

Waitaki District Council

# **2023-24 Annual Plan Engagement Submissions Book**





# **Verbal submissions**

## Verbal submissions

Start	Finish	Submission #	Name	Represented by	Page no.
09:10 AM	09:15 AM	# 148	Evan Anderson	-	5-6
09:15 AM	09:20 AM	# 179	Lewis Tinoai	-	7-8
09:20 AM	09:25 AM	# 181	Jayla Lamb	-	9-10
09:25 AM	09:30 AM	# 204	Lisa Howard-Sullivan	-	11-12
09:35 AM	09:45 AM	# 164	East Otago Catchment Group; North Otago Sustainable Land Management	Stephanie Scott & Kate Faulks	13-16
09:45 AM	09:55 AM	# 154	Living Wage Waitaki	Mark Smith	17-32
09:55 AM	10:00 AM	# 245	Tinaya Kelly	-	33-34
10:05 AM	10:15 AM	# 116	Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust	Helen Jansen & Trust Members	35-41
10:35 AM	10:55 AM	# 137	Ōamaru Whitestone Civic Trust	Graeme Clark & Trust Members	42-44
11:05 AM	11:15 AM	# 247	Ōamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre	Carolyn Lewis	45-52
11:15 AM	11:25 AM	# 192	Criterion Hotel	Katrina McLarin	53-55
11:25 AM	11:30 AM	# 170	Dan Lewis	-	56-58
11:35 AM	11:40 AM	# 76	Ray Henderson	-	59-64
11:40 AM	11:45 AM	# 159	Bruce Albiston	-	65-68
11:45 AM	11:50 AM	# 227	Zim Sherman	-	69-73
11:50 AM	12:00 PM	# 215	Waitaki Event Centre Trust	Adair Craik & Trust Members	74-75
12:50 PM	12:55 PM	# 21	Andrew Powazynski	-	76-77

Start	Finish	Submission #	Name	Represented by	Page no.
12:55 PM	01:00PM	# 236	Faye Ormandy	-	78-81
01:00 PM	01:05 PM	# 237	Ian Murton	-	82-86
01:05 PM	01:15 PM	# 115	Waitaki Boys' High School	Darryl Paterson	87-89
01:15 PM	01:25 PM	# 196	Ōamaru Steam & Rail	Harry Andrew	90-91
01:30 PM	01:50 PM	# 223	Ahuriri Community Board	Calum Reid & Karen Turner	92-108
01:50 PM	02:00 PM	# 191	Presbyterian Support Otago	Carmen Batchelor	109-111
02:05 PM	02:15 PM	# 234	Ōamaru Pacific Islands Community Group Inc	Silou Temoana	112-118
02:15 PM	02:25 PM	# 75	Mountain Biking North Otago	Marcus Brown	119-122
02:30 PM	02:35 PM	# 74	Stacey Pine	-	123-124
02:35 PM	02:55 PM	# 233	Federated Farmers	Angela Johnston	125-131



# 148

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, April 28, 2023 11:09:24 AM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, April 28, 2023 11:56:00 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:46:36  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

## Q1

Your contact details

**Name** Evan Anderson  
**Organisation (if applicable)** oamaru Intermediate school  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
**Email** [REDACTED]  
**Phone** [REDACTED]

## Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## Q3

Age (optional)

Under 18

## Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

Maori/English

## Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

a Resident

## Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

## Q6

1. Waitaki Event CentreWould you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

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

**Q7****Don't know**

2. Unfunding depreciation Do you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

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**Q8****Don't know**

3. Preparing for emergencies Do you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

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**Q9****Yes,**

4. Maheno water Do you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

Any other thoughts?:

I live near Maheno. The Maheno water is so yuk. It turns of at random times. One time i was in the shower and it turned off and then it turned on and it was brown water. I want the Council to take over the water and make it nice and fresh instead of brown.

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**Q10****Don't know**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023 Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

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**Q11****Don't know**

6. Coastal erosion Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

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**Q12****Respondent skipped this question**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

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**Q13****Respondent skipped this question**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

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# 179

# 2023-24 Annual Plan Feedback form

Puka whakahoki kōrero

Scan for more  
info and online  
feedback form



**We'd love to hear your thoughts on what we're planning and any other ideas you may have to help make Waitaki the best place to be!**

**Email:** consult@waitaki.govt.nz  
**Post:** Annual Plan 2023-24, Waitaki District Council, Private Bag 50058, Ōamaru 9444  
**Deliver:** Drop it off at any Council office or district library

## Your contact details: (please print clearly)

Full name: Lewis Tinoi  
Organisation (if applicable): Oamaru Intermediate School  
Postal address: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

*We're asking the following questions to understand more about who we are hearing from. Answers are completely optional.*

Age (optional): ☒ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25 - 49 ☐ 50-64 ☐ 65+

Ethnicity (optional): NZ European 50% / Samoan 50%

Are you (optional): ☐ a Ratepayer and/or ☒ a Resident (tick all that apply)

## Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

☒ Yes

☐ No

*If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.*

## What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

### 1. Waitaki Event Centre

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

☐ **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.

Any other thoughts? You should spend the money  
on something every one can use. Like Roads, Gardens  
and Swimming pools. Like why should the elderly pay higher  
Rates for something they can't use or enjoy to use

## 2. Unfunding depreciation

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

☐

Yes

☐

No

☒

Don't know

Any other thoughts?

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## 3. Preparing for emergencies

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

☒

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't know

Any other thoughts?

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## 4. Maheno water

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

☐

Yes

☒

No

☐

Don't know

Any other thoughts?

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## 5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023

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

☐

Yes

☒

No

☐

Don't know

Are there any other comments you wish to make for Council to consider prior to finalising the Significance and Engagement Policy and Guidelines?

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## 6. Coastal erosion

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

☒

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't know

Any other thoughts?

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## 7. Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

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**Need more room? You can add extra pages if there is not enough space on this form.**

**Points to remember when giving us your feedback:**

- Please note that all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included in accordance with our Privacy Policy which can be found on our website [www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz).
- Submissions accompanied by multiple signatures or as a petition will be processed as a single submission.



# 181

# 2023-24 Annual Plan Feedback form

Puka whakahoki kōrero

Scan for more  
info and online  
feedback form



**We'd love to hear your thoughts on what we're planning and any other ideas you may have to help make Waitaki the best place to be!**

**Email:** consult@waitaki.govt.nz

**Post:** Annual Plan 2023-24, Waitaki District Council, Private Bag 50058, Ōamaru 9444

**Deliver:** Drop it off at any Council office or district library

## Your contact details: (please print clearly)

Full name: Jayla Lamb

Organisation (if applicable): Oamaru Intermediate School

Postal address: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

**We're asking the following questions to understand more about who we are hearing from. Answers are completely optional.**

Age (optional): ☒ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25 - 49 ☐ 50-64 ☐ 65+

Ethnicity(optional): NZ European/Tokelauan

Are you (optional): ☐ a Ratepayer and/or ☒ a Resident (tick all that apply)

## Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?



Yes



No

*If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.*

## What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

### 1. Waitaki Event Centre

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



**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.

Any other thoughts? There is little point making the events Centre. It will increase rates drastically and it will take far too long to be built



## 2. Unfunding depreciation

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

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

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## 3. Preparing for emergencies

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

I think there should be more money invested into emergency preparation.

## 4. Maheno water

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

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## 5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023

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

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know

Are there any other comments you wish to make for Council to consider prior to finalising the Significance and Engagement Policy and Guidelines?

It's too long and multiple things could easily be removed.

## 6. Coastal erosion

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

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## 7. Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

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**Need more room? You can add extra pages if there is not enough space on this form.**

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- Submissions accompanied by multiple signatures or as a petition will be processed as a single submission.

# 2023-24 Annual Plan Feedback form

## Puka whakahoki kōrero

Scan for more info and online feedback form



We'd love to hear your thoughts on what we're planning and any other ideas you may have to help make Waitaki the best place to be!

Email: [consult@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:consult@waitaki.govt.nz)

Post: Annual Plan 2023-24, Waitaki District Council, Private Bag 50058, Ōamaru 9444

Deliver: Drop it off at any Council office or district library

### Your contact details: (please print clearly)

Full name: Lisa Howard Sullivan

Organisation (if applicable):

Postal address:

Email:

Phone:

We're asking the following questions to understand more about who we are hearing from. Answers are completely optional.

Age (optional): ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25 - 49 ☐ 50-64 ☐ 65+

Ethnicity (optional):

Are you (optional): ☒ a Ratepayer and/or ☐ a Resident (tick all that apply)

### Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

### 1. Waitaki Event Centre

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

☐ 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.

Any other thoughts?

This is a nice to have, however further borrowing (in addition to current loans & other proposed borrowing) is not acceptable. We do not know full cost - it keeps rising - nor do we know what running costs will be.

Not now - maybe later when spending is under control



## 2. Unfunding depreciation

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

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

*I is unclear if Affordable Water will go ahead and the outcome. Failure (not unfunding) to put money aside for depreciation related to assets if poor planning*

## 3. Preparing for emergencies

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

*Surely this would be a given and already have been part of Council's job*

## 4. Maheno water

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

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

*I would have thought that this is affected by Affordable Water (over 3 waters) need more information*

## 5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023

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

☐ Yes ☒ No ☒ Don't know

Are there any other comments you wish to make for Council to consider prior to finalising the Significance and Engagement Policy and Guidelines?

*Suggest this is made available in bullet points to whole community. Very difficult to condense when so little information*

## 6. Coastal erosion

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

*I would have thought that was already being undertaken. If not why not?*

## 7. Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

*Recent information regarding the Information Centre is appalling. I do not understand Council's suggestion that the Information Centre is no longer funded by Council. It shd be funded & remain in Whitstone City.*

 **Need more room? You can add extra pages if there is not enough space on this form.**

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# 164

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, April 28, 2023 1:43:07 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, April 28, 2023 1:45:59 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:52  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

## Q1

Your contact details

Name	Stephanie Scott & Kate Faulks
Organisation (if applicable)	East Otago Catchment Group and NOSLaM
Address	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]

## Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## Q3

Age (optional)

25-49

## Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

n/a

## Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

Respondent skipped this question

## Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

## Q6

1. Waitaki Event CentreWould you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

Any other thoughts?:  
n/a

**Q7**

2. Unfunding depreciation Do you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

Any other thoughts?:

n/a

**Q8**

3. Preparing for emergencies Do you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

Any other thoughts?:

n/a

**Q9**

4. Maheno water Do you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

Any other thoughts?:

n/a

**Q10**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023 Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

Are there any other comments you wish to make for Council to consider prior to finalising the Significance and Engagement Policy and Guidelines?:  
n/a

**Q11**

6. Coastal erosion Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

Any other thoughts?:

n/a

**Q12**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

Respondent skipped this question

**Q13**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

[Submission%20to%20WDC%20Annual%20Plan%2028\\_4\\_23.docx \(70.6KB\)](#)

## **Submission to Waitaki District Council Annual Plan**

### **From: NOSLaM & East Otago Catchment Group (EOCG)**

North Otago Sustainable Land Management (NOSLaM) and East Otago Catchment Group would like to thank the Waitaki District Council (WDC) for the support given to them for the last year and would like to submit this joint application to the 2023/2024 Annual Plan process. This is so that the work we are undertaking in our communities to improve water quality and biodiversity can continue and grow within the North Otago and East Otago catchment areas.

Last year NOSLaM and EOCG each received \$10,000 in funding to put towards co-ordination and running costs of their respective catchment groups. Both groups respectfully request the same amounts again.

This funding is used to engage group activity, co-ordination and assist with operating costs ensuring we can continue to operate in our respective catchment areas and provide our farmers and landowners the support they are actively seeking as they progress their sustainable land use journey.

Some of the many activities undertaken by the groups over the past year include:

- Supporting farmers through the miriade of regulation changes facing them eg winter grazing resource consent workshops
- Work with the schools eg Soil Your Undies and Stream Health workshops, riparian planting days
- Work with secondary school Ag classes
- Guest speakers and community events
  - Community planting days
  - Biodiversity field days
  - Winter grazing field days
  - Riparian planting workshops

- ORC Plan Change workshops
- Native propagation workshops
- Health and wellbeing events that focus on bringing the community together
- Time consuming funding applications for government funded projects eg applications to MPI for Integrated Farm Planning
- Regular updates to their community from both groups to build engagement in the community and more.

Without funding and support from the WDC to employ our respective co-ordinators, the work involved putting activity calendar's of this magnitude together and co-ordinating the events so they come to fruition would fall on volunteers and, quite simply, result in volunteer burn out further resulting in a reduction of activity.

Funding for co-ordination and operation costs ensures the groups will not encounter volunteer burn out and that the momentum of the two catchment groups is continual and consistent.

We are keen to speak to our submission and look forward to the opportunity.

Kind Regards

Kate Faulks, NOSLaM

Steph Scott, East Otago Catchment Group

# 154

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, April 28, 2023 12:00:21 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, April 28, 2023 1:06:59 PM  
**Time Spent:** 01:06:37  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

## Q1

Your contact details

**Name** Mark Smith  
**Organisation (if applicable)** Living Wage Waitaki  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
**Email** [REDACTED]  
**Phone** [REDACTED]

## Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## Q3

Age (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

## Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

## Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

Respondent skipped this question

## Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

## Q6

1. Waitaki Event CentreWould you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

Respondent skipped this question

## Q7

2. Unfunding depreciationDo you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

Respondent skipped this question

**Q8**

Respondent skipped this question

3. Preparing for emergenciesDo you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

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**Q9**

Respondent skipped this question

4. Maheno waterDo you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

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**Q10**

Respondent skipped this question

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

---

**Q11**

Respondent skipped this question

6. Coastal erosionDo you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

---

**Q12**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

Living Wage Waitaki would like Council to pay at least the Living Wage to all Council employees, including casual staff. Please read the full submission and supporting material supplied.

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**Q13**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

[April%202023%20WDC%20Annual%20Plan%20LW%20submission.pdf \(1.1MB\)](#)

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Living Wage Waitaki

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

28 April 2023

Dear Alex Parmley  
For the Waitaki District Council,

## **1. Submission on the Annual Plan**

The Living Wage Waitaki network makes this submission with respect to the Council's Annual Plan consultation process.

The request is that:

- The Waitaki District Council commit to paying all of its employees and contractors (including casuals etc.) at least the Living Wage.
- That the Waitaki District Council do so as a matter of ongoing policy i.e. year on year, every year, Council pays all of its people at least the Living Wage hourly rate.

We would be delighted if the Waitaki District Council become an accredited Living Wage Employer.

We wish to speak to our submission.

Please communicate with our spokespeople Heather Machin or Mark Smith at one of the addresses above. Email is our preferred form of written communication.

## **2. Living Wage Waitaki.**

Living Wage Waitaki advocates for employers to pay at least the Living Wage to their staff and the staff of contractors with whom they habitually engage.

Our network is one of many similar networks in New Zealand and part of New Zealand's Living Wage Movement. Living Wage Movement Aotearoa New Zealand brings together community/secular and faith-based groups to campaign for a Living Wage.

The Living Wage movement has emerged as a response to growing poverty and inequality that continues to hold back so many Kiwis, their families and our economy.

### **3. The Living Wage**

The Living Wage concept is simple yet powerful – it is the hourly wage a worker needs to pay for the necessities of life, live with dignity and participate as an active citizen in the community.

It accurately reflects the basic expenses of workers and their families such as food, transportation, housing and childcare, and is calculated independently each year by the New Zealand Family Centre Social Policy Unit - an NGO prominent in social policy research.<sup>1</sup>

The New Zealand Living Wage hourly rate for 2023/2024 is \$26.00. It was announced on April 1 and will come into effect on 1 September 2023.

At the beginning of each year, the Family Centre gathers wage and other financial data and in April publishes an updated Living Wage amount which is expressed as an hourly rate that becomes effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September in that year. The delay between the new rates' release and its implementation gives employers time to plan for the increase. This year a full review was conducted – see <https://www.livingwage.org.nz/lw23>

There is a distinction to be drawn between being an accredited Living Wage employer and an employer paying the Living Wage. An accredited Living Wage employer is one who pays not only its own staff at least the Living Wage but ensures that the staff of those from whom it habitually buys goods and services also pay at least the Living Wage.

### **4. The Waitaki District Council's situation.**

At time of writing, we are waiting on a LGOIMA with updated information.

In 2021 Council indicated in response to a LGOIMA request that 25% of WDC workers earned less than the Living Wage. According to that response, the estimated cost in that year to lift all workers to the Living Wage would have been just \$36,110. According to WDC's response, this increase would have represented a very small (0.11%) increase on the rates budgeted for the 2020/2021 year. According to Council's own response, that would have been equivalent to 0.063% of the total expenditure for the Council that year.

While the above figures are no longer timely, the point very likely still holds: WDC can reasonably afford to pay the Living Wage. It is worth noting that Dunedin City, South Canterbury and Waimate Councils, along with Canterbury Regional Council are now all committed to paying at least the Living Wage to their staff.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.livingwage.org.nz/>



## 5. Why pay the Living Wage.

Paying a Living Wage has the potential to provide benefits for the Council, through reduced absenteeism and sick leave, increased staff retention, increased productivity and higher quality of worker output.

In addition, a Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) impact analysis on public service living wage increases noted: 'There are also likely to be benefits to the local economy, as low-wage workers and households tend to spend a higher proportion of wage gains on immediate needs and tend to spend a higher proportion within their local region.'<sup>2</sup>

Such a course of action would also be in line with Council's four community outcomes and the four well-beings from S3 of the Local Government Act 2002.

So paying the Living Wage would be good for Council, and good for the District. It is also the right thing to do.

More than just improving the economy, making smart businesses more profitable and helping people help themselves, paying the Living Wage helps alleviate poverty.

Poverty is associated with poor health and shorter lifespans, as well as inter-generational unemployment, poor mental health and addiction. Poverty inhibits educational attainment and participation in the kind of recreational opportunities we pride ourselves in having on our doorstep here in the Waitaki.

By paying the Living Wage, WDC would be taking strong action against the scourge of poverty wages. By paying the Living Wage, Council would also be demonstrating leadership in the community, and provide an example for other leaders to take action.

Accordingly Living Wage Waitaki calls on the Waitaki District Council to take a bold step for the good of the Waitaki and become an accredited Living Wage Employer.

Or that the Waitaki District Council at least commit to paying all of its staff and contractors at least the Living Wage.

Yours faithfully,

Heather Machin and Mark Smith  
Spokespeople for Living Wage Waitaki.

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<sup>2</sup> Reynolds, D., Pearson, R., and Voortkamp, J., (1999), The impact of the Detroit living wage ordinance. Centre for Urban Studies and Labour Studies Centre, College of Urban, Labour and Metropolitan Affairs, Wayne State University. Cited in Cabinet paper ['Implementing a minimum living wage rate for cleaners, caterers and security guards working under Public Service contracts'](#)



# Deliberating Upon the Living Wage to Alleviate In-Work Poverty: A Rhetorical Inquiry Into Key Stakeholder Accounts

Darrin J. Hodgetts<sup>1\*</sup>, Amanda Maria Young-Hauser<sup>1</sup>, Jim Arrowsmith<sup>2</sup>, Jane Parker<sup>2</sup>, Stuart Colin Carr<sup>1</sup>, Jarrod Haar<sup>3</sup> and Siatu Alefaio<sup>1</sup>

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Most developed nations have a statutory minimum wage set at levels insufficient to alleviate poverty. Increased calls for a living wage have generated considerable public controversy. This article draws on 25 interviews and four focus groups with employers, low-pay industry representatives, representatives of chambers of commerce, pay consultants, and unions. The core focus is on how participants use prominent narrative tropes for the living wage and against the living wage to argue their respective perspectives. We also document how both affirmative and negative tropes are often combined by participants to craft their own rhetorical positions on the issue.

**Keywords:** living wage, minimum wage, rhetoric, public deliberation, in-work poverty, socio-economic inclusion

## INTRODUCTION

Recognizing foundational links between work, income and poverty, over the past century most OECD countries have introduced statutory minimum wages (MW) as a key pillar of their social safety nets. These MWs were originally envisioned as living wages (LWs) that could lift people out of poverty and sustain the health, morale, and productivity of communities, and reduce state dependency (Levin-Waldman, 2000). Efforts to ensure such decent pay have sparked considerable public controversy. Powerful conservative interests have opposed livable wages by arguing that these are not financially viable for businesses, are not warranted due to low employee productivity, and will result in job losses and business failures (Fourcade, 2009; Karjanen, 2010; Skilling and Tregidga, 2019). Correspondingly, the value of the MW in many OECD countries has been eroded and kept artificially lower than the LW. This has resulted in increased in-work poverty (Schulten and Luebker, 2019). In response, LW advocates have mobilized research evidence that shows that higher wages need not lead to increased unemployment or business closures (Card and Krueger, 1995; Luce, 2004). In promoting decent pay as a solution to in-work poverty, LW campaigners have also mobilized broader social justice notions of business ethics, social license, equity, socio-economic inclusion, and human dignity (Luce, 2004; Stabile, 2008). These campaigns have gained considerable momentum with the 2008 global financial crisis and subsequent recession in many that was exacerbated by poverty generating austerity responses in many countries. The current COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the importance of “essential” low-paid workers and the in-work poverty they experience (Hopner et al., 2021).

Since antiquity, scholars have considered links between public understandings of such contentious issues and argumentation (Levine and Saunders, 1993). More recently, Wood (1997)

explored key arguments for and against the introduction of the MW in the United Kingdom, as evident in media items and published research. Similarly, Karjanen (2010) explored LW debates in selected jurisdictions in the United States and London. Skilling and Tregidga (2019) found that the majority of relevant public reports, press releases and subsequent news items in New Zealand presented arguments for the LW, reflecting growing pressures from unlivable wages and high living costs (Plum et al., 2019). Arguably, this reflects an asymmetrical conflict whereby those seeking change have to advocate more vigorously to challenge this *status quo* of poverty level wages. Relatedly, those opposing the LW often simply defend the *status quo* by reducing the dialog, responding primarily to particular points of argument, and/or diverting attention elsewhere.

Research cited above has begun to explore rhetorical trends in wage setting in publicly available documents. We seek to extend such research by drawing on face-to-face conversations with key representatives (rhetors) of employers and employees. This article explores how these rhetors (Ancient Greek term for “orator,” Walker, 2000) argue for and against the LW in Aotearoa/NZ; one of the first countries to introduce a statutory MW that is now amongst the highest in the world (Schulten and Luebker, 2019). Conversely, our national average wage is relatively low (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD], 2019). The campaign for a LW has gained traction due to increasing inequalities associated with a comparatively high cost of living (Arrowsmith et al., 2020).

The importance of public debates regarding contentious issues, such as the LW is reflected in thousands of years of sustained scholarship on rhetoric (the art of persuasion) originating in ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, India, and China (Hallo, 2004). Today, the study of rhetoric informs scholarly understandings of how human beings make sense of the world, whilst often seeking to influence the understandings of others (Burke, 1969). A key focus is on the techniques rhetors employ to advise, persuade, and motivate others to think and act in particular ways. Rhetorical techniques involve the use of specific fragments of cultural discourse (e.g., heuristics or tropes) to encourage other people to make quick judgments and accept the plausibility of the rhetor’s position in public debates (Burgchardt, 2010). As such, the rhetorical perspective we adopt is useful in orientating us toward how citizen rhetors participate actively in public deliberations regarding the LW, and present, advocate for, advance, and defend their positions in dialog with opposing views (Burgchardt, 2010). Our study of LW rhetoric focuses on the tropes and devices used by research participants to defend and to persuade others of the merits of one’s own position regarding the LW.

