

Waikato District Council – Draft Long Term Plan 2021-31 Submission**Submitter ID: 1849****Full Name: Isabelle and Spencer Wheeler****Wish to speak to submission:**

Topic 1 – General Rates Increase**Option selected:****Comment:**

Topic 2 – Future of Pensioner Housing**Option selected:****Comment:**

Topic 3 – Future of Inorganic Kerbside Rubbish Collection**Option selected:****Comment:**

Item – Approach to repurpose funding to support Blueprint and community initiatives**Option selected:****Comment:**

Item – Other Feedback or Suggestions**Comment:**

Kia ora Your Worship

Thank you for the opportunity to make a late submission to the 10 year Long Term Plan regarding funding for the raising of the Raglan Beacon in Long Street, Raglan.

As you are aware this has been a complex issue. Now that there has been ruling that the light can be lifted we are anxious that this take place soon as possible. We have been recently advised by staff that there is no money in the current budget for this to take place.

Unfortunately the submissions had already closed before we had this information, hence our late submission.

We have been working with Gavin Benseman to get detailed costings so they could be included in this submission. Council's engineer, Cushman and Wakefield, have advised that a guesstimate of costs is approximately \$150,000 but this needs to be further investigated following a geotech test being undertaken on site, where the new foundations are to be placed.

Council staff will have that information as soon as the test is completed.

Many thanks for your help with this matter.

Kind regards

Isabelle and Spencer Wheeler.

Attachment: No

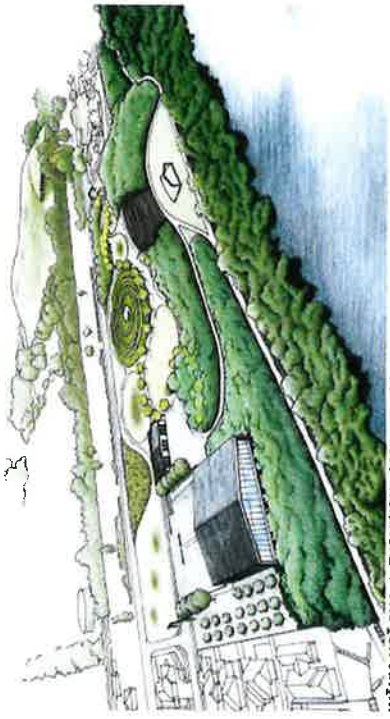


WĀHIA NGĀ RUA
THE VISION : OPEN THE FOOD PITS



Our vision is to preserve and celebrate our rua kai and the narrative of this land, and to create a place for people to come together to connect and learn.

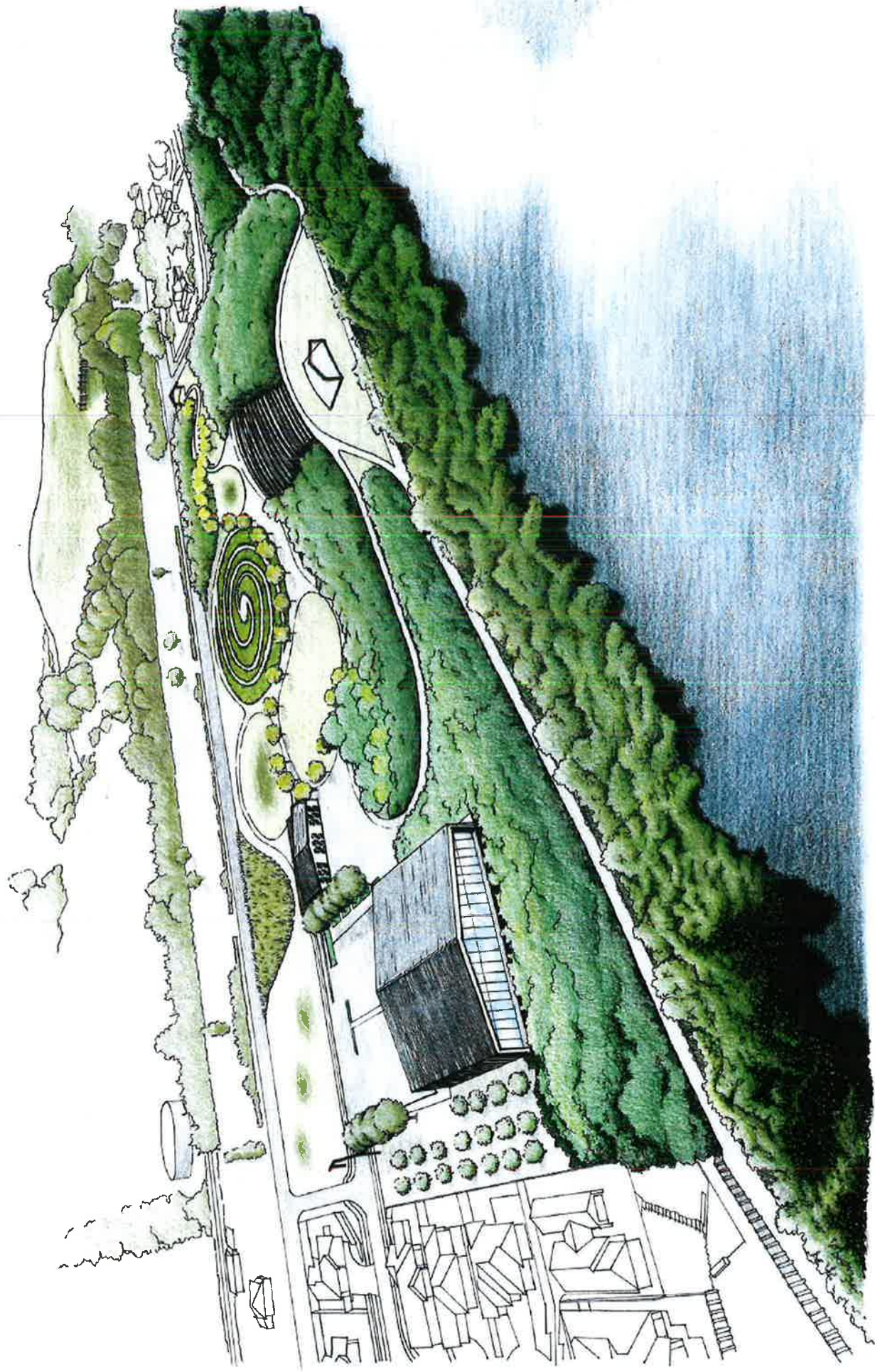
- ✘ **Ngā Rua** | The Borrow Pits
The six remaining rua kai will be preserved and accessible for generations to come
- ① **Waharoa** | Gateway
Thriving gardens once grew from Pukeiāhua Pā down to the Waikato River. Now separated by decades of development, the waharoa frames the view of Pukeiāhua Pā from the northern entrance of the site, reconnecting the spaces. The pathway leading from the waharoa moves through examples of traditional horticulture, from past to present.



