

**Mandy McIntosh**

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**From:** Waitaki Ratepayers <ratepayers.waitaki@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 May 2023 10:53 am  
**To:** Consult  
**Cc:** Councillors; Alex Parmley  
**Subject:** borrowing



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## Waitaki Ratepayers & Residents Association

P.O. Box 69 Oamaru 9444  
ratepayers.waitaki@gmail.com  
11 May 2023

Mayor & Councillors  
Waitaki District Council  
20 Thames Street  
Oamaru 9400

RE: Borrowing

Dear Mayor & Councillors:

Please accept this late submission on the Annual Plan consultation.

The Waitaki Ratepayers & Residents Association wishes to raise a question regarding the District's borrowing intentions.

Accounting Manager Ian Wells stated that the Annual Plan calls for additional borrowing of \$12 million in 2023-24. It's clear that the purpose for all, or most, of this borrowing would be for water infrastructure.

The upcoming elections in October will have one of two possible outcomes:

1. If Labour-Greens wins

Three Waters (Affordable Water Act) will proceed with a start date of 1 July 2026. In this scenario, Waitaki's "fast-tracking" of water projects will be validated and there will be almost two more years for projects to proceed and borrowing to take place with the likelihood that the new entity will assume the water/wastewater debt.

2. If National-Act wins

The Three Waters scheme will be terminated. There is no suggestion of any replacement that would assume Waitaki's water/wastewater debt. The responsibility to finance all borrowing will fall to our ratepayers.

Under these circumstances, we ask the question as to whether any new borrowing should take place in the six months that remain before the election result. Similarly, we ask whether the projects that would be paid for with that borrowing should not be postponed until the election result is known.

Please note that the affected projects, as we understand it, are not urgent. They were moved up in timing from the Long Term Plan for the specific motive of getting the Three Waters entity to assume their cost at the **previous** start-date of 1 July 2024. Delaying the implementation of these projects, or moving them back to their original schedule under the LTP, would not harm service.

Construction costs are usually assumed to grow with any delay in a project. That consideration wouldn't necessarily apply at the moment, with the industry overwhelmed with work and Waitaki often being unable to obtain reasonable tenders. The situation wouldn't necessarily be worse in six months compared to the present, and could be better.

Delaying projects to their original timeline under the LTP, or even beyond, could make additional funding available from the repayment of loans by North Otago Irrigation and Observatory Village. This would lessen the need for borrowing under scenario (2) above.

Your consideration of these issues, with appropriate direction to officers, would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

WAITAKI RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

For the Committee by: Michael Sweeney

05 May 2023

Waitaki District Council

Attn: Alex Parmley

Delivered by email: [aparmley@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:aparmley@waitaki.govt.nz)

**Re: Tūhura Otago Museum Budget**

Tēnā rā koutou e te Kaunihera o Waitaki,

As with our fellow Arai te Uru rūnanga, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki is aware that Tūhura Otago Museum has made a budget request to its contributing local authorities, including the Waitaki District Council.

Through our participation on the Museum's Māori Advisory Group, we are advised that the budget request is about keeping the Museum in balance with the rising inflation and wage costs. Against those, anything less than the requested budget is a real world cut to the Museum funding.

Te Rūnanga o Moeraki remains committed to our museum and gallery in Waitaki District, as well as other local heritage kaupapa. Notwithstanding that, Tūhura Otago Museum is our regional museum, and it is important that Waitaki District also supports that to the best extent possible. From our Rūnanga perspective, our Māori heritage in Waitaki District is supported by the Museum and it is important that it continues to be. Recent kaupapa of significance to us, and so Waitaki, include:

- Moeraki has equal voice with the other Otago rūnanga on Te Pae Ārahi, the Museum's Māori advisory group, that sets the direction and policy for kaupapa Māori at Museum.
- The Museum has partnered with Otago University's archaeology department to support the Rūnanga in our excavation of the archaeology at Tikoraki where our urupā reserve is eroding – this attracted \$20,000 worth of Participatory Science Platform funding to the Rūnanga.
- The Museum has partnered with Te Rūnanga o Moeraki in a successful MBIE Vision Mātauranga Placement project that will see \$250,000 invested in researching our southern Māori star lore which will be crucial for our region's ongoing Matariki revitalisation and celebrations.
- In partnership with Canterbury Museum, Tūhura Otago Museum is developing a touring Māori rock art exhibition that is proposed to focus on the Waitaki as the backbone of the display. Within that project the Museum is partnering with us on the production of digital 3D interpretations for the Takiroa and Maerewhenua rock art sites.
- Recent exhibitions that give regionally significant opportunities for us to participate in such as the international touring display *Kura Pounamu* curated by Te Papa, the NZ Portraiture Gallery exhibition of the Māori King's - Kiingi Tuheitia - tūpuna portraits awards, and the celebration of taonga puoro (Māori instruments) revitalisation in *Ngā Hau Ngākau*.

By far the greatest portion of the Museum's council funding is from the Dunedin City Council, and we are aware that our relations at Puketeraki and Ōtākou are supporting the Museum's request to the DCC. Tūhura Otago Museum is a regional museum that we engage with regionally, and so we encourage Waitaki District to provide a strong message from our district by supporting the Museum's budget round request as much as possible, as well



**Te Rūnanga  
o Moeraki Inc**

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that of our wonderful district museum and gallery. We anticipate calling more on Tūhura Otago Museum in the near future, especially as we address eroding wāhi tupuna and archaeology, and our District's support will give strength to our requests.

Thank you for considering this kaupapa.

Nāhaku noa nā,

Justin Tipa

Kaiwhakahaere - Chair

Te Rūnanga o Moeraki