This study is informed by insights from Billig’s (1989) seminal work on rhetorical psychology, which emphasizes the importance of human meaning-making as a communal process that progresses through the reconstruction of conflictual tropes or snippets of discourse. According to this perspective, human beings are storied and argumentative beings who often act as rhetors when making sense of contentious issues through argumentation (Fisher, 1984). This involves rhetors drawing on and contesting available public deliberations as they employ

various rhetorical tropes<sup>1</sup> and devices to influence both their own and other people’s positions on contentious issues. Moreover, by analyzing participant accounts we can explore how rhetors think through contentious issues out loud by combining key points from opposing perspectives (Billig, 1989). Such thinking and arguing involves self-positioning rhetorically within public deliberations by combining and revoicing multiple stock counter arguments (tropes) for and against the LW. This serves to warrant their own evolving positions on the LW in what Billig (1989) refers to as “the spirit of contradiction.” That is, rhetors can often voice what might appear to be contradictory ideas or attitudes as they argue for their own position. This polyvocal orientation to human thought and argumentation guides our exploration of the dynamic complexities of public deliberations regarding the LW, and associated personal, organizational and societal tensions.

This research is also informed by notions of “public deliberation” in which rhetors absorb or concede some counter arguments or tropes as they advance their own positions and interests. The concept of public deliberation is also used to posit that, in democracies, people affected by wage setting decisions (e.g., employers, employees or their representatives) should have a say in decisions impacting upon them (O’Doherty and Stroud, 2019). Ideally, in public deliberations different stakeholders pursue their interests by entering into dialog with those voicing opposing perspectives with a view to reaching collective resolution. As such, public deliberations constitute inter-subjective encounter spaces within which participants may evolve their own arguments to incorporate aspects of counter tropes as they manage complexities and contradictions regarding the LW. As we will demonstrate, interchanges between different perspectives can reach the point where rhetors opposing the LW also re-purpose and voice selective elements of tropes for the LW, and vice-versa. In the process, participating rhetors contribute dialectically to the construction of an organic mini-public (O’Doherty and Stroud, 2019), which is subject to the influence of power relations that shape tensions between employers and employees.

Exploring deliberations within this mini-public is important in addressing these knowledge gaps regarding how the LW is constructed and understood not only by employers, but sector and employee representatives too. This article also responds to a situation in which work is often being touted as the “solution to poverty” (Hodgetts and Stolte, 2017), when most people in poverty are already engaged in work that pays unlivable wages. Further, poor working conditions, including inadequate wages have been recognized as the number one challenge in the world of work [International Labour Organization (ILO), 2019]. This topic warrants our careful consideration.

## RESEARCH CONTEXT AND APPROACH

Aotearoa/NZ was the world’s first country to endorse a national MW through the *Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act*

<sup>1</sup>For our purpose, tropes comprise figurative, metaphorical, recurrent and readily recognizable shorthand figures of speech, narrative plot elements or points of argument that populate ongoing debates (Sandberg, 2016).

of 1894. The Act established a process of Arbitration to set minimum rates of pay across sectors and occupations as well as requiring compulsory union membership and collective bargaining. This tripartite (employer, union, government) approach lasted until 1991 when the *Employment Contracts Act* deregulated the industrial relations system and contributed to the subsequent collapse of private-sector union representation. This resulted in an imbalance in power relations between employers and workers in wage setting and contributed to increases in poverty.

Legislatively, the legally mandated adult MW introduced with the 1983 Minimum Wage Act was relatively generous and the seventh highest rate in the world in purchasing power parity terms (Schulten and Laebker, 2019). Over time the MW has not kept pace with inflation and its actual value has been eroded. Significant in a recent effort to lift the MW was the election of the Labor-led government in 2017 who announced stepwise annual increases to NZ\$20 by 2021, some 27% on the 2017 rate and closing the gap on the LW rate pursued by campaigners. Such increases comprise a response to high living and housing costs that leave many households "...with insufficient income to meet other basic needs" (Perry, 2019, p. 64). In-work poverty rates were between 9 to 12% in 2018 (Plum et al., 2019), and were increasingly recognized as key drivers of negative consequences for employees, their families and communities (Groot et al., 2017; Hodgetts and Stolte, 2017). It is in this context that the LW campaign has gained considerable traction since its formation in 2012 as a means of supporting a basic material standard of living, civic participation and dignified lives for employees, families, and communities (Hurley and Vacas-Soriano, 2018; Carr et al., 2019).

The LW campaign has experienced considerable opposition that often draws from orthodox neoliberal economic "theory," which is based on equilibrium models of supply and demand, whereby paying above "market clearing" wages is considered uncompetitive and as leading to job losses and/or work intensification (Leonard, 2000). Alternative theories posit that low pay reflects unequal bargaining power, rather than market forces, resulting in a discretionary pay "range of indeterminacy" (Arrowsmith et al., 2003). Concepts such as "efficiency wages" and insights from motivational psychology and social exchange theory also suggest that higher pay can deliver offsetting returns especially in the longer term through better recruitment and retention, returns to training, improved commitment, and employment relations (Card and Krueger, 1995; Searle and McWha-Herman, 2020). Hence, a living wage can benefit both organizations and workers (Carr et al., 2017).

This paper explores these issues by drawing on a major research project running from 2018 to 2021 involving a national quantitative survey of low-paid workers and qualitative interviews and case studies of employers. The employee survey results, presented elsewhere, indicate that wellbeing (both work and non-work) spike at around the living wage figure, suggesting that it could have a significant positive effect. This article draws on 25 semi-structured interviews conducted in late 2018 with sector-level employer representatives, managers at five regional Chambers of Commerce, managers at two city councils (Auckland and Wellington, which have formally adopted the

LW), two pay and human resources consultancies, and union representatives involved in the LW campaign. The employer associations represented sectors with a large proportion of low-paid workers (Retail NZ, the Tourism Industry Association, Hospitality NZ, the Food Grocery Council, Federated Farmers, Horticulture NZ, the NZ Aged Care Association, Manufacturing NZ, the Employers and Manufacturers Association) and the peak body Business NZ. The second wave of the research involved four focus groups in December 2020 that again focused on low-wage sectors such as hospitality, cleaning, and retail. Each focus group consisted of senior managers and human resource professionals from non-LW (focus groups one and four) and LW businesses (focus groups two and three).

Qualitative analyses in psychology are often concerned with categorizing the world into lists of mutually exclusive themes. Rhetorical and more impressionistic forms of inquiry also engage in some categorizing, but tropes are not conceptualized as mutually exclusive categories (Burghardt, 2010; Hodgetts et al., 2021). Rather, tropes are approached as entwined, dynamic and dialogically related common statements or dynamic snippets of shared culture that exist and take shape within rhetorical processes. Likewise, the focus of our inquiry is not on constructing a list of distinct themes. It is on the dialectical interplay of tropes in the contingent formation of rhetorical positions in the LW debate as a dynamic and collective meaning-making process involving the adaptation of these tropes in real time. Although our focus is on interpreting, rather than trying to verify or validate the empirical findings, it is useful for us to offer an account of our iterative process of inquiry that was centered on abductive reasoning or logical inference (Hodgetts et al., 2021).

To initiate this inquiry, the first two authors searched the academic literature and websites featuring arguments for and against the living wage. We then re-read the interview and focus group transcripts independently to explore which tropes featured in participant deliberations. Next, our extensive notes were compared to establish prominent tropes and associated rhetorical devices across the empirical materials and to establish how these were being used in concert by opposing rhetors. We then re-read the research corpus independently and coded extracts of participant accounts relating to each trope. Many extracts were coded in relation to multiple tropes as a reflection of how rhetors combine these when posing their arguments for and against the LW. The first two authors then came together to integrate the preliminary coding and found a high degree of synergy in the exemplars coded against particular tropes. We then explored how participants used combinations of tropes in constructing their positions on the benefits and/or costs of the LW. This open-ended and iterative process that was then extended to additional co-authors who offered critical feedback from their own readings of the participant accounts and deepened the literature base of the article to include, for example, management literature related to this topic. We then met as a team to write through the draft of the article and to deepen the interpretation. A key concern to emerge from this process was how participating rhetors drew on key tropes regarding work and remuneration and combined these dialectically to express stances for and against the LW.



Building on and extending previous thematic work on the LW (e.g., Wood, 1997; Karjaneen, 2010; Skilling and Tregidga, 2019), we also considered some of the rhetorical devices employed by participating rhetors in arguing for and against the LW. These include hyperbole (making exaggerated assertions of negative impacts), repetition of fear-invoking emotive assertions (e.g., LW will cause business failures and job cuts), and efforts to construct and foreground contradictions in opposing arguments. Also considered is circumlocution or the use of well-known phrases (tropes) to invoke oversimplified assertions regarding empirically tenuous links between wage rises and job losses. Relatedly, we considered the process of antonomasia, a form of metonymy that is used by participating rhetors to invoke notions of “deserving” and “undeserving” workers and “responsible” and “irresponsible” employers. As we document, antonomasia serves to atomize perspectives on the LW in a manner that detracts from due consideration of issues of public good. Also of key concern was how several rhetors invoked a shared imaginary through references to “the government,” “the market” or “business,” in order to conjure up positive and negative associations for different ideologically orientated groups.

Given the focus on rhetoric and the ways in which participants combined key tropes in crafting their positions in the LW debate, we opted to present our interpretation of their meaning making processes in two sections. The first focuses on arguments for (e.g., fairness, poverty reduction and enhanced organization performance) and the second arguments against (e.g., organizational costs, employee performance and free-market wage setting) the LW. Combined, these sections comprise the core of a new bricolage (Lévi-Strauss, 1966) or exemplified interpretation that is rendered meaningful in the context of the theoretical arguments advanced in the introduction, the interpretative methodological position advanced in this section, and the conclusion that completes this article.

## Arguing for the Living Wage

Key supportive tropes for the LW are linked to fairness, poverty reduction, lower staff turnover, sustainability, and broader benefits to workers, families and society. These were drawn upon throughout the participant accounts by both those taking positions generally for or against the LW. In terms of invoking issues of equity and fairness, the trope of the LW being the “right thing to do” is prominent in all participants’ accounts, whether they support or oppose the LW. In the affirmative, it was often used as a way of introducing complementary tropes, including benefits to the organization, whilst acknowledging contrary concerns. We draw on the arguments of a union representative by way of initial example:

*I guess the drivers are “doing the right thing” for a start and making sure that they’re making an ethical statement about what is an acceptable wage for their staff. And then alongside that comes a whole lot of potential benefits from it in terms of wellness, reduced turnover and absenteeism, loyalty to the organization, those sorts of things.*

Pragmatism is also evident here in that, although a LW might generally be accepted as the right thing to do for employees,

it has to be the right strategy for particular organizations. This line of argument was somewhat agreed by participants both for and against the LW, and functioned rhetorically to enable them to present themselves as being reasoned and balanced in their deliberations:

*It’s sort of that space between having a firm, which needs to be profitable, but also having wider goals than just the bottom line.*

Those arguing for the LW acknowledged employer concerns around the financial impacts and issues of profitability. In doing so, these rhetors appropriate concerns from the tropes against the LW around the importance of organizational viability. Proponents of the LW did this by signaling that, although these concerns are important, it is also crucial to consider more than “the bottom line” – rhetorical shorthand for broader societal responsibilities. Also evident is the notion of what this union representative referred to as “good employers” who can gain pride and reputational capital from paying a LW, and contributing to what was termed “a cultural shift” around changing societal expectations regarding fairer remuneration.

Although these quotes come from a union representative, the same accounting practices were provided by many HR consultants and managers, particularly those whose organizations had adopted the LW. In their accounts, the issue of fairness was also contextualized through the use of additional tropes, for example, regarding New Zealand being a low wage economy, despite having a relatively high MW. This rhetorical strategy constituted a less challenging way of promoting the need for a LW by broadening the issue beyond specific organizations to issues of sustainability, prosperity and socio-economic inclusion:

*There’s so many drivers for us as a low wage economy. First of all, there’s the overarching philosophy, which is “it’s the right thing to do.” So, that philosophy propels everything else. . . It immediately impacts people like care workers. . . In my view, this is societal change. This is not just the prerogative or the responsibility of employers. It goes far beyond that. It’s embedded across the fabric of society or should be. . . It has a direct societal impact. (Senior HR consultant)*

Here, references to low wage jobs functions to ground recourse to an abstract philosophical assertion of the “right thing” (read social justice) and the need for changes in the “fabric of society,” which carry material consequences for actual employees. Further, evident in the above extract is the rhetorical positioning of businesses and employers as being embedded in society and, as such, responsible for contributing to the public good.

Pushing this line of argument further, a manager from a power company (focus group two) linked their adoption of the LW to the need to have positive impacts on society as an issue of sustainability (organizational and societal) and “social license”:

*Our sustainability team actually posed this originally, and wedged it into our sustainability framework. It’s very much around care for our people, but also. . . there’s a social license that we have to be able to actually operate.*

Along similar lines, the LW was presented as a mechanism for addressing broader issues of societal equity, with rhetors also emphasizing gender and ethnic pay gaps:

*The one benefit we realized was, that if we bring this [pay] up, this is going to benefit more women and is good for pay equity. . . The other thing is the ethnicity equation. We know that some ethnicities are the ones that are in those brackets. (Council representative)*

Exemplified above is how deliberations regarding the LW often extend to the need for societal change to ensure greater equity for different employee groups. Both employee representatives and managers linked pay to addressing inequities, including poverty reduction. As we document in the next section, this is a stance largely contested by sector representatives, suggestive of a “lower common denominator” effect on the part of umbrella organizations in how they respond to or anticipate vociferous concerns that might be raised by some of their actual employer members. What is also signaled here is the pervasiveness of how arguments for and against the LW were entwined and mounted in the context of knowledge of opposing tropes.

For example, in focus group two, a manager for a call center company invoked and challenged arguments against the LW, in general terms and specifically relating to wage compression (differential) effects between new and more established or senior employees. As is acknowledged, these differentials potentially can complicate perceptions of fairness between employees as many would argue that experience and service warrants wage differentials also being the right thing to do:

*The arguments against weren't relevant anymore. It's difficult not to pay a living wage when, you know, that effectively is the right thing to do. We were still worried about how some of the long-term staff and team leaders, for example, would cope. . . They're like a big family and everybody was just thrilled. I haven't heard any negative feedback from that area at all.*

Here we see an employer raise and then mitigate a key trope relating to wage differentials between newer and long-term staff. This is achieved by first questioning the relevance of arguments against the LW generally and then posing one such argument about wage differentials, and then how they did not receive negative feedback.

An accounts manager in focus group three engaged in a similar rhetorical strategy, but went further to reposition the wage differentials trope as a faulty perception that managers may need to address with their staff:

*We had a bit of a talk in the beginning that people were like, “Well I've been here years, I'm gonna be getting like a few dollars more [than new staff]. It just doesn't feel right.” You go like, “Well stop comparing! You were happy like a month ago when you were getting paid that wage. You'll be happy next month when you're paid that wage.” And why can't everybody have a good wage? Just because you're earning this much more than the other person, don't keep looking at it like that. Look at it like everybody's earning this much and then everyone can go off and go home and garden, or dance or do whatever they want to do. [We are] trying to change the mindset.*

Combined, the rhetorical strategies of these business leaders (particularly the second) offer a glimpse into how tropes regarding fairness and wage differentials can be reworked to support the LW and its impacts on different staff groups. The LW is also presented in the second case as a key mechanism for this self-perceived responsible organization to achieve its humane goal of all employees being able to earn enough to enjoy quality of life. Relatedly, many employers also differentiated the living from the minimum wage, indicating that moving to the LW constituted evidence for a responsible employer:

*It's almost embarrassing for an organization to turn around and say, “We pay minimum wage.” It's kind of like, “Oh, really?” I think especially when, you know, the difference in terms of the impact on somebody's life between paying minimum wage and paying living wage. It's really difficult to argue out of that. And I get there's mum and dad businesses out there that are struggling, but really it's almost a onetime cost if you forecast it into your business. (Focus group two)*

Central to such arguments is the difference between the MW and LW, and how increasing pay to a LW is constructed as a responsible move that can enhance an organization's reputation (cf. Haar et al., 2018). It is also interwoven with the assertion that organizations can benefit from meeting changing public expectations around pay and employer responsibilities.

Issues of fairness for employees were also extended to benefits for good employers, including improved relationships with staff and reduced turnover. In this line of argument, the LW was often presented as a sensible or logical strategy in that it provided a win-win situation for employees and employers. In the service sector, it was asserted that these benefits also extended to customer and community relationships as well as potentially positive labor market and employment effects:

*I notice that there's a bit of a shift now to operators paying a bit more for both attraction and retention. That's probably one of the drivers. . . It helps to improve their standing within the local community. . . Again, both those things are perhaps indicative that employers are starting to see the role that LW or fair wage plays in both retention and attraction, but also working with their local host communities. (Sector representative)*

This extract also reflects the importance of local embeddedness and organizational reputation in the tourism industry. Significant too is the linking of a LW to a “fair wage,” again reflecting the currency of the “right thing” trope in terms of benefits for employees, organizations, communities and society.

This perspective was echoed by a brewery manager in focus group three who connected the LW to the brand, organizational values and broader issues of social responsibility:

*As a brand and in terms of the values it stands for, from the outset has always been very community minded. . . That's what predominately drove us to seek accreditation with the LW. . . We wanted them to have a sustainable lifestyle, and. . . a duty to care for them. . . It received a huge positive response from our team internally and externally. . .*

Another manager of a security firm (focus group three) argued that his organization was proud to pay staff a LW because they

deserved it, and this also returned retention, reputational and growth benefits to the organization (cf. Haar et al., 2018). After proposing that introducing the LW reduced their staff turnover from 100 to 20% per year, this rhetor proposed:

*That alone makes a huge impact to our business. It costs us 5,000 to 10,000 dollars to train a patrolman. . . We can feel a little bit better knowing we're giving some of that money back to the people that really deserve it. . . We have a lot of organic growth in the business and it is word of mouth. What people are beginning to see out there is if they pay for a quality product then they're gonna get it. . . It's testament to having skilled staff, experienced staff that stay with you, because they're paid well and they're looked after.*

Such accounts of employee deservedness, worth, retention and business growth remind us that organizations operate in ecosystems where reputation for equity, social responsibility, and skill competence can generate mutually beneficial and sustainable returns, or what the ILO Decent Work Agenda and the SDGs term "shared prosperity" (United Nations, 2021, SDG-8).

The issue of business sustainability was often used to argue both for and against a LW. In the former, anticipating concerns around financial sustainability, rhetors proposed that well-run businesses are more likely to be able to afford the LW. This rhetorical reframing placed primary responsibility on employers to run their organizations well so that they could afford to do the right thing. This stance is in direct opposition to the common trope against the LW that organizations will become unsustainable if they try and introduce the LW. Again, some hedging work is used in such proposition in terms of acknowledging the need for some firms to increase revenue from customers, which invokes the consumer as a social actor who can contribute to the LW by being willing to bear increased costs for products and services:

*. . . Successful businesses have to be resilient enough to be able to cope with wage increases over time, provided they can offset that cost to the consumer in some way. . . The consumer has the opportunity to increase its behavior, then businesses should be structured well enough to be able to increase their costs as well. (Focus group three)*

Evident in the accounts of several such rhetors was the need for organizations to be managed well enough to be able to afford a LW, placing the responsibility regarding issues of affordability to employers who design work systems (cf. Levin-Waldman, 2000). Subversion of counter arguments for the need for productivity increases to pay for the LW was also evident in the contribution of a manager from a hospitality firm in focus group three:

*And why did they [the business] do it? Definitely not anything to do with productivity or squeezing the most out of their workers. You know, people's lives are important and your job is just your job. . . You've all got your own lives and they just wanna encourage people to be able to live them. . .*

In this exemplar, the rhetor creates a rhetorical opposition between drivers for the LW being productivity gains and needing to care for one's staff by not necessarily intensifying their workloads. Also evident is the relativizing of a job in terms of recognizing the importance of broader concerns such as workers being able to live quality lives.

In sum, this section has documented the complimentary use of various tropes in support of the LW as a means of benefiting employers, employees and broader society by addressing issues of equity and economic inclusion. Evident is how arguments for the LW are also crafted to subvert dominant tropes against the LW. This involves rhetors presenting themselves as reasonable and pragmatic by acknowledging and responding to the concerns of "some" employers regarding financial and operational matters, and in voicing the need to ensure the LW is the right strategy for particular organizations. Additionally, pro-LW rhetors also expand the debate out beyond specific operational concerns for employers. Participants promote the importance of considering the broader societal responsibilities that "good employers" accept. This serves to position "good" and "bad" employers differently in relation to the public good and changing societal expectations regarding the need for socio-economic inclusion and poverty reduction.

## Arguing Against the Living Wage

Key tropes against the LW related to business affordability, job losses, unrealistic employee expectations in life, undeserving employees, and the complexities that LW may impose on businesses (pay relativities). LW opponents also argue that there are better alternatives for addressing poverty (reduce housing costs), the importance of individual choice and fairness, free market autonomy, and that morality has not place in business decision making. Prominent tropes relating to negative impacts on jobs and business failures were invoked through the rhetorical technique of hyperbole and presented as factual "common sense," despite a lack of empirical support (Karjanen, 2010). Another key rhetorical technique was the use of circumlocution to oversimplify links between wage rises and job losses, and to dismiss or ignore counter evidence. Implicit to rhetoric against the LW is a shift in responsibility from the employer to the employee who must become more productive to ensure the business is able to pay a LW. Overall, the strategic use of key tropes and rhetorical techniques served to marshal uncertainty regarding the benefits of a LW, cultivate fear regarding possible job losses, and to bring into question who is responsible to resolve in-work poverty.

Rhetors who oppose, or are more cautious around the LW, were less likely to be actual employers and more likely to be sector representatives or from chambers of commerce. In arguing against the LW, these rhetors demonstrated awareness of tropes supporting the LW considered above, which they repurposed to align with their own oppositional positions. Their undermining of the LW was often both overtly affronting as well as more subtle, as is the case in the following extract:

*I think the benefits are a better-engaged workforce, potentially. Although there's no guarantee of that either. (Chamber of Commerce)*

Such assertions reflect how many opposed rhetors did not necessarily contest key arguments in support of the LW, but rather subtly minimized benefits as only possibilities. In so doing, they brought these benefits into question. Such approaches also extend to subtle challenges to notions of fairness and the



LW as a means of addressing poverty, often with reference to pay differentials and organizational viability:

*The ultimate goal is for people to get a fair wage for a fair day's work. It's also about trying to reduce that poverty gap. The key to some of that is, are we just squashing the lower and middle band closer and closer together, because let's say your wage goes up, and then each level has to go up. So, if your office worker now goes up by NZ\$5, that means your middle manager has to go up by NZ\$5. . . Yes, the pay increases are absolutely positive for the staff themselves, but the implications that it has for providers' viability is quite significant. (Chamber of Commerce)*

Through such extracts, we see a general acknowledgment of acceptance of the LW in principle as a possible means of addressing in-work poverty. However, the challenge to the LW comes in the form of rhetors strategically raising various practicalities and complications for organizations that need to be worked through before a LW can be introduced sustainably. Further, whilst the need to address in-work poverty is accepted, such rhetors support the *status quo* by offering no convincing alternatives for addressing in-work poverty and focusing on possible complications in terms of pay differentials.

As we will show below, this line of argument often then morphs into assertions regarding organizational viability, job losses, issues of employee value or productivity, and the targeting of the LW to employees who are deemed “deserving” by employers. For example, a senior HR consultant argued against the LW through fear regarding job losses and business failures, and to prompt the need for productivity gains:

*My concern is for the bottom end of the market, the companies that struggled to pay that. They will go out of business. One employer I'm particularly thinking of. . . he's already said to me, "I won't employ as many people." It's easy. "To keep my cost of labor down I'm not taking the risk on these idiots. I'm going to employ less people, so the ones that I've got are going to have to work harder." This particular employer has got his business up for sale at the moment. If it doesn't sell, he's going to close it down because he's sick of the HR issues and how hard it is to get hard-working employees.*

The ethics of referring to employees as “idiots” by proxy aside, such extracts were at times quite threatening in tone and reliant on reprisal. This rhetor presented the case of an undisclosed business as a rhetorical means of supporting a truth claim that businesses are worried, while some employers are looking to sell or wind up their businesses because of perceived existential threats from rising employment costs. This line of argument comprises a more refined variation of the “it will cost jobs and businesses” trope. Interestingly, it was not advanced in the accounts from organizations that had adopted the LW.