WĀHIA NGĀ RUA | **THE VISION : OPEN THE FOOD PITS**

- ② **Kai Wao** | Food from the forest
Not all food came from cultivated crops. From when the first waka came to Aotearoa, Māori learnt to harvest kai wao. This area will be an educational resource, replanted with native plants that were a source of food.
- ③ **Rongoa** | Traditional medicinal plants
Alongside kai wao, Māori developed an in-depth knowledge of the healing properties of native plants. This area will be used as an educational resource, where the community can learn to recognise, grow and harvest rongoa for medicinal use.
- ④ **Wāhi whakaaari, ākaramira** | Amphitheatre and stage
A versatile space for large outdoor community events and performances to be held- this could include kapa haka, plays, musical performances or outdoor movies.
- ⑤ **Kai nō te tāngata, kai nō ēwāhi** | Traditional and introduced food gardens
Two gardens spiral into a double koru. They represent new growth and the coming together of cultures. The idea of partnership mirrors the love story between Ngaere and Heke-te-rangi. Two wai united in an alliance which would persist through hardship and war. In one garden will be grown traditional Māori food crops and in the other will be introduced food crops that were adopted by Māori.
- ⑥ **Te ara o Te Awa** | Te Awa Cycleway connection
The Te Awa cycleway is popular with the local community and visitors from around Aotearoa and the world. Connecting to the cycleway will provide an opportunity to invite people to learn and share in our history, narrative and horticultural traditions.
- ⑦ **Pā Harakeke** | Flax garden
Harakeke, flax, and other native plants are used to produce fibre for textiles and weaving. Cultivating a pā harakeke will provide a resource for local artists and for weaving classes.
- ⑧ **Kōhanga Iroa, Kura Taiao** | Education and Information Centre
Information for visitors will be available here. It will also be a centre of learning, where kohanga iroa, weaving, native plant propagation and horticulture classes can be held for the benefit of the community, visitors and school groups.
- ⑨ **Ngā rākau Māori** | Native revegetation planting
The education centre will produce native seedlings that will be planted on the steep bank leading down to the river and all along the banks. We will remove pest plant species and restore the indigenous ecology in our role as kaiiaki, protectors of the land.
- ⑩ **Māira hupara** | Māori playground
Ngā aro-tākarō, traditional play items, are the basis of a māira hupara. These items encourage tamariki to engage with nature and history through play and learning. The māira hupara could feature hīkeikei (stepping bags), land-based kokiri (jumping platforms), te ko-uru (upturned roots of native trees) and totere (balance beams)
- ⑪ **Whare Hāpori** | Community events centre
For all of the community, this space would provide for large gatherings, community classes and events with a view out over the Waikato River.
- ⑫ **Oru Rākau** | Community Orchard
The produce from the orchard will be distributed to those in need in the community.





WĀHIA NGĀ RUA | OUR VISION : OPEN THE FOOD PITS

Waikato District Council LTP 2021-2031 Consultation Document

Grace M Wilcock, 117 Windmill Road, RD3, Hamilton 3283

Submission hearing 25 May 2021

Inorganic collection: Support Option 2 to discontinue

- a. As any benefits go to scrap merchants who trawl the streets taking only those goods that have any recoverable parts that have monetary value.
- b. Health and safety of residents and their animals is compromised by the inorganic waste being scattered over verges and road edges by the scrap dealers.
- c. Council use the Link magazine to list transfer stations and any other recycling centres including ones in adjacent councils. As residents who have no access to a Waikato service need to know what options are available.

