

Ordinary Meeting

Monday 20 February 2017

10.30am

Taranaki Regional Council, Stratford



Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council to be held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Monday 20 February 2017 commencing at 10.30am.

Councillors	D N MacLeod	(Chairman)
	M J Cloke	
	M G Davey	
	M P Joyce	
	D L Lean	(Deputy Chairman)
	C L Littlewood	
	M J McDonald	
	D H McIntyre	
	B K Raine	
	N W Walker	
C S Williamson		

Apologies

Notification of Late Items

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PowerCo Presentation to the Taranaki Regional Council - PowerCo 2018-2023 Investment Proposal

Attendees

Mr Matthew Ogier - Customer Experience Manager

Mr Phil Marsh - Network Operations Manager

Mr Ken Pattie - Systems and Performance Engineer

Investing to ensure safety, security and resilience



POWERCO

2018–2023
Investment Proposal
Overview

CEO summary – Our plan for the future of your energy networks

Powerco is New Zealand's second largest electricity distribution company by customer numbers, providing an essential service to more than 320,000 homes and businesses. We have the largest supply area and overall network length. Our networks stretch across the North Island from the Coromandel to the Wairarapa.

Our customers have told us we're meeting their expectations, and they want the standard of our services to be at least maintained at current levels. They also expect us to operate a safe, secure and resilient network.

Looking to the future, we are concerned we will not be able to meet these expectations. This is because a large proportion of our network was built in the 1950s and 60s and now needs replacing. The condition of the network is declining which is leading to an increased rate of failures that require attention. This means our network is becoming less resilient to external influences such as severe weather.

At the same time, many of the communities we serve are growing and this is expected to continue. The current amount of revenue we are allowed to recover from our customers through network tariffs has remained broadly the same as historic levels as a result of the regulatory framework we operate within. We have been working hard to efficiently manage the network and will continue to do so. However, there is an increasingly wider gap between what we are able to invest and the funding required to keep pace with the growth in electricity demand and ageing network assets. As a result, we cannot meet our network reliability standards

across an increasing proportion of our network. Remote areas in particular have seen service levels dropping to less than acceptable levels. The situation is expected to get worse unless we address it.

We need to increase our investment in the network to deliver services that meet customer expectations now and in the future. If we delay taking action, the costs of addressing the growing network risks will be substantially higher later on. We must also make sure our network can meet our customers' needs as they look to use new technology. The investments we make today also continue to provide value to our customers.

We are planning to invest close to \$1.4 billion over the next five years, an increase of around 50% compared to the previous five years. Good planning is essential. It is important we demonstrate that the money we spend on our network is prudent and efficient. The decisions we make on spending during the next few years will shape the capability and performance of our networks in the coming decades.

Our core plans are formed around three themes:

> **Providing safe, secure and resilient networks.** This requires us to focus on the underlying condition of our

network rather than on measures of reliability.

> **Investing in our communities.**

This requires us to facilitate economic growth by ensuring network capacity meets our customers' needs.

> **Understanding and leveraging new technology.** This requires us to learn about new technology through trials and pilot schemes.

In developing our proposed plans we have established a base level of expenditure that reflects what is required to be a prudent and efficient network company given the state of our assets, network performance and the challenges ahead.

Our investment plans will have an impact on the average prices customers pay for our services. Ultimately though, it is the Commerce Commission who will decide whether our proposed investment is appropriate and can be delivered. The Commission will consider if our proposal is in the best interests of our customers. The Commission's final approval will determine the amount of revenue we can recover each year from customers through our distribution charges. If our full plans are approved, distribution prices for the average household are likely to rise by around \$1.00 to \$1.50 per week.

Our proposed plan has been

challenged by independent technical experts and the Powerco Board. They have looked at whether we can reduce the impact on customers' bills through a different mix of investment. Customers have told us they do not want us to hold back on investment if it results in problems in years to come. They also do not want to see deterioration in the level of service received.

It is vital we strike the right balance between keeping bills affordable and investing in our assets for the benefit of today's customers and future generations. Our ability to maintain current service levels and to meet statutory safety obligations would be limited if we tried to lower customers' bills instead of increasing them. This consultation document informs you of our plans and invites you to have your say. There are questions throughout to prompt feedback from you. This is an important part of our consultation with customers. We are seeking your thoughts on particular aspects of our plan so we can focus our investment on delivering what customers value most highly.

This and other consultation material is available at www.yourenergyfuture.co.nz. Other information on the website provides more detail about our investment areas and the key parts of our plan.

Our consultation channels

Materials

You are here



Overview document

Summary of our investment proposal



Have your say document

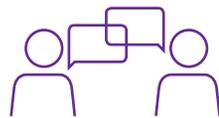
Detail of our investment proposal including alternatives and considered options



Website and video

Provides access to all key documents and a link for providing feedback

Activities



One-on-one conversations



CEO letter



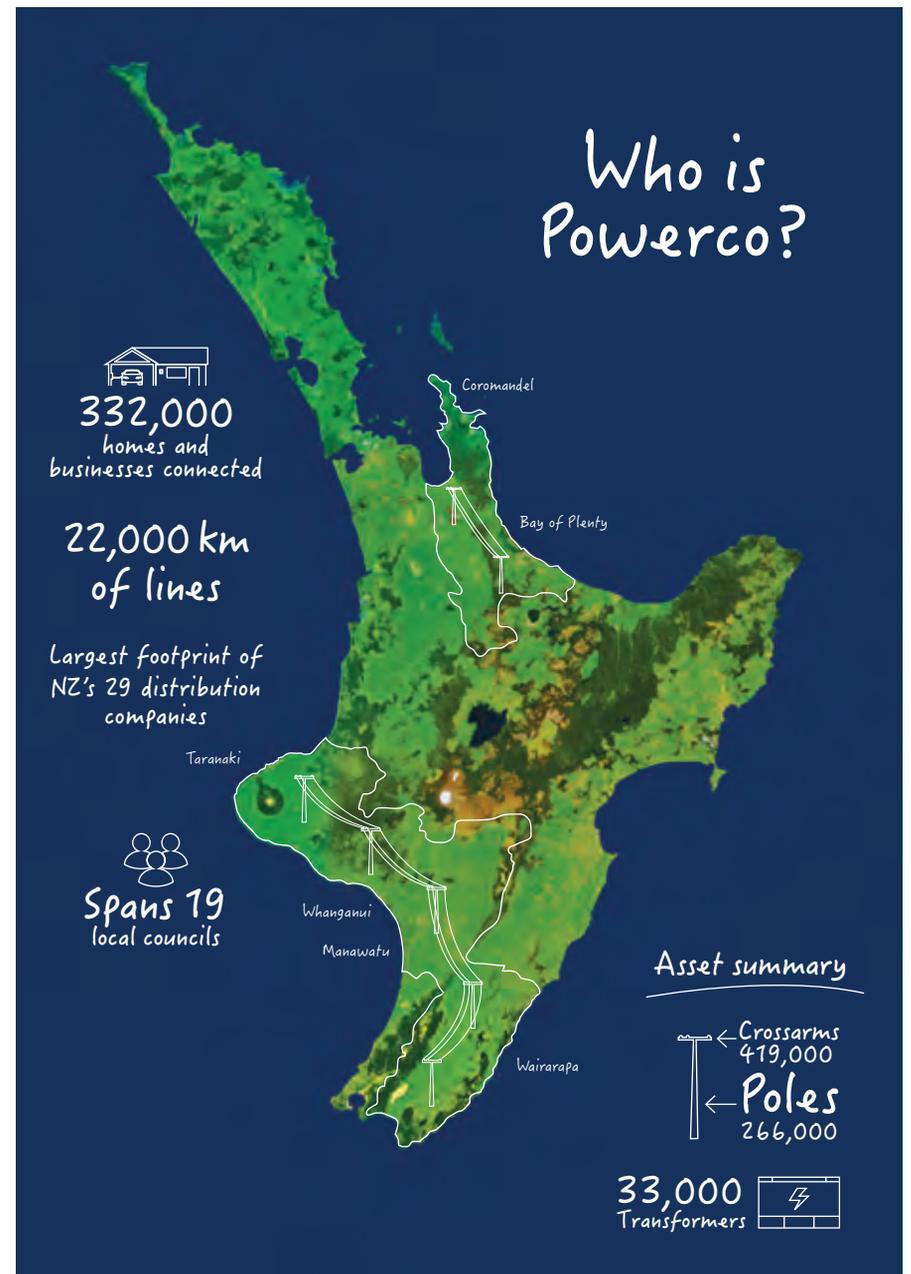
Advertising insert



Group forums

Introducing Powerco

We are committed to providing a safe, secure and resilient electricity supply to our customers. This means replacing equipment and investing in new network projects to support growth in communities.



Our networks are getting older and in some cases the condition is declining, putting service levels at risk. We want to ensure investment levels are appropriate so electricity supply is secure and resilient for years to come.

Our customers have been clear. They expect a safe and secure electricity supply. They also expect us to support

economic growth in their communities by meeting the demand for electricity.

Our investment plans will allow us to do this, and will result in modest increases in your power bills. Given how important a resilient and secure electricity supply is for our customers, we think it is a wise and timely investment.

Generation

Electricity is created using water, wind, geothermal, gas and coal.



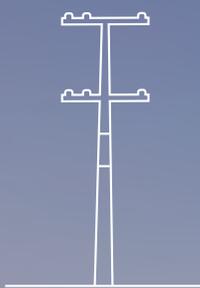
Transmission

Pylons move the high voltage electricity in bulk. State Owned Enterprise Transpower owns and runs this 'national grid'. Large industries with high power demand connect directly to the national grid.



Distribution

Powerco substations reduce the high voltage electricity ready for you to use. We distribute the electricity via power lines and cables to your gate.



Retail

Your retailer measures how much electricity you use and you pay your bill to your retailer. The retailer then pays the generation, transmission and lines company their portion.



Customer

Your service line carries electricity from the power line to your home.

When our network was built



NZ's first TV
broadcast was in

1960

Our network
was built around
the same time!



New Zealand's electricity industry

To explain our plans for investment, it is first useful to outline the electricity industry, our role in it and how it relates to you.

The industry is divided into four parts – generation, transmission, distribution and the customer who is billed by the retailer of their choice.

While Powerco delivers electricity across its networks to homes and businesses, customers have a contract with an electricity retailer for that electricity. Retailers bundle the cost of our services into your overall bill.

Despite not having a direct contract with you, Powerco considers all electricity users connected to its network to be its customers. Because

we provide an essential service, we take overall responsibility for safety and meeting the levels of quality and reliability our customers expect.

If customers have a problem with their electricity supply, their first port of call is to their chosen retailer. However, if there is a major problem with the power system because of an event such as a significant storm, natural disaster or catastrophic failure of equipment, the electricity supply chain will work together to update customers.

Your feedback is important

There are a number of steps to take before we can carry out our investment plan. Providing you with this information is part of a process that will see our proposals reviewed and tested by the Commerce Commission. This ensures our plans are in the best interest of our customers.

Step one

Consultation. We want to hear what you think about our plans. Early in 2015 we asked our residential and business customers what they thought about Powerco and the value they place on our services. The feedback has been taken into consideration when developing the investment plan which we are now seeking your further feedback on. While public consultation about the plan runs until 3 March 2017, we are always happy to receive feedback on our performance at any time.

Step two

After considering your feedback, we will finalise the investment proposal for the Commerce Commission to review. This is referred to as a Customised Price Path (CPP), an option under the rules that oversee electricity lines companies like Powerco.

Step three

We are required to publicly notify our intention to seek a CPP 40 days before any submission to the Commerce Commission. This is proposed for mid-April 2017.

Step four

In mid-June 2017, we are proposing to apply to the Commerce Commission for a CPP so we can invest more in the electricity network. We are closing the formal consultation in early March to give us time to reflect on customers' feedback before the June deadline.

Step five

The Commerce Commission will decide within 40 working days of receiving a proposal whether it is complete. If the proposal is accepted, the Commission may engage independent experts to assist in the review process. The Commission will also consult with Powerco's customers and stakeholders, and make our application available upon request to interested parties.

Step six

The Commission must make a final decision and set a CPP within 150 working days after it has announced that the proposal is complete. During this time we will work with the Commission to answer any questions it may have. A decision is expected from the Commission before 1 April 2018.

We have been investing more to keep the lights on



The cost of maintaining our ageing network is increasing.

What you pay for our lines distribution has remained the same for more than a decade.

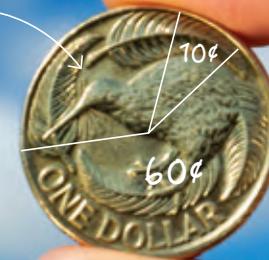
Where does my dollar go?

30¢ comes to Powerco Distribution

Transmission

70¢

Generation and retail



What does increased investment mean for your power bill?

The Commerce Commission determines the overall level of revenue we are permitted to recover through the prices customers pay for our services. The Commission also determines and monitors what we must deliver.

Since 2005, our expenditure has grown faster than the revenue limits set by the Commerce Commission. Our analysis shows that this gap will continue to widen under the current arrangements.

If the Commission approves our plans in full, distribution prices for an average household customer are likely to rise by between \$1.00 and \$1.50 a week. As part of our wider consultation, we will be seeking customers' views on options

on how we recover the additional revenue. We encourage you to have your say at www.yourenergyfuture.co.nz

Where does your dollar go?

About 30 cents in each dollar of your power bill goes to Powerco. Of the rest, 10 cents goes to Transpower, which owns and operates the national grid, and 60 cents covers energy charges such as generation (producing electricity) and retail (purchasing and selling electricity, metering and customer service). We appreciate this can be confusing as it is difficult to see what the charges relate to in the overall bill. Powerco's component of an average household bill has remained relatively stable over the past 10-15 years.

Protecting your interests

Electricity networks are expensive to build, maintain and operate. It would be uneconomic, inefficient and impractical to have multiple network companies competing against each other. Because of this only one electricity network services each area.

This means there is no direct competition for distribution companies such as Powerco. While this makes sense from a practical point of view, it is harder to know if the part of your bill that relates to electricity distribution reflects value for money.

To protect your interests, the Government, through the Commerce Commission, has put regulations in place to ensure customers are not being overcharged and the quality of service is being maintained.

You can be assured our plans for future investment will be scrutinised and tested by the Commission.

