

Annual Plan Special Committee

**Friday, 5 July 2002
Commencing at 9.30 am**

Item 5: Submissions Overview

**SUPPLEMENT TO AN AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ANNUAL PLAN
SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, 6 WAIPAREIRA
AVENUE, LINCOLN, WAITAKERE CITY, ON FRIDAY, 5 JULY 2002,
COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM.**

5 SUBMISSIONS OVERVIEW

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report provides an overview of public submissions on the draft 2002/2003 Annual Plan, to assist Councillors in their deliberations.

BACKGROUND

There were 739 submissions received this year, covering 2092 separate issues. This is higher than the number received on the 2001/2002 Annual Plan (374) though lower than some earlier years.

ISSUES

There were a large number of positive submissions, most surprisingly on the rate increase and the funding of depreciation. While most submitters made suggestions or requests of Council, many also indicated their agreement with the Council's priorities and direction.

A large number of submissions (over 100) were received via the Council's website. These submissions tended to raise young peoples concerns and to be quite long and detailed. This Annual Plan also saw a major submission from the children of Whenuapai School and a higher than usual number of submissions on Whenuapai issues generally.

Economic Development

Submitters are generally supportive of the Council's economic development priorities, with strong support for the Council to facilitate establishment of a tertiary institute in the City. There is some concern with medium density housing, particularly in New Lynn. There is also concern that Henderson, which should be the heart of the City, is not thriving and more work is needed. A range of comments and suggestions are made concerning the Council's proposed projects in Glen Eden and in other town centres.

The peoples park is a hot issue; the majority of submitters on this topic are in favour of the marae but some submitters express strong opposition.

Strong support is expressed for improving passenger transport systems in Waitakere, both bus and Rail.

Leisure

Weed control and herbicide use are once again a major issue for submitters. In addition to a form submission there were many individual submissions on this issue. Submissions generally acknowledge the Council's efforts to reduce the use of chemical sprays and encourage further work in this area. There are also many submissions on the importance of controlling weeds in Waitakere City.

There were relatively few submissions on the proposed Waitakere Sports Complex though all submissions received were in favour.

A walkway/footpath in the Kaurilands domain is the subject of a large number of form submissions. A suitable walkway can be constructed within current budgets.

As in previous years there are a range of requests for improvements to leisure and community facilities. Some of these requests are included in the draft Plan or can be accommodated within existing budgets and prioritisation processes. Some requests warrant further investigation for potential inclusion in the 2003/04 Annual Plan. A Youth Centre was a popular request, and a concept plan for such a centre is included in the draft Plan.

Community Development

The major issue in this area is crime prevention and public safety. Some submissions are from partner organisations within the "Safe Waitakere" network and others are from individuals. There were very few submissions on Housing for Older Adults, and all of these were from groups rather than individuals.

There are also many submissions in support of Libraries, with a range of suggestions for improving the Library service.

Environment

A range of comments in the Resource Consents and Building Consents areas relate to the opportunity for the Council to use these regulatory functions to advise and inform builders and developers and to promote good practice.

There is support for the work of the Graffiti Trust in reducing graffiti, and for the work of Keep Waitakere Beautiful in tree planting and weed control projects.

In keeping with previous years, several submitters raise issues of dog control and general enforcement issues.

Roading

This area received the most submissions, covering a wide range of places and concerns. Concerns with speeding in the rural areas, and with congestion in the urban areas, are common themes and there are a wide range of specific suggestions on these issues. Road safety is a concern in most areas, and there are a range of suggested projects which will be considered and prioritised within the "slow streets" budget and the minor safety works budget. There are a large number of requests for new footpaths, well in excess of the allocated budget.

51 submissions were received as part of a campaign to request a footpath and upgrading of the rural end of Glengarry Rd, which is a low priority on the current footpath priority list. Titirangi car parking is once again a major issue (115 submissions). A range of roading, kerb and channel, and footpath improvements are requested in Whenuapai.

Democracy and Planning

Submissions in this area are generally more positive than in previous years, though calls for the Council to improve its efficiency and to reduce the burden on ratepayers remain common. The funding of depreciation, and the rates rise to enable this, is supported by many (though not all) submitters.

The Auckland Regional Council expresses strong support for this Council's policies, and several individual submitters emphasise the importance of progress on regional issues such as transport and economic development. There is very strong support from individuals and groups for protecting the Waitakere Ranges and for the Council's Green Network programme.

Strong support is expressed by the Council's partner organisations including the Pacific Islands Advisory Board, the Ranui Action Project, the Youth Council and Te Roopu Rangatahi for the Council's practice of working in partnership. There is also overall support, particularly from Te Taumata Runanga, for the Council's approach to Maori issues.

Water

There are significantly fewer submissions on water issues than in previous years. The major issue in this area is stream protection in general and the Twin Streams project in particular. These are generally supported but a range of specific works are suggested.

Waste

The Council's overall approach to waste is supported, and there is particular support for the introduction of a food waste composting service. The move from two inorganic collections a year to one is generally opposed.

CONCLUSION

The general tone of submissions to the Council's draft Annual Plan is positive and many useful suggestions have been made. At this stage due to the financial restraints imposed by the funding of depreciation in the 2002/2003 year no specific changes have been recommended. However, it is anticipated that Councillors will wish to consider specific requests as part of the deliberations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.

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