Arguments against the LW are sometimes informed by stereotypes of undeserving, dysfunctional, unskilled, and more commonly unproductive workers. Not paying a LW was often recast as equitable due to undeserving workers not being productive enough:

*Productivity is what the whole economy needs. . . It's very poor. Employees taking drugs and living from week-to-week and drinking their pay. . . and not turning up on the weekend or on Monday. All those issues need to be addressed to improve*

*productivity. Last time I checked 20 percent of the New Zealand population was illiterate or partially illiterate. (HR consultant)*

This line of argument is often extended through the proposition that at best the LW should be a targeted intervention to employees who are more work orientated, motivated and productive so as to avoid the type of undeserving workers invoked above from gaining a “free ride” (Karjanen, 2010). This “undeserving employee” trope was also contrived in more subtle terms by other rhetors as “let's pay people for the contributions that they make” (Retail manager, focus group four). Individualizing issues of pay with reference to employee deficiencies distracts attention from issues of employer social responsibility and social license (Levin-Waldman, 2000). Further, national deficiencies in productivity can be presented as the result of undeserving employees transgressing traditional norms around hard work and sobriety, rather than insufficient wages and poor work conditions (Carr et al., 2011; Blumkin and Dansiger, 2018). Such rhetoric also positions “undeserving” workers outside the scope of justice (Hodgetts et al., 2020) because they have not met the moral responsibilities of productive workers. Positioning a group outside the scope of justice means that they can be denied the same rights and privileges as people located within the scope.

Our attention is drawn here to the rhetorical strategy of *antonomasia* that involves the use of a form of metonymy or key words that stand in for an actual object. In this context, the classic distinction between the “deserving” and “undeserving” poor is used to contest the fairness of a LW and to shift responsibility for poor pay onto employees (cf. Skilling and Tregidga, 2019). On the surface it may well be reasonable that if employees want increased pay then they need to increase their skills and work harder. However, this line of argument is also used to warrant the *status quo* that features unlivable wages and exploitative employment practices whereby employees have to work harder with no guarantees of increased pay. Such accounts serve to naturalize unlivable wages as meritocratic responses to individual performance and omit the fact that many “deserving” workers are also currently paid below the LW.

Such rhetorical sleights-of-hand were used by several rhetors opposed to the LW to repurpose notions of fairness and to argue against the LW on the basis of performance. Central to such rhetorical repositioning are tropes relating to productivity, affordability and possible negative consequences for businesses. While not wishing to totally dismiss employer concerns underlying these tropes, it is important that we consider issues around increases in labor and associated costs that are carried by organizations, and which were associated by several rhetors with issues of sustainability, profitability, and job losses:

*They [businesses] restructure their approach to cost, which . . . can be laying off people, it can be in fact introducing more technology to offset the labor components, and a whole bunch of cost-based responses. (Sector representative)*

Such extracts reflect an assumed cause and negative effect pathway from the introduction of a LW and job losses and automation. They also carry a false equivalency in threatening that a LW “logically” equates to such negative outcomes:



Unemployment will go up because those businesses will close. There are consequences – cause and effect . . . If it's regulated, it [LW] will force companies to close in the hundreds or thousands in New Zealand. That means unemployment is going to go up and the cost of inflation will rise. (Sector representative)

This negative cause and effects trope was widely presented as common sense. Omitted from such assertions was how many businesses could absorb increased wage costs by reducing profits to shareholders, reducing salaries and bonuses for higher earning staff, as well as through more benign process efficiencies (Kenway, 2016; De Bievre, 2018).

This is not to say that rhetors opposed to the LW did not acknowledge organizations that had adopted a LW without job losses. These rhetors raised important queries around complexities in cost structures across different organizations and how some sectors and organizations may be better placed to adopt the LW than others. However, they also worked to rhetorically mollify the positive experiences of LW organizations by associating the LW with monopoly or public organizations, which faced less competition and could pass on added costs:

*Those who have been advocates for a living wage have tended to be organizations like councils and agencies that aren't responsible for the generation of their own incomes. (Chamber of Commerce)*

Such extracts reflect rhetorical efforts to undermine the credibility of the messenger (public sector organizations), and in doing so dismiss evidence for the benefits of the LW. Also omitted here are the cost restraints faced by such organizations in terms of how much they can actually raise their incomes through increased taxes and other such means.

The efficacy of a LW was also brought into question through recourse to prominent societal tropes regarding the high cost of living. Many argued that a LW will not address in-work poverty because of the rapidly rising cost of housing, and legitimately proposed that the government should look at alternative strategies, such as addressing rental costs. The issue of income and cost of living is then diverted from one of income to one of failed public policy:

*The reason is of course, that New Zealand has, I think, probably the highest MW in the world. . . , not just nominally, but if you normalize it for currency. The reason why that's not enough is not because the figure is too low, it's you can't afford to live here on it; and the reason why you can't afford to live on it is accommodation costs are too high. So, on the one hand, for unions and the government, it's very convenient for them to frame this as the miserable employers are not paying enough; when, in fact, the social policy and the public policy issue sits really around other things. (Sector representative)*

The same rhetor went further to associate the cost of living to unrealistic employee expectations and personal differences in what constitutes a dignified quality of life. In doing so, they reimagined a past where employees were more “realistic” about what they actually needed:

*What is a good life? There was a time if you were dry and warm and not too hungry you were okay, because the other guy probably was in bare feet out on the street. Today, that's not good enough; we*

*expect to have access to broadband and a whole lot of things that we think are absolutely the minimum requirement to be living. . . The problem with the living wage is, who's living? It's a very imprecise measure and it doesn't actually tell the whole story, because my life and your life will be different. I might want to live in a cave somewhere and that living wage is going to look like a king, but if I've got three kids, and I've got a sick mother-in-law at home or something, that's not nearly enough to actually live with dignity. (Sector representative)*

The “people's needs differ” trope often manifests via a selective hypothetical comparison between personal expectations, which serves to sidestep issues of material hardship that come with unlivable wages and a high cost of living. The focus is shifted from the adequacy of income to “unrealistic” employee expectations. This line of argument is foundational to efforts to relativize the LW as an issue of personal lifestyle, rather than equity.

Many rhetors, likewise, posed legitimate queries and objections regarding how the LW is calculated. However, these also functioned rhetorically to shift the focus toward technicalities and the perceived biases of LW proponents. This enables rhetors opposed to the LW to avoid engaging with the broader issues of equity, fairness and exploitation (Karjanen, 2010). Such strategies were also implicated in notions of the sanctity of free market autonomy (Skilling and Tregidga, 2019), to the extent that it was repeatedly asserted that the Government setting a LW is inappropriate when, in fact, such wages are not state mandated. What is evident in such assertions is the use of arguments against the increasing MW, which is set by government with the voluntary LW, which is not:

*This particular government is trying to artificially increase wages without having any of the other factors in place first, or a plan for any of those other factors . . . I mean, maybe we'll be fine and maybe we won't. I don't know. But, I think that's an unbelievable risk to take when everything that you read says that's not the way that it should be done. (Sector representative)*

Several rhetors appealed to popular imagery of “the Government,” along with unions disrupting what are asserted to be the “natural” market self-regulation of wages. This trope has been used against the MW in the United States (Wood, 1997) and is used in Aotearoa/NZ to assert that LW proponents are socialist Christians who are biased and should not be emboldened to interfere in free market wage setting:

*I can't understand why somebody hasn't formally come out with another version of the LW that is not so reflective of a faith-based research organization and a trade union who have their obvious biases. (HR consultant)*

Asserting that opponents are biased infers that one's own position is somehow more objective. We also discerned the rhetorical strategy of oversimplifying the world into dichotomies between businesspeople and Christians. The latter are positioned as existential threats to the market, business and economy, and ultimately the welfare of employees.

In terms of the sanctity of the free market trope, it is important to note that many employers did not fully embrace this line of argument. For example, reflecting arguments for

the LW explored above, a senior manager from focus group three proposed that “the market” is actually shifting toward the expectation of a LW, at least in part, due to shortages of skilled migrant labor (exacerbated by the pandemic) as well as broader benchmarking away from the MW:

*In terms of recruitment, which I do a lot of, I think the market was starting to expect a living wage from employers. I think particularly the kind of brand that we like to aim for, a lot of talent we were recruiting were already demanding that.*

In the extract above the market trope is undermined somewhat through the assertion that the market and society are actually shifting toward expecting a LW. This reworking of a key trope against the LW also undermines the artificial division between the market and society, which is used by other rhetors to privilege self-interest over collective interest, and to ignore how indebted businesses actually are to the societal infrastructure upon which they rely to operate. It also reminds of the importance of nuance and diversity in employer perspectives.

Above, we have presented arguments against the LW that respond to opposing views, and in particular dispute the meaning of fairness, affordability of wage rises, and foreground potential negative consequences for employers and employees. These rhetors also shift the focus from the LW to alternative strategies for addressing poverty and emphasize the importance of personal choice and the sovereignty of the market over perceived government interference in wage setting. Whilst questioning what is presented as socialist and moral arguments for the LW, several rhetors voice conservative moral distinctions between the deserving and undeserving poor, which are used to question justifications for the LW based on concerns regarding unrealistic expectations, low productivity and work ethics among the underserving. This rhetoric work functions to differentiate employees to promote uncertainty regarding arguments of equity that support the LW. It also shifts responsibility away from employers and onto employees who need to become more productive and realistic. The appropriateness of the LW as a form of poverty reduction is questioned through the introduction of fear regarding negative consequences, such as job losses, and the questioning of why employers are being targeted to reduce poverty and not groups such as landlords who often increase the cost of living.

## CONCLUSION

Little is known empirically about the rhetorical relationship between employer and employee stakeholder understandings of the living wage, particularly with regard to low pay sectors (Werner and Lim, 2016). This article reveals considerable overlap between positions for and against the LW that are worked through rhetorically within the dynamic accounts of participating rhetors. For example, a dominant trope across opposing rhetors was that the LW may well be the right thing to do to support a dignified life for employees. Relatedly, both sides acknowledge that not all employers may have the means to pay a LW. Where rhetorical positionings tend to differ is in terms of affordability, what consequences a LW has, and how it can be

funded. Understanding such rhetorical complexities is crucial for engaging with issues of equity, fairness and business social responsibilities in wage-setting deliberations and work-based poverty reduction efforts.

This article also documents the influence rhetoric can have in stakeholder contributions to public deliberations regarding the LW. These accounts are also shaped within broader socio-political contexts and power relations that are reproduced, supported, justified, and challenged within these deliberations. Correspondingly, Bitzer (1968) as argued that rhetoric is central to the construction of reality through the recreation of key aspects of public discourse (deliberation) and the perspectives and actions of those involved. By documenting rhetoric within public deliberations regarding the LW, we are able to open up and examine the multiple and competing realities on offer (Burgchardt, 2010). To this end, we have documented how various tropes are employed by key stakeholders (rhetors) to influence and explore the plausibility of and adopt similar positions regarding the need for and consequences of the LW (O'Doherty and Stroud, 2019). This is important because public deliberations can have actual material impacts in terms of whether or not the LW is adopted by particular organizations, and what consequences this has for organizations and employees, their families and civil society. A rhetorical perspective also orientates us toward the relationship between key snippets (tropes) of these deliberations and to avoid presenting these as a list of mutually exclusive categories of argumentation. We have demonstrated how different tropes become entangled in dynamic and emergent ways within competing positions in public deliberations regarding the LW.

Beyond documenting key tropes in public deliberations regarding the LW, a key contribution of this article is documenting how these are employed rhetorically. This is important because human meaning-making is often embroiled within rhetorical practices that are not always conducted in accordance with the dichotomous logic of either/or, which is often employed in psychology to demonstrate how people all make sense of the world. In actuality people often entwine existing tropes from public deliberations in agentive and novel ways to extend their understandings of arguments regarding the LW (Billig, 1989). Supporting the importance of this focus, several of the tropes we have explored are also evident within previous research on public documents in the United States, United Kingdom and NZ (Wood, 1997; Levin-Waldman, 2000; Karjanen, 2010; Skilling and Tregidga, 2019). These include the sanctity of the “free market” in wage-setting, pay rises costing jobs, and concerns regarding productivity. Rhetors on both sides have heard, thought about, and draw on opposing arguments to promote their own agendas rhetorically.

A prominent example was how opponents of the LW propose that increasing wages can be a positive phenomenon, but qualify this ascription to some deserving workers, arguing that it can also cost others their jobs. Although there is little empirical evidence of resulting job losses attached to significant increases in low pay (Jardim et al., 2018; Aitken et al., 2019) and emerging evidence to the contrary (Parker et al., 2015; Kenway, 2016), this is omitted in this combination of tropes. Further, the persistence of tropes such as “the LW will cost jobs” demonstrates the

rhetorical strategy of circumlocution (use of a few well-known phrases to narrow engagements with this complex issue). It also exemplifies how current public deliberations are populated by misinformation, half-truths and threats of business closures if the LW is normalized. Correspondingly, one might expect that many employers who want to “do the right thing” by their employee’s express uncertainties about the potential consequences of such a move (Karjanen, 2010). What also becomes apparent is how current public deliberations regarding the LW do not meet expectations for reaching consensus or a fair resolution through open dialog (O’Doherty and Stroud, 2019). Although rhetors may have heard counter arguments, they may not necessarily be listening to these or be as willing to shift their own positions. Contestation prevails.

Wood (1997) also proposed that central to public debates about remuneration are issues around the adequacy of the free market in wage settings. Little evidence supports the assertion that markets are naturally egalitarian social phenomena, free from power differential-based distortions or the best mechanism for wage setting (Karjanen, 2010). The MW is not currently a LW, partly due to the contemporary asymmetrical power relations between employers and unions that have artificially deflated wages over the past few decades of neoliberalism (Arrowsmith et al., 2020). Unlivable wages and in-work poverty can also be read as a failure of the market to set an equitable wage floor. Further, it can be asserted that low-wage employers going out of business constitutes a valuable form of market correction.

Previous research into the LW debates in the United States and United Kingdom (Karjanen, 2010) found that those opposed tended to work harder to divert the debate from issues of fair pay and social responsibility in addressing in-work poverty. In considering key rhetorical practices in Aotearoa/NZ, we can see how issues of fair pay and poverty reduction were not avoided, but rather were presented in the context of other important issues of fairness, including pay differentials and the need to address the high costs of living. These issues are presented as beyond employer control, and therefore responsibility. As such, rhetors against the LW do not always directly challenge the equity or fairness trope. Rather, they employ rhetorical strategies and devices to appropriate, circumvent or decontextualize such affirmative tropes. In doing so, they can concede that in-work poverty is a negative phenomenon, the solutions to which lie elsewhere in society. There are some grounds for this position, which reworks cost of living concerns shared by many LW campaigners. Our analysis reveals that concerns regarding pay

and the cost of living are not mutually exclusive. In policy terms, it is necessary to raise wages where this can be done sustainably, but also to prevent these gains to employees from being syphoned off by landlords, for example.

Whilst also hearing the concerns of opposing employers regarding issues of productivity and the needs of small enterprises, LW proponents raised broader considerations regarding organizations’ social responsibilities that rhetorically re-position business as accountable to society. These rhetors then propose that there are growing expectations that employers should pay employees enough to live with dignity. In doing so, they do not deny counter arguments that wage increases may have challenging implications for employers. Rather, they present the LW as a key mechanism toward a fairer or more equitable society. Given such rhetorical efforts in current public deliberations we are heartened that both sides are familiar with opposing perspectives.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The datasets presented in this article are not readily available because the qualitative data collection is not intended to be shared due to sensitive information. Requests to access the datasets should be directed to DH, d.j.hodgetts@massey.ac.nz.

## ETHICS STATEMENT

The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by Human Ethics Committee Northern, Massey University. The participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors contributed to manuscript revision, read, and approved the submitted version.

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# 245

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 11:13:58 PM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 11:20:04 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:06:05  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

## Q1

Your contact details

**Name** Tinaya Kelly  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
**Email** [REDACTED]  
**Phone** [REDACTED]

## Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## Q3

Age (optional)

25-49

## Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

European

## Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

a Ratepayer

## Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

## Q6

1. Waitaki Event CentreWould you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

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

**Q7****No**

2. Unfunding depreciation Do you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

**Q8****Yes**

3. Preparing for emergencies Do you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

**Q9****Yes**

4. Maheno water Do you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

**Q10****Yes**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023 Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

**Q11****Yes**

6. Coastal erosion Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

**Q12**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

would like to see the closure of Harbour Street to motorised vehicles and see it used just for pedestrians and bicycles. Due to the historic buildings that surround the street and the fact that visitors want to stop and take photos and look at the buildings, it is a health and safety risk allowing motorists to drive down the street. With the increase in the number of electric vehicles, which are very hard to hear coming, the risk of a fatal accident happening is becoming more likely.

We want visitors to enjoy this beautiful part of Oamaru and not have to worry about where they can and can't walk. This would have a positive impact on the visitor experience to The Victorian Precinct. All the Tenants of Harbour Street would like to see this happen and therefore we are supporting them by making this submission.

I would like the

current full funding of \$150,000 from the WDC for the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre is allocated and confirmed for the 2023-2024 financial year, so that this important service for visitors and locals continues in the interactive Whitestone city where visitors create tiktoks and free marketing for our economics development.

Please move the intercity bus stop outside the nice toilets on other st where the tour buses stop so visitors have an aesthetically pleasing view and interaction and memory of Oamaru.

**Q13****Respondent skipped this question**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:







This Submission is made by Helen Jansen of Ōamaru, as Chair of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust (“the Trust”). It requests that the Waitaki District Council (“Council”) adopts the support as outlined in the Annual Plan 2023-2024 to enable the Trust in its mission to govern New Zealand’s first UNESCO Global Geopark and realise its potential for the Waitaki District.

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## Request for support

Core funding for the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust has been included in the Annual Plan 2023-24. The support requested from the Waitaki District Council is that it adopts the adjusted assistance for the Trust:

- \$140,000  
This includes support for education and salaries

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The Trust also wishes to express its support towards Vanished World’s funding included in the Annual Plan 2023-24. Vanished World is core to the Geopark concept. The Trust is in the process of taking over the governance and management of the Vanished World Centre and Trail.

Following Vanished World Inc’s submission to the 2021-31 Long Term Plan, the Waitaki District Council confirmed:

- Council will support a full-time employee (FTE) from July 2022-2032 on a reducing amount to start at \$50k and reducing by \$5k per year to \$0 over 10 years.
- Council will commit \$50k as a seeding grant from the Whitestone Dividend to support the refurbishment of the Vanished World Centre in Duntroon – which has been gratefully received.

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The Trust would welcome the opportunity to discuss the needs and objectives of a visitor centre and visitor information for the Waitaki District with Council and other stakeholders as The Trust has a requirement for its recognition as a UNESCO Global Geopark to have an information point in Oamaru where visitors can find out about the Geopark and be pointed at the various sites and information points around the district. This is currently fulfilled with a presence at the Visitor Centre in Harbour Street where the centre staff engage with visitors about the opportunities the Geopark offers.



At its core, the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark encourages us all to care for our whenua, our land

Our Earth is facing environmental and societal challenges - climate change, biodiversity loss, sustainable use of resources, geohazards and sustainable economic development to name a few. To find holistic and innovative solutions to address these issues, we need to understand our land's past to look to a better future.

Education through storytelling is at the heart of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark. We believe that with understanding comes appreciation and protection of our whenua and its heritage. Education provides a platform for addressing the societal and environmental challenges we all face and results in a more resilient society.

The Trust is privileged to have two Trustees who are from Te Rūnaka o Moeraki, ensuring that engagement with iwi is constant, respectful, positive and productive. The Geopark is being co-designed with the rūnaka – ensuring that it brings tangata whenua, other residents and visitors into the storytelling of our land and way of life.

Our Geopark tells the story of our land, our whenua.

It inspires our people and visitors to learn, discover and be connected to our living planet and cultural histories, so together we can care for and contribute to thriving communities.

## UNESCO designation imminent

In July 2022 the Trust welcomed two evaluators Nickolas Zouros and Anchel Belmonte Ribas to Waitaki as they considered our bid to become New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark. The Trust wishes to acknowledge the significant support provided by the Council in the years leading up to the evaluation and during the evaluation itself. This support ensured a strong Global Geopark application to UNESCO and enabled other resources for community development and education activities.

During the annual UNESCO Global Geopark Council meeting in September 2022, the Trust successfully gained the endorsement of the Council and anticipates final confirmation of its UNESCO Geopark status on 25 May 2023 by the Executive Board of UNESCO.



Our goals are aligned to the four well-beings and Council's community and economic development outcomes

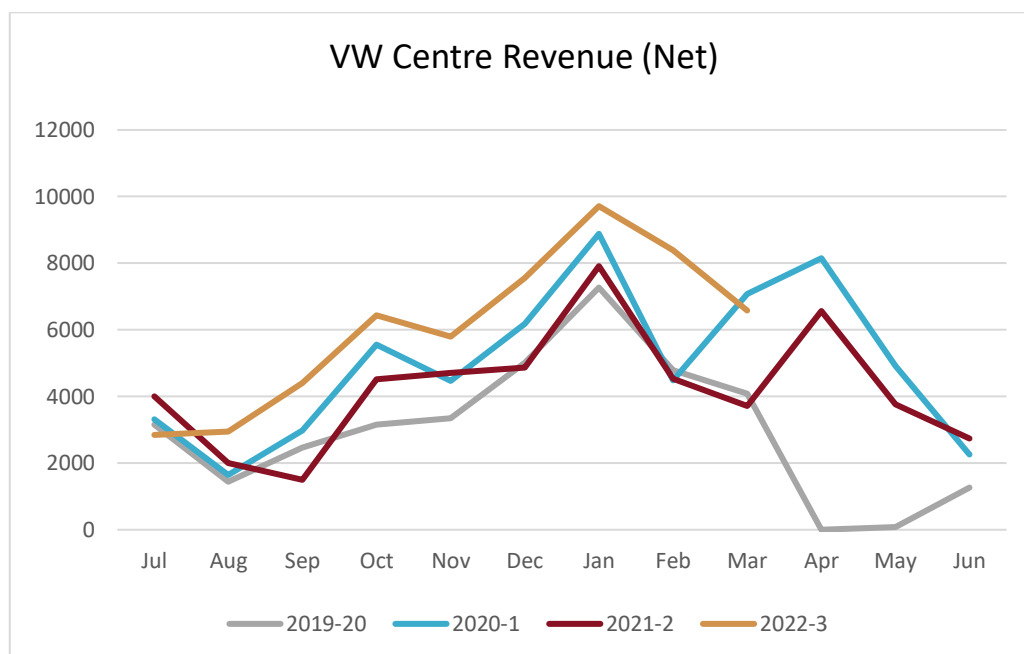
The Geopark Strategic Goals are aligned to and support the promotion of social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the Waitaki District. We all have a valuable role to play in promoting the four well-beings and by emphasising and promoting them we can engage our communities to address those environmental and societal challenges. The Geopark's goals and aspirations complement Council's community and economic development outcomes, which are also guided by the four well-beings.