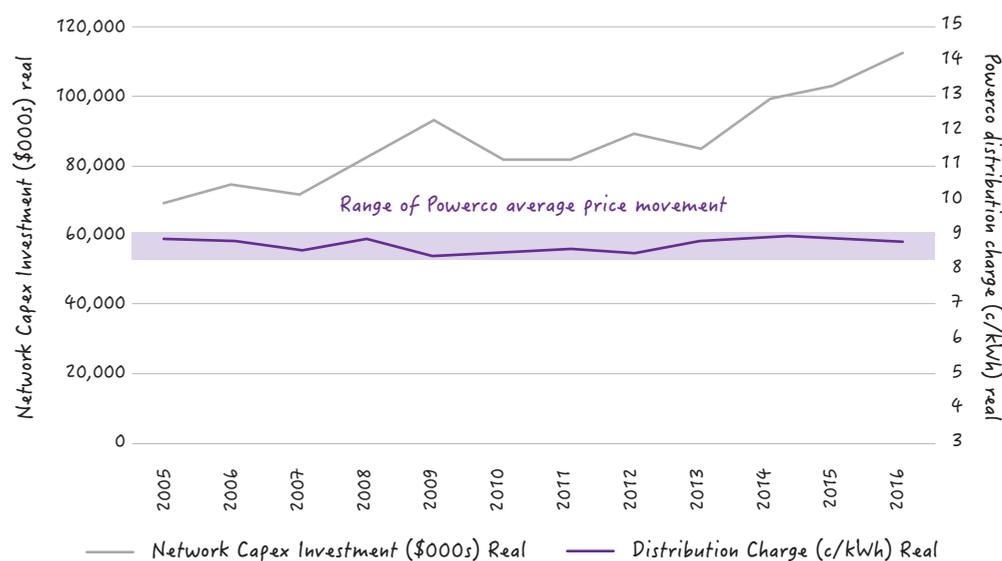
Supporting increasing investment

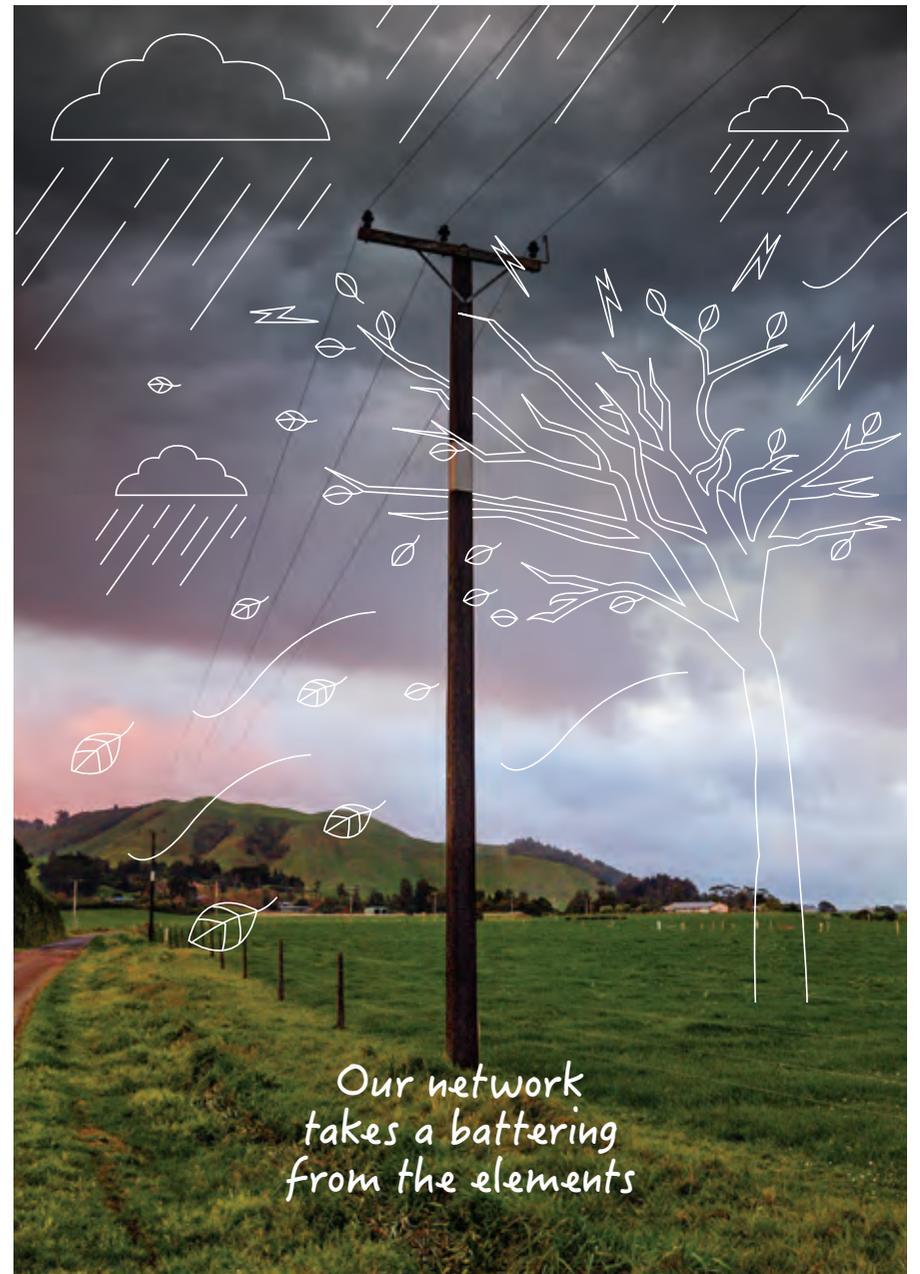
Over the years we have been lifting the level of investment in our network to deliver a safe and secure supply of electricity, and keep pace with the growth of communities. At the same time, we have managed to keep electricity prices stable – increases have been broadly in line with inflation.

The level of network spending has a direct impact on the reliability of your electricity supply. We need to invest at a rate that can deliver the levels of reliability you have told us you need over the long-term. However, we are

concerned about the widening gap between the amount we are allowed to earn and what we need to spend in the next 5-7 years to maintain electricity reliability. We don't believe the situation is sustainable.

Powerco capital investment vs. distribution charges (real) 2005 – 2016





Networks under pressure

Our investments to date have kept the safety and overall reliability of our networks stable. However, when we look into the situation further, we can see that current performance cannot be sustained.

Every time there is a power cut we start counting how many of you are affected and how long you are without power.

There are two internationally accepted measurements of a power network's performance. These are known as SAIDI and SAIFI.

> **SAIDI** or System Average Interruption Duration Index, measures the average number of minutes per year that a customer is without electricity.

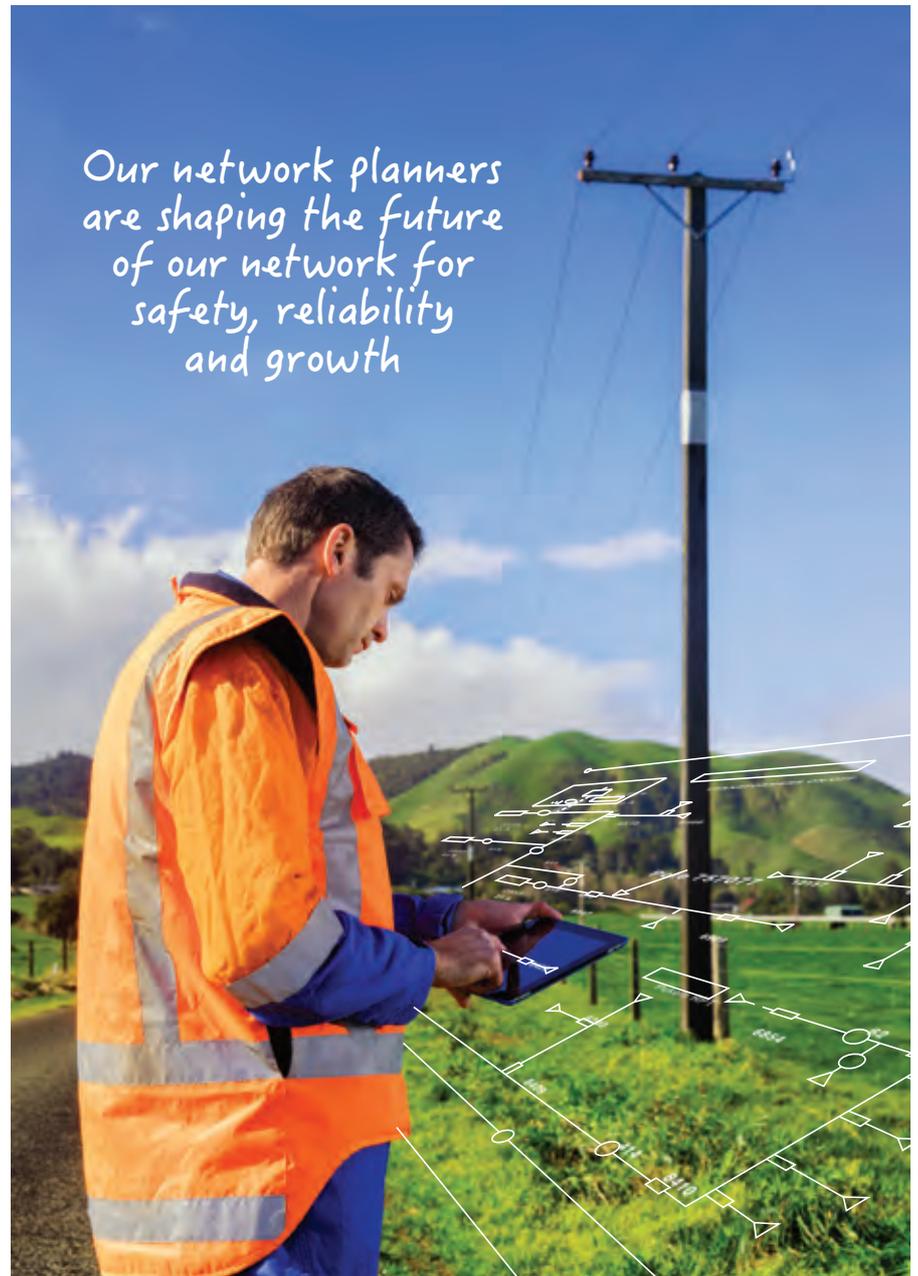
> **SAIFI** or System Average Interruption Frequency Index, measures the average number of times per year that a customer is without electricity.

The Commerce Commission sets the upper limits of SAIDI and SAIFI for distributors. As the graphics to the right show, our average network performance level is reasonably stable. We are meeting the limits set by the Commerce Commission. However, SAIDI and SAIFI show only how our network is performing now.

They mask localised hotspots on the network and do not show how it will perform in the future. The investment we make now will take a long time to show any change to average SAIDI or SAIFI. As well as these measures, we use more specific tools to predict how network performance will be impacted



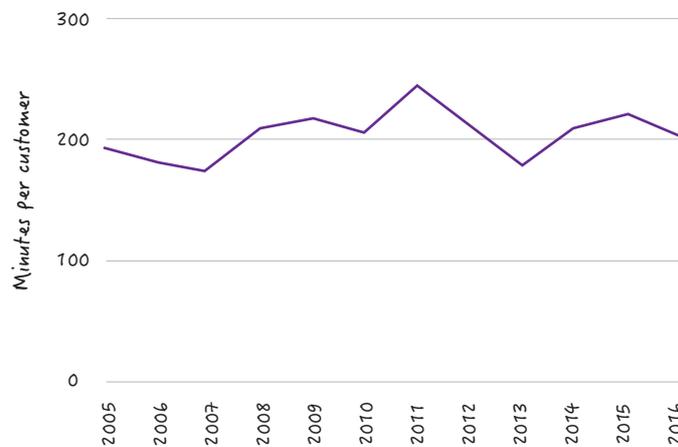
Every year more customers connect to our network



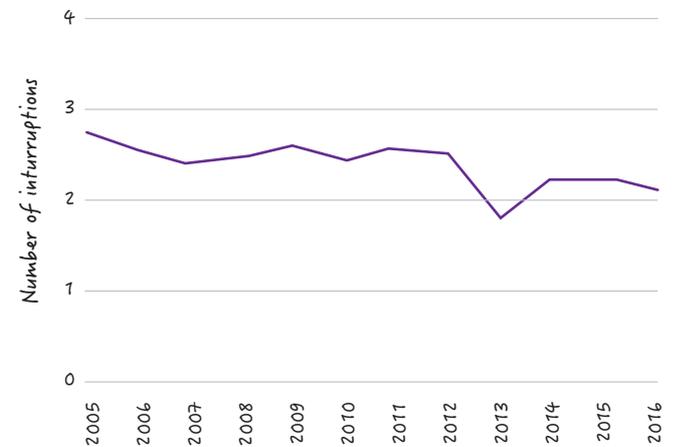
Our network planners are shaping the future of our network for safety, reliability and growth

by investment over the short-term. These clearly show that if we do not lift investment, network performance will deteriorate. To maintain our current SAIDI and SAIFI levels, we need to increase our spending on maintenance and new equipment. Unless we invest more money into our ageing network, more power cuts are likely in the future.

Average interruption duration per customer (SAIDI)



Average number of interruptions per customer (SAIFI)



Our strategy

Our goal is to: Deliver electricity safely, reliably and affordably to you now and into the future.

Our asset management strategy sets out how we put this goal into action, and addresses the issues we have discussed above. It guides our day-to-day investment and operational decisions.

Powerco's asset management strategy has a set of practical objectives:

1. Invest to keep our networks safe and resilient.

Our electricity network is extensive. It is made up of equipment of varying age and condition. Looking after the network efficiently is essential to delivering a safe, resilient and cost-effective electricity supply. Safety is never compromised and we always consider the risks, particularly where assets are located close to public areas.

To do this, we must have a thorough understanding of our network's performance and condition. We monitor and maintain the network to ensure our assets deliver what is required, and replace them when needed. We have a responsibility to be prudent operators, ensuring the network does not operate outside capacity limits or in ways that are unsafe.

Our expenditure plans cannot compromise safety. The network must also be resilient and be capable of

recovering from adverse events such as severe storms or natural disasters.

While our network performance has been relatively stable over a long period, many of the older assets are showing signs of deterioration and need replacing. This is reflected in increasing defect and fault rates. Our response to the declining network resilience is to implement a mix of capital and operating expenditure measures. We plan to tackle the priority issues and to start work as soon as possible.

The investment required to deliver a safe and resilient network is a key element of our forecast expenditure. The level of spending is consistent with maintaining current levels of reliability, which we think is appropriate given customers' preferences and the declining condition of assets.

2. Our networks must continue to enable economic growth.

We need to look ahead to ensure we have the capacity to meet our existing customers' demand growth and to connect new customers. Our networks span many economic centres across the North Island. Dairying in the Waikato and Taranaki, horticulture in the Bay of Plenty, tourism on the Coromandel, and agriculture throughout both our Eastern

and Western networks all play an essential role in New Zealand's economic prosperity. We forecast these requirements by talking to the business community and using the best available information.

For existing customers, we consider whether the network has sufficient capacity to meet future demand growth and provide an appropriate level of reliability. For new customers, we must also make a judgment about the capacity implications of extra connections on our network. We need to balance the additional costs of upgrading the network with the increased risk of capacity constraints and deteriorating reliability over the next 10 to 20 years.

There is no doubt in our mind that we should plan to meet our customers' future needs. We are required by legislation to take into account the long-term interests of consumers when making investments. Without this focus, customers can expect an increased risk of power cuts.

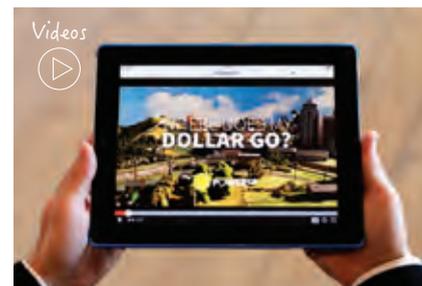
3. Our investments should be future-proofed.

We must also consider how future developments in technology will affect us and our customers. Technologies such as solar and wind generation,

battery storage and electric vehicles are becoming mainstream. With sustained research and development in Asia, the United States and Europe, we anticipate that distributed generation (battery storage and electric vehicles) will become increasingly cost effective.

We are proposing to invest a modest amount over the next five years to understand your future needs and the impact technologies might have on our networks. We need to be ready for this changing environment. Our approach will be to trial new network technologies and solutions and to adopt those that work, technically and commercially. This implies a modest additional investment commitment, rather than a big-bang approach.

We do not believe that electricity networks will become surplus to requirements in the future, even if new technologies take off as expected and become widespread. Electricity networks like ours will become even more important to deliver energy from the national grid to customers. Communities and homes will be able to supplement their energy requirements by generating their own power and sharing it at a local level. This is what we mean by "investing in your energy future."



Understanding your needs

Electricity has become an indispensable part of modern life. As use and dependence on electricity has grown, so too has expectation of the availability and quality of supply. It is crucial we fully understand the services you require and what value you place on these. We use data gathered from customer consultation to help plan which areas of the network need the most investment.

Ways Powerco regularly engages with its customers:

> Agricultural field days, expos and trade shows.

We attend various expos and trade shows across our network area.

Attending these events provides you with an opportunity to have face-to-face discussions with our staff.

> Regular commercial meetings.

Powerco's commercial team maintains a regular dialogue with our larger commercial and industrial customers to remain well informed of their needs, plans and expectations.

> Surveys.

Each year we survey 5,000-6,000 customers about the quality and price of their electricity supply.

> Stakeholder meetings and focus groups.

We regularly meet with key stakeholders and customer representative groups. These include Federated Farmers, chambers of commerce and territorial local

authorities. We also host focus groups, which provide us with valuable insights on customer demographics.

> Website and phone.

Our website and free phone number – www.powerco.co.nz and 0800 POWERCO (0800 769 372) – allow you to easily contact us and provide feedback.

> Consultation documents.