NB: Urban Miners- Rotary Cambridge Recycling E-Waste which is a new service offered by Rotary with support from Waipa's Community Waste Minimization Fund and the Cambridge Community Board. Collection is every 3rd Sunday 9-11am outside Cambridge High School. Waipa is also working with 'AgRecovery' by holding pop-up style collections for rural farm waste and it would be good if Waikato could also work with 'AgRecovery.'

Pensioner Housing: Support Option 2 to discontinue

- a. Council should not be a landlord for residential properties.
- b. State housing should be the responsibility of government.
- c. Council's responsibility for community well-being should not mean duplicating social services that government provide.

General Rate Increase: Neither option is acceptable.

The proposed rate increase is too high; living costs for residents keep going up, interest rates are giving poor returns and the majority of rate payers do not receive an annual increase in their income.

A responsible business has an expected annual income and adjusts its outgoings accordingly whereas council's set their rate to expected expenditure; which does nothing to encourage efficiencies. Does the council use a business case [required by government] to identify their objective and monies required to implement it; or is a \$ figure identified and the detail, policy, action and delivery worked out later? Consideration for the economic situation in New Zealand due to the pandemic needs to be factored into this 10 year LTP.

Government plans to rewrite the RMA and to restructure local councils should reduce council spending; has this been factored in to this LTP?

Compliance costs are making up a larger and larger part of council's costs. What is council doing to try and get government to assess impact of legislation prior to passing said legislation? Further can any costs be identified that should indeed be funded by government and not local councils?

What are the current costs to the rate payer for Future Proof.? Why does Waikato, Waipa, Hamilton City and the Regional Council require another layer of bureaucracy?

What is the \$145million for sustainable communities used for?

The UAGC should be set a more realistic %; especially as council now uses targeted rates to improve achieve equity.

Council works and services need to be prioritized so financial costs for immediate, medium and long term action can be factored into rates without the requirement for sudden high increase in a single year.

Finally responsibility of the individual is missing from the Four Well-Being goals and this is a critical aspect of all areas of society.

WDC Submission Notes
25/5/21
Gary McGuire

Good morning Councillors:

My name is Gary McGuire & I wish to raise some points of concern to myself, the TDDA & the people of Tuakau.

There is a feeling that Tuakau has been forgotten by the WDC.

You are conspicuous by your absence since the issue of taking Tuakau's rail station funding & giving it to Huntly.

Recently we read that Tuakau had not submitted for funding for passenger rail.

It seems that the Petition with 4,600 signatures that was presented to Parliament by the then MP Paul Hutcheson for the reinstatement of the Rail Station at Tuakau has been ignored.

That is taken as a kick in the face for the people of Tuakau.

No other town has a greater need for passenger rail in the WDC area than Tuakau.

Many of our residents commute daily to Auckland for work on the totally over loaded motorway.

The rail service from Hamilton to Papakura would have been heavily used by the people of Tuakau, if you had re-built the rail station at Tuakau as you promised, the usage rate would have been high, this is shown by the number of people who have to travel to Pukekohe daily to catch the train. It is far harder to do that than simply to hop on at Tuakau as we used to do.

And so we watch as the train service from Hamilton to Papakura passes us by with under-utilised carriages.

The question begs, was this trial service set up to fail ?

A politically motivated stunt ?

We are one of the most populous towns in the WDC area that is facing hefty rates increases while receiving very little in the way of infrastructure spend.

Tuakau was a sitter for a Government grant to re-build the Rail Station from the Provincial Growth Fund, but WDC did not apply for it, The money was on offer.

Again, it begs the question. Why not ?

Tuakau is at the front line for the spill over of Auckland's population with very little support from our Waikato District Council.

It has not gone unnoticed !

Our representation on Council is considered disproportionate for the growing population we have. We request that financial consideration be given to increasing the number of WDC Councillors to represent the growing population in the Tuakau area.

We request that financial consideration be given to providing a separate Community Board to be set up for Tuakau alone & that the Onewhero ward remain to represent the people over the river.

In the future when you ask for consultation with your rate payers, please allow us to genuinely be consulted.

Putting a tick box with two preconceived answers on your consultation form does not count as consultation, that is Dictation.

If you want true consultation, then have a place on your forms for just that.

You may gain a different perspective of what your voting constituents want.

I'm sorry if I come across as negative this time around, for my colleagues & I have appeared before you & several other of your Councillors, over many years.

We have submitted & consulted on many issues & several plans.

But alas, we are left feeling that we have largely been ignored.

If you truly wish to have meaningful involvement & support from your constituents, then pay more attention to us & never take us for granted.

Thank you for your time.

Gary McGuire.

Resident of Tuakau
Committee Member of the Tuakau & Districts Development Association.