Council's community outcomes	Trust's goals and aspirations
<b>Prosperous District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attracting new opportunities</li> <li>• Supporting local businesses</li> <li>• Fostering a diverse &amp; resilient economy</li> </ul>	Enable businesses to benefit from the Geopark and attract new businesses & residents to invest and live here <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business &amp; Community Ambassador Programme</li> <li>• Development of Geopark-accredited geotourism products</li> <li>• Investigation of Geopark Discovery Hub</li> <li>• Strengthened tourism industry through geotourism</li> </ul>
<b>Strong Communities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling safe, healthy communities</li> <li>• Connected, inclusive communities</li> <li>• Promoting a greater voice for Waitaki</li> <li>• Celebrating our community identity</li> </ul>	Drive social identity, community pride and provide a platform to enable everyone to participate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement activities (public talks, field trips etc)</li> <li>• UNESCO designation will bring global recognition to our Waitaki identity</li> </ul>
<b>Valued environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting our diverse landscapes &amp; water bodies</li> <li>• Meeting environmental &amp; climate change challenges</li> </ul>	Promote protection & enhancement of Waitaki's natural & cultural assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative TIF applications</li> <li>• Community engagement activities (e.g. Beach Clean Ups)</li> <li>• Creation of a Geoconservation committee</li> <li>• Climate change education collaboration with Council departments</li> </ul>

## Vanished World is core to the Geopark

The desire to create a Geopark in the Waitaki started with the establishment of the Vanished World Trail and Centre in Duntroon and would not have been possible without the enormous contribution that the volunteer members of the Vanished World Incorporated Society have made. The Trust is now in the process of taking over the governance and management of the Vanished World Centre and Trail. This has been a long-awaited milestone anticipated by both organisations to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Centre in Duntroon.

Council's substantial financial assistance has supported Vanished World Inc to meet current challenges and plan a way forward. The ability to employ one FTE has enabled the Centre to manage the increase in visitor numbers and revenue more easily. With planning underway for a refurbished and modernised Centre, we expect this trend to continue and support the Centre to become self-sufficient.



The Trust will keep the financials for the operation of the Vanished World Centre separate and all funds, past and future, from Council will be committed for either the refurbishment or to support an FTE for the Centre respectively. These funds would not be used for general Geopark operations and projects.

In addition to the Vanished World Centre, which fulfils the role of an education hub for the marine fossil story of the area, the Geopark also needs to have a presence at a Visitor Centre in Ōamaru. Currently, the Ōamaru and Waitaki Visitor Information Centre in front of Whitestone City includes Geopark displays and has been a successful collaboration at the start of our journey. Going forward, the Trust would welcome the opportunity to discuss the needs and objectives of a visitor centre and visitor information for the Waitaki District with Council and other stakeholders.

## Building towards long-term sustainability

Becoming New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark is only the beginning of our journey. To realise the full potential of this designation for Waitaki and Aotearoa New Zealand, the Trust is looking for commercial opportunities and partners beyond Council to support the implementation of its strategy.

The main avenues to build towards long-term sustainability are:

Commercial opportunities	<p>An application to the Tourism Innovation Fund has been submitted in partnership with the Trust, Council, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki and Tourism Waitaki, to complete a business case for a Geopark Discovery Hub. This was one of the key recommendations following the UNESCO assessors visit. Key elements of the business case would include the feasibility of different site options and delivery models and ensuring its financial sustainability long-term. A decision is likely by May.</p> <p>The Trust is also developing Official Partner and Concession Partner Agreements to enable businesses to set up Geopark-accredited tourism products. The agreements will also define financial contributions to the Trust.</p>
Corporate Sponsorship	<p>The Trust is seeking corporate partners to support the implementation of its strategy. A sponsorship pyramid with different levels of contribution and benefits has been developed and the Trust is currently building relationships with key businesses in the district and beyond.</p>
Vanished World Centre	<p>A concept plan for a refurbished Vanished World Centre has been received to offer an unforgettable and engaging learning experience. The refurbishment includes a dynamic outdoor visual impact, restructure of the fossil story, enhanced merchandise section and discovery room and development of a Geopark exploration room. These improvements will enable the Centre to increase admission charges, grow visitor numbers and annual profits.</p>
Project fund applications	<p>Several funds for projects have been received and make up 13% of the total financial support received to date.</p>

	Further funding applications are being made to support projects as appropriate.
Merchandise	Profit from merchandise sales has been modest, however our merchandising has increased people's recognition of the Geopark. The Trust is developing a merchandise licensing agreement to enable businesses to develop high-quality Geopark merchandise to increase the financial return from merchandise to the Trust.



We, the Oamaru Whitestone Civic Trust, support the continued location of the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre at 12 Harbour St, Oamaru. We support Whitestone City and Visitor Information staff and the positive impact their visitor interactions have on the Precinct, and therefore our tenants with businesses within the Precinct.

We note that in the *'New ways to support economic growth in Waitaki Consultation Document'*, WDC "...want to engage with stakeholders more effectively and form partnerships where appropriate to increase the benefits ..."

While these words sound collaborative and inclusive, we wish to state our concern at the absolute lack of communication from WDC regarding the proposed cessation of two thirds of the current funding on 31 June 2023. This lack of communication with OWCT and Information Centre Staff is very disappointing and not conducive to successfully working together.

There has been no acknowledgement of the success of increased visitor interaction by incorporating the Visitor Information Centre with the existing Whitestone City. Visitor numbers have continued to increase, with nearly 23,000 in 2022. From 1 January to 31 March 2023, a total of 9380 visitors visited the Information Centre, a 30% increase in visitors compared to the same period in 2022. This is statistical verification of a growing awareness of what the Information centre offers visitors and the increasing number of both overseas and domestic visitors to our town and district.

Although tourism accounts for only 3% of our district's current GDP, anecdotal evidence suggests the Oamaru and Waitaki Visitor Information Centre is integral to encouraging visitors to stay longer and spend more while they are here. While some information and services can be accessed online, nothing compares to face-to-face contact with visitors, enabling them to improve and extend their stay, as well as encouraging them to return and recommend the destination to others, both personally and online.

The closure of the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre is certain with reduced WDC funding, but there appears to be no consideration for any alternatives to continue to provide this service to the growing number of visitors. Certainly no alternatives been communicated with the current providers of this WDC service, that is the OWCT. The closure of the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre and Whitestone City, both of which are currently seven days a week operations, would leave a large gap in the Waitaki visitor experience.

We are concerned that the proposed reduction in funding for the current Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre will mean that Whitestone City, with which it shares a building, resources, and staff, working together to the benefit of both services, will no longer be viable and hence will also have to cease operations.

We believe it would make sense to integrate the planning of any new tourism focused products and experiences into the existing, and successful current location of the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre which is now an established community resource.

We wish to state once again, our disappointment at not being consulted and the way this whole issue has been handled.

This OWCT submission asks that current full funding of \$150,000 from the WDC for the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre is allocated and confirmed for the 2023-2024 financial year, so that this important service for visitors and locals continues.

We, the Oamaru Whitestone Civic Trust, would like the Waitaki District Council to consider issuing a grant to cover the interest cost of the \$410,000 loan that the Trust has with them. This would enable the Trust to make payments on the principle of the loan and continue to protect, preserve and promote the valuable historic buildings in The Victorian Precinct.

According to Stuart Paisley, Accountant for Waitaki District Council, there have been no revised terms of the loan agreement and until he received these he will continue to send quarterly interest invoices.

We, the Oamaru Whitestone Civic Trust, would like to see the closure of Harbour Street to motorised vehicles and see it used just for pedestrians and bicycles. Due to the historic buildings that surround the street and the fact that visitors want to stop and take photos and look at the buildings, it is a health and safety risk allowing motorists to drive down the street. With the increase in the number of electric vehicles, which are very hard to hear coming, the risk of a fatal accident happening is becoming more likely.

We want visitors to enjoy this beautiful part of Oamaru and not have to worry about where they can and can't walk. This would have a positive impact on the visitor experience to The Victorian Precinct. All the Tenants of Harbour Street would like to see this happen and therefore we are supporting them by making this submission.

**From:** Carolyn Lewis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 30 April 2023 8:26 PM  
**To:** Consult  
**Subject:** Annual Plan 2023-2024 submission - pedestrianisation of Harbour Street

Kia ora, I would like to support this submission from the OWCT:

*it used just for pedestrians and bicycles. Due to the historic buildings that surround the street and the fact that visitors want to stop and take photos and look at the buildings, it is a health and safety risk allowing motorists to drive down the street. With the increase in the number of electric vehicles, which are very hard to hear coming, the risk of a fatal accident happening is becoming more likely.*

*We want visitors to enjoy this beautiful part of Oamaru and not have to worry about where they can and can't walk. This would have a positive impact on the visitor experience to The Victorian Precinct. All the Tenants of Harbour Street would like to see this happen and therefore we are supporting them by making this submission.*

Carolyn Lewis  
Manager, Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre, and Whitestone City  
12 Harbour St, Oamaru.



## OAMARU & WAITAKI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE FUNDING

### Background

In mid-2021, with the support of the Oamaru Whitestone Civic Trust, I approached Waitaki District Council with a proposal to establish a visitor information centre (VIC) in the front of 12 Harbour St. This was to operate 7 days a week, 12 months a year, to replace the Tourism Waitaki-run visitor centre operating from the old i-site building on the corner of Thames and Itchen streets. This Tourism Waitaki-run visitor centre, funded by an operational grant to TW from WDC, only opened 5 days a week and 7.5 months a year, closing over the winter months.

A service delivery agreement was drawn up between Waitaki District Council (WDC) and OWCT, with key performance indicators included around operation and data collection. The Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre opened in 12 Harbour St in October 2021, for an initial period of 8 months (\$100,000), until end of the 2022 financial year.

Comments on this shift from the perspective of all parties involved were included in an article in the Oamaru Mail (see references at end of document).

After this 8-month 'trial', WDC then base-lined funding for this VIC for a full 12 months (\$150,000) into their annual plan for the 2022-2023 financial year.

WDC has now proposed that this funding be cut from \$150,000 to \$47,000 in its 2023-2024 annual plan, which would not be sufficient to keep the existing Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre open from 31 June 2023.

As the existing Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre provides a 'front of house' for Whitestone City, the hand-on heritage centre that shares premises at 12 Harbour St – which otherwise meets its costs through visitors contributions on a 'pay what you feel is fair per person' basis, the proposed WDC funding cut would also mean the closure of Whitestone City.

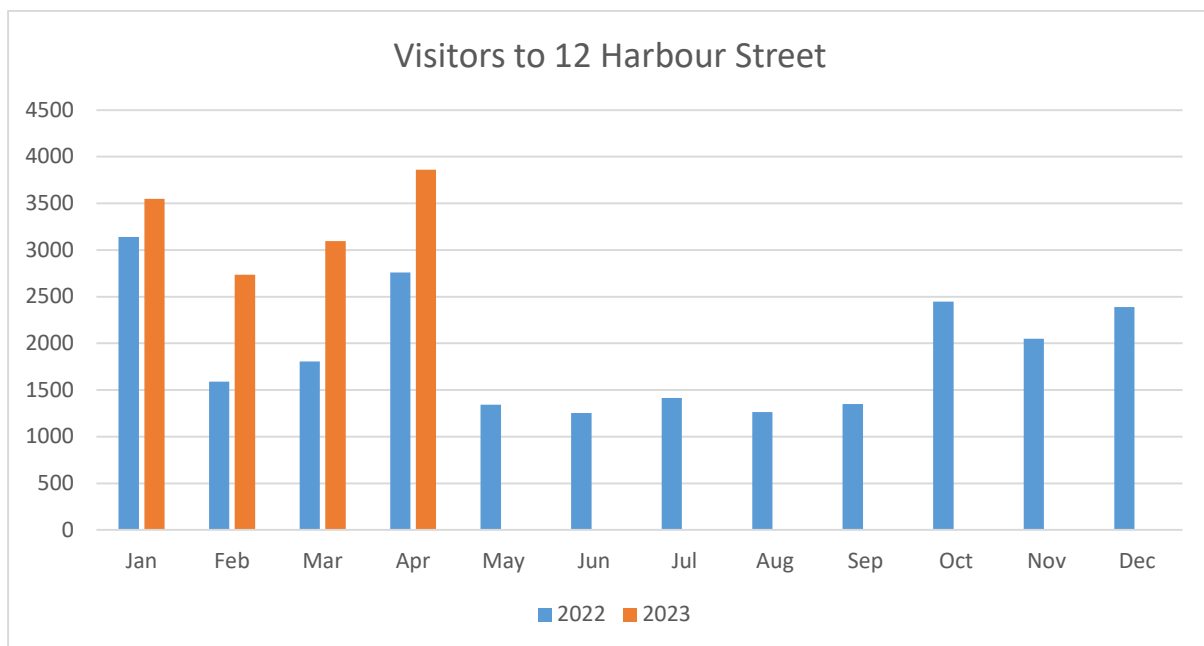
Although an official case upon which WDC has agreed this funding cut has not been provided to myself or the OWCT, various comments have been made by WDC on social media and in response to media questions. These comments indicate the WDC does not believe it is getting value for money for the funding provided, that it is too expensive per visitor 'served', and that as visitors get their information online, a physical visitor centre as such is not needed.

### Some numbers to start with

To start with, though, some facts and figures from the last 12 months from the current Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre (VIC):

22,800 visitors came into the current Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in the 2022 calendar year.

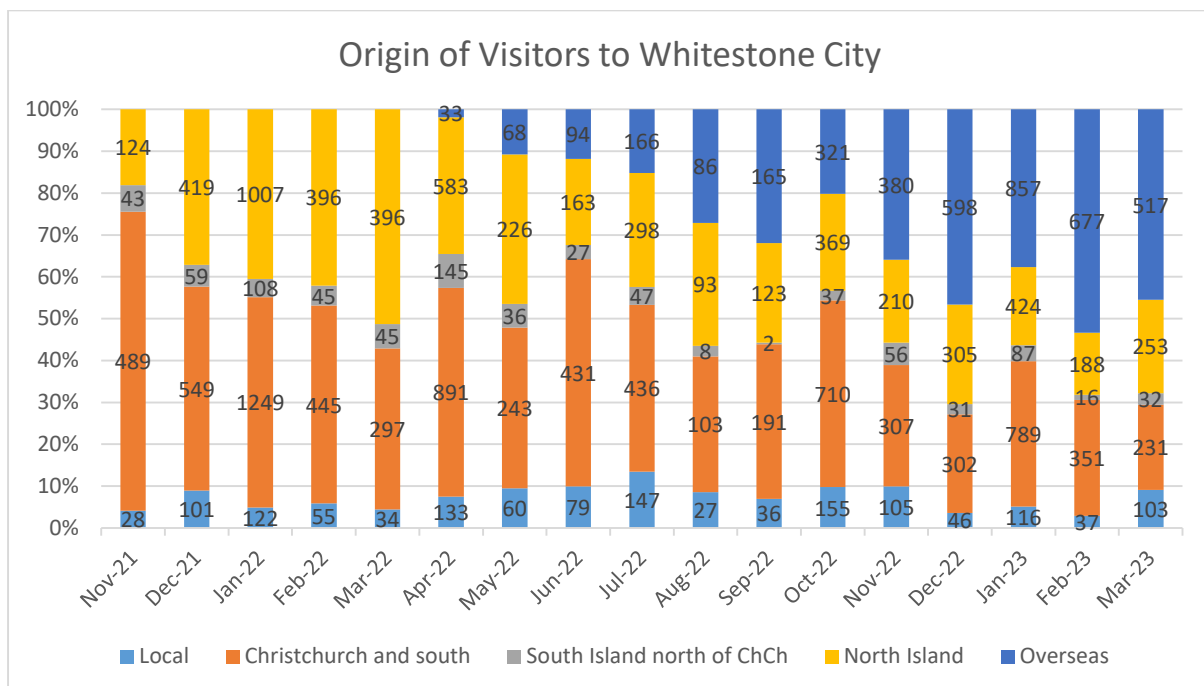
13,300 visitors have come into the VIC in the first four months of 2023 alone. This is an increase of 42% from the same four month period of 2022.



It should be noted that 2022 was a year of mostly domestic visitors. The first Australian visitor to the VIC in 2022 was 6 April 2022. More Australian visitors started trickling in after that. The first gradual increase in visitors to Oamaru from other countries (specifically Germany, Netherlands, and Switzerland) was noticeable from October 2022. It wasn't until November 2022 that a steady and significant flow of overseas visitors from a wider range of countries began.

With overseas visitor numbers still rising into 2023 (see graph below), and domestic visitor numbers remaining strong, despite open borders and other travel options now available, we are confident that this overall visitor increase will be consistent for the remainder of the 2023 calendar year.

This 42% increase would mean around 32,300 visitors to the VIC in the 2023 calendar year.



## Measuring visitor centre 'value for funding'

WDC comments on social media and to reporters have focussed on the 'cost per visitor' to measure the value for funding the current Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre, with no indication given as to what they consider an acceptable 'cost per visitor' for this service would be.

The figure of \$7 per visitor (\$150,000 divided by 22,800 visitors in 2022) that has been quoted does not take into account the 42% projected increase in visitor numbers seen so far in 2023 – which takes the 'cost per visitor' on \$150,000 funding down to \$4.60.

In reality, however, this sort of calculation is a crude measure that doesn't consider the wider benefits to the local economy and community through increased visitor spend, short and longer term, from the presence of an effective visitor information centre. A full and more meaningful cost benefit analysis would require a fully functioning RTO with the capacity or capability to undertake the research around this – something we do not currently have in Waitaki.

However, the results of research undertaken by some other RTOs, tourism boards, and industry associations elsewhere in New Zealand and Australia around the 'return on investment' of visitor information centres is readily available.

Conclusions from two such studies (citation) include that:

- The success of visitor centres cannot be measured by their profit and loss. They are a loss leader for economic drivers and key to dispersal of visitor expenditure and increasing yield in the region
- Many of the services visitor centres provide - and are expected to provide by visitors – cannot be charged for and the flow-on financial benefits exist outside their own profit and loss.

## Benefits of physical visitor centres

A physical visitor information centre is much more than an unstaffed stand of pamphlets or a static display in a corner of an existing business or operation. To be effective, visitor information centres need staff who are available to interact and engage with visitors, rather than staff who are focussed on their core (non-information centre) work with serving the needs of visitors as a secondary priority.

One study put it this way: "If tourism is the 'shop window' for our economy then Visitor Information Centres (VICs) are the 'front door'. Visitor centres are our region's concierge desk."

- A visitor information centre provides a central location for visitors to gain access to timely, accurate and impartial visitor information and advice.
- The prime purpose of a visitor information centre is to enhance the visitor experience, encourage visitors to stay longer and undertake additional activities, exceed visitors' expectations and encourage visitors to return to the region.
- A visitor information centre delivers this by sharing passion and providing quality and accurate information, by providing exceptional customer service and effectively promoting the range of visitor experiences and services available.
- A visitor information centre also supports local businesses and tourism operators within a region. Many local business and tourism operators are reliant on the services of the visitor

information centre to provide additional business and ensure a high standard of visitor servicing in the area.

- Visitor information centres make a valuable contribution to the economic, social and recreational wellbeing of their communities.

Visitors are looking for expert advice on what they *should* do in an area, not what they *could* do.

A study completed in New Zealand showed that travel plans of independent travellers (which make up most of the visitors to Oamaru and Waitaki) do not extend beyond 24 hours, confirming that detailed information search and planning did not occur until visitors approached or reached their destination. Other studies show that independent travellers keep their travel plans deliberately fluid to enable them to take advantage of changing circumstances and opportunities.

Findings from New Zealand and Australian research is that:

- Although visitors access information online, they seek confirmation and reassurance and want the opportunity to speak to knowledgeable and friendly locals for credible, authoritative and unbiased information.
- VICs may also unlock additional expenditure when they cause visitors to undertake activities of which they had no prior knowledge.

In an increasingly online world, indications are that, while the commercial, commission-based i-site model is becoming outdated as more folk do their own online bookings, there are acknowledged limits to what visitors use online information for.

Ultimately, physical visitor information centres, staffed by knowledgeable, personable and enthusiastic locals who actively engage with visitors, provide opportunities to influence behaviour of those visitors to see more, explore further, stay longer – and visit again - that online apps and other non-human technology just cannot take advantage of!

## **What we provide at the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre**

Our conversations, feedback and experience with visitors at the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre over the last 18 months has been consistent with the research findings above.

Located in the heart of the Historic Precinct, in a spectacular Victorian grainstore that already houses a popular hands-on heritage centre, the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre is in the best place it could be.

Most of our visitors have either been told, by friends and family, that Oamaru is worth a look, or have seen reviews, images or articles online, or in print media, that encourages them to stop in Oamaru and spend some time here. In most cases, however, they have no idea of how much there is to see and do once they are actually here.

By the time visitors have made their way into the Precinct and down Harbour Street to the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre, they are literally buzzing at what they have stumbled across. They are not only seeking recommendations on what to see and do, but are open to suggestions that they need to extend their current stay, or plan another visit in the future.



The three key tourism drawcards for Oamaru and Waitaki, whether experienced on foot, on bicycle as part of the A2O, or by vehicle, are **heritage**, **wildlife**, and **geopark** (though visitors don't tend to refer to these sites collectively by this term – yet).

- **Heritage:** Our location in the Victorian Precinct starts the conversation about heritage as soon as visitors walk in to 12 Harbour Street. The option of going through Whitestone City to learn more about this, and the proximity of Totara Estate and Clarks Mill provides further heritage experiences for visitors.
- **Wildlife:** We are asked about, and promote, the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony, day in, day out, reassuring visitors that the experience is worth the ticket price. We provide background information on penguin habits, shags on Sumpter Wharf, and the chances of spotting yellow eyed penguins at Bushy Beach and Katiki Point.
- **Geopark:** A key focus of the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre is the Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring Geopark. Working with the manager of the Geopark Trust, we set up an information and static display area promoting this concept, and individual attractions within the aspiring Geopark, to visitors. Staff spend significant time introducing visitors to the Geopark concept, and encouraging them to explore into this area during their stay. UNESCO assessors visited the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre during their visit in 2022, and accepted this as an interim interpretation site for the aspiring Geopark, ticking this off their list of requirements the aspiring Geopark needed to meet.

Staff highlight all these aspects to actively encourage visitors to stay longer in Oamaru and the Waitaki. We are strategic about where we send visitors, taking into account opening hours of businesses and attractions, and we also encourage return visits, especially for events and festivals.

Our enthusiastic staff, often new to town, are all quick learners who have explored the area and have a passion for it – and that passion is communicated to visitors.

Our approach is to get visitors to **see more, explore further, stay longer – and visit again in future**. And anecdotal feedback from visitors, businesses, operators, and attractions in both Oamaru and Waitaki is that we do this very, very well.

## **Not just a carousel ride - Whitestone City's added value**

There is also a growing trend in Australia and New Zealand to give visitor information centres an added 'wow' factor through interpretation and storytelling, often placing the visitor information centre inside a complementary attraction that energises and enthuses visitors with a more in-depth experience about what the area can offer.

Developing these combined operations from scratch can be an expensive and drawn out process. We were fortunate in Oamaru that Whitestone City, our existing hands-on heritage centre, could accommodate the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre without such additional cost to establish or develop this added value.

Operationally, the presence of the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre provides a 'front of house' for Whitestone City, which operates on a 'pay what you think is fair per person' basis to cover its own staff and display costs.

The resulting co-housing of the Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre and Whitestone City in the historic Neill Brothers Grainstore at 12 Harbour Street benefits both operations, and offers a unique experience for visitors who come through the door.

Visitors looking for information find it in a magnificently presented setting which prompts conversations about the boom and bust history of the town and district. If they wish to find out more, they can also enjoy a hands-on heritage experience in Whitestone City to set the scene for their stay in town. This includes a very popular 8-minute film introducing them to the history of Oamaru and the Waitaki District.

As they explore this Victorian 'arcade' further, visitors are given more context from guides and displays to the built and natural environments they will experience while during their stay in the town and district.

While a small number of 'returnees' come into Whitestone City 'just for a carousel ride', they usually bring friends and family visiting Oamaru and the Waitaki who are open to being persuaded to see more on this visit, and perhaps come back to the town and district for another visit in future. The nature of Whitestone City is that everyone who goes through this centre gets a dose of Oamaru and Waitaki history, and exposure to what there is to see and do around the town and district on that or future trips here.