We produce documents to keep stakeholders and customers informed and to generate discussion.

> Community-wide consultation on specific projects and regional issues.

We seek feedback on specific major projects or for regional, medium and long-term network development plans.

> Consultation videos.

We have developed a set of short educational videos to help you understand our industry and provide us with more meaningful feedback.

What you say

Although we haven't asked every one of our customers for their views, we have polled a representative cross section from which we can draw the following conclusions.

The majority of our customers seem to be satisfied with our existing levels of reliability. You have told us you don't like surprises. Although most accept that on rare occasions power cuts occur, you expect to be kept well informed when they do.

More than 95% of the people surveyed

said our service currently met their expectations. However, there is always room for improvement. We need to make sure areas of our network with poorer performance are improved, in line with customer expectations. We need to plan to meet these expectations and those of future generations.

Striking a balance

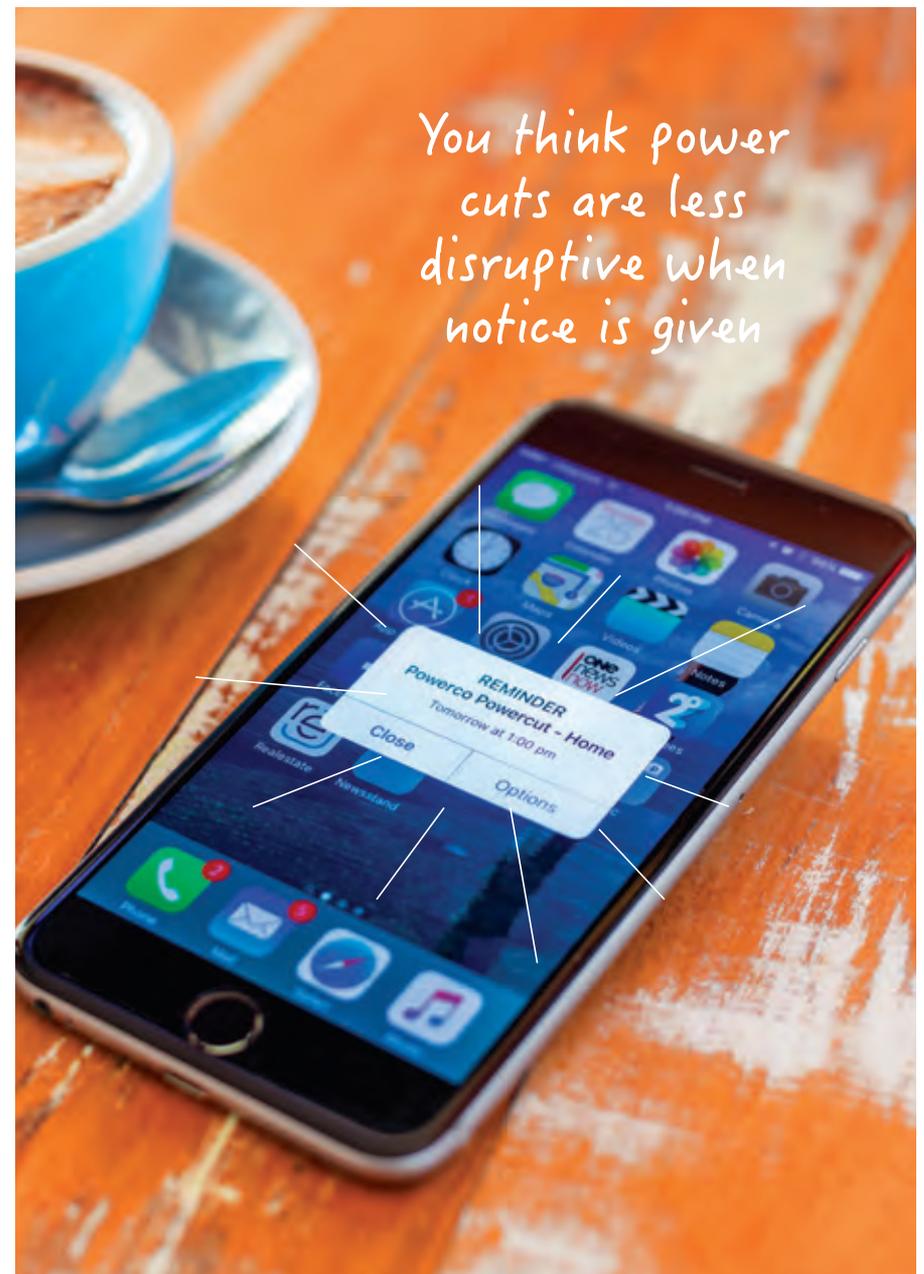
Everyone likes a bargain. In reality the price we generally pay for something is linked to the quality we receive. This is what we call a price/quality trade-off. Most people balance what they want against what they can afford. For example, a modest, weatherboard house may not be the home of lottery-winning dreams, but for most it provides a decent level of comfort and security at an acceptable price.

Price/quality trade-offs do not only apply to the choice of a house but also to electricity networks. Powerco could build a network equivalent of a luxury mansion, in other words one that manages all possible risks and eliminates power cuts. But this would be at a substantial cost that would increase electricity prices above what most

people have told us they would be prepared to pay.

We believe our proposed investment strikes the right balance between addressing network issues around reliability and safety and meeting the future energy needs while ensuring overall price impact is kept as low as possible.

How our performance is measured



Surprises are not welcome

It's a fact of life that, despite our best endeavours, things will occasionally go wrong. This also applies to electricity networks. Occasionally you will experience power cuts.

Our Network Control Centre is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. When problems arise we coordinate our field staff to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. We are constantly collecting information to

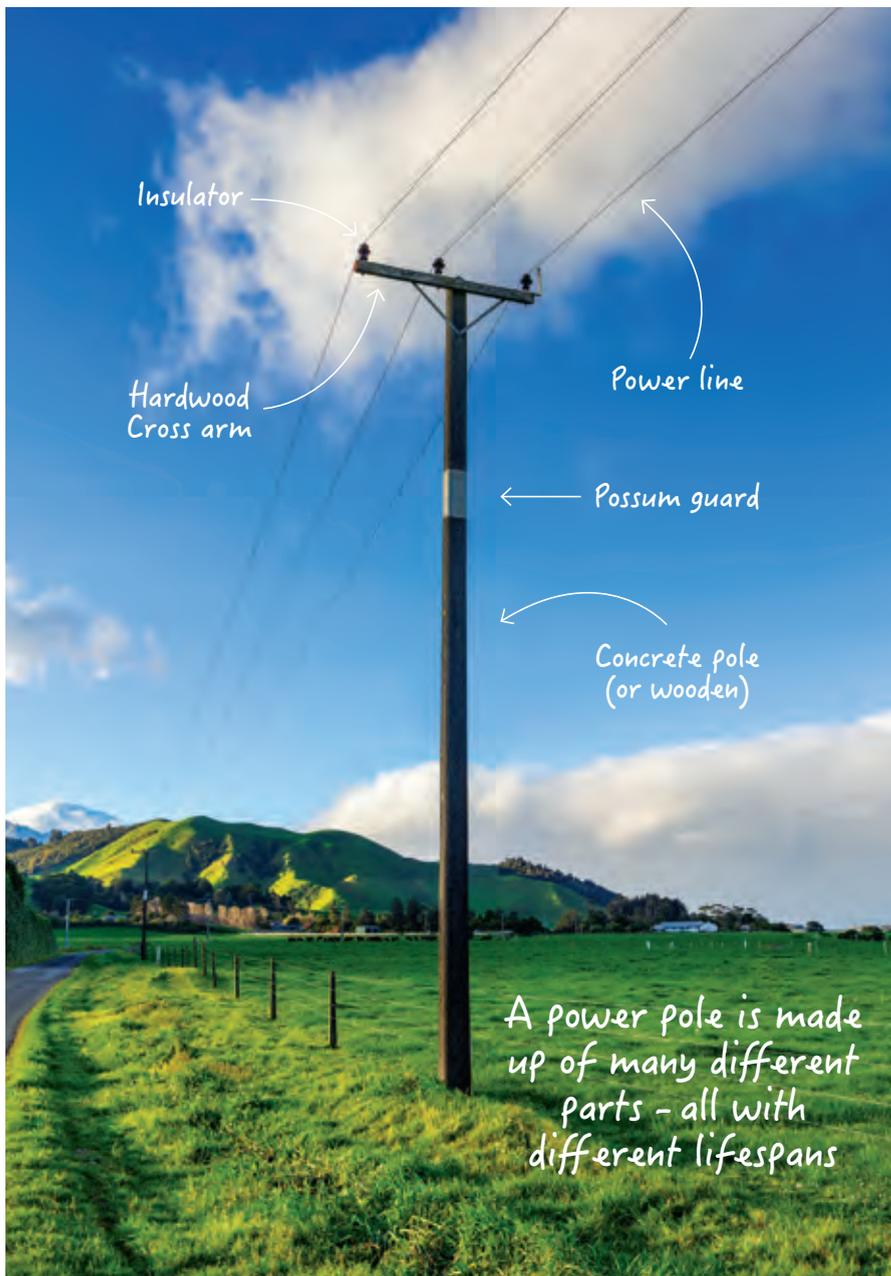
help reduce the risk of power cuts. By better understanding the nature of unexpected power cuts, their causes and how to prevent them, we can more effectively target our resources and expenditures to reduce future disruption to you.

Responding quickly

You have told us unexpected power cuts are more of a concern than power cuts that are planned and notified in advance. Although we can never completely eliminate power cuts, responding quickly is the key to reducing their impact.

Unplanned power cuts occur for a variety of reasons. Some of these are more within our control than others, such as some equipment failures.

Others are beyond our control, such as high winds causing tree branches to tear through our power lines or cars smashing into our power poles.



Occasionally, we also need to cut power to some parts of our network to safely maintain our equipment. Power cuts that are more within our control are easier to prevent and we do everything we reasonably can to reduce them. This involves identifying and replacing equipment that is in poor condition and replacing assets as they reach the end of their life.

In our latest survey, 81% of residential and 87% of business customers told us unexpected power cuts were worse

than the planned power cuts needed for maintenance work. This customer preference is now reflected in the way we manage our assets. We prioritise identifying and replacing equipment in poor condition, and replacing assets as they reach the end of their life – even if this work requires a planned power cut.

Spending money wisely

Our customers recognise the importance of investing in the network to ensure safety and reliability.

You expect us to invest appropriately in our network to keep it reliable and reduce unexpected power cuts. You also expect us to carefully evaluate our

decisions and prioritise our investments to get the 'biggest bang for our buck' – making sure we do the right project, at the right time, for the right price.

Ongoing investment to meet your needs

Generally, you tell us you are happy with the levels of service we provide. Overall, we are meeting our network reliability targets. This then begs the question – if you are happy and problems are not apparent, why do we need to increase the amount of money we spend on our network in the future?

There are three main reasons:

1. Invest to keep our network safe and resilient
2. Invest to ensure our networks are secure and continue to enable economic growth
3. Invest to future proof our network and ensure we understand the impact of new technologies on our business

Expenditure forecasts



How much investment is needed?

The investments we are making are designed to deliver safe, secure and resilient networks. Our analysis shows we will need to continue to lift expenditure to ensure the safety and performance of existing assets and to support growth on our networks as communities grow. We are seeking to meet our customers' requirements at minimum costs. Under-investing or spending merely to minimise initial costs can often be considerably more expensive in the longer term.

Capex

Capex spending comprises the investments required to accommodate renewal of our networks as well as support new growth, new customer connections, network enhancements and new technology. Broadly, we forecast our overall capex spend will increase by about 90% over a five year period, before levelling off for the next five – rising from about \$100 million now to about \$190 million from 2022 onwards.

Opex

Opex is the money spent for the day-to-day running of our network. This includes activities such as maintaining, inspecting, fixing and replacing network equipment

that is broken or worn out. It also includes the likes of vegetation management (trees growing too close to our equipment) as well as all the associated overheads essential for running our business – staff salaries, insurance, accommodation etc.

Our opex costs will naturally rise as a result of managing a higher proportion of assets which are reaching the end of their lives, and as a result of lifting our resource levels to accommodate higher levels of capex.

We expect our opex to increase from \$70 million a year now to about \$90 million by 2021, before dropping back to \$83 million by 2026.

Waikato and Coromandel

The Waikato* area is mostly agricultural, predominantly dairy and forestry. A number of industrial and food processing facilities are also located here and have demonstrated strong growth in recent years.

Growth in the dairy sector and in food processing has been instrumental in driving recent increases in electricity demand and subsequent network developments. They have also fostered general economic growth in the region.

The high rates of growth in the region have created issues with security of electricity supply. Some areas are now vulnerable to failure of key network equipment.

The largest proposed project in this area is the construction of a new substation at Putaruru to improve the security of supply.

There has been strong growth in demand for electricity in the Coromandel area which is expected to continue, especially in popular holiday towns.

Demand for electricity is very 'peaky' (high electricity demand for relatively short periods) because of the large influx of people during holidays.

This puts enormous strain on the network and businesses reliant on income during these periods are understandably sensitive to power supply issues at peak times.

Powerco has invested extensively to support growth on the Coromandel, including the construction of a new power line between Coroglen and Kaimarama in 2011. However, there are still capacity and reliability issues on some parts of the Coromandel network, driven by growth.

During the next 5-7 years Powerco plans to spend about \$170 million on growth and security projects in the Waikato and Coromandel.

As part of the 2018-2023 renewal programme it plans to spend \$90 million which includes the replacement of 100km of overhead line and 2,300 poles.



- Powerco Zone Substation
- New Substation
- Transpower Grid Exit Point
- Powerco High Voltage Network

2016 customer connections = 72,645

*Note: The Powerco network does not include Hamilton which is covered by WEL.

Bay of Plenty

Powerco has invested extensively in the Bay of Plenty region in recent years.

The pace of both residential and industrial commercial growth has been significant and this has put pressure on both the capacity and security of Powerco's networks in the area.

Focused investment in the region is critical to restore appropriate security to parts of the network and to support ongoing growth in the region. District plans predict and allow for continued strong residential growth in the foreseeable future, and this is likely to be matched by commercial growth.

Primary production, particularly horticulture, is also significant for future electricity demand. Around Te Puke there are a large number of kiwifruit orchards, and strong recent growth in the sector is anticipated to continue.

Powerco plans to spend about \$60 million on growth and security projects in this area during the next 5-7 years. As part of the 2018-2023 renewal programme it plans to spend \$100 million including the replacement of 350km of overhead line and 4,700 poles.



