 of these were made by current commercial tenants of Harbour Street. A few submissions which mentioned the closure of Harbour Street, mentioned its closure under different conditions, such as only during the days, but not at night, or not allowing people to park on the street.

Attachment 3 Annual Plan Submissions with a Financial Impact

AP #	Name	Description	Financial Request	Estimated Cost
	Chris Lynch	Turning bay @ 29 & 31 Beach Road, Oamaru used as a car park when work being done in the area.		
	Deborah Mills	Small dog park		
	Graham & Susan Clark	Seal District Road – or increase the seal at the Eastern and Western ends of District Road		
	Anthea Brown	Transport to/from Dunedin Hospital. Council could purchase a shuttle driven by volunteers.		
	Rod Philip	Council funding of the new Puketapu Track is a priority for Waihemo.		
	NOMTB	Increase WDC funding from \$18,207 to \$24,000		Additional \$5,793 to budget (rate incr 0.02%).
	OWCT	Closure of Harbour Street		CHECK IF COST WITH MIKE
	OWCT	Grant to cover the interest cost of the \$410k loan the Trust has with Council		Estimated interest @ \$31k per year (rate incr 0.08%)
	Information Centre	Keep Info Centre funding @ 22/23 level	\$100,000	Increase from proposed \$47k (rate incr 0.28%)
	Otago Museum	Increase funding by 7% in 2023/24 and increase thereafter.	7% incr	Increase from \$60,863.19 (ex GST) to \$65,123.61 (ex-GST)
	NOSLAM/East Otago Catchment Group	Continue current funding of \$10,000 each party	\$20,000	Already in AP. Budget sits alongside biodiversity grant. No rates impact.
	Ahuriri Community Board	Footpath to Kurow Bridge – join two paths around Bledisloe St and the first bridge leaving Kurow on SH82		
		Seal section of Settlement Road from school end to subdivision		
		Footpath along Coronet Place – extend existing footpath past last two properties		
		Improvements to Pedestrian lanes through Otematata by sealing and upgrade wooden barriers – Board supports the use of amenities rate for this and seek Council approval to spend.		

		Board Member attendance at Taituara Community Board Conference x 2-3 people		
	Waihemo Community Board	LTP 2021 requested feeder streets from schools Copinsha, Brough, Stromness. Agreed to do in Yr 2. Advised not enough fund for Copinsha, therefore asking for funds for this of \$100k.	\$100k	
		Better off – Council approved \$225k to Palmerston Placemaking. Board would like \$198k for Puketapu Track and \$22k for MTB track. Would like allocation of funding to go out for public consultation on money expended.	\$225k	Indicated in the AP as part of the wider Placemaking projects.
		Palmerston Skate Park – request funds for a fence to be continued.		
		Moonar St walkway – extend Moonar walk to District Road to the MTB track.		
		Rubbish Bins – request increase emptying regularity at Moeraki and Hampden as often overflowing.		
		Board Member attendance at Taituara Community Board Conference x 2-3 people		
		Hampden Sewerage Scheme – would like plans finalised and cost estimates and funding options with consultation to determine whether to proceed.		
		Request Council relook at footpath on Lincoln St.		

Attachment 4 Effect of Decisions made during the meeting

Summary of the current position – key details

- LTP year 3 projected rates income of \$41.200M, an increase of 9.30% over 2022-23
- Several workshops held with Councillors and officers culminated in the meeting of 14 March 2023 where Council approved an increase of 8.06% for the purposes of engaging with the community over the 2023/24 Annual Plan.
- Significant changes made to the level of rate increase proposed are summarised in the table below which reflects the results of all the workshops undertaken to date.

Summary of movements in projected rates required (to establish basis for engagement)

Reason for budget change	Annual Plan 2023/24 Vs 2022/23 \$000	Change %
Rates budgeted 2021-31 LTP for 2022-23 (year 2)	37,695	
Rates budgeted 2021-31 LTP for 2023-24 (year 3)	41,200	9.30%
Rates budgeted 2022-23 Annual Plan	37,340	
Rates Requirement prior to the workshop 14 February 2023	42,183	12.97%
Changes made prior to the start of the Engagement process		
Unfund increased property depreciation - actual change (projected \$450k)	(470)	-1.26%
Unfund increased 3 Waters depreciation	(200)	-0.54%
Hold 3 Waters rates at 2023 levels	(551)	-1.48%
Revise i-site arrangements (projected \$100k)	(103)	-0.28%
Consistent land lease fees	(10)	-0.03%
Remove project 4091 Brand identity - complete under BAU	(10)	-0.03%
Aquatic Centre remuneration align with historic levels and future expectations	(103)	-0.28%
Waitaki Whitstone Geopark Trust - reduce financial support to match LTP yr 3 budget \$26k based on previous Council decisions.	(114)	-0.31%
Remove increased operating costs for Gallery due to delayed upgrade	(168)	-0.45%
Other minor changes	(170)	-0.46%
Rates Requirement prior to the workshop 7 March 2023	40,284	7.88%
Changes directly arising from discussions on 7 March		
Effect of increases to Community Housing rentals	(50)	-0.13%
Reinstate Geopark Support (removed 14 February) after discussion	114	0.31%
Rates Requirement approved for community engagement	40,348	8.06%