The fact that Whitestone City is now so popular that there are repeat visitors doing this, and spending money in the town and the district on each return visit, show that the Whitestone City and Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre are, together, assets that our community and economy can ill-afford to lose.

## Consequences of proposed 70% funding cut

The proposed 70% reduction in funding for the existing Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre at 12 Harbour Street would result in the closure of both Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre, and Whitestone City, from the 31 June 2023 when the current funding finishes:

- **Visitors** would lose a source of impartial information
- **Businesses** would lose an ally that promotes them to visitor
- **Community** would lose an ally that promotes visitors to stay longer in Oamaru
- **Heritage Precinct** would lose a hub that is open 7 day a week, 12 months a year
- **Geopark** would lose its only UNESCO-approved interim interp centre in Oamaru, and
- **Staff** would lose their jobs – up to 10 casual staff are available for roster at any time.

I believe that these consequences, combined, would have a significant impact on Oamaru and Waitaki economy and community.

**In summary, my submission is that the WDC funding for the current Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre at 12 Harbour Street be confirmed at \$150,000 in the annual plan for the 2023-2024 financial year.**

**And, YES, I wish to speak to my submission.**

Thank you.

**Carolyn Lewis**

**Manager, Oamaru & Waitaki Visitor Information Centre, and Whitestone City**



**REFERENCES:**

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# 192

COMPLETE

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## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

## Q1

Your contact details

**Name** Katrina McLarin  
**Organisation (if applicable)** Criterion Hotel  
**Address** 3 Tyne St, Oamaru 9400  
**Email** [REDACTED]  
**Phone** [REDACTED]

## Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## Q3

Age (optional)

25-49

## Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

European &amp; Māori Descent

## Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

a Ratepayer,  
a Resident

## Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

## Q6

1. Waitaki Event CentreWould you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

Respondent skipped this question

**Q7****Don't know**

2. Unfunding depreciation Do you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

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**Q8****Yes**

3. Preparing for emergencies Do you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

---

**Q9****Don't know**

4. Maheno water Do you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

---

**Q10****Don't know**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023 Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

---

**Q11****Yes**

6. Coastal erosion Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

---

**Q12**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

1) As the tenant of the flagship building at the entrance to Harbour Street I see first hand the importance and the significant role the Oamaru Visitor Information Centre and Whitestone City plays to the street. This is currently the only destination experience offered in Harbour Street which showcases the rich cultural, financial and historical role this area has and continues to play in the ongoing economic development of Oamaru and the Victorian Precinct. I have grave concerns the lack of funding from Council will force the closure of this site, and thus the valuable role the Visitor Information Centre provides. In not only promoting business like the Criterion, but also like our Restaurant at the Historic Casa Nova House, not to mention all the accommodation providers in Oamaru who employ local people. I fear this will result in scaling down of operations with the lack of visitors having knowledge on where to go and all the experiences Oamaru and greater surrounds have to offer.

2) I would respectfully request that Council consider the OWCT submission that Harbour Street be closed to vehicular traffic. It is time that Oamaru moves progressively forward in its thinking and how we encourage locals and tourists to experience one of our most significant landmarks. Firstly safely, with the invention of electric cars, it is no longer safe for pedestrians, and especially small children as they get lost in the splendor of the historic buildings and not watch where they are going. I have seen this on many occasions even with adults. Secondly all the tenants are trying to create a destination with Harbour Street and for that to happen we need to be able to utilise the street permanently in the same way this has been done for past festivals and events. We need to establish outside dining, seating and family friendly zones similar to that as seen in Christchurch CBD. It is our intention that we bring to Harbour Street a festive atmosphere at the entrance which encourages locals and visitors to utilise the street during the day and in the evening. We see permanent road closure not only benefiting hospitality based businesses but also retail who have the opportunity to take their businesses to the street and help to create an appealing atmosphere.

---



**Q13**

**Respondent skipped this question**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

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# 170

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, April 28, 2023 3:14:51 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, April 28, 2023 3:31:20 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:16:29  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

## Q1

Your contact details

Name Dan Lewis  
Address [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]  
Phone [REDACTED]

## Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## Q3

Age (optional)

50-64

## Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

Kiwi

## Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

a Ratepayer,  
a Resident

Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

**Q6**

1. Waitaki Event CentreWould you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

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

,  
Any other thoughts?:

This is a vital asset to our community and needs to proceed. To have a fit for purpose facility which will have longevity and broad usage, the design needs to be correct, and the current grandstand on Centennial Park should be demolished and incorporated into the centre, giving corporate, function and hospitality space to the facility. Done correctly, the opportunities to host events, and therefore increase economic benefits to the district are huge. We have a fantastic location and should leverage that to our advantage. Invercargill to Christchurch, Dunedin to Timaru - we're mid-point. Let's not scrimp and build a second rate facility - let's prove that we can actually get one right.

**Q7**

2. Unfunding depreciationDo you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

**Yes**

**Q8**

3. Preparing for emergenciesDo you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

**Yes**

**Q9**

4. Maheno waterDo you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

**Yes**

**Q10**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

**Yes**

**Q11**

6. Coastal erosionDo you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

**Yes**

**Q12**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

**Respondent skipped this question**

**Q13**

Respondent skipped this question

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

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COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, April 20, 2023 1:19:21 PM  
Time Spent: 00:21:30  
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

Q1

Your contact details

Name Ray Henderson  
Address [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]  
Phone [REDACTED]

Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

Q3

Age (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

Oamaru

Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

Respondent skipped this question

Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

Q6

1. Waitaki Event CentreWould you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

Option C: Discontinue the Event Centre project based on increasing costs.  
,  
Any other thoughts?:  
Strongly push the Community for contributions, ie those who really want it can pay for it. Sporting codes must make a significant contribution. The intention is to eliminate the need for a significant Council contribution.



**Q7**

2. Unfunding depreciation Do you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

**Don't know,**

Any other thoughts?:

Is the thinking here that any Depreciation reserves for 3Water related assets will be taken over by Central Government?

**Q8**

3. Preparing for emergencies Do you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

**Yes**

**Q9**

4. Maheno water Do you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

**Yes,**

Any other thoughts?:

There should not be any cost to Oamaru residents. Oamaru Ratepayers significantly funded the Oamaru supply then stumped up more when Weston, Enfield, Hampden etcetera were added in. That's just not fair. The 'promise' was for Oamaru township contributions to decrease.

**Q10**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023 Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

**Don't know**

**Q11**

6. Coastal erosion Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

**Yes,**

Any other thoughts?:

But there must be significant engagement with and \$\$ contribution from ORC.

**Q12**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

This Submission is a placeholder for my more detailed Submission which will delivered before 30April.

**Q13**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

**Respondent skipped this question**

**COMPLETE**

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**Time Spent:** 00:14:41  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

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## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

**Q1**

Your contact details

Name Ray Henderson  
Address [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]  
Phone [REDACTED]

---

**Q2**

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

---

**Q3**

Age (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

**Q4**

Ethnicity (optional)

Oamaru

**Q5**

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

Respondent skipped this question

## Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

**Q6**

1. Waitaki Event CentreWould you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

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

,  
Any other thoughts?:

Later on will be fine

---

**Q7****Don't know**

2. Unfunding depreciation Do you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

---

**Q8****Yes**

3. Preparing for emergencies Do you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

---

**Q9****Yes**

4. Maheno water Do you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

---

**Q10****Don't know**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023 Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

---

**Q11****Yes,**

6. Coastal erosion Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

---

Any other thoughts?:  
Use other Monies

---

**Q12**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

PDF attached

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**Q13**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

**WDC-%20Annual%20Plan%202023~24%20Submission.pdf (36.5KB)**

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WDC- Annual Plan 2023~24 Submission

Ray Henderson  
[REDACTED]

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 3:30pm

\*\*\*\*\*

1/ The increase in Rates.

An 8% Rates rise! Is it necessary?

This gives a \$3m increase on last year's Rates. Surely we can find a \$3m saving somewhere.

I can't help but think how much better off we'd be if the \$3m from KDIC hadn't been 'lost'.

But there is a Better Off funding of \$3.7m received from central Government.

Instead of allocating this to various Projects which don't have a pressing urgency, this could have been injected into the Budget to make up the shortfall.

Hence, no Rates rise necessary.

A 0% increase!

Wouldn't that make us all Better Off?

2/ Another approach. Relates to WDC Question 6.

Another funding from Government is the \$5.2m CERF. This has been allocated entirely to the Roading budget, but no specific Projects have been detailed.

Could \$3m of this be directed at the \$2.9m coastal Landfill remediation?

Surely the possibility of a landfill's contents spilling into the ocean can be classified as a Climate Emergency.

This redirection of funds would free up the approximately \$3m taken as an internal Loan. Again, making a 0% Rates increase possible.

Bottom line : Option (Yes) with a proviso - use other Monies.

3/ Chump change.

Getting away from the millions, why has Council decided to penny-pinch \$100k from the Information Centre being run by Whitestone City staff?

This will make the operation unviable, the service will cease, AND Whitestone City will close.

How can this be a logical approach to our Tourism business?

Please undo this Budget cut.

I'm happy that we would now need to find a \$3.1m reduction in the overall Budget, or accept a very small Rates rise in the coming year.

4/ LGFA

Do we need to keep adding to the Loans we have from the LGFA?

\$10m was loaned to NOIC and as they quickly followed up their Stage 1

implementation with Stage 2, the Loan capital has not yet been repaid.

Similarly, \$10m to Observatory Village for their Stage 1 was not repaid because Stage 2 took off immediately after.

I strongly suggest that Council 'cool their heels' until this loan money is back in the coffers to be reused. This would be a prudent approach to financial planning which is not being demonstrated by the uptake of external Loans. This real borrowing is very costly and the interest paid by Council far outstrips the interest being paid to Council on our loans/Investments.

5/ The Event Centre

This is not the time to proceed with this Project. I am not a naysayer to the Project per se, but am concerned by the Funding model. If it continues it would require considerable Loan money, creating much more real Debt.

Bottom line : WDC Question 1. I choose Option (C).

6/ Transformation

What is it?

Why is it chewing up \$4.5m?

Maybe that's where we'll find a \$3m reduction. Easy.

If it's a real thing with an eventual payoff then maybe sometime, but not now!

Would love a sit-down session with Alex to explain some of the detail.

7/ Planning, planning, planning.

When a Project materializes then there is great effort put into the Planning.

While I live by the adage "Measure twice, cut once" and also "Do it once, and do it right" I am puzzled that if there is a large timespan between Planning, and Implementation, then more often than not, there is ANOTHER Planning phase (effectively scrapping Plan 1 and starting again). I recall lots & lots & lots of Harbour Plans!

Given that a Project should have a Budget set at the outset, what does this repeated Planning do to it?

Will there be anything left for the actual Implementation?

Specifically, Kurow, Palmerston, Otematata township redesigns are being redesigned AGAIN.

8/ Public Transport

info to be presented at Hearings

9/ CBD parking - free or not?

info to be presented at Hearings

10/ Unfunding Depreciation : WDC Question 2.

Is this an attempt to reduce the Assets that would be 'seized' under 3 Waters (Affordable Water)? Will this item appear in the Annual/Long Term Plans for the next 2 years now that Affordable Water has moved out by 2 years?

Isn't this akin to choosing to let car/house Insurance lapse when the Household finances are tight?

Bottom line : Option (Don't know)

11/ Preparing for Emergencies : WDC Question 3.

How could anyone choose to be NOT ready in an Emergency?

Bottom line : Option (Yes)

12/ Maheno Water : WDC Question 4.

Drinking water standards Legislation makes this a no-brainer.

Bottom line : Option (Yes)

13/ Significance/Engagement policy : WDC Question 5.

Didn't have time to go deep into this.

Bottom line : Option (Don't know)



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 April 2023 2:45 PM  
**To:** Consult  
**Subject:** Annual Plan submission

Feedback form APRIL 27, 2023  
Puka whakahoki kōrero

Full name: BRUCE ALBISTON

Postal address: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

We're asking the following questions to understand more about who we are hearing from. Answers are completely optional.

Age (optional): Under 18 18-24 25 - 49 50-64 **65+**

Ethnicity (optional): AUSSIE BORN KIWI- blood lines ???????

Are you (optional): **a Ratepayer and/a Resident**

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

**Yes** No

What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

1. Waitaki Event Centre

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

*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.*

Any other thoughts? **yes option B reasonable if WDC adopts a**

**PROMOTIONS STRATEGY ACROSS ALL ITS**

**SERVICES/ECONOMIC**

**ENTERPRISES/GEOPARK/TOURISM- Event Centre- like**  
**related community amenity assets-**  
**of**

**attraction for mounting major regional/national comps:**  
**the net gains for all sectors could support the economic**  
**generation that services Loan funding.**

## 2. Unfunding depreciation

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

**Yes - PROVIDING YOU LIKEWISE ENGAGE POSITIVELY WITH THE NEW REGIONAL ENTITY**

Any other thoughts? ***I chaired Committee/Workshops on the 1997/98 legislative changes that compelled WDC to adopt a depreciation regime: it was only narrowly accepted as there was more suspicion that somehow central government was pushing costs on to local govt- we/you have been beneficiaries and would not imagine prudent Local Govt without it now: let that be a lesson and better communicate benefits to communities, instead of negative messages that foster the intense reactions sadly generated by recent Water proposals.***

## 3. Preparing for emergencies

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

**Yes- absolutely in conjunction and cooperation with regional networks and national coordination.**

## 4. Maheno water

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

**Yes** - common sense! As a rural water scheme stakeholder for 40 years I know the pitfalls and realities: but the transfer should ensure the WDC admin is not just an extension of cumbersome processes: TIME TO TRANSFORM THIS SORT OF OPERATION- hopefully it is on the agenda of the current regenerative overhaul!!

## 5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023

Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?: (The engagement Doc could helpfully provide link to that list-)

**Yes -No -Don't know - all three, depending on which part of the AP CONSULT DOC this conflated query refers to?**

**I do applaud the distilled information, rates breakdown and related work outputs of WDC. I query if some important activities associated with Promotions e.g. Opera house/ Community Events, also previous Tourism Waitaki coordination- and the interface of our great SHOP WINDOW PROMOTIONS e.g. Waitaki Lakes/Camping/A20/Geopark- is being sidelined; maybe hopefully delegated etc?**

**But I would advocate this 2023 A.P should continue at least 1-2 years shoulder provisions and allow a new entity genuine space to redefine, redeploy, readapt the beneficial history and assets of the 'SWEET SPOTS'- not all just tourism but essential community networks and the people who are the lifeblood- it is too easy for PLANNING to overlook actual impacts if they are not in your offices.**

**I dare suggest WDC refer back to a 2010 WAITAKI HERITAGE FUTURES Report it commissioned which showed benefits of integrated services, promotions, asset investment, networks and REAL ECONOMIC OUTCOMES. I applaud many of the evidences that WDC has implemented but I frankly advise there are casualties on the field of volunteers and professionals who have despaired that excellent operations/services/achievements have been DISCARDED/overlooked/wasted.**

**My submission is that you do not at this pivotal point have to do either/or solutions: rather look for the "both/and" options. I note use of "Placemaking"- check that 90% of the "places" you include in District assets are all the product of the Community's initiative in making/improving/asset building these 'places' for our people's benefit- from camps/environments/museums/harbour/heritage buildings etc.....these all have been the result of generations of hard work, vision and enterprise. WDC has done some great work in supporting, enhancing, harnessing and adding value- but the placemaking is best when initiatives of people as per Geopark pave the way.**

**THE CURRENT INFORMATION/WHITESTONE CITY OPERATION should remain fully funded as currently for the continuance of a critical public facing Shop Window of Waitaki. I dispute the crude cost factor advanced per customer usage. 90%+ of enquiries are on behalf of anything from 2-6 others e.g.families,A2O bikers, tour groups et al The value pp is not a correct measure, rather the downstream benefits generated. This AP should not effectively tie the hands of a future entity either way: but to leave a key proven worldwide operational iSite "hand-up" for visitors stuttering along as per the tabled AP draft would be a denial of any real future aspiration.**

**Are there any other comments you wish to make for Council to consider prior to finalising the Significance and Engagement Policy and Guidelines?**

The separate doc S&E clearly lays out process and strategy but frankly for me includes so many assumptions and intentions - it is impossible to give a blanket endorsement. Nor do I believe from conversations, meetings, etc to date, WDC can yet claim a mandate for much of what is outlined in yet another major policy consultation. WDC adopted the "Uplifting Waitaki" as the basis for EDA, and by endorsing this round of consultation we submitters are effectively validating a new S&E policy as an enabling tool. With respect, I have yet to hear/read Council advocacy, elected or staff, with clarity incorporating the entire sweep of these changes and interfaces. My plea would be, post AP round, extend the timelines for these other consultations- both S&E and UPLIFTING WAITAKI- deserve and need far more community ENGAGEMENT than the current consultation proposes.

E.g. The expanded/updated/upgraded list of strategic assets makes sense- but where is the **Property portfolio**; as also the **Forrester Gallery Collection** - which should not be conflated with the Building- has it been revalued; is the endowment by donors appropriately vested so that the corporate memory has an accurate data base for such as a Strategic Asset Inventory?

#### 6. Coastal erosion

Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion **YES- & YES again!**

# 227

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
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**Last Modified:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 3:37:34 PM  
**Time Spent:** 01:17:10  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

## Q1

Your contact details

Name Zim Sherman

Address [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

## Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## Q3

Age (optional)

50-64

## Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

## Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

a Ratepayer

Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?



**Q6**

1. Waitaki Event Centre Would you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

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

,

Any other thoughts?:

In the Waitaki Economic Development Strategy document, all economic development projects were classified into categories, and then evaluated for readiness and benefit. "Sports" was the LOWEST priority category, with the LOWEST readiness and the LOWEST benefit to the community -- by a very wide margin. I like recreation, but \$15 million is an awfully big price tag. If there are two columns, "essential service" and "nice to have", a sports center is in the latter column.

**Q7**

2. Unfunding depreciation Do you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

**No,**

Any other thoughts?:

This is a terrible idea. It dodges your responsibility to upkeep the community's assets. The assets will need to be replaced at some time in the future. If the money isn't there when we need it, then we're all in a heap of trouble.

**Q8**

3. Preparing for emergencies Do you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

**Don't know**

**Q9**

4. Maheno water Do you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

**Don't know**

**Q10**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023 Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

**No,**

Are there any other comments you wish to make for Council to consider prior to finalising the Significance and Engagement Policy and Guidelines?:

Add parks and recreation reserves, as well as all Council-owned lands for other purposes, such as paper roads and stopped roads. These are assets, are they not? What does it mean to be "strategic"?

**Q11**

6. Coastal erosion Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

**Yes,**

Any other thoughts?:

This should be a high-priority project -- much higher than a sports center. We don't have much time. As a student of oceanography, I was taught that groynes are effective at stopping cross-shore erosion and sediment transport. The installation costs are high, but they work, even in the harshest of conditions. Sea-level rise is extremely non-linear. If you have an ice cube (at -14 degrees) and you raise its temperature at a rate of 1 degree per hour, how much time will pass before you start to notice a change? Answer: 14 hours. When will the ice cube be completely gone? Answer: 14.5 hours. That's how non-linear systems work. Just as sea-level rise is non-linear with time, coastal erosion is non-linear with sea-level. The hills will be fine, but think of how flat the Oamaru CBD is. There will come a time when the CBD will need to be abandoned. When? Probably within 100 years. We should be planning for that.

---

**Q12**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

Medium-density housing is not required in Oamaru.

According to <https://www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/enabling-housing-density/>, Tier 3 communities must ask the Minister for the Environment if the medium-density standard \*can be\* adopted. And Oamaru is just \*barely\* a Tier 3 community, which is defined by more than 10,000 people in an "urban" area. We don't need to plan for medium-density housing.

I am in favour of the \*concept\* of increasing housing density, but only when the usual assumptions apply:

1. There is an assumption that the land being "densified" is already urban in nature, for example, renovating old warehouses to create loft apartments. I saw this happen when I lived in Denver, and it rejuvenated the CBD -- definitely a great improvement. This does not apply to the expansion in and around Oamaru.
2. There is an assumption that there is a large demand for a more urban lifestyle. Young people who live in cities with bustling nightlife want to be in and amongst it. This does not apply to Oamaru, which is enjoyed for its mix of ample services, access to nature, and the convenience of living in a small town. Small towns rock. When Gail and I moved here, there was just one traffic light, and it was for a pedestrian crossing. Driving through town now may be safer -- I don't know -- but it seems much busier now that there are traffic lights at every corner. We all live here because we have chosen not to live in a big city. We know that as density increases, so does congestion and crime, and it destroys the small-town character that we all enjoy. (And Oamaru has events, but no "nightlife". If you want to be a part of a nightlife, go somewhere else.)
3. There is always an assumption that density is a good investment. "Safe as houses" is a popular saying. However, this does not apply to Oamaru. Sea-level rise will soon cause large changes in property values, especially in the lower central Oamaru area. The entire town will struggle with this, and ripples will affect the entire community. Any newly-densified housing will not seem like such a wise investment.

Instead of pouring money and effort into medium density housing in Oamaru, I feel that a better investment would be to encourage outlying towns to improve their resilience. Towns like Palmerston, Kurow, and Hampden already have kernels of economic activity that could be grown. Other towns are next in line.

This would result in a network of communities that are more self-sufficient, which would reduce the need for travel, thus easing roading expenses and reducing cost-of-living for rural residents. Additionally, these communities would have a head-start on being able to provide for themselves (and for us) when Oamaru eventually pulls the plug and abandons ship, many years from now, when the ocean can't be dissuaded any longer.

For context, I grew up 20 minutes from Boston, but we hardly ever went there, as each town had its own shopping area, restaurants, libraries, schools, and basic services -- and each town was a thriving hive of activity. As youths, we thought Boston was fun, but the city could disappear into the sea and we wouldn't have cared, because we had everything we needed in our own communities. (And just like Oamaru, Boston will also face the inevitable reckoning with the forces of the ocean.)

I've also seen towns that didn't have such services, and they never become anything but ghost towns. Towns like Maheno, Herbert, and Duntroon are marginal. Towns like Ngapara and Tokarahi are constantly in danger of evaporating.

I would rather live in a small Oamaru, surrounded by other small communities that are economically thriving, each with their own "small-town" character. This is what makes New Zealand special, and this is what tourists enjoy when they come to visit.

Encourage growth at the fringes. But don't add congestion at the heart.

**Q13**

**Respondent skipped this question**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

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# 215

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 9:27:19 PM  
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**Time Spent:** 00:04:33  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

## Q1

Your contact details

**Name** Adair Craik  
**Organisation (if applicable)** Waitaki Event Centre Trust  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
**Email** [REDACTED]  
**Phone** [REDACTED]

## Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

**Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.**

## Q3

Age (optional)

50-64

## Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

European

## Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

a Ratepayer

## Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

## Q6

1. Waitaki Event CentreWould you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

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

Any other thoughts?:

I would like to speak to this submission as part of the Waitaki Event Centre Trust.

**Q7****Don't know**

2. Unfunding depreciation Do you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

---

**Q8****Yes,**

3. Preparing for emergencies Do you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

Any other thoughts?:

Absolutely There is a new start up in commissioned by the Canterbury City Council called Urban Intelligence and this is to prepare for the next disaster. I understand that the Govt is also supplying funding so that they can determine other areas which may have flooding, earthquake, fire - any potential natural disaster

---

**Q9****Don't know**

4. Maheno water Do you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

---

**Q10****Yes**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023 Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

---

**Q11****Yes**

6. Coastal erosion Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

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**Q12****Respondent skipped this question**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

---

**Q13****Respondent skipped this question**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

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# 21

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, April 04, 2023 1:34:30 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, April 04, 2023 2:05:56 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:31:26  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

**Q1**

Your contact details

Name andrew powazynski  
 Address [REDACTED]  
 Email [REDACTED]  
 Phone [REDACTED]

**Q2**

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

**Q3**

Age (optional)

50-64

**Q4**

Ethnicity (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

**Q5**

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

a Ratepayer,  
a Resident

Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

**Q6**

1. Waitaki Event Centre Would you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

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

Any other thoughts?:

There could be potential for a scaled down version of the events centre thus reducing costs. But having the ability to develop the site & building as and when required if necessary.