2016 customer connections = 81,233

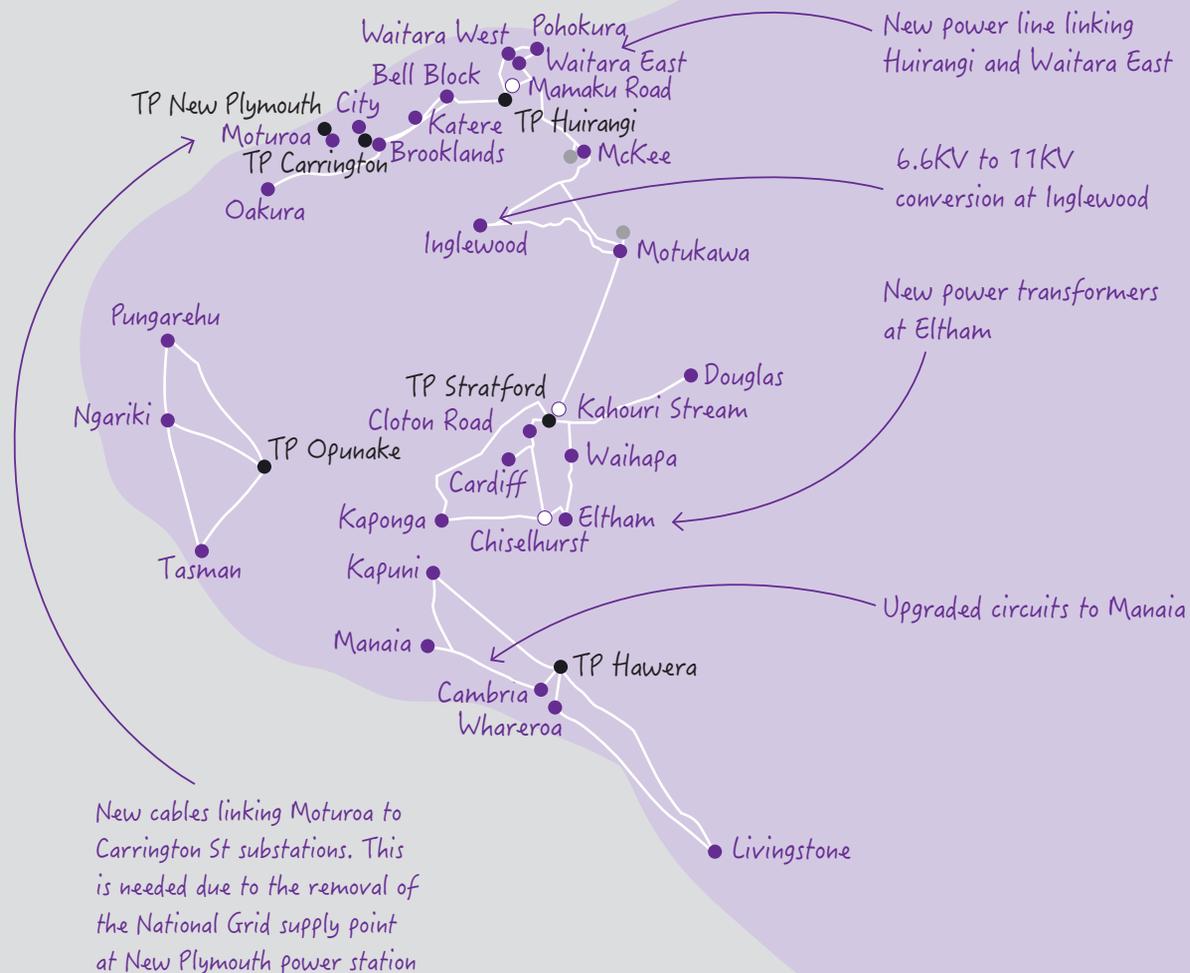
Taranaki

Agriculture dominated by dairy, and oil and gas exploration and production, are the backbone of the Taranaki economy. These industries are highly dependent on a reliable electricity supply.

Forecasts suggest growth in the Taranaki region will be relatively modest in the short to medium term. The oil and gas industry is experiencing difficult economic conditions which are unlikely to change in the immediate future. Offsetting this is steady population growth in the main population centres.

Of more pressing concern in Taranaki is the volume of assets approaching end of life. The region has many rural and remote rural feeders where intervention is appropriate to ensure safety and lift overall performance.

During the next 5-7 years Powerco plans to spend about \$40 million on growth and security projects in this area. As part of the 2018-2023 renewal programme it plans to spend \$120 million, including the replacement of 600km of overhead line and 6,800 poles.



- Powerco Zone Substation
- Powerco Switching Station
- Private Generation
- Transpower Grid Exit Point
- Powerco High Voltage Network

2016 customer connections = 60,458

Whanganui, Rangitikei and Ruapehu*

Agriculture, forestry and fishing are key components of the Whanganui district economy, while in Ruapehu, tourism and primary production keep the district buoyant.

With its proximity to Tongariro National Park, this area is popular for people who enjoy outdoor activities such as skiing. This creates high electricity demand in winter.

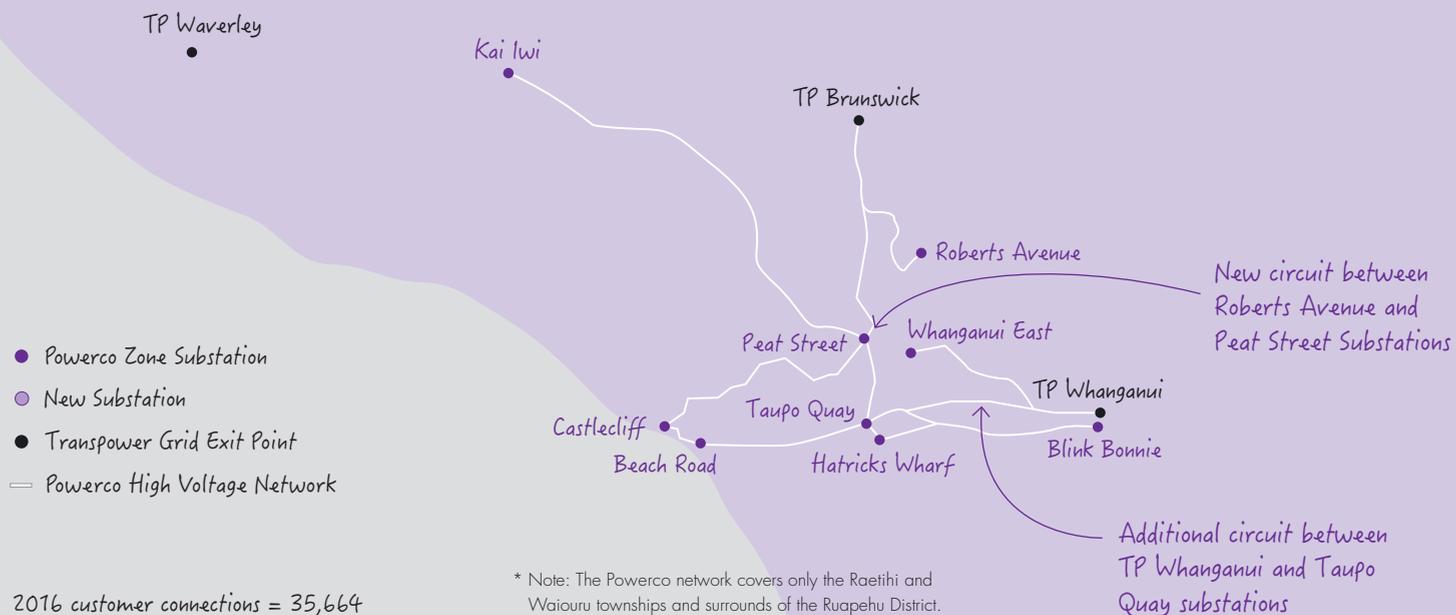
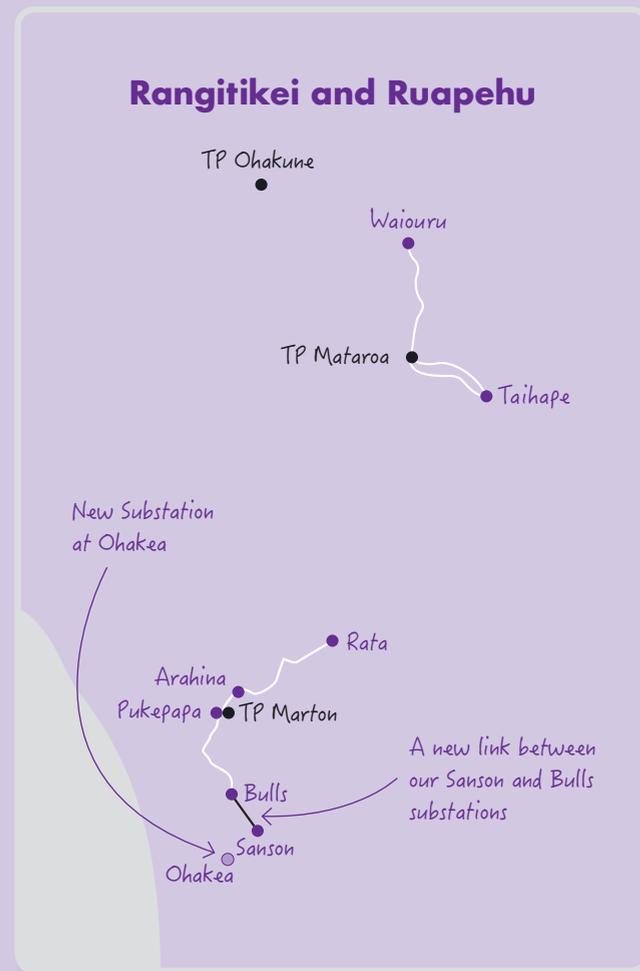
The Whanganui area is exposed to extreme weather from the Tasman Sea. High winds are the main problem, causing trees and debris to fall onto lines, resulting in power cuts.

The Whanganui River is prone to flooding, which can affect the network. The Ruapehu and Rangitikei areas experience heavy rain and snow.

There has been modest growth in electricity demand throughout the Whanganui area in recent years and Powerco expects this trend to hold for the short to medium term.

Of more pressing concern in the Whanganui region is the volume of assets approaching end of life. The region has many rural and remote rural feeders where intervention is appropriate to ensure safety and lift overall performance.

Powerco plans to spend about \$20 million on growth and security projects in this area in the next 5-7 years. As part of the 2018-2023 renewal programme it plans to spend \$80 million including the replacement of 250km of overhead line and 6,300 poles.



- Powerco Zone Substation
- New Substation
- Transpower Grid Exit Point
- Powerco High Voltage Network

2016 customer connections = 35,664

* Note: The Powerco network covers only the Raetihi and Waiouru townships and surrounds of the Ruapehu District.

Manawatu and Tararua

Palmerston North is the economic hub and main population centre of this area. The city has had steady growth throughout the past decade and that is expected to continue.

Historical growth has stretched existing infrastructure to the limit and additional capacity is required to restore appropriate security levels, particularly in the CBD. The region has generation as a focus with two local wind farms feeding into the network.

The area comprises towns such as Feilding, and smaller inland and coastal settlements which are mostly rural. Primary production, such as dairying, is significant to the local economy,

although less so than in other Powerco-supplied areas.

Demand for electricity from rural customers is static, other than in areas where irrigation systems may be developed.

The Manawatu and Tararua areas have high numbers of assets reaching end of life, and focused investment is required to ensure appropriate safety and performance outcomes.

Powerco plans to spend about \$60 million during the next 5-7 years on growth and security projects in this area. As part of the 2018-2023 renewal programme it plans to spend \$90 million including the replacement of 150km of overhead line and 3,100 poles.

Bigger power transformers will be installed at our Feilding substation

Bigger power transformers will be installed at our Sanson substation

Palmerston North CBD reinforcement. Several upgrade projects to improve security

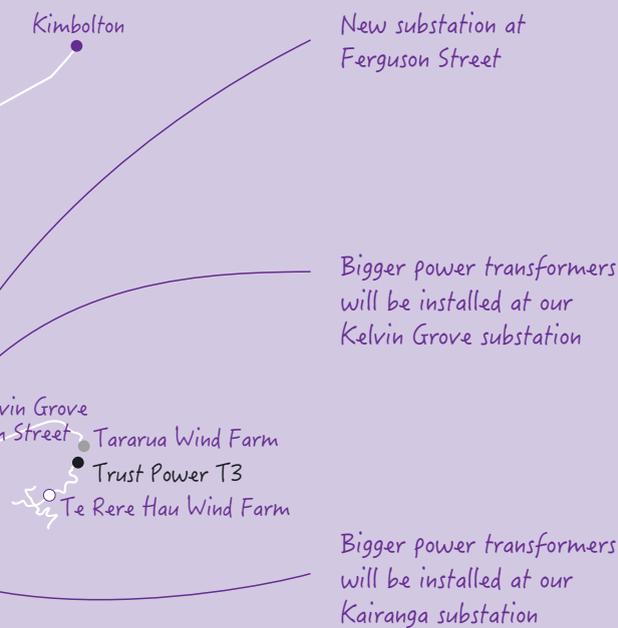
New substation at Ferguson Street

Bigger power transformers will be installed at our Kelvin Grove substation

Bigger power transformers will be installed at our Kairanga substation

- Powerco Zone Substation
- Powerco Switching Station
- New Substation
- Private Generation
- Transpower Grid Exit Point
- Powerco High Voltage Network
- New Line

2016 customer connections = 56,806



Wairarapa

Wairarapa is expected to have modest increases in electricity demand during the next 10 years.

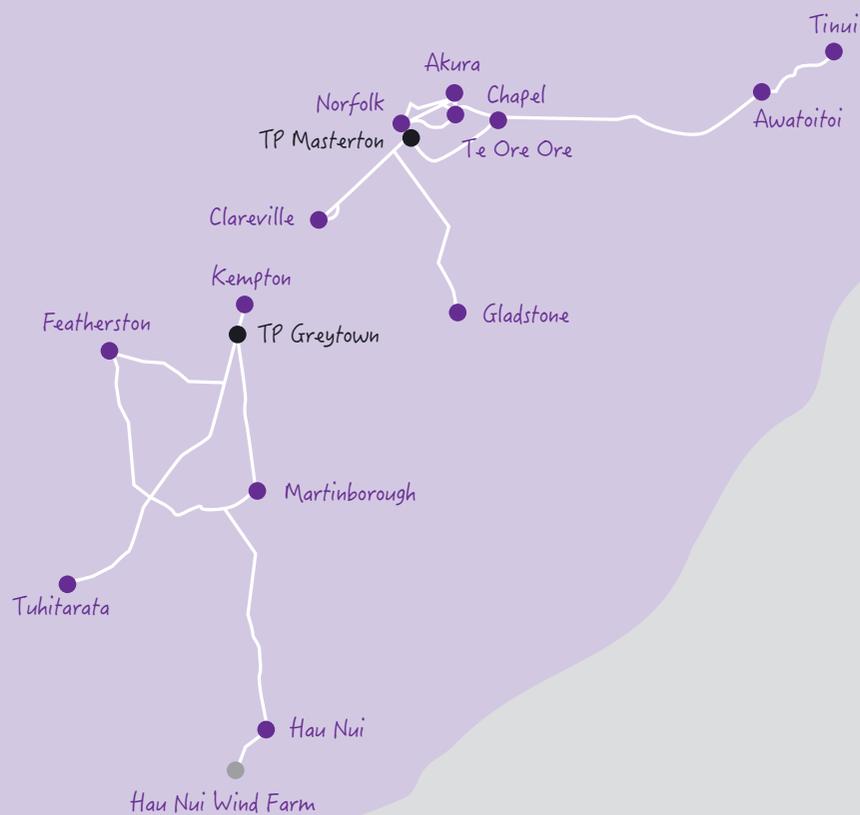
Forestry, cropping, sheep, beef and dairy farming are the mainstays of the economy and deer farming is increasing.

The area around Martinborough is known for its vineyards and wine, as are the outskirts of Masterton and Carterton. Lifestyle sections are becoming popular in the area because of its proximity to Wellington.

The network is in good shape in this area because of previous investment. There are no significant capacity or reliability

concerns and therefore no major projects are planned during the next 10 years. However, a secure and resilient supply of electricity is essential to the region and effective renewal and maintenance programmes are in place to ensure this occurs.

Powerco plans to spend in the region of \$10 million on growth and security projects in this area over the next 5-7 years. As part of the 2018-2023 renewal programme it plans to spend \$60 million including the replacement of 150km of overhead line and 4,300 poles.



- Powerco Zone Substation
- Private Generation
- Transpower Grid Exit Point
- Powerco High Voltage Network

2016 customer connections = 25,327

Feedback questions

In this document we have provided an overview of our proposed investment plan for the next five years. We have explained where we propose to prioritise investment and why we think it is necessary.

Over the coming months our plan will be rigorously tested by our stakeholders, the Commerce Commission and by independent experts. You can be assured that our plan, if approved by the Commission, will have been confirmed as prudent and efficient.

Ensuring safety for Powerco's staff and the general public

We think it is important to maintain the safety of our network and operations at least at current levels. Our proposed investments will ensure we achieve this over the longer term. Do you agree with our approach?

Keeping the lights on and minimising unexpected interruptions

Our plan is to invest now to ensure we can maintain current levels of supply reliability into the future. Do you agree with our approach?

Efficient and timely equipment replacement

We do not believe that equipment needed to provide supply to customers should fail before it is replaced. We should plan replacements before any equipment failures. Do you agree with our approach?

Planning for a network that allows customers to connect when and how they want

Our investments will ensure customers have the flexibility to connect new technology such as solar panels and electric vehicles to the electricity network. Do you agree with our approach?