Waikato District Council Rates Petition

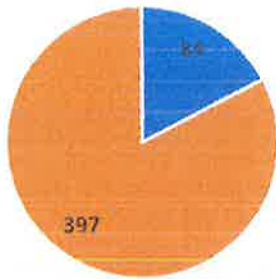
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Waikato Rates Increase

I would like to vote for the following:	Total Count	% of Total
A rates increase of 3% per annum for 3 years	84	17.46%
A zero rates increase	397	82.54%
Grand Total	481	100.00%

Total Count % of Total

Votes for Rates Increase



I would like to vote for the following:

- A rates increase of 3% per annum for 3 years
- A zero rates increase

Values

Waikato Rates Increase Submission Comments

Comments
17% is completely unaffordable and unsustainable, especially after the year we have had!!
3% p.a is reasonable. More than that is ridiculous!
Absolutely against a rates increase. We pay an outrageous amount now, for poor community services & roading. Pokeno rates are a total ripoff already & an increase cannot be justified.
Absolutely disgusting proposed rate increase, families are struggling, what with Covid and Job loses. How much will Councillors get in a wage rise ???? You now have all the extra rates from the Pokeno Development, the state of the Roads, are in a shocking messso the money aint been spent there. Council should hang their heads in shame even suggesting a rate increase as they have.
After covid many people are struggling. We pay district and regional rates and this is ridiculous to increase so much at this time
Along with water and regional rates it seems excessive. Private business has to work within their means...why not council?
Already paying highest rates in NZ.
An increase of the proposed percentage will cause hardship to a lot of families in the waikato, this is on top of financial struggles, stress and uncertainty caused by the covid pandemic.
Are rates are already double of what Auckland rates are currently. As a single parent this is unaffordable. I would also like to point out that We do not have the facilities that Auckland does we pay for our own rubbish sacks and stickers etc Yet when we have a water shortage or covid we are considered Auckland all of a sudden but we still paying the Waikato rates. There is no justification of the increase and It's very unfair.
Are we Waikato or Franklin? The rates are the highest ive seen! In Pokeno we don't even know half the time if we are classed as Waikato or Auckland as the rules seem to change to suit the situation. This proposal of an increase and the 'Labour' terminology the council has used about going 'hard and fast' is insulting. We already pay the highest rates in the country. Im sure if they were more wise with their spending they can mange the funds they currently get without needing to charge us anymore money!
As a single income with a mortgage I would struggle to keep up with rising rates, which are already huge.
As a single parent & a public servant living with a government placed a wage freeze for the next 3years any increase causes financial hardship.
As above this is not affordbble
At least invest into Pokeno community before requesting such huge increases, and make increases in line with the inflation rates....or the increase most companies award is more in line with the 3% mentioned above
Been living in Pokeno for nearly 5 years and haven't seen much done by the council besides a sports park. Can't even get the roads fixed that have been asked for for the 5 years we've been living here
Can't afford it I'm a Pensioner and my Pension won't cover an increase.
Can't understand why so expensive with very little services provided. Friends with much more expensive housing in Auckland and more services pay substantially less. Why are the poorer communities being targeted
Complete bullshit.Get rid of this "Hitler" mayor an his cronie councillors.
Considering we've seen nothing so far that was I promised at the previous increase, this increase is ridiculous
Council needs to stop wasting g money and use more wisely we already pay ridiculously high rates
Definitely agree, the rates are astromical, one of the highest I've seen. More than double what we were paying 15mins down the road in Pukekohe. With less infrastructure, poor roading. If it increases like that we will be forced to move out of Pokeno.
Disgusting level of increase when there's nothing been done with our rate money anyway!
We now even have to sort our own recycling or it doesn't get taken ffs!

We are very limited on what we can do due to being on historical land, we bought planning to subdivide at later date but cannot do that.
We came here to buy our first home as it was most affordable
We work in Auckland cbd and chose to live this far from work for affordability
We will not be able to live here with a high increase like that. The rates here are already so high
We cannot afford a rate increas
We can't afford anything over 3% per annum. Please try to get it as close to 0% as possible so can afford to live in Pōkeno. Thank you
We can't keep being bled dry. Have no more money. No payrise, gas and food keeps rising. At least wait another year for all businesses to pick back up
We deserve more for our money as it is. Until we get good services in Pokeno, rates should remain the same.
We get charged more than Aucklanders for lesser services.
We get told to report , report , report. We do we do, we do. Nothing happens or the excuses happen. Councillors travel around this area, why do they not report things. Get people to do the jobs, check the areas for jobs, maintenance to be done an do it. We clean the road drains as waiting for someone to come an do it is a waste of time. I reported overhanging an obstructing trees in Feb , told will be done in May still waiting, not holding my breath. Have asked the local councillor re roundabout in Rangiriri being cleaned up, she said she had reported, still waiting. This has been brought up since Christmas 2019, still waiting. Nothing has changed for what we pay now, we get less for our rates an you want more from us to do what! less?.
We may have to move to the Hauraki or Auckland area if this happens. Really difficult and disappointed as we like the mighty waikato
We pay close to 4000 a year on our rates as it is. Auckland properties pay alot less even though their properties are considerably more expensive. we pay 3 dollars a bin tag to have rubbish collected, but we also pay to have our rubbish collected in our rates. we had to pay to get a second bin and now are paying double the collection cost. 450 dollars a year on rates for waste collection and then 6 dollars a week for bin tags. getting ripped off is an understatement. we dont see anything happen with the amount of rates we pay. just feel like we are feeding the pockets of the pen pushers who think they deserve more. i will not be paying any rate increase because with costs of living these days and going through covid who in their right mind would ask people to pay more. greedy
We pay more than enough rates now...we don't need anymore increases
we people will die of starvation paying high council rates.
We struggle to pay the rates already. Any increases will put us out of a home... What's the point of owning a home if we are just having to pay so much more to survive?
What do we get for this?
With amount of new builds rates should not be increasing however would be comfortable with 3%
Would believe it will be fair for a rates increase in 2023. Of 3% over 3 years. And why are Waikato so much higher than anywhere else?? More staff? Ineffective and inefficient. Does there need to be an external review?