**Q7****Yes**

2. Unfunding depreciation Do you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

**Q8****Yes**

3. Preparing for emergencies Do you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

**Q9****Yes,**

4. Maheno water Do you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

Any other thoughts?:

If it improves water quality

**Q10****Don't know**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023 Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

**Q11****Yes**

6. Coastal erosion Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

**Q12**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

I attach a copy of my previous submission for roading concerns to the 22/23 annual plan. And it is noted that development along the Parsons road corridor continues, traffic has increased, heavier traffic use has grown, school children waiting for school bus have increased. And yet nothing has been done about addressing safety of pedestrians around the bends at the beginning of Parson & Salesyard road intersection. Again does someone have to get injured or god forbid get killed before action is taken.

**Q13**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

SC224%20C224023040414370.pdf (136.4KB)

# 2023-24 Annual Plan Feedback form Puka whakahoki kōrero

Scan for more  
info and online  
feedback form



**We'd love to hear your thoughts on what we're planning and any other ideas you may have to help make Waitaki the best place to be!**

**Email:** consult@waitaki.govt.nz

**Post:** Annual Plan 2023-24, Waitaki District Council, Private Bag 50058, Ōamaru 9444

**Deliver:** Drop it off at any Council office or district library

## Your contact details: (please print clearly)

Full name: Faye ORMANDY

Organisation (if applicable): .....

Postal address: .....

Email: ..... Phone: .....

**We're asking the following questions to understand more about who we are hearing from. Answers are completely optional.**

Age (optional): ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25 - 49 ☐ 50-64 ☒ 65+

Ethnicity (optional): .....

Are you (optional): ☒ a Ratepayer and/or ☐ a Resident (tick all that apply)

## Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

☒ Yes ☐ No *If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.*

## What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

### 1. Waitaki Event Centre

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

- ☐ **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.

**Any other thoughts?** .....

.....

.....

.....

## 2. Unfunding depreciation

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

☐

Yes

☐

No

☒

Don't know

Any other thoughts?

---

---

---

## 3. Preparing for emergencies

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

☒

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't know

Any other thoughts?

---

---

---

## 4. Maheno water

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

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't know

Any other thoughts?

---

---

---

## 5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023

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

☒

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't know

Are there any other comments you wish to make for Council to consider prior to finalising the Significance and Engagement Policy and Guidelines?

---

---

---

## 6. Coastal erosion

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

☒

Yes

☐

No

☐

Don't know

Any other thoughts?

---

---

---

## 7. Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

see attached.

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**Need more room? You can add extra pages if there is not enough space on this form.**

**Points to remember when giving us your feedback:**

- Please note that all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included in accordance with our Privacy Policy which can be found on our website [www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz).
- Submissions accompanied by multiple signatures or as a petition will be processed as a single submission.



## 7.

### **Awamoa Park toilets**

I am concerned about where the new Awamoa Park toilets are to be built on the park and their design.

People were aware that new toilets were planned for Awamoa Park, but I am sure most thought that the new toilets would be built on the same site as the old ones.

Before I wrote this submission, I had a look at the other public toilets in Oamaru. The Awamoa Park toilets are by no means the worst but I have to assume *'that the old toilet block had reached the end of its useful life'* as reported, is based on sound advice and it could not be refurbished. Could it?

If not, I would urge WDC to rebuild on the same site, or consider moving the planned toilets further South along Awamoa Road where people already stop to have a picnic, give their dog a run or for their kids to play on the swings across the road. By doing this, parking will be more available and further away from an already congested corner.

It was however, only when I saw the recently published plan in the Oamaru Mail that I realized where they were planned to be built. This explained that they would be built closer to the highway and towards the oval *'to enable the new toilets to be built before decommissioning the old toilets'*. I feel this is quite a weak argument, particularly, given, again, according to a quote in the Oamaru Mail, how easy the new toilets are to install and the reduced construction time because of the prefabricated design.

The plans for the reconfigured Junction corner have not yet been released to the public, but I would like to think that in planning for the toilets, WDC and Waka Kotahi are working together to manage the traffic flow. There was no evidence of this in the plan in the Oamaru Mail.

I'd like to comment also on the engagement process for the new toilets. As far as I am aware there has been none, again quoting from the Oamaru Mail, *'the toilet block has been ordered and we are in the planning and consent process for the site works'*. It sounds like a done deal and I am probably wasting my time submitting. But how hard would it have been for WDC to do a letter drop of the Junction businesses and residential neighbours of the park to invite everyone to a site meeting and gather some input?

And finally, could WDC please consider the aesthetics of the proposed building (although again it is probably too late) and where it fits into the landscaping of the park and its surroundings. Awamoa Park bordered by the Memorial Oaks and the Junction Hotel is a great entrance or departure to and from Oamaru and the vistas, views and sight lines should always all be automatically taken into account when something like this is planned.

Our forefathers went to considerable trouble to ensure that we have a beautifully planned town. They even had a Beautification Society of Oamaru in the early 1900s and work that is done now should enhance rather than take away from the past.

An Oamaru stone veneer, printed vinyl wrap or plantings will not change that what has been proposed for the new toilets, is a shed, albeit quite an expensive one, but with no architectural merit, stuck out in the park and unfortunately making Oamaru with all its heritage buildings and conscious effort to proudly say how much we value heritage, I am sad to say, a bit of a laughing stock!

**I am also submitting in support of two proposals put forward by the Oamaru Whitestone Civic Trust.**

### **Waitaki Visitor Information Centre**

Firstly the Oamaru and Waitaki Visitor Information Centre fulfils a vital role in the promotion of tourism in the Waitaki District. The previous time the Tourism Waitaki visitor centre was closed, it left an enormous void for both visitors and local people. It is a myth that visitors obtain all their tourism information from the internet. As someone who is still involved in the tourism industry in the District, I know this isn't true. Visitors want to talk with local people, they want to feel like they have learned something about the area that they wouldn't learn otherwise. A visitor information centre plays a very important part in increasing visitor satisfaction and in doing so 'word of mouth' publicity for an area is the very best promotion it can receive.

Remember when we were told that book shops would fold because we would all be reading E-books and no one would be buying books any more. That hasn't happened. Likewise I see visitors at Vanished World wanting maps (there is only so much of an area you can see on a phone and it gives no context to what you're viewing); the AA publications are flying out the door before they run out (remember AA has recently said they are discontinuing some of their publications); and people really like and want to have a brochure in their hand which they can read and refer to.

That is why I support the current full funding of \$150,000 for the Oamaru and Waitaki Visitor Information Centre for the 2023-2024 financial year. I believe the Visitor Centre, promoting an industry contributing nearly \$50m of the District's total GDP which is predicted to grow significantly, should be funded until the District has been agreed how tourism is to be promoted and funded in the future.

#### **Harbour Street closure to motorised vehicles**

I fully support the closure of Harbour Street to motorised vehicles. The street is becoming more and more congested and I agree that electric vehicles, people taking photos, small children and people not anticipating cars and even trucks is an accident waiting to happen. I am assuming that service vehicles will be able to enter Harbour Street before and after certain times.



# 237

# 2023-24 Annual Plan Feedback form Puka whakahoki kōrero

Scan for more  
info and online  
feedback form



We'd love to hear your thoughts on what we're planning and any other ideas you may have to help make Waitaki the best place to be!

Email: consult@waitaki.govt.nz

Post: Annual Plan 2023-24, Waitaki District Council, Private Bag 50058, Ōamaru 9444

Deliver: Drop it off at any Council office or district library

## Your contact details: (please print clearly)

Full name: IAN VINCENT MURTON

Organisation (if applicable): .....

Postal address: .....

Email: ..... Phone: .....

We're asking the following questions to understand more about who we are hearing from. Answers are completely optional.

Age (optional): ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25 - 49 ☐ 50-64 ☐ 65+

Ethnicity (optional): .....

Are you (optional): ☒ a Ratepayer and/or ☒ a Resident (tick all that apply)

## Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

### 1. Waitaki Event Centre

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

☐ **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.

Any other thoughts? .....

.....

.....

.....

## 2. Unfunding depreciation

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

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

.....

.....

.....

## 3. Preparing for emergencies

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

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

.....

.....

.....

## 4. Maheno water

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

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

.....

.....

.....

## 5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023

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

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Are there any other comments you wish to make for Council to consider prior to finalising the Significance and Engagement Policy and Guidelines?

.....

.....

.....

## 6. Coastal erosion

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

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

.....

.....

.....

## 7. Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

see attached

.....

.....

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.....

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**Need more room? You can add extra pages if there is not enough space on this form.**

**Points to remember when giving us your feedback:**

- Please note that all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included in accordance with our Privacy Policy which can be found on our website [www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz).
- Submissions accompanied by multiple signatures or as a petition will be processed as a single submission.





## **7. Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?**

### **Proposed Awamoa Park toilets**

I own, live in and am restoring the building on the corner of Wansbeck and Towey Streets – the landmark Junction Hotel. It is the first significant heritage building that greets anyone travelling from the south and provides a pointer to the astonishing 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture Oamaru has to offer and it is also the last one people see as they leave town. It also encourages people to visit and appreciate lower Thames Street and the heritage area and see the wonderful buildings that Oamaru has.

The Junction Hotel is opposite Awamoa Park on the, soon to be redesigned, Junction Corner and the site for the proposed new Awamoa Park toilets. Coming from a family of landscape, drainage and building contractors I have noted that this area near the corner is prone to flooding which remains for days after it has rained. I am concerned that the accessible car park which will need to be lower than the grassed area for access, and therefore more likely to flood will be compromised. In addition the intersection is very close to State Highway 1 and hazardous to navigate through. In short, while I'm not against toilets on Awamoa Park, I am concerned that their placement is not in the right place.

The Council's website talks about Heritage Protection saying:

*We believe it is important to protect our heritage places and our townscapes. They give our region a sense of place and tell our stories.*

*We believe heritage conservation should not prevent change but rather allow for change that works with a place, that maintains a place's integrity, and that provides for the people who live in and work there. Once a heritage place is lost, it cannot be replaced so we want to support owners to protect the district's heritage.*

The Waitaki Heritage fund has helped to make my 1879 heritage building water tight and I am very grateful for this assistance, but feel I have to comment on the proposal to put public toilets outside my dining and formal living room windows when there are other options. (Refer representation in Oamaru Mail 14 April 2023.)

I respectfully hope that Councillors will undertake and consider the following when making their final decision:

- That a proper building inspection is undertaken to ascertain whether the current Awamoa Park toilets are definitely beyond refurbishment;
- That the layout of the Junction roading changes are part of any discussion about the toilets along with, if toilets were to be built closer to the main road, the danger people will be in when they dash across State Highway 1 from the New World carpark (as they do already).
- Agree that the proposed prefabricated toilet building and its placement does not contribute to the 'townscape' as described above and meet the Council's own aspiration of 'maintaining a place's integrity'. Would it be better for the toilet to be placed further along Awamoa Road with the accessible parking nearby, including parking for the large truck and trailer units that park there regularly, and making better use of the nearby picnic tables and playground? Therefore improving the 'safety' of the area and complimenting the townscape.
- I am happy to meet with Councillors or WDC staff to discuss my concerns on site.



Home (<https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/Home>) / About Waitaki  
(<https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/About-Waitaki>) / Securing Our Future  
(<https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/About-Waitaki/Securing-our-future>) / **Heritage Protection**

# About Waitaki

Menu

## Heritage Protection

Waitaki has wonderful heritage places — ranging from te wahi tuku ihu a te Maori, archaeological sites, rural and industrial buildings, houses both grand and modest, to our nationally significant limestone civic and commercial architecture.



We believe it is important to protect our heritage places and our townscapes. They give our region a sense of place and tell our stories.

We believe heritage conservation should not prevent change but rather allow for change that works with a place, that maintains a place's integrity, and that provides for the people who live in and work there. Once a heritage place is lost, it cannot be replaced so we want to support owners to protect the district's heritage.

We support owners by offering advice and assistance through our [heritage advisor](mailto:hbauchop@waitaki.govt.nz) (<mailto:hbauchop@waitaki.govt.nz>), through the [Waitaki Heritage Fund](https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/About-Waitaki/Living-here/Supporting-our-community/Community-Grants-and-Awards/Waitaki-Heritage-Fund) (<https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/About-Waitaki/Living-here/Supporting-our-community/Community-Grants-and-Awards/Waitaki-Heritage-Fund>), and through our [Heritage Consent Fee Waiver](/files/assets/public/files/our-council/policies-and-bylaws/policies/heritage-consent-fee-waiving-policy.pdf) (</files/assets/public/files/our-council/policies-and-bylaws/policies/heritage-consent-fee-waiving-policy.pdf>) .

### By Phrase or Keyword



# Junction Hotel – A labour of love

Junction Hotel was built in 1879, designed in an ornate Italianate style typical of Oamaru's Victorian architecture. It is a prominent landmark alongside State Highway 1.

The hotel has a chequered history: bankrupt owners, fire damage, prohibition, and a long period of decline and neglect. In 2019, A new owner brought a commitment to restoring the building. Ian Murton had always admired the building and seized the opportunity to buy the neglected building.

When Ian took over the building he found kicked in walls, missing doors, a leaky roof, and window joinery in dire need of replacement and repair.

Waitaki District Council's heritage advisor, Heather Bauchop, supported Ian's passion. Working with Heritage New Zealand's buildings conservator, Andrew Barsby, she worked with Ian to put together funding applications to both the Waitaki District Heritage Fund and Heritage New Zealand's National Heritage Preservation Incentive Fund. In 2020, Ian received grants from both funds. The building was awarded \$55,000 from the Waitaki Heritage Fund.

Ian has been working through the long process of restoring the hotel. As of February 2022, the roof, skylights and flashings have been replaced, the window joinery replaced or repaired, and the staircase rebuilt. Collapsing ceilings have been gibbed. Interior walls repaired. From the street the biggest change is the reinstatement of the windows in the east elevation, replacing the unsightly garage door.

While there's a lot of work still to be done, Ian has saved the building.

The Waitaki Heritage Fund is proud to support this project.



1879

The restoration in progress east view



2019 East view

# 115

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, April 24, 2023 2:17:37 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, April 24, 2023 2:53:33 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:35:56  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

## Q1

Your contact details

**Name** Darryl Wayne Paterson  
**Organisation (if applicable)** Waitaki Boys'  
**Address** 10 Waitaki Ave North Oamaru  
**Email** [REDACTED]  
**Phone** [REDACTED]

## Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## Q3

Age (optional)

50-64

## Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

European

## Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

a Ratepayer,  
a Resident

Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?



## Q6

1. Waitaki Event Centre Would you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

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

,  
Any other thoughts?:

As a resident and rate payer as well as the Principal of a local secondary school I am more than willing to support an increase in the Council's contribution and will happily support any increase in rates in order to do so. It is crucial that we are forward thinking and our town needs this Events Centre. As do towns similar in size to ours like Ashburton. As an example to see Netball get cancelled on a Saturday if the courts are too wet and the only option ironically is to go to the Events Centre in Waimate is downright embarrassing. From my school's perspective it would be great to have a venue where we could play multiple sports at one time ie on an interschool exchange. Also, be able to host events like junior miniball on multiple courts over a couple of hours rather than the students playing all night on two courts. It would also be an ideal space for large cultural events - some of which are currently held in the Rec Centre. Our Pasifika boys currently travel to Dunedin for the Otago Polyfest and our Maori boys to Dunedin also for the Mana Korero competition. With an Events Centre here in Oamaru, why could we not host those here and invite the Dunedin schools to do some travelling. We would also see it as an opportunity for our boarding house to provide accommodation for participating groups in events being held there. I would imagine that with Oamaru's central location in the South Island we would get more inter-regional and even national events held in a bigger venue like the one planned. (As Timaru and Ashburton currently do). During last year's winter tournament week, we had teams going to Ashburton, Timaru, Dunedin, Invercargill and Nelson! I recall being a resident in Dunedin when the Stadium was built - there was a great deal of opposition at the time but look at what that facility has brought to that city not only in terms of revenue but also, more importantly in terms of identity and a sense of belonging. (ps - look at what the planned Christchurch stadium is being costed at only a decade later). I understand the same scenario played out when Moana Pool was built in Dunedin and also when the old Oamaru Pool moved to the Waitaki Aquatic Centre. Those facilities were 'visionary' at the time and have proved to be highly successful. I believe the same will be the case with this planned Events Centre. We need as a town, to be future focussed. As with the Dunedin stadium, the Events Centre would also be a sense of great local pride and only increase the sense of belonging we have for our wonderful region. Imagine hosting concurrent events where the North Otago Hockey, Rugby, Basketball and Netball teams are all playing on the same day. With the existing facilities and the new Events Centre I see this as a 'sporting and

the new Events Centre I see this as a sporting and cultural precinct' for Oamaru as the Logan Park 'precinct' is to Dunedin. Proudly born and bred in North Oamaru.  
Darryl Paterson

**Q7**

Respondent skipped this question

2. Unfunding depreciationDo you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

**Q8**

Respondent skipped this question

3. Preparing for emergenciesDo you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

**Q9**

Respondent skipped this question

4. Maheno waterDo you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

**Q10**

Respondent skipped this question

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

**Q11**

Respondent skipped this question

6. Coastal erosionDo you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

**Q12**

Respondent skipped this question

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

**Q13**

Respondent skipped this question

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

# 196

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, April 28, 2023 8:43:16 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, April 28, 2023 9:44:48 PM  
**Time Spent:** 01:01:32  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

## Q1

Your contact details

Name	Harry Andrew
Organisation (if applicable)	Oamaru Steam & Rail
Address	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]

## Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## Q3

Age (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

## Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

Oamaru

## Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

a Ratepayer

## Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

## Q6

1. Waitaki Event Centre Would you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

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

,  
Any other thoughts?:  
It is too small and it is only catering for a limited number of people.

**Q7****Don't know**

2. Unfunding depreciation Do you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

---

**Q8****Yes,**

3. Preparing for emergencies Do you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

Any other thoughts?:

For me this is the job of a good Council to be able to look after it's community

---

**Q9****No**

4. Maheno water Do you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

---

**Q10****Yes**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023 Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

---

**Q11****Yes,**

6. Coastal erosion Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

Any other thoughts?:

Yes we do need to do better at it as there ways can be able to slow the erosion down

---

**Q12**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

All of the of the Annual Plan meetings should be open, not to go a head and change parts after the public have left the room.

---

**Q13****Respondent skipped this question**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

---

**DATE:** 30 April 2023  
**TO:** Waitaki District Council  
**FROM:** Ahuriri Community Board  
**SUBJECT:** Submission to Council's Annual Plan 2023-24

**Contact person:** Calum Reid  
Ahuriri Community Board Chair  
Email: [creid@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:creid@waitaki.govt.nz)  
Mobile: 027 436 8700

**Please copy any written correspondence in response to this submission to:**

**cc: Ainslee Hooper**  
**Governance Advisor (in the role of Board Secretary)**

**Do you wish to speak to your submission? Yes (refer Q7 response)**

## **Ahuriri Community Board Submission**

The Ahuriri Community Board ("the Board") wishes to commend and thank the Waitaki District Council for keeping the rates at 8% for the next financial year. It is acknowledged that this is close to the rate of inflation of 7.2%.

The Board wishes to put forward some specific initiatives for the Council's consideration as part of the Annual Plan 2023/24 consultation process. These are set out below.

### **1. Footpath toward Kurow Bridge**

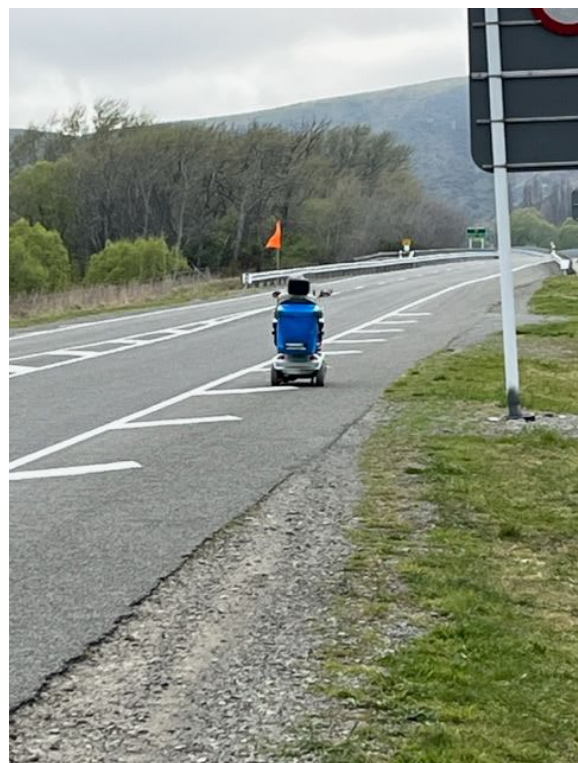
The Board would like to see the two paths joined between where one path ends around the Bledisloe Street / SH 82 corner in Kurow and whether the second path starts at the first bridge leaving Kurow on SH 82. It is acknowledged that this proposal will involve Waka Kotahi as well as Council.

The rationale for this request is that the Kurow Wetland has an entrance off SH82 as well as one from behind PGG Wrightson off the service lane. A small group of volunteers has been planting natives at the entrance on the slope of the bank. They are very much aware of the ever-increase usage by pedestrians having to navigate walking along the highway where there is currently no footpath. There is increasing concern about the dangers associated with people and families walking this area for many and varied reasons, as illustrated by the examples below:

- from Kurow township to the Kurow Island/Wetland for exercise and return
- from the Hakataramea village walking along the road to Kurow shops and return
- Holiday makers staying at motels/camping ground walking to and from Kurow Island/wetland for exercise and return
- When jet sprints are on, people parking in the Kurow township and walking down to the river
- Mobility scooters going from Kurow township to the Island / river/wetland.

It is particularly important to note and acknowledge that SH 82 is a very busy State Highway. There is no path between Kurow township and the first bridge. When the new bridges were put in a few years ago, the path was built along the bridge and then ended abruptly. By default, this pushes pedestrians straight out on to a highway with a 100km per hour speed limit. The attached photographs are provided to help inform Council of the safety issues and concerns being highlighted by the Board and local residents.

The photographs on the following pages illustrate the safety issues and concerns that are being highlighted and that the Board wishes to address through the request for a footpath to be built in this area. A letter of support from a local resident is also included in support of this request in the Board's submission.











Bledisloe Street. Kurow

50 kph

Looking South

SH 82

50 kph

Entrance to Kurow Wetland

Looking North

SH 82

50 kph







Looking South

Path stops abruptly onto -100 kph speed zone





Looking North—approaching first  
bridge

End of footpath







Walking North to 1st  
bridge, SH82.