The accompanying consultation document "Have your Say" provides more detail on our specific plans. It presents a number of price-quality alternatives and provides an opportunity for further customer feedback.

At this stage we would value your feedback on where we have placed our priorities and how we plan to target our investment over the next five years.

Your feedback to the questions below will help us develop our investment plans. It is important you have your say. To provide feedback, fill in the online survey at www.youenergyfuture.co.nz

A secure and resilient supply of electricity that supports regional economic development

We are targeting our network investment over the next five years to ensure we have sufficient capacity to support growth and development across your region. Do you agree with our approach?

Planning for the future

We are proposing a modest investment to test and research emerging technologies. This will help us build a smarter network and continue to support our customers' future energy choices. Do you agree with our approach?

Prudent investment and affordability

We are aware that an increase our investments will result in the network part of your electricity bill increasing by around \$1.00 to \$1.50 a week on average. As well as thoroughly testing our plans ourselves and subjecting them to independent review, we are also looking at ways to smooth any price increases over a five-year period if that is what our customers want. Do you agree with our approach to smooth price increases?



How to provide feedback

You can provide feedback on any issues raised in this document by emailing us on

yourview@powerco.co.nz

or answering our feedback questions

on our website

youenergyfuture.co.nz.

Agenda Memorandum

Date 20 February 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

**Subject: Confirmation of Minutes – 13 December
2016**

Prepared by: M J Nield, Director-Corporate Services

Approved by: B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1820411

Resolve

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 13 December 2016 at 10.30am.

Matters arising

Appendices

Document #1792271 – Minutes Ordinary Meeting Tuesday 13 December 2016

**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the
Taranaki Regional Council, held in the
Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47
Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 13
December 2016 at 10.30am.**



Present	Councillors	D N MacLeod	(Chairperson)
		M J Cloke	
		M G Davey	
		M P Joyce	
		D L Lean	(Deputy Chairperson)
		C L Littlewood	
		M J McDonald	
		D H McIntyre	
		B K Raine	
		N W Walker	
		C S Williamson	
Attending	Messrs	B G Chamberlain	(Chief Executive)
		A D McLay	(Director-Resource Management)
		S R Hall	(Director-Operations)
		M J Nield	(Director-Corporate Services)
		G K Bedford	(Director-Environment Quality)
		S Tamarapa	(Iwi Communications Officer)
		R Ritchie	(Communications Manager)
		Mr P Ledingham	(Communications Officer)
		Mrs K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)
Mrs R Johnson	(Financial Services Manager)		

Apologies There were no apologies.

**Notification of
Late Items**

Yellow Bristle Grass - Mr S Hall, Director-Operations, provided an update to Members on Yellow Bristle Grass in Taranaki and the Council's response to date. It was noted that Yellow Bristle Grass may be included into the forthcoming review of the Council's proposed *Pest Management Plan for Taranaki*.

1. Minutes Ordinary Meeting - 8 November 2016

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 8 November 2016 at 10.30 am.

Lean/McDonald

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Consents and Regulatory Committee Minutes - 22 November 2016

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the minutes of the Consents and Regulatory Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 22 November 2016 at 10.30am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

Davey/Raine

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Policy and Planning Committee Minutes - 24 November 2016

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Thursday 24 November 2016 at 10.30 am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

McIntyre/Walker

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Executive, Audit and Risk Committee Minutes - 5 December 2016

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the minutes of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Monday 5 December 2016 at 10.00am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

Lean/MacLeod

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Joint Committee Minutes

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group meeting held on Tuesday 29 November 2016
2. receives the unconfirmed minutes of the Yarrow Stadium Joint Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2016.

Joyce/Cloke

6. External Appointments to Standing Committees and Joint Committees 2016-2019

- 6.1 Mr M J Nield, Director-Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum to receive and confirm external appointments to the Policy and Planning Committee, Regional Transport Committee, Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (Joint Committee) and the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee (Joint Committee).

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum
2. considers and confirms the appointments of Councillor Richard Jordan (New Plymouth District Council), Councillor Grant Boyde (Stratford District Council), Councillor Phil Nixon (South Taranaki District Council) to the Policy and Planning Committee
3. considers and agrees to the appointment of Councillor Clem Coxhead as an alternate representative to the Policy and Planning Committee on behalf of the South Taranaki District Council
4. considers and confirms the appointments of Councillor Harry Duynhoven and Councillor Shaun Biesiek (alternate) representing the New Plymouth District

Council, Mayor Neil Volzke and Councillor Alan Jamieson (alternate) representing the Stratford District Council, Mayor Ross Dunlop and Councillor Phil Nixon (alternate) representing the South Taranaki District Council and Raewyn Bleakley (Regional Director Central) and Mr Ross I'Anson (Highway Manager Palmerston North – alternate) representing the New Zealand Transport Agency on the Regional Transport Committee

5. notes the appointments to the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, being, Mayor Neil Holdom and Councillor Craig McFarlane (alternate) representing the New Plymouth District Council, Mayor Neil Volzke and Councillor Kelvin Squire (alternate) representing the Stratford District Council and Mayor Ross Dunlop and Councillor Phil Nixon (alternate) representing the South Taranaki District Council
6. notes the election of Councillor Tom Cloke (Taranaki Regional Council) as Chairperson of the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group at their meeting held 29 November 2016
7. notes the appointments to the Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee, being, Councillor Richard Handley and Councillor Murray Chong (alternate) representing the New Plymouth District Council, Councillor Alan Jamieson and Councillor Jono Erwood (alternate) representing the Stratford District Council and Councillor Bryan Roach and Councillor Steffy Mackay (alternate) representing the South Taranaki District Council.

Walker/Cloke

7. Standing Orders

- 7.1 Mr M J Nield, Director-Corporate Services, spoke to the memorandum to receive and consider adopting new Standing Orders for the conduct of council meetings.

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives this memorandum
2. adopts the Local Government New Zealand Regional Council Standing Orders, subject to the following:
 - retain the provision of a casting vote for the Chairperson
 - retain the inclusion of the provisions relating to joining meetings by audio and audio visual links and includes the provision for external parties to join meetings by audio and video links
 - option A will be the default options when speaking and moving motions, unless further direction is provided by the Chairperson at the outset of any meeting, committee meeting or joint committee meeting where standing orders apply
 - without public forums as a matter of course noting that public forums maybe held with the chairperson of the meeting's discretion

- inclusion of the requirement for deputations to be notified in writing to the Chief Executive at least two days prior to the meeting and the discretion to receive a deputation to be retained by the chairperson of the meeting.

Joyce/Lean

8. 2017 Meeting Schedule January-February 2017 Meeting Dates

- 8.1 The full schedule of meeting dates for the year 2017 was received and adopted by Council.
- 8.2 Members discussed and agreed to hold the Council's Consents and Regulatory Committee and Policy and Planning Committee meetings on the same day. The Consents and Regulatory Committee meetings would commence at 9.30am with the Policy and Planning Committee meeting starting at 11.00am on Tuesdays.
- 8.3 Some proposed Ordinary Meetings were changed due to enable as full an attendance as possible.

Resolved

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives and adopts the 2017 Council six-weekly meeting schedule, incorporating amendments, and notes the meetings scheduled for January-February 2017.

MacLeod/Littlewood

9. Public Excluded

In accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1986, resolves that the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 13 December 2016 for the following reason/s:

Item 10 - Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 8 November 2016

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Item 11- Confidential Minutes Executive, Audit and Risk Committee

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Item 12- Confirmation Joint Committee Minutes

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Lean/Cloke

There being no further business, Chairman D N MacLeod, declared the Ordinary Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council closed at 11.50am.

Confirmed

Chairperson: _____
D N MacLeod

Date: **20 February 2017**

Agenda Memorandum

Date 20 February 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

**Subject: Consents and Regulatory Committee
Minutes – 31 January 2017**

Prepared by: G K Bedford, Director-Environment Quality

Approved by: B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1820412

Resolve

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the minutes of the Consents and Regulatory Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 9.30am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

Matters arising

Appendices

Document #1811975 – Minutes Consents and Regulatory Committee Meeting Tuesday 31 January 2017

Minutes of the Consents and Regulatory Committee Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council, held in the Taranaki Regional Council Chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 9.30am.



Members	Councillors	M P Joyce	(Committee Chairperson)	
		M J Cloke		
		M G Davey		
		C L Littlewood		
		M J McDonald		
		B K Raine		
		N W Walker		
		D L Lean	(ex officio)	
		D N MacLeod	(ex officio)	
Attending	Messrs	G K Bedford	(Director-Environment Quality)	
		A D McLay	(Director-Resource Management)	
		M J Nield	(Director-Corporate Services)	
		C H McLellan	(Consents Manager)	
		B E Pope	(Compliance Manager)	
		R Phipps	(Science Manager)	
		S Tamarapa	(Iwi Communications Officer)	
		Mrs	V McKay	(Science Manager)
		Ms	H Meintjes	(Science Manager)
		Mrs	K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)
		Mr	P Ledingham	(Communications Officer)
Mr	R Ritchie	(Communications Manager)		
Mr	B Jansma	(Scientific Officer)		

One Member of the media.

Apologies There were no apologies.

Notification of Late Items There were no late items of general business.

1. Confirmation of Minutes - 22 November 2016

Resolved

THAT the Consents and Regulatory Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Consents and Regulatory Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 22 November 2016 at 10.30am
2. notes that the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 13 December 2016.

Lean/Cloke

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Resource consents issued under delegated authority and applications in progress

- 2.1 The Committee considered and discussed the memorandum advising of consents granted, consents under application and of consent processing actions since the last meeting of the Committee.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the schedule of resource consents granted and other consent processing actions, made under delegated authority

McDonald/Littlewood

3. Consent monitoring annual reports

Councillor M G Davey declared an interest in Item 3 (Consent monitoring annual reports) in relation to Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-op Limited and took no part in the discussions or deliberations.

- 3.1 Mr R Phipps, Science Manager, spoke to the memorandum and answered questions concerning 21 tailored compliance monitoring reports covering the monitoring periods 2014-2016, and provided an overview on environmental performance and consent compliance for each report.
- 3.2 The Committee noted the 2015-2016 Renewable Power Limited Normanby HEP Annual Report and the poor attitude to compliance. Members expressed concern about the Company's performance that had resulted in the high number of abatement and infringement notices issued for the reporting period. The Committee supported the Council taking appropriate enforcement.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the 16-49 Hydro Combined Irrigation Water Compliance Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
2. receives the 16-26 Todd McKee Production Station and Power Plant Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
3. receives the 16-95 DH Lepper Trust Piggery Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
4. receives the 16-19 Greymouth Petroleum Turangi Production Station Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
5. receives the 16-79 Hickman JD Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
6. receives the 16-58 Greymouth Petroleum Limited Deep Well Injection Annual Monitoring Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
7. receives the 16-50 Methanex Motunui and Waitara Valley Combined Annual Monitoring Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
8. receives the 16-12 Lower Waiwhakaiho Air Discharges Compliance Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
9. receives the 16-59 NZEC Petroleum Limited DWI Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
10. receives the 16-67 Malandra Downs Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
11. receives the 16-6 Renewable Power Ltd Normanby HEP Scheme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
12. receives the 16-7 Opunake Power Limited Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
13. receives the 16-23 SENZL Pohokura Production Station Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
14. receives the 16-37 Combined Regional Quarry Monitoring Programme Biennial Report Group B 2014-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
15. receives the 16-60 Origin Energy Resources Ltd DWI Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
16. receives the 16-92 WRS Symes Manawapou Landfarm Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016a and adopts the specific recommendations therein
17. receives the 16-113 Greymouth Petroleum Limited Kaimiro-A HF Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein

Consents and Regulatory Committee Meeting Tuesday 31 January 2017

18. receives the 16-29 STDC Eltham Wastewater Treatment Plant Annual Monitoring Programme 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
19. receives the 16-61 STOS DWI Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
20. receives the 16-86 BTW Company Ltd Oeo Landfarm Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein
21. receives the 16-63 Taranaki Thoroughbred Racing Abstraction Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2015-2016 and adopts the specific recommendations therein.

Raine/Littlewood

4. Incident Register – 1 November 2016 to 12 January 2017

Councillor D N MacLeod declared an interest in Item 4 (Incident Register 1 November 2016 to 12 January 2017) in relation to Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited and took no part in the discussions or deliberations.

- 4.1 The Committee received and noted the summary of the Council's Incident Register for the period 1 November 2016 to 12 January 2017.
- 4.2 Mr B E Pope, Compliance Manager, provided an overview to the Committee on the reported incidents and answered questions concerning officer assessments of the incidents.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum
2. receives the summary of the Incident Register for the period from 1 November 2016 to 12 January 2017, notes the action taken by staff and adopts the recommendations therein.

Cloke/Littlewood

There being no further business, the Committee Chairperson Councillor M P Joyce, declared the Consents and Regulatory Committee meeting closed at 9.55am.

Confirmed

Chairperson

_____ **M P Joyce**

Date

14 March 2017

Agenda Memorandum

Date 20 February 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

**Subject: Policy and Planning Committee Minutes
– 31 January 2017**

Prepared by: A D McLay, Director-Resource Management

Approved by: B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1812098

Resolve

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 11.00am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

Matters arising

Appendices

Document #1812098 – Minutes Policy and Planning Committee Meeting Tuesday 31 January 2017

Minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council, held in the Taranaki Regional Council Chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 11.00 am.



Members	Councillors	N W Walker	(Committee Chairperson)	
		M P Joyce		
		C L Littlewood		
		D H McIntyre		
		B K Raine		
		C S Williamson		
		D L Lean	(ex officio)	
		D N MacLeod	(ex officio)	
Attending	Councillor	G Boyde	(Stratford District Council)	
	Councillor	P Nixon	(South Taranaki District Council)	
Attending	Messrs	A D McLay	(Director-Resource Management)	
		G K Bedford	(Director-Environment Quality)	
		C L Spurdle	(Planning Manager)	
		G C Severinsen	(Planning and Strategy Manager)	
		M J Nield	Director-Corporate Services)	
		S Tamarapa	(Iwi Communications Officer)	
		P Ledingham	(Communications Officer)	
		R Ritchie	(Communications Manager)	
		Mrs	K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)
			N West	(Policy Analyst)
	Mrs	V McKay	(Science Manager)	
	Mr	J Clough	(Wrightson Consulting)	
	Mr	D Sutherland	(Scientific Officer)(Items 1-3)	
	Mr	T Payne	(Investigating Officer)	
Mr	B Pope	(Compliance Manager)		
Mr	R Phipps	(Science Manager)		
Ms	L Harper	(Taranaki Federated Farmers)		
Dr	S Forgie	(Beetle Innovations Limited)		
Mr	B Attrill	(Stratford Demonstration Farm)		
	(Items 1-2)			
	One Member of the Media			
Apologies	The apology from Councillor R Jordan (New Plymouth District Council) was received and sustained.			

Notification of

Late Items

There were no late items of business.

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 24 November 2016

Resolved

THAT the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Thursday 24 November 2016 at 10.30am
2. notes that the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 13 December 2016.

Williamson/McIntyre

Matters Arising

Ministry for the Environment Report – Marine Environment 2016

It was confirmed that the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand had been written to over the nature and tone of the *Our marine environment 2016: Data to 2015* report and Mr G K Bedford, Director-Environment Quality, provided an update to the Committee on the response received.

2. Introducing dung beetles to Taranaki dairy farms

- 2.1 Mr A D McLay, Director-Resource Management, spoke to the memorandum noting limited dung beetle releases have commenced in the Taranaki region.
- 2.2 The Committee received a presentation from Dr Shaun Forgie, Beetle Innovations Limited, about the dung beetle release programme and the environmental benefits of the programme. The involvement of other councils and the form of their programmes was discussed.
- 2.3 The Committee expressed interest in exploring an increased investment in a dung-beetle release programme in Taranaki and requested the officers work with the company to investigate extending the programme, including an assessment of what other councils have done and its outcome.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum on the *Introduction of dung beetles to Taranaki dairy farms*
2. notes this is a collaborative project between the Council, Federated Farmers and the Dairy Demonstration Farms in the region

3. notes the effectiveness of the spread will be monitored and results provided to the Council and community
4. requests the Council work with Beetle Innovations Limited to investigate extending the programme, including an assessment of what other councils have done and its outcome.