Attachment 4 – Effect of Decisions made during the meeting (continued)

Next steps

Having completed hearings related to the submissions received following community engagement, Council must now consider which requests, both financial and non-financial, will be incorporated into the final version of the 2023/24 Annual Plan.

Officers have identified considerations arising from the submissions that either have, or could potentially have, a financial impact on Council's operations, and on the level of rates required for delivery of services in the 2023/24 financial year.

The table below details the considerations identified, each of which has either had a proposed response attached, or the cost of the proposed change has been estimated and Council is presented with the option to either approve the change for inclusion in the Annual Plan or to decline/defer any decision and to not include the proposal in the Annual Plan. Council might also decide to approve a part of the amount requested, and any change of this nature can be accommodated during the meeting.

Submissions made with financial implications for deliberation			
		Annual Plan 2023/24	
Reason for budget change	Options \$000	Vs 2022/23 \$000	Change %
Rates budgeted 2021-31 LTP for 2022-23 (year 2)		37,695	
Rates budgeted 2021-31 LTP for 2023-24 (year 3)		41,200	9.30%
Rates budgeted 2022-23 Annual Plan		37,340	
Updated rates requirement prior to deliberations		40,348	8.06%
Changes arising from review of Fees and Charges 9 May 2023 (in any)			0.00%
Updated rates requirement prior to deliberations		40,348	8.06%
<i>Deliberations</i>			
Turning bay on Beach Road used by contractors as a carpark	Council has arranged to tidy		0.00%
Provision of a small dog park	Consider for LTP		0.00%
Seal all of, or Eastern/Western ends of District Road at a minimum	Consider for LTP		0.00%
Provide shuttle service to Dunedin Hospital	Consider on commercial basis?		0.00%
Funding for Puketapu Track should be a priority	Included in Better-off funding		0.00%
North Otago MTB club requests increased grant for track improvement			0.00%
Approve / decline request	6		0.00%

Attachment 4 – Effect of Decisions made during the meeting (continued)

Submissions made with financial implications for deliberation			
		Annual Plan 2023/24	
Reason for budget change	Options \$000	Vs 2022/23 \$000	Change %
Oamaru Whitestone Civic Trust			
- Reinstate Visitor Centre funding			
Approve / decline request	100		0.00%
- Provide matching grant to cover loan interest			
Approve / decline request	21		0.00%
NOSLAM - retain grant funding approved in 2023 budget	Funding has been retained		0.00%
Otago Museum Trust Board - move annual contribution 7% to \$65123			
Approve / decline request	4		0.00%
Ahuriri Community Board			
- Footpath to Kurow bridge	If approved, Amenity reserves		
- Seal section of Settlement Road	If approved, Amenity reserves		
- Extend Coronet Road footpath	If approved, Amenity reserves		
- Improve pedestrian lanes through Otematata	If approved, Amenity reserves		
- Budget for 2-3 members to attend Taituara conference			
Approve / decline request	6		0.00%
Waihemo Community Board			
- feeder streets to school from Copinsha Street			
Approve / decline request	100		0.00%
- amounts for Puketapu Track and MTB track	Included in Better-off funding		
- Skatepark fence to be extended	If approved, Amenity reserves		
- extend Moonar Street walkway	If approved, Loan funding		
- increased schedule for rubbish bin emptying in Moeraki/Hampden	If approved, Amenity reserves		
- finalise options for Hampden sewerage scheme	If approved, Loan funding		
- reconsider a footpath on Lincoln Street	If approved, Loan funding		
- Budget for 2-3 members to attend Taituara conference			
Approve / decline request	6		0.00%
Sports and Events Centre project			
- The 2021-31 LTP was based on Council's contribution fixed at \$10M			
- Engagement looked for feedback on three options			
- this analysis assumes borrowings at 6.7% from LGFA			
- for the 2023-24 Annual Plan, rate impacts are assessed as being			
Retain Council contribution at \$10M	0		
Increase Council contribution to \$15M	335		0.00%
Cancel the project	-670		0.00%
Rates Requirement prior to consideration of the Sports and Events Centre		40,348	8.06%

3 MEETING CLOSE