Total agreement that rates should not increase substantially beyond of wage increases. It's their poor management that has got them into Dept. As pokeno grows the council will be receiving more rates from population growth anyway.
Totally unaffordable and unfair
Unaffordable
Waikato already has the highest rates. We still pay for bin tags and only have a tiny recycling bin. Where is all our money going ?
Waikato have some of the highest rates in the country and rising. Is is not affordable for the majority in our area and we cannot find the extra money to keep up with such huge rates. Around \$5000 each year for rates, regional rates and rubbish is just phenomenal and more than double a house of the same value in Auckland. We might not have as many rate payers as auckland but we have significantly more than the taupo district (79k vs 39k) even while their land area is larger than ours and their rates are half what we pay (when you include rubbish and regional rates). Marlborough distric has more than double the land are of waikato, around half the population and again, half the rates we pay. Its interesting waikato council refused to submit to ratepayers report as at the moment carterton district comes out as most expensive and yet their rates are less than ours. We are more than \$1200 OVER the national average for rates and you want us to pay more. Completely unacceptable.
WDC already charge one of the highest rates in the country with very little to show for it, at least in our area. If only we see significant improvements to justify the already higher than usual rates.
We already have some of the most expensive rates and then we have the regional tax on top of that. If we didn't have to pay for rubbish collection and water usage then I would be happy with the rates we currently pay.
We already pay 100 every week for rates. The increases will be us paying closer to 160 a week. Disgusting a tax for owning our own home. Pull your heads in council and stop the vanitu projects. And no more \$25,000 days out at Hampton Downs for staff at ratepayers expense.
We already pay ridiculous rates, an increase like proposed is unacceptable. Our family lives week to week and "tightened our belt" as much as possible to save for our first house. We make ends meet, just. With this increase we would be living below the poverty line.
We are all already struggling and just getting back on our feet with covid. There was increase after the first year we arrived and again is not fair
We are already paying rates that are higher than Auckland. We are paying for reserves, parks and sites that are no where near Pokeno but fall under Waikato. We moved here for a more affordable life for our family... instead we are paying higher than anticipated or advised rates. It now makes sense why so many people are selling and moving. They can't afford to live in this beautiful place anymore.
We are already paying such high rates compared to a lot of other districts we less/no improvement in the community. People have moved to Pokeno because they couldn't afford housing in big cities such as Auckland therefore this huge increase is unaffordable with families already struggling. This can lead to a lot of families having to sell their houses they have saved up for their entire life and lead to mental health issues and distress !
We are already paying the highest rate as compared to other districts.
We are already paying way too much and get nothing. Ppl can't afford the increase.
We are new retirees to the area, arrived Oct 2020, and are disappointed at how high rates are, would appreciate a reduction and definitely not in favor of an increase. Thank you
We are paying almost \$100.00 per week as it is, way higher than anywhere else that I know of, we have an increase in population so more rates are being paid in the area, we also have to pay for rubbish on top of that We are pensioners and can't afford the huge increase. We are already one of the most expensive town for rates.

The proposed rates increases will place increasing financial pressure on many households in Tuakau. Our property rates are already some of the highest in New Zealand. We also pay over \$300 annually on regional rates. On the feedback form we were able to vote for a "fast and hard" option or for a slower option that still seemed fast and hard. I think the idea of a "fast and hard" increase to rates is a ridiculous concept to begin with. It does not sound as though the Council has enough voices on it to speak up for members of the community (many if us) who are already navigating life in New Zealand with extremely constrained finances: young families, elderly, middle-agers all impacted by low wages, high housing, high living and high food costs. House valuations have also been increased which results in higher rates already. Yes, a relook at the increased rates is important.

The rates are already extortionate! Raising them is just ridiculous and unethical.

The rates are double auckland Council, it is totally unacceptable to charge hard working families this amount in rates, especially when we still pay things such as rubbish collection stickers.

The rates are too expensive now and people need homes to live in and be able to afford to stay where they are.

The rates here are very high already, people move out here because they can't afford a home that is nice and healthy for their families in Auckland and even higher rates will cause hardship on families

The rates in Pokeno are absolutely absurd! And now they want to raise the rates again. This is a big no from me!

The rates in this region are far too high already, they are much more expensive than any other region that I know of (almost unsustainable for most families) so a 17% hike is an outrage and will drive families out of the area.

The rates increase is not justifiable

The Roads are not managed well. We still don't have wheeliebins. Already we have been paying a higher rate

The salary is not going up, how can we afford rate increase

There is no justification for the increase. People are already in hardship. You can not force this on people particularly with nothing in return.