Raine/McIntyre

3. Regional freshwater ecological quality: 2015-2016 results from state of the environment monitoring

- 3.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director-Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum updating the Committee on the latest results of the Council's state of the environment monitoring programme for freshwater ecological health (macroinvertebrate monitoring).
- 3.2 Mr Bedford provided a presentation, *Ecological measures of stream health and freshwater quality 1995-2016*, to the Committee, noting that the number of monitoring sites showing either indicative or significant improvement was now at record levels, and the improvements were occurring at the majority of sites, both at sites low in catchments and at mid-catchment altitudes. Current and future management initiatives should see improvements continue.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum noting the preparation of a report into the state of and trends in regional in-stream macroinvertebrate community health data for Taranaki, for 2015-2016 and over the period 1995-2016
2. notes the findings of the SEM programme
3. adopts the specific recommendations therein.

McIntyre/Joyce

4. Interim review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki

- 4.1 Mr C L Spurdle, Planning Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing the Council's draft report *Interim review of the Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 2010 – Evaluation of appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness*.
- 4.2 Members discussed the report and supported the combined plan concept at or about 2020 and acknowledged the policy alignment work progressing towards this objective.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum and attached report *Interim review of the Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 2010 – Evaluation of appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness*
2. agrees to circulate to key stakeholders the attached report for their comment
3. notes that a final report, including the views and responses of stakeholders on the effectiveness and efficiency of the RPS, will be presented for Members' consideration in mid 2017.

Raine/MacLeod

5. Submission on Draft District Plan for New Plymouth

- 5.1 Mr G C Severinsen, Policy and Strategy Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing a submission made on the Draft District Plan for New Plymouth. The submission was sent by the due date of 16 December 2016.
- 5.2 Members discussed the planning process and engagement between the councils.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Submission on Draft District Plan for New Plymouth*
2. endorses the submission.

Joyce/Littlewood

6. Submission on Stratford District Plan Review Issues Paper

- 6.1 Mr G C Severinsen, Policy and Strategy Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing a submission made to the Stratford District Council on their District Plan Review Issues Paper. The submission was sent by the due date in December 2016.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Submission on Stratford District Plan Review Issues Paper*
2. endorses the submission.

McIntyre/MacLeod

7. Submission on Proposed South Taranaki District Council Trade Waste Bylaw 2016

- 7.1 Mr G C Severinsen, Policy and Strategy Manager, spoke to the memorandum introducing a submission made to the South Taranaki District Council on their Proposed Trade Waste Bylaw 2016. The submission was sent by the due date of 20 December 2016.
- 7.2 The Committee noted this was the last district council to have a comprehensive trade waste programme and noted the benefits that had arisen out of such programmes elsewhere in the region.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Submission on South Taranaki District Council Trade Waste Bylaw 2016*
2. endorses the submission.

Nixon/Williamson

There being no further business, the Committee Chairperson Councillor N W Walker, declared the Policy and Planning Committee meeting closed at 12.45pm.

Confirmed

Chairperson _____
N W Walker

Date 14 March 2017

Agenda Memorandum

Date 20 February 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

**Subject: Executive, Audit and Risk Committee
Minutes – 13 February 2017**

Prepared by: M J Nield, Director-Corporate Services

Approved by: B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1820419

Resolve

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the minutes of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Monday 13 February 2017 at 10.00am
2. adopts the recommendations therein.

Matters arising

Appendices

Document #1819138 – Minutes Executive, Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Monday 13 February 2017

Minutes of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council, held in the Taranaki Regional Council Chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Monday 13 February 2017 at 10.00am.



Members	Councillors	D L Lean	(Committee Chairperson)
		M P Joyce	
		D N MacLeod	(attendance via audio-visual link)
		N W Walker	
		C S Williamson	
Attending	Messrs	B G Chamberlain	(Chief Executive)
	Mrs	R Johnson	(Financial Services Manager)
	Mr	C B Clarke	(Transport Services Manager)
	Mrs	T Monk	(Business Analyst)
	Mrs	K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)
	Mr	P Ledingham	(Communications Officer)
	Mr	A Bunn	(Information Technology Officer)
Apologies		The apology from Councillor M J Cloke was received and sustained.	
Notification of Late Items		There were no late items of business.	

1. Minutes Executive Committee meeting - 5 December 2016

Resolved

THAT the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Monday 5 December 2016 at 10.00am
2. notes the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 13 December 2016.

MacLeod/Williamson

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Financial and Operational Report

- 2.1 The memorandum to receive information on the operational and financial performance of the Council (Monthly Financial Reports for November and December) was noted and discussed by the Committee.
- 2.2 Operationally, all programmes are currently on target with the planned levels of activity established for 2016/2017 in the *2016/2017 Annual Plan*.
- 2.3 The Committee noted and discussed the *Health and Safety Report February 2017*. Members congratulated the Council maintaining tertiary level against the ACC Workplace Safety Management Practice audit standards in January 2017. It was noted that the Council is currently advertising for a Health and Safety Advisory to lead the Council's health and safety initiatives.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum and the Monthly Financial Reports for November and December 2016
2. notes the Regional Integrated Ticketing Project/Transport update
3. notes the digital media report
4. notes the Health and Safety report.

Joyce/Williamson

3. Quarterly Operational Report – September 2016

- 3.1 The Council's Quarterly Operational Report for the quarter ended 31 December 2016 was received and discussed by the Committee.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives and adopts the Quarterly Operational Report for the quarter ended 31 December 2016.

Lean/MacLeod

4. Capital Estimates for 2017/2018

- 4.1 Mr B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive, spoke to the memorandum introducing the 2017/2018 capital expenditure estimates for consideration by the Committee for inclusion in the Council's *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Statement of Proposal*.
- 4.2 The Committee noted and agreed, that for most categories of capital expenditure, the 2017/2018 estimates are in line with the *2015/2025 Long-Term Plan* budget for 2017/2018 with the following key exceptions:
- proposed Pukeiti Lodge upgrade additional budget
 - proposed predator control budget spend on new traps
 - proposed Opunake flood control scheme
 - provision for extension to biodiversity functionality (field data software) within IRIS and development of a hill country state of the environment monitoring application.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. approves the capital expenditure programme for 2017/2018 for inclusion in the *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Statement of Proposal*.

Williamson/Joyce

5. 2016-2019 Local Governance Statement

- 5.1 Mr B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive, spoke to the memorandum introducing to receive, consider and adopt the Council's *2016-2019 Local Governance Statement* pursuant to section 40 of the *Local Government Act 2002*.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the memorandum and adopts the *2016-2019 Local Governance Statement*.

MacLeod/Joyce

6. Passenger transport operational update for the quarter ending 31 December 2016

- 6.1 Mr C B Clarke, Transport Services Manager, spoke to the memorandum providing the Committee with a report on the Council's public transport services as at 31 December 2016.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives and notes the operational report on public transport services for the quarter ending 31 December 2016.

Walker/Lean

7. Taranaki Stadium Trust: Statement of Intent for the year ending 30 June 2018

- 7.1 Mr B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive, spoke to the memorandum to receive and consider the Taranaki Stadium Trust's statement of intent for the year ending 30 June 2018.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives and considers the Taranaki Stadium Trust's statement of intent for the year ending 30 June 2018

Lean/MacLeod

8. Taranaki Stadium Trust Half Year Report to 31 December 2016

- 8.1 The memorandum to receive and consider the Taranaki Stadium Trust's Half Year Report to 31 December 2016 was noted by the Committee.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. receives the Taranaki Stadium Trust's half year report for the six months ended 31 December 2016.

Walker/Williamson

9. Public Excluded

In accordance with section 48(1) of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*, resolves that the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Monday 13 February 2017 for the following reason/s:

Item 10 - Confidential Minutes Executive Committee - 5 December 2016

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Lean/Williamson

There being no further business, the Chairperson, Councillor D L Lean, declared the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee Meeting closed at 10.35am.

Confirmed

Committee Chairperson: _____
D L Lean

Date: 27 March 2017

Agenda Memorandum

Date 20 February 2017

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**



Subject: 2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal

Approved by: MJ Nield, Director – Corporate Services

BG Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1806675

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to receive, consider and adopt the following documents for public consultation:

- The *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Statement of Proposal*
- The consultation document for the *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Statement of Proposal*
- The 2017/2018 estimates – Appendix 1.

Executive summary

The purpose of this item is to adopt the *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Statement of Proposal* and the associated consultation document for public consultation.

The *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Statement of Proposal* will be subject to a certain amount of additional design work, fine-tuning and editing during the production and printing process.

The consultation document will form the basis of the public consultation process, through the region's free mid-week newspapers.

The *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Statement of Proposal* proposes a business as planned approach in line with the plans for 2017/2018 in the *2015/2025 Long-Term Plan*. Its development followed, and is consistent with, the Council's Annual Plan workshop (December 2016). The *Plan* is significantly as set out for 2017/2018 in the *2015/2025 Long-Term Plan*. There are three areas in which the Council is looking to amend or accelerate existing programmes (predator control, Opunake flood control scheme and the Lodge at Pukeiti). The Council will undertake a consultation exercise that is primarily focused on these three areas.

The key points in the draft *Plan* are:

- A 1% general rates increase against a proposed increase of 0.5% for 2017/2018 in the *2015/2025 Long-Term Plan*

- An extra investment in a trial programme to test large-scale predator suppression and eradication techniques across an entire catchment – the Waiwhakaiho
- A flood control scheme for Opunake in two parts: A rural component to divert floodwaters from the Hihiwera Stream and Alison St channel, and an urban component to upgrade culverts and channels. The urban part will be designed and implemented by the STDC, with the rural component being handled by the Council. The scheme is designed to protect Opunake from a one-in-100-year (1% probability) flooding event. A new targeted rate will be introduced to fund all South Taranaki flood control schemes to bring South Taranaki in alignment with North Taranaki
- An increase in the budget for the construction of a new Lodge at Pukeiti.

The Council's focus on its core business remains unchanged.

The *2017/2018 Annual Plan -Statement of Proposal* reflects the operational and financial forecasts signalled to the regional community over the last few years through a number of long-term planning documents. These plans, strategies and policies include the regional policy statement, four regional plans (air, fresh water, soil and coastal), two biosecurity strategies (pest plants and pest animals), biodiversity operational strategy, regional waste strategy, oil spill response plan, regional transport plan and passenger transport plan, civil defence group plan and asset management plans (river and flood control schemes and regional gardens). That is, there is little in the *Plan* that has not already been through significant public consultative procedures.

The Council is in a strong financial position. The *2017/2018 Annual Plan -Statement of Proposal* provides for the sustainable and prudent financial management of the Council that ensures this strong financial position is maintained. The key risk in achieving the financial performance outlined in the *Plan* is the dividend flow from Port Taranaki Ltd.

The *2017/2018 Annual Plan -Statement of Proposal* includes a balanced budget for 2017/2018 with no requirement to use the Dividend Equalisation Reserve. Overall, general rates will increase by \$75,365. As part of, and not in addition to, the change in general rates the Council is proposing a small increase in the uniform annual general charge from \$52.50 to \$53.00 (GST exclusive).

The region has experienced an increase of \$1.04b in the equalised capital value of the region over the last year. In 2004/2005 each ratepayer paid \$23.89 per \$100,000 of capital value. In 2017/2018 this has decreased to \$15.57 per \$100,000 of capital value.

Targeted rates for Yarrow Stadium are proposed to increase minimally (by \$440) from last year. River control and flood protection targeted rates in North Taranaki are planned to decrease by \$13,747, whilst the new South Taranaki river and flood control targeted rate is \$51,228. Targeted rates for passenger transport services are proposed to increase by \$7,935.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum on the *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Statement of Proposal* and the 2017/2018 estimates
2. notes that the formatting of the *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Statement of Proposal* is still to be totally completed and that there are a number of minor immaterial editorial changes to be made
3. advises the Chief Executive of any proposed amendments to the estimates and/or the *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Statement of Proposal* and instructs the Chief Executive to progress any proposed amendments
4. notes the balanced budget requirement for 2017/2018 has been achieved
5. adopts the 2017/2018 estimates, the *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Consultation Document* and the *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Statement of Proposal*
6. publicly notifies and invites submissions on the draft *2017/2018 Annual Plan – Statement of Proposal* pursuant to the special consultative procedure of the *Local Government Act 2002*
7. notes the timetable for the completion and adoption of the *2017/2018 Annual Plan*.

Background

The Council is required to prepare and adopt an annual plan in each year that it does not prepare and adopt a long-term plan. Section 95 of the *Local Government Act 2002* sets out the requirements for an annual plan. The section states:

95 Annual plan

1. *A local authority must prepare and adopt an annual plan for each financial year.*
2. *Subject to subsection (2A), a local authority must consult in a manner that gives effect to the requirements of section 82 before adopting an annual plan under this section.*
- 2A. *Subsection (2) does not apply if the proposed annual plan does not include significant or material differences from the content of the long-term plan for the financial year to which the proposed annual plan relates.*
3. *An annual plan must be adopted before the commencement of the year to which it relates.*
4. *Despite subsection (1), for the first year to which a long-term plan under section 93 relates, the financial statement and funding impact statement included in that long-term plan in relation to that year must be regarded as the annual plan adopted by the local authority for that year.*
5. *The purpose of an annual plan is to –*
 - (a) *contain the proposed annual budget and funding impact statement for the year to which the annual plan relates; and*
 - (b) *identify any variation from the financial statements and funding impact statement included in the local authority's long-term plan in respect of the year; and*
 - [(c) *provide integrated decision making and co-ordination of the resources of the local authority; and]*

- (d) *contribute to the accountability of the local authority to the community*
- (e) *Repealed.*
- (6) *Each annual plan adopted under this section must –*
 - (a) *be prepared in accordance with the principles and procedures that apply to the preparation of the financial statements and funding impact statement included in the long-term plan; and*
 - (b) *contain appropriate references to the long-term plan in which the local authority's activities for the financial year covered by the annual plan are set out; and*
 - (c) *include the information required by Part 2 of Schedule 10.*
- (6A) *Except where subsection (5) requires otherwise, the local authority must comply with subsection (6) (b) and (c) by means of reference to, rather than duplication of, the long-term plan.]*
- (7) *A local authority must, within 1 month after the adoption of its annual plan, –*
 - (a) *make its annual plan publicly available; and*
 - (b) *send copies of that plan to –*
 - (i) *the Secretary; and*
 - (ii) *the Auditor-General; and*
 - (iii) *the Parliamentary Library.*

Discussion

The *2017/2018 Annual Plan* presents a solid programme to the regional community that is largely business as planned. The *Plan* presents a financially sustainable and prudent approach for 2017/2018. It contains no significant or material changes from the plans established for 2017/2018 in the *2015/2025 Long-Term Plan*.

The *2017/2018 Annual Plan* reflects the operational and financial forecasts signalled to the regional community over the last few years through a number of long-term planning documents. These plans, strategies and policies include the regional policy statement, four regional plans (air, fresh water, soil and coastal), two biosecurity strategies (pest plants and pest animals), biodiversity operational strategy, regional waste strategy, oil spill response plan, regional transport plan and passenger transport plan, civil defence group plan and asset management plans (river and flood control schemes and regional gardens). That is, there is little in the *Plan* that has not already been through significant public consultative procedures.

There are three areas in which the Council is considering amending or accelerating existing programmes. These three areas are the focus of consultation with the community. Specifically, the proposals are:

Predator control

Introduced predators are a major threat to our native plants and wildlife, and to our economic well-being. However, Taranaki is better placed than most regions to investigate opportunities that may lead to a predator free Taranaki by 2050, thanks to strong and enduring partnerships and a track record of innovation and successful results.

The adoption of the national predator-free 2050 goal opens up new opportunities for extra support and funding.

For 2017/2018, the Council is proposing an extra investment in a trial programme to test large-scale predator suppression and eradication techniques across an entire catchment – the Waiwhakaiho, which encompasses alpine rainforest, farmland and built-up urban areas. The area has multiple biodiversity values and many biodiversity protection initiatives currently occurring.