2 school age children

Letter of Support from a local resident:

*Dear Karen*

*I wholeheartedly support your submission that the footpath be completed over the Kurow bridges. I frequently walk on the island and would like to be able to walk from Kurow to the Island, but having to walk along the roadside over the bridge, with no path, with heavy trucks shooting past at 100 kph, is too intimidating. So I drive to the island and park there to avoid the exposed and dangerous walk to it. Even walking to the Wetland entrance is scary, although it is a lesser distance from Kurow. Safe access to this great Kurow town asset should be provided.*

*I believe there should be a safe pedestrian walkway across the two bridges and that the speed limit across the bridges should be reduced. In my opinion, the 50 kph sign is way too close to the Kurow township.*

*Good luck with your submission.*

*Kind regards,*

*Alison Grant*

*(resident of Grants Road)*

## **2. Repair the Footpath from Waitaki Valley School to the Kurow Township**

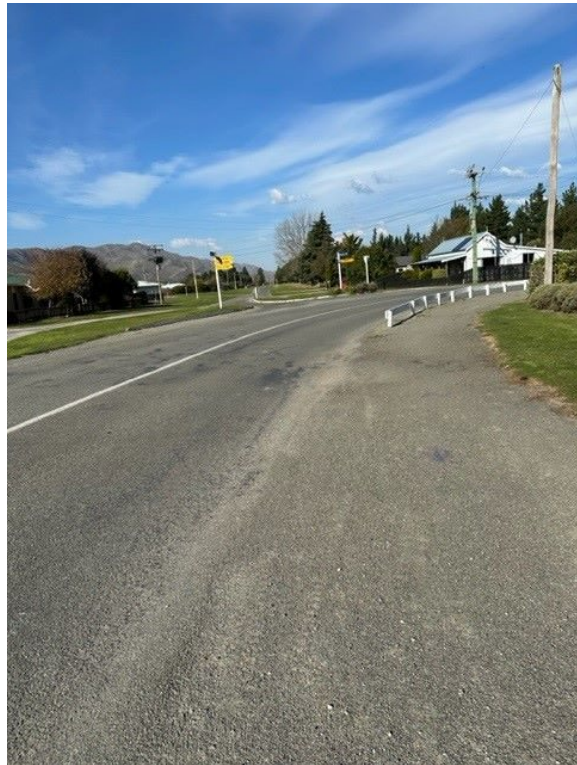
The footpath from the Waitaki Valley School to the Kurow township is no longer usable in certain places due to sections being missing and deterioration from a lack of maintenance. A letter from the School Principal (see below) refers to increasing concerns about safety for pupils who are using this footpath to get to and from school and the town.

The Board requests that Council give priority consideration to repairs to this footpath, to address the safety concerns raised. It is also important that children have an ongoing access to quality footpaths to ensure they continue to want to walk to school and benefit from the fresh air and exercise that comes with it.

The Board also notes that Whalan Lodge residents use mobility scooters to get to town along with footpath, and they too are using the road rather than the footpath in some sections due to the uneven and broken surface on the footpath.



Photographs and a Letter of Support from the Waitaki Valley School Principal are provided below in support of this request in the Board's submission.



## Letter of Support from the Waitaki Valley School:



### **Waitaki Valley School**

1 Settlement Road

Kurow

North Otago 9435

Phone (03) 4360 660

Principal: Jane Severinsen

23 April 2023

Chair Ahuriri Community Board

Tēnā koe Calum

I wish to make a submission regarding upgrading/ installing a safe and clearly accessible walkway between Whalan Lodge, Waitaki Valley School, Waitaki Valley preschool and the Kurow's service centre on Bledisloe St. The existing rough, potholed and tar-sealed footpath that runs down the western side of Manse Road and subsequent road crossings do not allow safe travel for pedestrians, children's pushchairs and elderly mobility scooters to ensure that our whanau young and old have a safe and easily accessible way into town.

The existing footpath:

- Has an uneven, shingly surface that children often slip on as they head down the hill. This surface makes for a jarring and unbalanced ride on a mobility scooter and push chairs.
- There is no footpath that connects Settlement road to Manse Road. The current footpath ends at the school entrance and had no visible crossing to join up with the Manse Rd footpath. Pedestrians need to cut across the school lawn - mobility scooter drivers often end up driving on the road around the inside corner.
- At the intersection of Ferguson St and Manse Rd the large pothole on the footpath result in mobility scooters and child cyclists using the road. This is not a problem until someone cuts the corner (as often happens) in a vehicle.
- There is no clear and visible crossing to access the footpath on Robinson Street's sweeping corner which result jay walking or riding across this corner.
- The existing footpath is a barrier for residents of Whalan Lodge using mobility scooters to get into town (I have seen this first hand as I "scooter" with the residents on outings – supporting my own mother).

It would be great to address the pedestrian access along the Settlement, Manse Rd, Ferguson, Robinson and Wynyard St footpaths to allow safe access by; students walking and biking to and from school, the Waitaki Valley Preschool walking the children with accompanying push chairs into town and finally our valued elderly as they seek to maintain their independence.

Nga mihi

Jane Severinsen  
Principal



### 3. Seal Section of Settlement Road

The Board wishes to request that a section of Settlement Road be sealed – from the School end to the subdivision end of the existing seal. It is noted that the current Chair of ACB has submitted on this matter on several occasions previously.

Settlement Road is now being used by a greater number of people. They include parents dropping off and picking up their pre-school and school-aged children coming in from the Duntroon end of town. These traffic movements are causing large amounts of dust, which are creating health hazards and visual hazards for the residents along this section of the Road. Previous methods of dealing with these hazards are no longer environmentally acceptable, and therefore a request to seal this portion of Settlement Road is being requested, for health and safety reasons and for the wellbeing of road users in general.

The transfer end of Settlement Road could also be considered a safety concern, as there are no residents at that end of the road.

Photographs and letters of support are provided below to illustrate and support this request in the Board's submission.







## **Letter of Support 1 – for ACB submission to seal section of Settlement Road**

*As residents of 186 Settlement Road, Kurow, we are affected by the dust from the unsealed section of the road at the Eastern end of Settlement Road.*

*The dust creates safety and health hazards for residents, road users, workers and livestock grazing the dust-laden paddocks, located close to the unsealed areas of Settlement Road and Kurow Creek Road.*

*Our previous submission to WDC was greeted with, No sealing of the road in the near future, but to mitigate the dust issue, you are allowed to spread used oil on the road.*

*Which to be fair was a remedy that left us speechless and shocked. We tried it and found It was a very time-consuming exercise and the dust factor was only slightly better than without the oil, the remedy only lasted 2-4 weeks at best.*

*Over time as studies for using oil as a dust suppressant and awareness of environmental issues have become much more obvious, this practice, according to Environment NZ - The use of petroleum-based engine oil on roads is illegal or prohibited by the majority of NZ Councils. Oil is inappropriate to use due to the actual or potential adverse environmental impacts.*

*Used engine oil is not simply comprised of engine oil, it may and in most cases does comprise:*

*Engine oil*

*Transmission oil*

*Brake oil*

*Gear oil to name the most obvious oils.*

*The dust from the road is unacceptable especially now as more and more health studies have been undertaken, showing road dust is not only a physical nuisance it can be a serious health concern that is linked to breathing problems and even cancer.*

*So where to from here for all the residents and road users. The road users are also the users who can't be measured on the council traffic counting monitors, ie*

*Mobility scooters from Whalen Lodge -our local Rest home*

*Walkers*

*A20cyclists*

*Runners*

*Horse riders*

*Motorbike riders*

*Family and individual cyclists*

*The health hazard to users is not the only issue here, visibility when passing oncoming vehicles - the longer they are and the faster they travel the greater the spread of the dust. This means most days we are bathed in dust several times, even though the partially sealed area in front of our property was supposed to alleviate that issue.*

*Rain mitigates the dust cloud for sometimes up to 12-24 hours, but as Kurow is well known for not being a high rainfall area, particularly over the summer months, that is also a very temporary solution, to this very long and ongoing issue that has really not been properly addressed by the roading division of the WDC, or the WDC themselves.*

*Gavin McCaw & Kaye Jenkins*



## Letter of Support 2 for ACB Submission Request to seal section of Settlement Road:



**Waitaki Valley School**

1 Settlement Road

Kurow

North Otago 9435

Phone (03) 4360 660

Principal: Jane Severinsen

23 April 2023

Chair Ahuriri Community Board

Tēnā koe Calum

I wish to make a submission to support the sealing of Settlement Road.

Waitaki Valley School is situated on Settlement Road with our school's eastern boundary being within 50 metres of the unsealed section of Settlement road. Settlement road is used as the main vehicle drop off and pick up route for both buses and private conveyance. We also have students who cycle to school using the unsealed section of Settlement Road. It would be wonderful if Settlement Road could be sealed.

Please consider this submission

Nga mihi

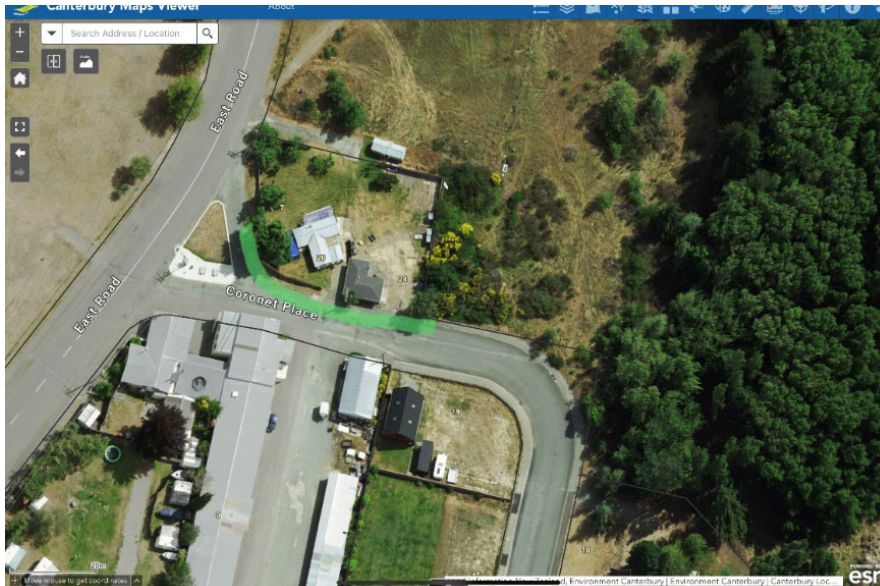
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Severinsen', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Jane Severinsen

Principal

#### **4. Footpath along Coronet Place in Otematata**

The Board would like to request that the footpath along Coronet Place in Otematata is extended past the last two properties as per the highlighted area in the accompanying image. Extending the footpath in this way would be in keeping with the overall aesthetics of Coronet Place. This was also an area of concern during the last flood event, so it would be beneficial to have a permanent footpath there to facilitate passage during and following any future such event.



#### **5. Improvements to Pedestrian Lanes through the Otematata township**

The number of people residing in the Otematata township has been increasing. In response to this growth, the Board would like to see consideration given to sealing the pedestrian lanes throughout the township, to ensure that it remains resilient and requires less maintenance and spraying in the future.

It is also suggested that the wooden barriers at each end of the pedestrian lanes be upgraded to a more permanent material, as this would be expected to prevent them from failing from rot (as some are already doing). An alternative option would be to paint them. The Board would be keen to receive advice from officers as to the best option available for preventing further deterioration in the barriers.

It is acknowledged that the Ahuriri Ward amenities rate budget could be an appropriate funding source for these sealing and barrier upgrade works for the pedestrian lanes. The Board supports the use of that amenities rate budget for this purpose and asks that Council approves such a project for completion in FY 2023/24.

## **6. Board Member Development**

The Ahuriri Community Board request funds to send at least two representatives to the next Community Board Conference. The CBEC Conference was last held in Gore in 2021. It has been held every two years previously, but there is current discussion about holding it once a triennium instead. At this time, there is no date or location identified for the next Conference, but it is likely to be held in the North Island and could be scheduled for late in 2023 or sometime in 2024.

It is a valuable opportunity for especially new community board members to attend the CBEC conference to be able to learn from other community boards about their approaches and identify best practice opportunities that can be brought back to Waitaki and considered for implementation here.

If the CBEC conference does become a once-in-a triennium event, then the Board would like to request approval to increase their participation to up to three members at each event. This would ensure that a majority of the elected members of the Board each triennium would have the opportunity to attend the conference and benefit from the shared learnings and networking that it provides. Given that the Ahuriri Community Board has had a significant change in membership in recent years, it will be all the more important for our new elected members to be given this important opportunity for professional development.

# Annual Plan 2023-24 Feedback from the Ahuriri Community Board

## **Q1 Waitaki Event Centre**

Option B – The Board supports this option to ensure that the new Event Centre contains the grandstand as part of the build.

## **Q2 Unfunding Depreciation**

Yes.

## **Q3 Preparing for Emergencies**

Yes

## **Q4 Maheno Water**

Yes

## **Q5 Significance and Engagement Policy 2023**

Yes

## **Q6 Coastal Erosion**

Yes

## **Q7 Do you wish to speak to the Ahuriri Community Board's Submission?**

Yes.

ACB Chair Calum Reid and Board Member Karen Turner will be present in the Council Chamber to present the Ahuriri Community Board's submission and answer questions from Council's Governance Team.

Thank you for your consideration of the Board's submission.

Calum Reid  
Ahuriri Community Board  
Chairperson

# 191

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, April 28, 2023 12:12:34 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, April 28, 2023 6:04:46 PM  
**Time Spent:** 05:52:12  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

## Q1

Your contact details

**Name** Carmen Batchelor  
**Organisation (if applicable)** Presbyterian Support Otago  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
**Email** [REDACTED]  
**Phone** [REDACTED]

## Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## Q3

Age (optional)

50-64

## Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

Samoan/Pakeha

## Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

Respondent skipped this question

## Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

## Q6

1. Waitaki Event CentreWould you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

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



**Q7****Don't know**

2. Unfunding depreciation Do you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

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**Q8****Yes**

3. Preparing for emergencies Do you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

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**Q9****Don't know**

4. Maheno water Do you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

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**Q10****Yes**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023 Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

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**Q11****Yes**

6. Coastal erosion Do you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

---

**Q12**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

See attached document below.

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**Q13**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

**FW\_PSO\_Waitaki\_District\_Council\_2023\_2024\_Annual\_Plan\_Submission\_28\_April\_2023.docx (14.2KB)**

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## **Waitaki District Council 2023-2024 Annual Plan Engagement Document Submission**

### **Presbyterian Support Otago (Waitaki Region)**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Waitaki Annual District Plan. PSO wish to applaud and acknowledge WDC's Mayor's opening statement that *'life is challenging for many Waitakians now'* and taking into account the increasing pressures the Waitaki community is facing, specifically the rising costs and affordability of the cost of basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter.

As Family Works PSO our Waitaki team see and work with the daily reality of residents and there families who are struggling to meet basic needs which includes struggling to meet rate payments.

#### **Examples of people who cannot afford to pay (Waitaki District):**

- People who have a student loan and have never paid this off due to always earning under the threshold. When they turn 65 years this is automatically deduced from their pension. Many people don't realise this and suddenly they don't have the cash flow they expected; therefore, they cannot afford basic utility bills such as rates.
- Husband goes into care. Couple owned the home together, now the wife is having to maintain the home and bills on one pension. Significantly behind in rates.
- People who live in a property with life interest and responsible for all the costs associated with the home, cannot access rates re-bates as they do not own the property, despite being a low-income earner or pensioner.

We greatly appreciate WDC's response in recognising these challenges by re-assessing their programmes and services, being conscious of rates increases and being aware of the changing needs of their communities. PSO's vision of *'every person is valued and grows in a safe and strong community'* aligns strongly with WDC's commitment to social wellbeing, resulting in strong, connected and inclusive communities.

In our efforts to prepare for this submission we appreciated the initial clarity and ease of access on your WDC website. However, as we progressed further into what rates relief may be available to residents in financial hardship, navigating the website become increasingly difficult. Although feedback of the process of accessing rates relief is not specifically covered in the Annual Plan, we would love the opportunity to further engage with the relevant council representatives on creating a simple pathway to all those experiencing financial hardship. The suggestions we have would align with the WDC Annual Plan Vision and Community Outcomes specifically *'enabling safe healthy communities'* and enhancing *'Quality Services'* community services we are proud of.

This would also be contributing to alleviating *'rising costs and affordability'* and respond to the challenge of *'rising costs for those on fixed incomes'*.

We welcome the opportunity to speak further to this submission in person or online (including specific recommendations to assist residents who are struggling financially to pay their rates) and thank you for this opportunity to submit to the Annual Plan.

# 234

# 2023-24 Annual Plan Feedback form

Puka whakahoki kōrero

Scan for more  
info and online  
feedback form



**We'd love to hear your thoughts on what we're planning and any other ideas you may have to help make Waitaki the best place to be!**

**Email:** consult@waitaki.govt.nz

**Post:** Annual Plan 2023-24, Waitaki District Council, Private Bag 50058, Ōamaru 9444

**Deliver:** Drop it off at any Council office or district library

## Your contact details: (please print clearly)

Full name: Silou Temoana

Organisation (if applicable): Ōamaru Pacific Islands Community Group Inc

Postal address:

Email:

Phone:

*We're asking the following questions to understand more about who we are hearing from. Answers are completely optional.*

Age (optional): ☒ Under 18 ☒ 18-24 ☒ 25 - 49 ☒ 50-64 ☒ 65+

Ethnicity (optional): Pacific

Are you (optional): ☒ a Ratepayer and/or ☒ a Resident (tick all that apply)

## Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

☒ Yes

☐ No

*If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.*

## What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

### 1. Waitaki Event Centre

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

☐ **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.

Any other thoughts? Please see attached.

## 2. Unfunding depreciation

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

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## 3. Preparing for emergencies

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

Please see attachment  
Submission

## 4. Maheno water

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

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## 5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Are there any other comments you wish to make for Council to consider prior to finalising the Significance and Engagement Policy and Guidelines?

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## 6. Coastal erosion

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

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

Any other thoughts?

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## 7. Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

Please see attachment  
Submission  
as part of our  
overall submission.

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Need more room? You can add extra pages if there is not enough space on this form.

Points to remember when giving us your feedback:

- Please note that all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included in accordance with our Privacy Policy which can be found on our website [www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz).
- Submissions accompanied by multiple signatures or as a petition will be processed as a single submission.





## **Oamaru Pacific Island Community Group Inc**

**5-7 Coquet Street Oamaru, 9400**

E: [info@oamarupacific.nz](mailto:info@oamarupacific.nz)

W: <https://www.oamarupacific.nz>

### **Oamaru Pacific Island Community Group Inc (OPICG) Submissions for the Waitaki District Council, 2023-24 Annual Plan**

#### **Background Information**

The Oamaru Pacific Island Community Group Inc (OPICG) has been established in Oamaru, Waitaki as a registered entity since 1998 and prior to that under the umbrella of P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A. Oamaru Women's Branch from 1986-1997.

Our vision is for our Pacific communities to be connected, resilient and successful and that our culture and identities are nourished. Waitaki is a place that embeds, values, and celebrates Pacific ways of doing things. Our mission is to nourish our cultural identity, the mana of our people and Pacific leadership by working from our strengths, holding collective responsibility, and knowing our tupuaga (our roots).

OPICG was formed to help support Pacific families who moved to Oamaru in the late 1980's to maintain their cultural heritage, Pacific language and provide wellbeing support. The '**Cultural Group**' as it became affectionately renowned became a real anchor for many Pasifika families moving to Oamaru in the 1990's – 2000's and ran a number of initiatives in the 1980's. Traditionally a grassroots community group it operated through a committee of volunteers, funded from membership subscriptions, group fundraising, in-kind contributions and small amounts of grant funding and delivered its initiatives ranging from education workshops, health expo's, homework clubs, cultural activities and Pacific settlement support.

#### **What we do now**

Between 2019-2020, due to the increasing demand from the community for culturally responsive social service support, OPICG commenced a restructure. We were aware that our Pacific community was growing rapidly and predominately first-generation migrants whereby English is a second/third language for many. Support was required to help families understand New Zealand lifestyle, education system, learn how to access healthcare services, gain support for training, employment and career pathways. Since 2020, we established a small operational team with a General Manager and 7 Community Practitioners (total 5.5 FTE+ 17 casual staff). Our team deliver a range of social services to support not only our Pacific but our wider Waitaki community. We have service agreements with a number of central government Ministries and gained Social Services Accreditation in November 2021. We still retain our Cultural Activities Programme which is delivered on a volunteer basis by our governance committee each Friday evening at St Pauls Church Hall.

#### **OPICG Strategic Objectives Alignment with Waitaki District Council Strategic Framework and Community Outcomes**



We are supportive of Council's strategic framework that outlines its Vision and Community Outcomes and believe we share similar objectives. Particularly our desire for Strong Communities and Prosperous District.

Waitaki District Council Strategic Framework and Community Outcomes	OPICG Strategic Goals	How Will We Know We have Achieved This?
<b>Strong Communities</b>  -Enabling safe, health communities  -Connected, inclusive communities  -Promoting a greater voice for Waitaki  -Celebrating our community identity  <b>Prosperous District</b>  -Attracting new opportunities  -Supporting local businesses  -Fostering a diverse and resilient economy	1.Community led, quality Pacific-led service provision with our Pacific community.	The services we develop and provide meet the needs and aspirations of our community.
	2. Creating a Pacific hub/fale space by Pacific for Pacific. Promoting strengths-based cultural resilience and learning.	Our people are strong and resilient with a cultural hub they call home.
	3.Lift community cultural competence by having strategic conversations and raising expectations across Waitaki.	Our Pacific Island communities experience Waitaki as a place that is inclusive, culturally competent and celebrates their cultures.
	4. Developing OPICG governance and operational teams to role model best practice.	OPICG has robust governance group and a good understanding of the distinctions and roles of governance and operations.
	5.Growing our leadership so we are ready, capable and leading the change we want to see.	OPICG has diverse and intergenerational leadership capable and ready to act.

### **Key Challenges and Opportunities Highlighted in the Engagement Document and OPICG's response:**

#### **Waitaki population is changing:**

Nationally, the median age of our Pacific demographic is 23 years compared to European median age of 40 years. The total Pacific population in NZ was 459,200 (Census, 2018). Whilst acknowledging data challenges, Manatu Hauora, (Ministry of Health) report **Oamaru** is listed as one of the main 'rural hotspots' of Pacific growth. We are a fast growing youthful population. Our anticipated 2023 census survey results will hopefully show that we make up approximately 10% of the Oamaru population.

In response to this topic, we are supportive of Better off funding to improve our community wellbeing through investing in our town, services and hospital. We work closely with our local hospital and want to ensure the healthcare services in Oamaru are fit for purpose, accessible, affordable and culturally responsive to our health and wellbeing needs. OPICG can support Council by lobbying and advocating for central government support through our strategic relationships.

### **We have a Housing Issue...**

OPICG are actively involved in the ***Waitaki Housing Taskforce*** work and supportive of the Economic Development Strategy. OPICG work to achieve relevant objectives in the ***“Healthy Homes for All, A Community Housing Strategy”***. OPICG have facilitated workshops in 2022 and 2023 to support Pacific Peoples home ownership and education to grow financial literacy. We are supportive of housing development opportunities and keen to work with Council, relevant agencies and Ministries to support the build for culturally relevant, accessible homes.

We are also in the process of finding a more fit for purpose office facility for our team to work from. Council maybe able to help assist with potential vacant buildings available in the District.

### **Rising Costs and affordability...**

We understand we have affordability issues and mindful that members in our community have fixed incomes, are on work visas, have very large families, reside in crowded housing, vulnerable to accessing healthcare support and often ineligible for government support during off season periods. As part of our work programme we want to support wellbeing and education for our community to live within their means, support them to invest in their family wellbeing and education, facilitate and enable them to develop their financial literacy skills and leverage central government support where possible. We are also supportive of the Transformation programme to ensure better efficiencies are delivered for our community including good client centred practice across the organisation. We would like to encourage cultural inclusivity in Council's service delivery and including opportunities for Council to be an employer of choice for our people. We want to support Council, so their employees are representative of our community.

### **Ongoing Skill shortages...**

OPICG is supportive of the Economic Development Strategy. We fully support opportunities to develop the skills of our Pacific community and working in collaboration with key stakeholders to enable this. We want to see our local Ara Institute Campus deliver more training courses for our community. We currently deliver the Tupu Aotearoa and Career Pathway Mentor programmes to support Pacific into training and employment opportunities. We deliver our own Carer study support programme at our local Ara Campus and our new Tu'u Malohi education programme. We want to support modular/micro-credential courses to be available and grow our capability, so our next generation of Pacific are working towards higher skilled employment.