These increases are stomach churning. I've not had a pay rise this year due to covid and my partner has been made redundant due to his company not being able to afford to keep the warehouse open, also due to covid cutbacks.

These rates increases are crippling to households just trying to get by. You basically have to have nothing to be eligible for the rate rebate. If Council needs more money then get creative within itself and make cut backs. Don't put your misspent or overspend money onto the ratepayers!!

This is a joke. We pay high enough as it is and have nothing to show for it in the area

This is a shame for the council as we are already paying more rate penalty living here

This is absolutely disgusting. There is no way we can afford another increase in our rates we already pay way too much as it is and can barely afford it.

This rate increase will affect our weekly budget tremendously. We are a family of 3 with another baby in the way. We need to cut cost at this stage.

This rates increase will ruin many families including ours. We struggle to pay the high rates that we are paying now let alone an increase of 17%. This increase is not in line with anything economical such as wage increases and given the very difficult year we have all been through raising this will put families on their knees. Given that food banks and budgeting services are at breaking point with people WHO ALSO WORK FULL TIME shows that people are struggling. We have also received notification our RV has been increased so based off this our rates will increase anyway - then 17% ON TOP. This should not be happening!!

Too expensive

Too much for the increment. Due to covid cost of living has gone up. Not everyone gets increment of wages by 16% every 3 years. Hardly have inorganic collection and you can find people dumping rubbish on road sides.

People that pay land rates pay enough let alone the council putting them up. Property owners have enough to pay!
Rates are already high compared to other regions. Also we have our own waste water system which we have to service ourselves on top of our rates. Majority of companies are practicing a pay freeze due to COVID-19 uncertainty and it is foolish to try and start increasing rates at a time of hardship.
Rates are already high enough (more than x2 Auckland)
Rates are already high. People are struggling in the wake of Covid19 lockdowns (and there may be more to come). Incomes are down in many households. Every time the council increases the value of a house and land, they receive more in rates based on that increased value. House prices have increased considerably in the Waikato, as they have everywhere else. Therefore, the council will already receive more from ratepayers. Increasing the cost of rates on top of the increase in property value, especially in the current environment, is just wrong. We see no community spirit from the council. It's double-dipping, if nothing else.
Rates are already massive.
Rates are already well above what we can afford!!!
Rates are high enough now One of highest in country Maybe we should move to franklin
Rates are insane! Not much growth just increasing rates in tough times! One hand govt is giving money to people to sustain due to covid and on other hand increasing rates. How they supposed to pay? Generate more jobs instead.
Rates are so expensive, just moved here last year and is double what I was paying in Clarks Beach. My hours have decreased since covid by 8 hours a week and will not be returning to pre covid so my income has been cut by a fifth.
Rates are so high already
Rates are to high already and we don't get much for them
Rates are too high as it is. No more rates increase please! We get NOTHING out of this.
Rates increase is ridiculous! We already pay more than Auckland.
Rates increase would not be helpful for Tuakau. People move here so they can try and start a new affordable life and to have rates higher than Auckland is stupid. Sort it out Waikato!
Rates is high enough as it is and did not get a salary increase this year or last year due to covid went through a restructure and needed to take a \$9500 drop in income to keep my job
Rates should be going down....not up. They are way overpriced for what we get.
Rates were ridiculously increased less than 2 years and nothing has improved in this region.
Retired, cannot afford increase. We get nothing except road and rubbish
Start spending money on Pokeno to make sure parks etc are kept tidy. Also main Street is an embarrassment.
The current rate increases are not affordable for most people, especially in this financial climate.
The increase in rates resulting from the recent valuation is enough.
The proposed increase is completely out of touch with income for a first home buyer and salaries. An increase of this magnitude will force me to sell. Also why are we paying 6 times as much as Aucklanders.
The proposed rate increase is ridiculous and unrealistic.

Living in Australia but still owning our home in Pokeno.
Most of us won't get any pay rises due to covid and our contract negotiations are coming up and we are looking at getting 1.5% increase each year just for inflation. How is my 16% rate increase affordable for anyone!
Moving to pokeno this year- waiting for build to complete. Moving with young kids. No money for increases
My rates are already double what I paid living in Auckland and was told by council when I brought in Pokeno the rates would decrease in two years and they were high because its to pay for the new footpaths etc which I have not learnt was paid for by the developers if the rates go up I will be looking at moving back to Auckland not happy
My rates are already expensive, do not need any added burden.
No good
No maintenance of public garden areas or paths, roads, no facilities
No need for a rates increase, it's already way more expensive than South Auckland rates and you get less public services and amenities
No rate increase
No rates increase, should ahve enough funds from the several large subdivisions going in across the North of the Waikato...
No way we can afford this with the way things have been in the last year. I want to keep a roof over my family's head. We pay enough rates for what is supplied to the road we live on.
Not happy with proposal. We already pay higher tax, groceries, fuel, bills and so much more.
Oh please Waikato DC! You are the most ludicrous Council, as if Tuakau/ Pokeno residents didn't already pay too much in rates for inaccessible (to us) services we never use.
Oppose increase in rates.
Original proposal is unaffordable
Our area doesn't have water line, no public transport, the road is so narrow it's hard for trucks passing by. I see no reason for a rate increase without increasing our infrastructure
Our CV's have already jumped up several thousand - but the proposed rates increase w'll make my family homeless!! We're barely surviving as it is.
Our household income has gone down in the last year and this will be unaffordable
Our only income is the Government Super, an increase proposed would force us to sell our home as we would be unable to pay.
Our rate is higher than of Auckland properties. This is not fair. And what about free housing for some families, while we pay sky rocketing rates. Not fair at all.
Our rates are already a huge expense, a freeze on rates would help so many families already struggling with the cost of living
Our rates are already MORE than a property in Howick, valued @ \$1.5m argh and they have ALL the infrastructure
Our rates are already too high and are increasing anyway because of higher valuations on our homes so very greedy to also increase the rate as well.
Our rates are already very high! The highest around! Our rates should have a freeze instead of just a blanket Waikato increase! We also have no major improvements in the plans for the area even with all the growth happening!
Our rates have increased so much over the past couple of years that they are becoming untenable.
Our road is not two lanes wide nor does it have water catchment or bus stops. I do not believe the increase is valid. Our townships road is in terrible condition as is constantly used by trucks which create pot holes and uneven surfaces. There is no pedestrian crossing for our children.
Our wages are being frozen despite escalating CPI so why do the council think ratepayers should pay more when we get nothing extra for our money? Greedy.