The trial will target possums, mustelids (weasels, ferrets and stoats), feral cats and rats. It will test a range of techniques including one of the new technologies seen as essential to achieving predator-free status – monitoring devices that allow traps to be checked remotely and wirelessly, reducing costs and increasing efficiency.

It will be coordinated under the ‘Wild for Taranaki’ banner, through which the Taranaki Biodiversity Trust channels the efforts of its wide range of member organisations, including the Council. It will also build on the Council’s own long-running Self-Help Possum Control Programme and more recent Urban Possum Control Programme.

The trial will not proceed if external funding partnerships are not successfully negotiated.

What it means for ratepayers

The trial will cost \$1.7m for 2017/2018, of which the Council is proposing to fund capital expenditure of \$700,000. Operationally, the only additional costs that will need to be funded from general funds (general rates and investment funds) are depreciation (\$70,000 pa). The rest of the funding is proposed to come from the Government and, possibly, from philanthropic organisations. The trial will not proceed if external funding partnerships are not successfully negotiated for a significant portion of the project.

Options:

1. Do nothing, that is carry on with the current predator control programmes as outlined in the *2015/2025 Long-Term Plan*.
2. Undertake the proposed trial programme at a capital cost of \$700,000. This is the Council’s preferred option.
3. Undertake an extended trial programme at a higher cost over a wider area.

Opunake flood diversion

Options for controlling floods at Opunake have been investigated since August 2015 when the Hihiwera Stream and a smaller tributary burst their banks and inundated a number of properties.

The Council and the South Taranaki District Council (STDC) have come up with a plan that’s already won support at a community meeting, and detailed survey and design work has been carried out.

It’s in two parts: A rural component to divert floodwaters away from the township, and an urban component to upgrade culverts and channels within the township. The urban part will be designed and implemented by the STDC, with the rural component being handled by the

Council. The scheme is designed to protect Opunake from a one-in-100-year (1% probability) flooding event.

What it means for ratepayers

The rural component will cost an estimated \$600,000. The proposal is that \$257,500 is paid for by the STDC as a capital contribution with the remainder being paid for by a targeted rate over the South Taranaki constituency.

The TRC proposes to wrap the funding of this scheme and its two other South Taranaki flood protection schemes at Waitotara and Okato into one targeted South Taranaki rate of approximately \$51,000 a year. This equates to approximately 58¢ per \$100,000 of the capital value of a property. A South Taranaki property with a \$500,000 capital value will pay approximately \$2.90 for flood protection. This would be in line with how the Council's North Taranaki (Waitara and Waiwhakaiho rivers) flood protection schemes are funded.

Options:

1. Provide one-in-100 year flood protection to the Opunake community. This is the Council's preferred option.
2. Leave the current flood protection standards in place.

The Lodge at Pukeiti

A major redevelopment project at Pukeiti is now entering its final stages, bringing the iconic and unique property into a new phase in the wake of its transfer into public ownership in 2010.

Refurbishment of The Lodge, the 62-year-old building that was the cultural hub for the development of Pukeiti in its early and middle years, was always part of the original plan. Unfortunately, detailed inspection revealed the poorly insulated and damp building to be in poor condition with a number of significant structural issues. Refurbishing it would be both costly and risky.

The Council and the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust have both agreed that a completely new building is a better option. A number of architects were invited to submit design proposals evoking the heritage values of the old building while meeting the current and future needs of Pukeiti's users – the public of Taranaki and their visitors.

The preferred architect is Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner, a local firm with a strong track record. It has prepared a design concept. The old building has been dismantled to allow salvageable material to be stockpiled for the new Lodge, and so that geotechnical analysis of the site can be carried out.

What it means for ratepayers

The total cost estimate for the new Lodge is \$1.2m million. Along with a likely \$100,000 contribution from the Trust, an additional capital budget allocation of \$700,000 would be required. This would be met from accumulated funds, with depreciation the only rating implication in the longer-term. This funding is in-line with all other garden developments at Pukeiti, Tupare and Hollard Gardens.

Options:

1. Increase the budget for the construction of an appropriate Lodge replacement by \$700,000. This is the Council's preferred option.
2. Retain the existing budget allocation and replace the old Lodge with a more modest replacement.
3. Increase the budget further for the construction of a higher specification Lodge.

Performance management framework

The performance measures and targets included in the *2017/2018 Annual Plan* have been updated from the *2015/2025 Long-Term Plan*. Performance measures and targets have been included in each group of activities to measure the levels of service and performance.

2017/2018 Estimates

The total planned expenditure in each group of activities is summarised as follows:

	2017/2018 Estimate \$	2016/2017 Estimate \$	Percentage Change	2017/2018 LTP \$	Percentage Change
Cost of services					
Resource management	\$14,054,616	\$13,364,221	5.2%	\$14,535,236	-3.3%
Biosecurity	\$1,533,164	\$1,839,759	-16.7%	\$1,806,794	-15.1%
Transport	\$4,029,243	\$4,005,988	0.6%	\$4,178,725	-3.6%
Hazard management	\$1,537,247	\$1,252,274	22.8%	\$1,281,276	20.0%
Recreation, culture and heritage	\$3,516,011	\$3,440,463	2.2%	\$3,531,825	-0.4%
Regional representation, advocacy & investment management	\$1,407,534	\$1,459,074	-3.5%	\$1,281,142	9.9%
Total operating expenditure	\$26,077,815	\$25,361,779	2.8%	\$26,614,998	-2.0%

The key changes in expenditure are:

- Resource management: Science services staff are spending more time on state of the environment monitoring than on compliance monitoring – this reflects the clearing of the backlog of compliance monitoring reports. Hydrology staff are spending more time on compliance monitoring activities than state of the environment and civil defence work. Riparian plant supply programmes are budgeted at higher levels than last year. As a cost-recovery exercise, this is cost neutral for the Council. Biodiversity budgets have increased with more time being spent on biodiversity activities by biosecurity staff and a new full-time Wild for Taranaki Co-ordinator position being created.
- Biosecurity: a reduction in expenditure as the maintenance work around the boundary of the National Park in conjunction with the Department of Conservation's pest control programme has been completed. Staff are spending more time on biodiversity programmes thus reducing this budget
- Transport: No significant changes
- Hazard management: After a review of the civil defence emergency management function, the level of resources required has been significantly increased. This increase is funded by the three Taranaki district councils consistent with the additional resources being directed to the fulfilment of district council CDEM responsibilities.. The Council's contribution is largely unchanged. The budget for CDEM is still under discussion with the district council participants, but the net cost to the Council will not change
- Recreation, culture and heritage: Increase largely relates to increased depreciation arising from Pukeiti investments over the last few years

- Regional representation, advocacy and investment management: The reduced budget relates to election expenses.

Total revenue is estimated at \$26,583,066, up from \$25,670,130 in 2016/2017.

	2017/2018	2016/2017	Percentage	2017/2018	Percentage
Income	Estimate \$	Estimate \$	Change	LTP \$	Change
General rates revenue	\$7,611,858	\$7,536,493	1.0%	\$7,574,175	0.5%
Targeted rates revenue	\$1,866,459	\$1,820,603	2.5%	\$1,699,487	9.8%
Direct charges revenue	\$8,048,951	\$7,407,404	8.7%	\$8,728,451	-7.8%
Government grants	\$2,007,987	\$2,405,930	-16.5%	\$1,883,854	6.6%
Dividends	\$5,417,170	\$4,924,700	10.0%	\$5,417,170	0.0%
Other investment income	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000	0.0%	\$1,093,903	-4.0%
Vested assets	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$0	N/A
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of properties	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$0	N/A
Finance income	\$525,000	\$525,000	0.0%	\$585,855	-10.4%
Total income	\$26,527,425	\$25,670,130	3.3%	\$26,982,895	-1.7%

General rates are up 1% against a forecast increase of 0.5% for 2017/2018 in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan. Transport targeted rates are up by \$7,935 over last year. River and flood control targeted rates are \$37,481 higher than last year due to the new South Taranaki targeted rate largely to fund the Opunake Scheme. Yarrow Stadium targeted rates are consistent with last year.

Direct charge revenue is up \$641,547 on last year. Whilst there are a number of ups and downs in the budgets, the two major items are the extra contributions from the Taranaki district councils for civil defence emergency management (\$286,521) and the one-off (\$257,500) contribution from South Taranaki District Council for the Opunake flood control scheme. Dividends from Port Taranaki Ltd are up from \$4.925m to \$5.417m reflecting the performance of the Company and the direction given to the Council in Port Taranaki Ltd's Statement of Corporate Intent. Government grants are down by \$397,943 as the NZTA's contribution to the integrated ticketing project (\$402,000) is not repeated in 2017/2018.

The net cost of service (the amount to be funded from general rates and investment returns) for each group of activities is less than planned for 2017/2018 in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan. The net position in each group of activities is summarised as follows:

	2017/2018	2016/2017	Percentage	2017/2018	Percentage
Net cost of services	Estimate \$	Estimate \$	Change	LTP \$	Change
Resource management	\$8,070,728	\$7,455,531	8.3%	\$7,568,467	6.6%
Biosecurity	\$1,526,664	\$1,361,259	12.2%	\$1,796,678	-15.0%
Transport	\$278,986	\$280,156	-0.4%	\$330,235	-15.5%
Hazard management	\$284,684	\$549,137	-48.2%	\$648,131	-56.1%
Recreation, culture and heritage	\$3,056,117	\$2,995,009	2.0%	\$3,116,358	-1.9%
Regional representation, advocacy & investment management	\$1,404,534	\$1,454,074	-3.4%	\$1,274,142	10.2%
Total net cost of services	\$14,621,713	\$14,095,166	3.7%	\$14,734,011	-0.8%

Overall, the Council's financial position is sound and the estimates and the 2017/2018 Annual Plan continue that situation.

The Council is required to operate a balanced budget. The estimates as they stand equate to a balanced budget.

To date the Council has used its dividend equalisation reserve to accumulate dividends received over and above projected levels and to use those funds in years where dividends received are below projected levels. With a balanced budget forecast for 2017/2018, there is no need to transfer funds from the Dividend Equalisation Reserve.

The region has experienced an increase of \$1.04b in the equalised capital value of the region over the last year. In 2004/2005 each ratepayer paid \$23.89 per \$100,000 of capital value. In 2017/2018 this has decreased to \$15.57 per \$100,000 of capital value.

Overall general rates will increase by \$75,365 (1%). As part of, and not in addition to, the change in general rates the Council is proposing a small increase in the uniform annual general charge from \$52.50 to \$53.00 (GST exclusive).

Differences in valuation dates across the region and the effect of the UAGC make the calculation of the effect of rates increases on different groups of ratepayers variable. Specific rates for any property can be calculated using the table in the *Funding Impact Statement* within the *2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal*.

The estimates are attached to this memorandum (Appendix 1). When considering the estimates, it should be noted that a deficit (excess of expenditure over income) is funded by a combination of general rates and investment income. The changes proposed in the 2017/2018 estimates are summarised in each section.

Schedules of charges

The annual review of charges has been completed. The effect of increasing costs has necessitated an increase in the charge-out rates for staff. These increased charge-out rates effect the cost incurred for work such as resource consent applications and compliance monitoring charges. The charge-out rates are calculated using the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ) methodology with a multiplier of 2.1. The new rates are:

	Rate for processing resource consents and responding to pollution incidents.	Rate for all other Council work.
Professional staff	\$90/hr	\$85/hr
Professional/supervisory staff	\$114/hr	\$106/hr
Managers	\$165/hr	\$154/hr
Support staff	\$90/hr	\$85/hr
Directors	\$275/hr	\$255/hr

Fixed minimum charges for the processing of resource consents and the monitoring of compliance with resource consent conditions have changed in accordance with the new rates.

For the individual tailored compliance monitoring programmes, each programme has been reviewed and alterations (up and down) made. Each programme has been discussed with the resource consent holder.

Timetable

The following timetable is envisaged to complete the adoption of the *2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal*:

20 February 2017 – Ordinary Meeting

Adoption of the 2017/2018 estimates
Adoption of the draft *2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal*
Adoption of the Consultation Document.

February/March 2017

Amendment of the estimates and the Consultation Document and *2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal* for decisions made as a result of the 20 February 2017 Ordinary Meeting. Finalisation of the Consultation Document and *2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal*. Preparation and printing of the Consultation Document and *2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal*.

Saturday 11 March 2017

Public notification of the availability of the Consultation Document and *2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal* for public submissions.

Monday 13 March 2017

Consultation Document and *2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal* released for public consultation and submissions.

Thursday 13 April 2017

Public submissions on the Consultation Document and *2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal* close.

Monday 8 May 2017 – Ordinary Meeting (following Executive Committee Meeting)

Submissions on the Consultation Document and *2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal* heard and considered. *2017/2018 Annual Plan* adopted.

Tuesday 16 May 2017 – Ordinary Meeting

2017/2018 Rates set.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Biosecurity Act 1993*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

[Document 1757088: 2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal](#)

Document 1799922: Consultation Document for the 2017/2018 Annual Plan-Statement of Proposal

See final page of this agenda document for link to the full Draft Annual Plan.

Appendix 1: Expanding Predator Control Implementation – Proposed 2017 Waiwhakaiho trial

Purpose

To provide further detail on how predator control could be incorporated into existing pest control programmes by taking advantage of new government funding (plus other external funding sources) to top up any new Council commitment.

Executive summary

Council's existing programmes provide the opportunity for Taranaki to lead the development of predator control techniques towards a predator free New Zealand. Large scale multi species predator control operations across intensively farmed landscapes have never been undertaken and will require the trialling of new methodologies and technology to ensure long term cost effective maintenance is achievable.

A trial area focusing on the Waiwhakaiho catchment and in later stages the Egmont National Park surrounds is proposed to test and monitor the inclusion of mustelids and feral cats across existing possum control programmes and the targeting of rodents in areas within the project with high biodiversity values. Success of the trial will result in, greater community support for biodiversity protection, the creation of bird safe corridors with increased survival of resident native birds including Whio, Tui, Bell bird and Kereru. The proposed trial will require ongoing maintenance by involved landowners who will be visited individually to seek a commitment to continued maintenance.

Undertaking this trial will be a significant boost to the Taranaki Biodiversity Trust's proposed Restoring Taranaki project allowing the Trust to focus on other areas. It is proposed to coordinate with the Trust to utilise the 'Wild for Taranaki' banner to aid community engagement.

For the first year of this proposal, a total budget of \$1.7m is estimated with a proposed TRC budget contribution of \$700,000 capex and associated opex costs(depreciation) of \$70,000. The remainder of the budget would be sought from non Council sources and the project would only proceed subject to the Council being satisfied with the level of external funding support negotiated.

Background

Members will recall discussions at the Council workshop on 13 December 2016 regarding new opportunities brought about in part, by Government's announcement of Predator Free New Zealand 2050 and associated funds. While many groups will target this new funding it is believed that the success of the current self help and urban possum control programmes, provide excellent foundation infrastructure to incorporate suppression of key predators to very low levels. In short, Taranaki is very well placed to provide a vey credible partnering proposition to the Government.

The self-help programme (SHP) has been successfully maintaining possum numbers at low levels across the Taranaki ring plain for 25 years. The long standing, ongoing relationships and infrastructure of this programme will be invaluable in any roll out of predator control across this landscape.

The Taranaki biodiversity community has demonstrated through Wild for Taranaki's ambitious 'Restoring Taranaki' project that they are committed to building on the Region's current successful programmes including the suppression of pests to very low levels until eradication is possible. The proposed Restoring Taranaki project would target landscape scale control of Possums, Mustelids (Ferrets, Stoats and Weasels) Rats (Ship and Norway), Hedgehogs and Feral cats.

Integrating predator control, targeting mustelids and feral cats into Council's successful self help possum control programmes could provide a platform for delivering increased economic and environmental outcomes to land owners. This coupled with targeted rodent control providing intensive protection of high biodiversity value sites through the Key Native Ecosystem(KNE) programme, would provide significant long term biodiversity recovery and primary production benefits across the region.