We are also supportive of the Building Capability Mayoral Scholarship programme that we took part in over the last two years. This programme enabled 7 Pacific adult learners to gain a Bachelor of Applied Management degree through Capable, Otago Polytechnic. We want to advocate for more of these learning opportunities. We know that education and higher skilled career pathway opportunities is the key to developing intergenerational wealth. We need to implement this at a faster rate as we know in 20 -30years time Pacific and Maori are likely to make up at least 60% of our workforce. We are also supportive of encouraging Pacific entrepreneurship and would like Council staff and relevant agencies to support us with provision of educational workshops, so our community understand regulations for setting up small businesses.

### **Covid is still impacting us...**

Our Covid-19 outreach response work has been one of our greatest achievements. With support from our local agencies, Tu Mai Ora, GP's, Pharmacies, Multicultural Council, Wellsouth, SDHB, our hospital, Stronger Waitaki, Ministry of Health and Council our Pacific community achieved high double vaccination rates by December 2021. We also supported our overall Waitaki community achieve near 20% double vaccination by December 2021. We initially volunteered and helped to facilitate and organise two large community clinics in July and August 2021 vaccinating over 2000 Waitaki residents. Then during the second lockdown in August 2021, Manatu Hauora gave us funding which enabled us to employ a Covid-19 Lead Navigator who helped to develop a training programme to upskill four Pacific Carer's to become vaccinators under the IMAC programme, onboarded two local RN's and a Doctor which then formed our own clinical outreach team. This team is still available to undertake other outreach vaccination clinics and one of our Pacific vaccinators has recently been accepted to undertake the new Graduate Diploma in Nursing. This is a new 18-month course aimed to register experienced Registered Nurses from the Pacific to be NZ Registered. We hope the next Building Capability Mayoral Scholarship will help support these types of opportunities.

In 2022, we then pivoted straight into Covid-19 welfare support work in 2022, established the Waitaki Covid Welfare Network utilising support from Stronger Waitaki and the network to ensure the wider community had the support required. To date OPICG have received 613 referrals for Covid-19 welfare support, delivered 1116 Food Packs and supported over 2600 Waitaki residents through Covid. The bulk of this work was undertaken between February – August 2022. As we transition from this huge piece of work for a small team, there are a number of needs that have arisen from our Covid-19 response work that has since informed our OPICG Work Programme for 2023-24. This includes establishing a Pacific Health Outreach Service, Wellbeing and Education community workshops, Research and Insights and continuing with our Cultural Activities Programme. As Pacific people, we are used to being innovative and adaptable. We know what it takes to co-design local solutions, develop a team/village approach to service delivery and advocate for resourcing where needed.

### **Our Climate is Changing**

We know the impact of climate change particularly in the Pacific. We are supportive of being as prepared as possible and want to support Council improve our resilience and readiness for future emergency events. We would like the opportunity to contribute to a local response for civil defence emergencies and gain support from Council and Civil Defence to help educate and upskill our community and church leaders so they know what to do in an emergency and can help communicate key messages in Pacific languages as well as having culturally responsive evacuation plans and centres. OPICG can help facilitate this with Council and support from our strategic partners. We are supportive of investing in our tools to ensure community readiness in an emergency.

### **Our Political environment**

We know there are a number of challenges happening at central government level. We look forward to hearing more information about the reforms and how that impacts us as a community. We have a good understanding and working knowledge of our obligations under Te Tiriti. We have a strong cultural connection to our mana whenua and are supportive of co-governance aspect of the Affordable Waters reform.



## **Waitaki Event Centre – Option B**

OPICG and our other Pacific Island community groups are fully supportive of the Event Centre and increasing the investment contribution. We are supportive **of Option B** to increase Council's contribution from \$10 million to \$15 million loan funded over 20 years.

The benefits of having this type of facility would be huge. This includes the opportunity for having regular (and without cancellations) sporting events, cultural events, regional and national conferences (our staff attend a number of them each year), space to hold larger workshops and community fono.

### ***Sporting Events:***

Our children participate in sport regularly including school interschools and tournaments. Oamaru is a small town so we believe encouraging our children to be active and fit will help reduce their risk of getting into trouble, keeps them motivated and fit, supports team building behaviours and gets them off their devices too. They have to travel to a number of regional tournaments throughout the year. This is costly as well and families often struggle to send their kids to tournaments despite them making North Otago representative and Top school teams. Having the opportunity to host our own tournaments could mean less travel, more time with families, better affordability for families that don't have to spend as much, being able to support as well as watch our children's sports events.

### ***Cultural Events:***

It could also provide a venue for larger community and cultural events. Our children travel to Otago Polyfest each year, our schools participate in the Fiafia Night as part of the Pacific Cluster programme, this could provide an opportunity to host some cultural events. We have large families, community groups, churches. Having the ability to utilise a facility like this would be very helpful for us. This contributes to our cultural and community wellbeing.

### ***Conference and Workshop and Community Fono Facilities:***

We also attend conferences outside of Oamaru, this facility could support being able to host some larger scale conferences and workshops. We have been asked if we would like to take part in a national Pacific Wellbeing Conference and for Oamaru to be one of the locations to host this in future. We would be able to host events such as this in one place, it has sufficient parking space, conference and workshop spaces and outdoor greenspace to be able to utilise as part of our programmes when needed.

Our community are youthful, we love our sport and physical activity, and we believe this a wonderful opportunity to have a facility as such for our children, youth and families. We are also keen to support with fundraising events as well and do our part to help support it.

We thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Annual Plan 2023-24 and request to present our submission in person.

*Fa'afetai lava, Fakafetai lasi, Malo aupito, Vinaka, Meitaki Maata*

The OPICG Governance Committee and Operational Team

## COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 12:02:24 PM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 12:07:06 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:04:42  
**IP Address:** [REDACTED]

## Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

## Q1

Your contact details

**Name** Marcus Brown  
**Organisation (if applicable)** Moutain Biking North Otago  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
**Email** [REDACTED]  
**Phone** [REDACTED]

## Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

## Q3

Age (optional)

50-64

## Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

## Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

a Ratepayer,  
a Resident

## Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

## Q6

1. Waitaki Event CentreWould you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

Respondent skipped this question

## Q7

2. Unfunding depreciationDo you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

Respondent skipped this question



**Q8**

Respondent skipped this question

3. Preparing for emergenciesDo you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

---

**Q9**

Respondent skipped this question

4. Maheno waterDo you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

---

**Q10**

Respondent skipped this question

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

---

**Q11**

Respondent skipped this question

6. Coastal erosionDo you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

---

**Q12**

Respondent skipped this question

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

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**Q13**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

**MTBNO%20Submission%202023.docx (16.3KB)**

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## **MTBNO Submission**

### **Annual Plan Submission to Waitaki District Council 2023-2024**

#### **Background:**

Mountain Biking North Otago (MTBNO) was founded in 2011. Since the early beginnings, with mountain bike trails created on Cape Wanbrow and Oamaru reservoir, the club has, with support from WDC Parks dept, created a comprehensive network of trails on council owned land and beyond.

The trail development is due to the commitment and dedication of a core group of mountain bikers, who have given energy, skills and time to provide a recreation asset for the community, which has been admired and enjoyed by users from much further afield.

This has been a team effort, without the support of Councils annual funding, the Club would have been tied to maintenance at the cost of track development. This funding has ensured that track maintenance on council owned land has been carried out by commercial contractors, cutting and spraying to control vegetation which would otherwise impede access.

The network of trails in the District has spread beyond Council owned land. Herbert Forest has become a popular destination for local and visiting riders, with premium trails that have enabled the club to run events for the local school's competition and a club run Funduro.

Club memberships increase each year, but belie the wider use of the network by young and old. It's great to see small groups of local kids out on their bikes, and on every ride all committee members comment on the number of other users utilising this asset. We have run the following events:-

Aoraki Schools MTB Championship (XC and Enduro) 2017 -2022.

Chocolate fish series, at the Cape, Reservoir and Papakaio twice annually.

Shuttle days and the inaugural Funduro at Herbert Forest.

As indicated, MTBNO has been supported by WDC through it's journey. The model has been so successful that the Club were asked to mentor East Otago when that group started up creating routes in and around Palmerston. We have supported St Kevin's, with the development of their trails.

This year the club has installed additional tracks in Glen Eden/ Glen Warren reserves. This work was to improve safety by separating climbing MTB tracks from downhill MTB tracks. The MTB climbing tracks are used extensively by walkers and we welcome this, we are however trying to keep walkers off the dedicated downhill tracks.

Currently WDC grant an annual sum of \$17500 for track maintenance on council owned land. This has been hugely appreciated and has genuinely made the difference. We now request that this support be maintained and increased to meet current costs, and the increased number of trails on WDC owned land.

## Proposal

1. Continued Funding of Track and Trail maintenance, and to increase to \$24000 per annum to allow for all weed eating and vegetation spraying by approved commercial operators. Current vegetation management was adopted in 2018. The Club works closely with WDC's Parks and Reserves department, the successful outcome is a trail network that is rideable year round.

The areas covered by this agreement are, Cape Wanbrow, Oamaru reservoir, the Link track from Hospital Hill to Glen Eden/ Glen Warren. With maintenance looked after, the club has now developed over 30k of trails at Herbert forest, and during the last year created a series of new loops in Glen Eden/ Warren.

Budget: Cape area spraying \$2000 x3 applications	\$6000
Link Track spraying \$1250 x3	\$3750
Reservoir spraying \$1750x3	\$5250
Trimming all areas \$2100 x3	\$6300
Digger hire track repairs	\$1800
Signage – maintenance and repair	\$900
Total	\$24000

2. Cape Wanbrow – Beach Road link

The club continues to support additional access to Cape Wanbrow and a link to Beach Road, for recreational cyclists and tourers.

3. Circular Routes and the Wider Community Network

The club commends Council for the off-road trail through Weston. We continue to support such initiatives which will offer safer travel options for schools and recreation.

We suggest that Council investigate a dedicated and maintained walking track from the end of Reservoir Rd down into Glen Eden Reserve, and a track that goes to the north end of Stoke St to offer additional access and increase safety of all Reserve users.

Marcus Brown

President - MTBNO

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
Started: Thursday, April 20, 2023 8:16:17 AM  
Last Modified: Thursday, April 20, 2023 8:19:53 AM  
Time Spent: 00:03:36  
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 2: YOUR DETAILS

Q1

Your contact details

Name Stacey Pine  
Address [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]  
Phone [REDACTED]

Q2

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

Yes - If you choose 'yes', we'll be in touch to arrange a time. Hearings can be in person or online via Zoom. Hearings will be live-streamed.

Q3

Age (optional)

25-49

Q4

Ethnicity (optional)

Respondent skipped this question

Q5

Are you (optional - tick all that apply):

a Ratepayer

Page 3: What are your thoughts on our proposed changes?

Q6

1. Waitaki Event CentreWould you support Council contributing extra funds for the project to continue?

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

Q7

2. Unfunding depreciationDo you support Council unfunding a portion of the depreciation for 3 Waters and Property assets for 2023-24?

Yes

**Q8****Yes**

3. Preparing for emergenciesDo you support Council investing in tools to ensure community readiness in an event?

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**Q9****Yes**

4. Maheno waterDo you support Council taking over the scheme, which will result in a new rate for Maheno users?

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**Q10****Don't know**

5. Significance and Engagement Policy 2023Do you support the updated list of Council's strategic assets?

---

**Q11****Yes**

6. Coastal erosionDo you support Council investing in a plan to address coastal erosion?

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**Q12**

Any thoughts on other topics or anything else to share?

I would like to see Harbour St closed to vehicular traffic for reasons of safety and maintaining heritage of the area. The visitor information centre at Whitestone City should continue to be funded as an important asset to tourists in the area.

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**Q13****Respondent skipped this question**

If you prefer, you can upload your feedback as a pdf or word document here:

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# Federated Farmers of New Zealand

## Submission on Waitaki District Council's Draft Annual Plan 2023-2024

30 April 2023

## SUBMISSION ON WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN 2023-24

**TO:** Waitaki District Council

**DATE:** 30 April 2023

### ADDRESS FOR SERVICE

Name	Position	Phone Number	Email Address
Angela Johnston	Senior Policy Advisor		

### OTHER CONTACT

Name	Position	Phone Number	Email Address
Jared Ross	Provincial President, North Otago Federated Farmers		

We wish to speak at the upcoming hearing.

This submission is on behalf of the 260 North Otago members who live and work in the Waitaki district.

### About Federated Farmers

Federated Farmers of New Zealand is a membership organisation, which is mandated by its members to advocate on their behalf and ensure representation of their views. Federated Farmers does not collect a compulsory levy under the Commodities Levy Act and is funded from voluntary membership.

Federated Farmers represents rural and farming businesses throughout New Zealand. We have a long and proud history of representing the needs and interests of New Zealand's farmers.

Federated Farmers aims to empower farmers. Our key strategic priorities as an organisation are that we:

- Be the respected voice of farming.
- Foster an inspired leadership network.
- Support vibrant rural communities.

## **Waitaki District Council Draft Annual Plan 2023-24**

2023 is an uncertain year for all ratepayers. Inflation is high and persistent, and the future role of district councils uncertain. This is not the time for bold new dreams and schemes, rather lower costs and fit-for-purpose infrastructure is the best way councils can assist their communities right now.

Everyone is impacted by inflation. Inflation impacts are not confined to just wage and salary earners, for farmers the farm expenses price index was up 15% for the year ended December 2022.

We oppose rate increases above the rate of inflation, although in 2023 we are in unusual circumstances. The annual Consumers Price Index (CPI) change to December 2022 was 7.2% with pricing pressures across the board: we want council to be thinking about increases below the CPI to ease the pressure on the local economy. Which WDC has attempted but in an unequitable manner with agricultural ratepayers bearing the brunt with a 13.11% proposed increase.

### **Our fundamentals**

- We support the use of rates modifiers such as differentials, to reduce the high general rates on farms.
- We support the use of targeted rates, which are more transparent and likely to reflect benefit received than the general rate.
- We support roading being on a targeted rate, the cost to ratepayers is transparent and shown as a separate line item on the rates invoice.
- We support the use of the Uniform Annual General Charge to the maximum allowable extent.
- We are wary of expenditure on big new projects and want to know what they will cost farms if they are funded on property value rates.
- We support the remission of rates on private land that is protected for environmental purposes, such as land that is a significant natural area or subject to a QEII covenant.
- We oppose farms being rated for the promotion of tourism or other businesses. Farmers pay levies for promotion and support of their own industries, which add substantial value to local economies.

### **Allocation of rates**

Federated Farmers is strongly opposed to the decision to allocate a greater proportion of rating costs to farmers. Based on the rating examples provided, farmers across the district are facing rates increases of around 13.11%, for no additional benefit or service.

The decision to allocate additional rates to farmers is clearly a conscious one, and we strongly oppose this intent. These additional rates are not justified based on the considerations provided in s101(3) of the Local Government Act, which provides Council with a list of matters to consider when funding activities<sup>1</sup>. Farmers will not be the beneficiaries of the additional rating proposed in the plan and therefore should not be allocated these costs.

Farmers are facing a number of additional regulatory costs in the form of new regulations under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, and greater responsibilities under the forthcoming National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2002/0084/167.0/DLM172358.html>

The farming industry's commitment to climate change will also come at a significant cost. Individually these regulatory costs are significant; in combination they are potentially ruinous for many farms. If anything, farming returns and incomes will be negatively impacted over coming years, and these returns have no correlation to WDC's answer to its problems being to pass a disproportionate overall rating burden onto farmers.

### General Rate

The general rate is based on land value, farms are land intensive, where the overall (capital) value of a farm is largely comprised of land value, compared to other land use types. This means farmer rates are intensively sensitive to any shift in the general rate.

The rates increase on rural properties is unacceptable. The example in the engagement document is 13.11%. How is this fair and equitable? Especially as it is highly unlikely that those in the agricultural category receive a substantially higher level of council service than those in a residential category.

Council's proposal has highlighted the flawed assumptions within its rating approach. Why council continues to accept a flawed basis for determining rates in its attempted justification of the proposed changes is ludicrous. The perceived 'value' of a property has little relevance to the comparative level of service received by that property from the council.

WDC often states that the primary industries underpins the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of the district but its treatment of the sector is far from supportive, if not outright insulting. As mentioned in the engagement document of the 6 largest GDP contributing industries of the district, 3 are directly linked to the primary sector.

Federated Farmers would be interested in hearing from WDC what, using the example in the engagement document, ratepayers in the agricultural category are receiving in the way of council services for \$44.46 per day, especially when compared to an Oamaru resident who is paying \$8.42.

### **Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)**

The UAGC is a general revenue mechanism that sits alongside the general rate. Under section 21 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 the UAGC can be used to collect up to 30% of total rate revenue.

Use of the UAGC strongly influences the distribution of rates across properties in a district. Its effect is to reduce property value rates on higher value properties, while ensuring lower value properties pay a little more.

Federated Farmers strongly supports use of the full 30% allowed. The basis of our view is the fact that council services are in large part used by people, and a per property charge at least ensures that all people make some reasonable contribution, either through rates or rent, toward their cost.

Owning a farm is not a good reason to pay hundreds of dollars towards, for example, the community recreation centre, when urban residents nearby are paying in the tens of dollars. That is not rational, let alone fair, and in no way complies with good taxation principles.

Generally, WDC is a poor performer regarding its UAGC use, it was 14.53% in 2020-21. The level and proportion of the UAGC is frequently adjusted in annual plan years, as it is not fixed by the Revenue and Financing Policy in the Long Term Plan. This policy merely establishes whether the UAGC will be used or not.

This year's proposed UAGC information per property is not in the engagement document, nor found in the additional information online. We would like to know what the proposed UAGC is for the coming year, has it been altered?

If WDC has reduced the UAGC in an attempt to address affordability concerns then this is a very blunt method. As it takes no account of the fact that many low-income households are rented, thus the lower general rates benefit the property owner, and council's knowledge of the true financial situations of their individual ratepayers is limited.

If the UAGC is reduced, reliance on the capital or land value general rate is increased, thereby pushing more of council's costs onto higher value properties. For a farm already paying large rates, even a small shift in the UAGC can mean hundreds of dollars in additional rates.

Instead of lowering the UAGC, WDC should consider central Government's rates rebate scheme for low-income ratepayers. This is means tested against income, which is the best measure of affordability. Or WDC can more effectively attend to affordability through a rates remission policy for financial hardship. Use of this policy is more appropriate, logical, and targeted.

Further, central government's current "bread and butter" approach to cost of living concerns is providing more support to lower and middle income people through the welfare system, which is the appropriate way of dealing with social deprivation issues, rather than lumbering owners of higher value property, such as farmers, with the cost.

### **Climate Change**

Recently, central government has put pressure on local authorities to be more proactive on climate change. However, property value rates are no way to fund the response of localities to an international problem over which they have little or no control.

Federated Farmers understands this pressure and the genuine desire by many in local government to do more. Councils could do more to reduce their own emissions footprints, such as by moving to clean energy for their buildings and using electric vehicles for their fleets. Councils could influence carbon dioxide emissions more generally through their core role of planning and funding of their transport infrastructure and services.

Councils have an important role in ensuring that their regions adapt to the varied and many expected localised impacts of climate change. Such adaptation may include protecting infrastructure from rising sea levels and securing drinking water supplies in the face of more frequent and extreme weather events. New Zealand's favourable climatic conditions have enabled the agriculture sector to be one of the most productive in the world. However, climate change means these conditions cannot be relied upon into the future, some regions are expected to become hotter and drier, others are expected to become colder and wetter, and extreme weather events are expected to become more frequent and damaging.

Beyond these roles Federated Farmers is not convinced that council can or should seek to do more. Taking an overly expansive role on climate change going beyond WDC's core role would, in our view, not be the best use of ratepayers money at a time when council is facing many financial challenges in recovering from the effects of Covid-19 and when many ratepayers are struggling to make ends meet.

### **Fees and Charges**

We support a high proportion of fees and charges funding council services to reduce the reliance on rates. In recent years, a few councils have advanced proposals for fees and



charges to contribute more of the cost of running council facilities and we have supported them wholeheartedly in this.

#### Dog registration fees

We thank council for continuing the provision for a “working dog” category where the fees are lower than for other dogs. This reflects the negligible cost of working dogs to council. Farm working dogs are well trained and cared for as they are essential tools to the farm business.

#### **‘Better Off’ funding**

Government has made \$2.5 billion in 'Better Off' funding available to councils to support their transition through the Three Waters reform. Although this total has now reduced following the recent policy reset.

Initially there are two broad components to this support package:

- \$2 billion to invest in the future of local government and “community wellbeing.”
- \$500 million to ensure that no local authority is financially worse off as a result of the reforms, for example from stranded assets and continuing overhead expenses.

Projects benefitting from the funding needed to require approval from the Department of Internal Affairs, the criteria being that the money is spent on “infrastructure that improves community wellbeing, enabling growth, or supporting a move to a sustainable or low emissions economy”.

As an example, Ashburton District Council has taken up funding of \$4.19 million and is spending it on a range of projects including relocation of a rail freight hub, new footpaths (based on unavailability of Waka Kotahi/ NZTA funding), and repairs to playgrounds.

Also, accepting the money does not definitively mean that a council cannot continue to oppose the Three Waters reforms.

#### **Water Services Entities**

Three Waters reforms involve the establishment of four regional water services entities that will take over local government’s Three Waters assets. The Water Services Entities Bill, which establishes the entities from July 2024, was passed in December 2022, and further Bills containing the implementation detail are currently before Parliament. Councils are to cease operating water services after the 2023/24 financial year.

Federated Farmers’ view on Three Waters is that we agree that change must happen, but we do not think the Government’s approach to date has been the right one. This is because the new structure will likely be more costly to implement than expected, and we are similarly sceptical about the benefits cited to justify the reforms.

There will be complex and costly layers of governance and bureaucracy, their remoteness will mean less accountability and sensitivity to the needs of local people. Meanwhile, taking away such a key activity along with RMA reform will impact on the viability of local councils and we fear will trigger amalgamations making councils more remote from their communities.

There is a lot of uncertainty for council as you plan for the year ahead with the annual plan and planning for the next year’s Long-Term Plan will be even more uncertain. However, we urge caution around any proposals to change anything significant on water services until there is more certainty over the future for the Three Waters reforms, either from the Government’s re-set, or the general election result.

## **Resource Management Act reforms**

This year we are faced with the Natural and Built Environments Bill, with government's determination to get this through signalled by their early branding of the Bill as an Act.

Federated Farmers has submitted against the NBB and related spatial planning legislation, arguing for its withdrawal and replacement.

The key relevance of the NBB to annual plans is its proposed removal of the district planning function of district councils, moving that role across to regional planning committees. This will make planning less local, similar to Three Waters, and remove another activity from district councils, further downsizing their balance sheets.

## **Future for Local Government Review**

Given the extensive and controversial changes to Three Waters and the makeover of the resource management system, it is unsurprising that government has commissioned a review of the future of local government.

The most recent system-wide review of local government was the Productivity Commission's in 2019, although the focus was on funding and financing. They came up with some useful findings, including that rates should reflect the cost of benefits derived from council services. This latest review is much broader in scope. It is considering what local government does, how it does it, and how it pays for it.

The Review panel's draft report, 'He mata whāriki, he matawhānui', paints a broad vision for local government as an agency of wellbeing. It has recommendations related to funding and that principally central government should provide a whole lot more support, but overall is very ambitious for a pressured local sector.

Federated Farmers submitted on the draft report. We argued that the draft report is too aspirational given that many councils are already unable to suitably maintain their local road networks which is key to the wellbeing of farming communities.

Our view on this is that any future role, be that social, cultural, or economic, needs a more equitable and appropriate method of funding than property value rates. The limitations of this antiquated form of taxation in turn limits the role and function of local government.