I get anxiety everytime my rates bill comes, we pay \$5000 dollars a year . This is ridiculously high and then to add another 17% on top of that. We are going to have to move back to Auckland
I got pay increase freeze for 2yrs, so unable to pay any increase in the rates.
I live rurally and there is no way an increase of 17% is justified based on services provided to this area.
I'm a first home buyer that has recently purchased in Pokeno. We are a single income family that is struggling to put aside any money after bills and the mortgage. I'm already worried no how I will be able to save for the current rates bill let alone an increased one. Had I know this before purchasing the property it might have Suede me to purchase in Auckland
If you come and mow the road side and the empty lots maybe a small increase
I'm happy for a small rates increase. But I want to see progress!
Tuakau is always at the ass end of all decisions. Where is our train station you promised? Where is the street maintenance? Why have we lost our local spring water to crappy waikato water? Why is there no one dealing with air pollution and poisonous gas releasing of the oil plant. No management of illegal burning No police patrols No dealing with increasing Youth Crime.
Tuakau is a cash cow and neglected with little to no improvement on infrastructure in an area that will be growing due to the simple fact more and more people cannot afford to live in the Auckland region.
This massive rate increase is a real kick in the guts for people who are just trying to get by. I don't believe any of this funding will go to help maintain and develop Tuakau. So I strongly oppose such a high and sudden rise which I believe is completely unjustified.
It is absolutely ludacris the rates increases we have had and we don't have anything to show for it. How about thinking about what everyone has been through over the past 18 months with covid rather than just lining your pockets. I also found year campaign of go big and go early quite disgusting and it actually appeared as you are completely lacking any empathy for who have been through hardship. It was the wrong way to word an ad.
It is appalling to think that because house values have increased it is okay to increase rates. Many ratepayers have lost incomes over the past year and are already struggling to make ends meet. We shouldn't have to sell our homes and leave the area to survive in this country. Waikato rates are already higher than most councils
It is important for council to take into account the current financial climate and I feel this has not been given any consideration in regards to affordability!
It is not right to increase the rates as we are already struggling to afford the price of living
It's already so high and for a council who claims that it is to recover costs from "COVID" there needs to be more information and MORE collaboration with the people who LIVE in the region rather than setting rates to something you THINK is good. Our rates Are already ridiculously expensive and you're the only council who refuses in all of NZ to release information about rates. Do better WDC.
It's really not a good time and budgeting is extremely hard.
Its time WDC to change their financial management as the current model is not working and debt is increasing to much. To continually increase rates to cover the financial mismanagement has become a huge burden on the general public, we are now paying a significant tax on property's we own will very little in return.
Just because the property values have gone up doesn't mean our current financial situation has changed. We're still on the save wage paying the same mortgages.
Lack of General maintenance and services in Tuakau is shocking for the amount of rates we pay for

Don't increase our rates so dramatically. The cost of living in Pokeno is ridiculous already.
Enough is enough. With all our rate increases, where are the swimming pools for our kids?
Everything that was promised has not been done. We don't even have proper recycling bins. This is day light Robbery!!
Families are already struggling with the cost of living, please don't make things harder.
For the extremely high rates in Pokeno. I do not see value for money. Terrible roads. No beautification of the Pokeno township. No trees. And we have to pay to get our rubbish collected!!!
Get developers to contribute and with the large number of homes popping up, these should helping to increase the council coffers
Having just moved into the area, the rates are already pretty steep compared to the services that we receive. With the amount of building that is going on in this area, your rates revenue is going to increase exponentially. I am currently paying double what I paid in Central Auckland, even though I do not pay for wastewater (septic tank), refuse collection (I purchase a ticket for), only partially town water.... The list goes on
Happy to see a small increaae skins we see tangible improvements in our area but 16/17% is not sustainable by many and some are already leaving. I moved to Pokeno for a better life not to be gouged by the councils and its rates.
I agree to the option I have selected as I understand due to recent covid restrictions something needs to give financially to assist funding, so what the council is proposing is more likely to create more hardships than assist. Hence agreeing to a smaller increase.
I agree to this option because the council is asking too much
I am a public servant and as everyone has heard we are having our pay frozen for the next 3 years! So any increase is definitely not in line with my wage increase because my wage increase = \$0.00 How dare you propose 'hard and fast' of 9%. Even 7% is TOO HARD!!!!
I am a single mum and have only owned my house for a year and paying for a mortgage on 1 wage. The rates in franklin are already so much higher than Auckland a rates and with covid 19, it has been hard to pay for rates. There shouldn't be an increase for at least another 3 years or you will literally be screwing up finances to be able to service a mortgage and all the other house related costs.
I am a widow with a dependent child who has been unemployed for 16 months. ANY further rates increase will mean I will lose my house. WHEN IS THIS MADNESS GOING TO END??? How are we expected to keep coming up with more and more money for fewer and fewer services? This council needs a SERIOUS shake up and wake up.
I am financially struggling to pay my existing rates, having been made redundant during COVID-19. An increase in rates will force me to sell my home
I am rural so don't use the water or sewage systems or get much of any of the other services provided
I cannot afford to live here with an increase in the already high rates
I did the council survey and didnt choose either of the increase options- they should have given us a choice to oppose. I opposed it in the comments. Agree with this petition
I disagree with the options then only giving us two. As we wish to oppose it. I don't think it's fair as we have the highest rates in nz already
I don't see what we pay for in the rates we pay now!
I don't think it's fair that we are paying rates double that of Auckland City.
I don't think my street really gets much in their rates apart from rubbish collection which we pay for and recycling which we wash, short and remove labels and stickers from before putting out. We get the occasional council man spraying the drains but usually done by us and when the Ford floods with my partner mends it for the council (no charge) or the council workers use our wood.
I dont want any rates increase.

Raglan Football Club

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30. 2011
4.1F



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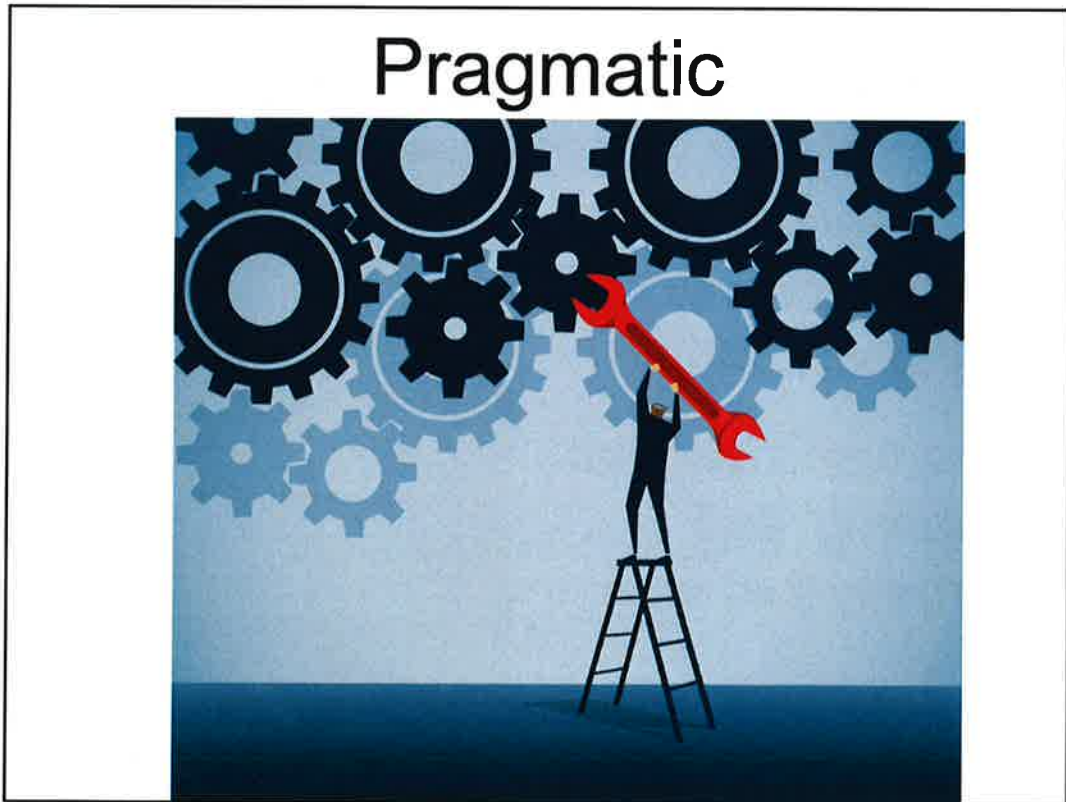


10



Ohinewai Area Committee LTP oral submission

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2

Gutters .Periodic cleaning when required
 .~5 years ago something changed



3

Finally got action in 2020

- .Shamed council / contractor into doing something
- .Promised 'regular cleaning' and verbally 2x / year



4



5



6



7

Driven into 2016

- Initial response: not fixing till Huntly Bypass finished
- Community patched it up
- Promised fix in
 - 2017
 - 2019
 - 2020

8