It should be noted that predator control across intensively farmed landscapes at this scale has never been attempted. While there are some learnings available from a Hawkes Bay pilot programme to inform both control and monitoring requirements and Council will also seek advice from experts in predator control, regarding efficiency of trapping network layouts, the proposal is none-the-less innovative with attendant risks and opportunities

Being first with this type of programme brings real risks of unintended outcomes, including the risk that removal of cats and mustelids may have a negative impact by increasing rodent numbers and therefore bird predation. Likewise removal of rodents might see an increase in the breeding success of introduced bird species and pest plants. It will be important that robust baseline monitoring be undertaken that enables the detection and reporting of both positive and negative potential outcomes.

Expected outcomes of this programme include,

- The protection of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats for native species;
- The creation of safe bird corridors from mountain to sea;
- Increased survival of native bird species including Whio, Tui, Bell bird and Kereru, all known to be resident in the first operational area;
- Protection of Kiwi populations within Egmont National Park (ENP) should they venture out into farmland;
- Further reduction of risk that any new TB outbreak could be picked up and transferred by ferrets;
- Greater community support/ involvement in biodiversity protection through pest control.

Proposal

It is proposed to undertake a trial programme to test large scale predator suppression and eradication techniques across an entire catchment – the Waiwhakaiho, this builds on the new Taranaki Mouna project linking intensive control operations from alpine rainforest, farmland and built up urban areas (see map attached).

As with the self-help programme, it is proposed that initial control infrastructure would be funded by Council, with landowners agreeing to take on the responsibility of ongoing

maintenance. Involved landowners will receive individual visits to explain the programme and seek agreement to undertake ongoing maintenance. Again as with possums, it is proposed that once 75% of the landowners within the Self Help area agree, then the remainder would automatically be joined.

As discussed, control at this scale across intensively farmed and urban environments is new. The trial area will test adapted forest methodologies and new technologies with the aim of significantly reducing ongoing maintenance costs. New monitoring programmes will be required to confirm the success of control and measure the project outcomes.

Within the urban programme, it is proposed to work with the New Plymouth District Council to increase current control within reserves and along walkways. Householders within the current possum programme will be offered rat traps or stations and additional households will be targeted to intensify the layout. With the help of social scientists we will look to build on the good work of successful community projects such as Project Hotspot to improve community involvement in pest control. Involvement of urban communities will provide opportunities to test engagement strategies to inform future roll out of similar programmes.

Proposed Rollout

The proposed roll out of the trial has been workshopped with key environmental leaders through a Wild for Taranaki working group. The proposed year one area aims to engage, grow and involve as many Wild for Taranaki member projects as possible, the Waiwhakaiho catchment currently has 16 Wild for Taranaki Member projects within it. The area will build on Taranaki Mouna Project within ENP and provide a project with links to New Plymouth city that will be vital for testing and perfecting engagement strategies with the main Taranaki populous. The area also has known and adjacent populations of Whio and Kiwi. Discussions also suggest very strong Iwi support for this area given the spiritual significance of the Waiwhakaiho to Maori/Iwi.

Years two and three are aimed substantially at protecting ENP from pest re-infestation giving planned native bird reintroductions the best chance at survival. Successful roll out around the ring plain will draw a predator free line that can be further expanded to build towards a possible predator free Taranaki.

Year one

Would focus on the following areas:

1. Gathering baseline information on predator movements across rural landscapes.
2. Initiating monitoring programmes to measure outcomes over time, this will add to and compliment existing state of the environment monitoring programmes.
3. With experts, developing social marketing and education programmes that inform and encourage mustelid and rodent control within the urban programme. The aim will be to increase both individual involvement and membership of local conservation groups.
4. The layout of mustelid and cat control infrastructure across rural self help areas. This will include the use of remote trap checking systems to test efficiency for ongoing control.

5. Intensifying the effort within New Plymouth city aiming at a control device on one in five properties and every 50 meters within reserves and walkways.
6. Undertaking targeted rodent control on areas with high biodiversity values through the KNE programme.

Year two (To be included in later LTP discussion)

Would focus on the following areas:

1. Continue and refine monitoring programmes. It is not expected that any significant outcomes will be detected following year one, however we will continue to collect key data.
2. Continue to support and encourage ongoing landowner maintenance of both urban and rural areas.
3. Review and amend year one programmes and,
4. If appropriate extend the layout of mustelid and cats control infrastructure around ENP (see map) this will further protect the work being undertaken on the mountain protecting it as a mainland island.
5. Undertake targeted rodent control on areas with high biodiversity values through the KNE programme.

Year three

During year three it is programmed that the next ENP 1080 operation is to take place, we would look to:

1. Include the control of rodents into the normal possum control contracts, subject to appropriate rural landscape rodent control techniques being available.
2. Continue monitoring programmes
3. Continue to support and encourage ongoing landowner maintenance of both urban and rural areas.
4. Review and amend year two programmes and,
5. If appropriate extend the layout of mustelid and cats control infrastructure
6. Undertake targeted rodent control on areas with high biodiversity values through the KNE programme.

Cost Estimates

Officers have undertaken a best estimate of the proposed operation, that allows for the design and layout of monitoring and infrastructure using a mix of wireless monitoring systems and traditional methods, the completion of year one will enable more accurate costings to be determined. For ease of costing year one to three areas align with current possum control operations. This may change slightly once detailed planning is completed.

Year	hectares	Control cost
1	18,500	\$1,700,000
2	20,000	\$1,840,000

3	17,500	\$1,600,000
After 3yrs	56,000	\$5,140,000

External funding opportunities

Through Predator Free 2050 Government has allocated \$26 million for this type of project based on funding one dollar for every two raised from other sources. If successful in accessing these funds, Council's contribution plus any other partner funds raised will receive this 1 for 2 boost. It is hoped that Council can work with Wild for Taranaki to secure funding over and above our own commitment. If funding partners cannot be negotiated to the Council's satisfaction then it is proposed to not proceed with the project. Noting that Predator Free 2050 is still very much in its formative stages and the other potential significant funding partners will also take time to think carefully about this new type of opportunity being offered in Taranaki. Accordingly, the Council will need to be somewhat flexible in developing effective working arrangements.

Maintaining the investment regardless of final operation size

There are many unknowns with this operation, however a key part of the trial will be the design and refinement of community engagement programmes that will be transferable for future programmes. Officers have been conscious to ensure they designed the growth of the programme so that, should control systems and technologies not develop quickly enough to complete the whole ring plain as planned, that completed operations will provide lasting results. Success in year one and two in particular should result in a significant increase in native bird survival and will provide a halo of protection to Project Taranaki Mounga's work. This work in conjunction with three yearly treatment of ENP will greatly increase the rest of the self-help programme from re-infestation of pests from the national park.

Restoring Taranaki

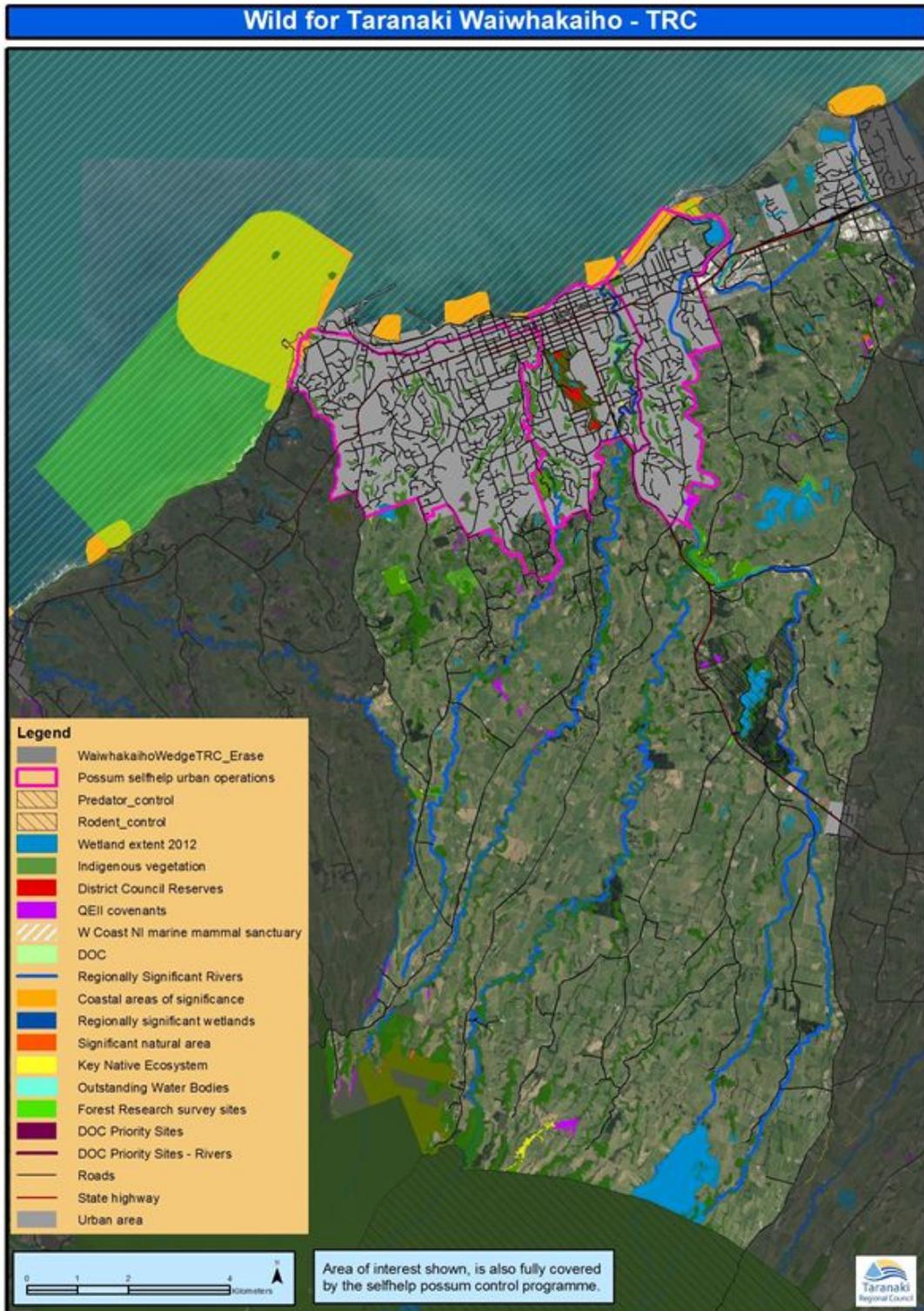
WfT's proposed programme 'Restoring Taranaki' is looking to connect member programmes until the region is fully covered by sustained pest control. Restoring Taranaki is at an early planning stage and has also identified the need to build from mountain to sea and engage with the community. The addition of predator control into existing programmes essentially has Council as a WfT member adding more to Restoring Taranaki. While this would be a Council led project "Wild for Taranaki" is seen as the ideal brand to assist with community engagement. It will therefore be vital that the WfT board are fully consulted with and assist with early planning of this programme. The inclusion of predator control with Council programmes will enable WfT to focus on obtaining funding and support to connect other member projects.

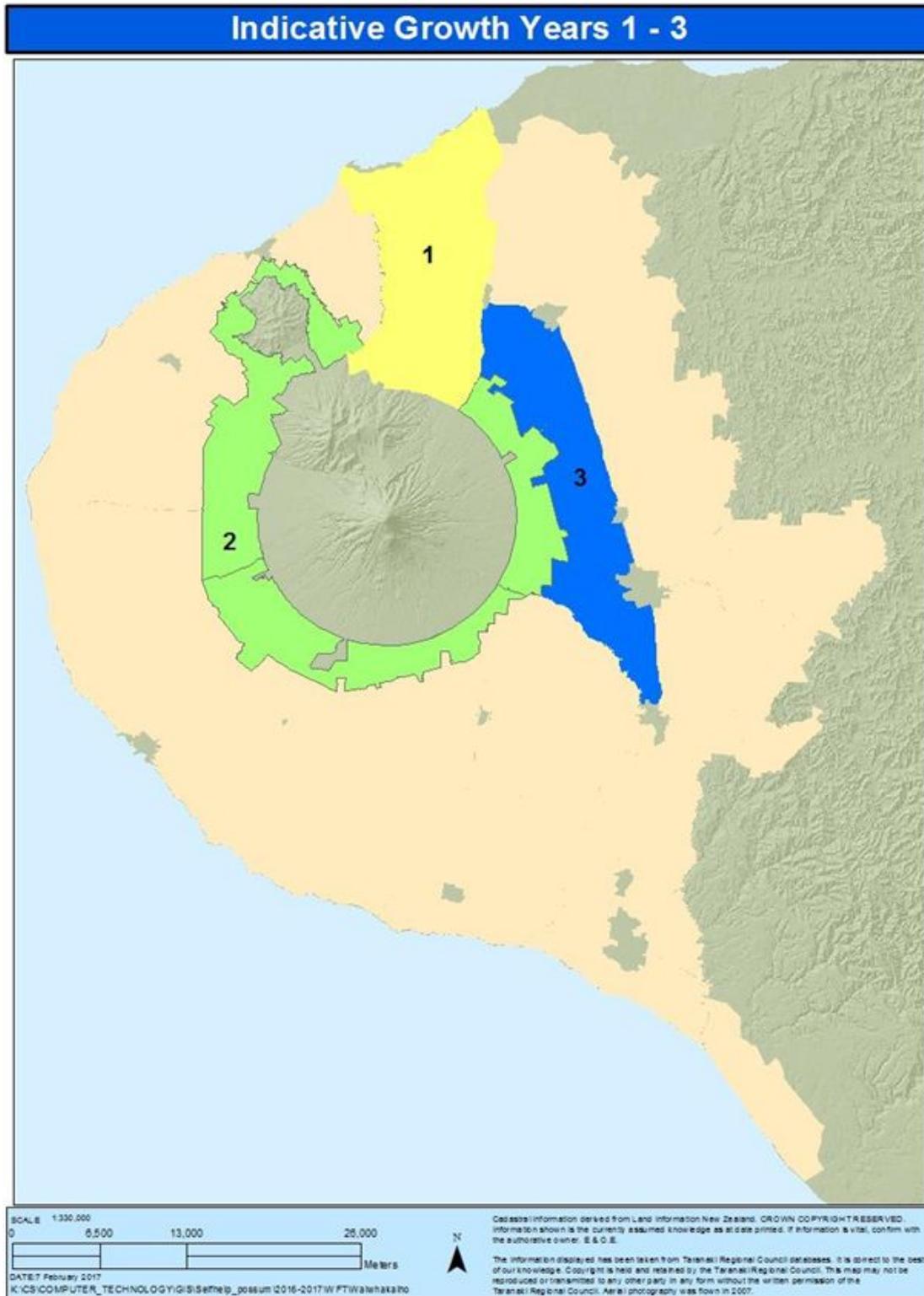
Risks to success

The proposed project will test new systems and ideas that will have varying risks to operational success, it will:

- Require successful community engagement from both the rural and urban communities. Long-term, sustained control will need to find community action triggers to both initiate and maintain effective engagement/ involvement.

- Utilise test new control technologies including but not limited to wireless trap checking systems that are not fully tested across such a large landscape. These tools will be required to ensure cost effective maintenance is achievable.
- Require significant external monies over the initial three years and if successful up to ten years. Failure to secure additional funds would delay any operational roll out.
- Likely cause unintended outcomes such as prey swapping and increased survival of introduced bird and pest plant species. Monitoring and contingency funding will be required to remedy any preserve outcome of the operation.





Appendix 2:

This Appendix provides a summarised version of the departmental budgets. These budgets have been subject to rigorous management review and are fundamentally the same estimates as considered in the Annual Plan workshop. Explanations of the major variances are provided. These cost centre estimates are allocated into the activities found in the Plan.

10 01 00 Policy and planning

	2017/2018 Estimate \$3,000	2016/2017 Estimate \$3,000	\$ Change \$0	% change 0.0%
Revenue				
Total Revenue	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	0.0%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$555,671	\$601,515	-\$45,844	-7.6%
Vehicles	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$83,119	\$83,234	-\$115	-0.1%
Total Expenditure	\$648,790	\$694,749	-\$45,959	-6.6%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$645,790	\$691,749	-\$45,959	-6.6%

The amount of staffing resource as been reduced to reflect workloads and the changes to policy provision for civil defence emergency management.

10 02 00 Resource consents

	2017/2018 Estimate \$753,917	2016/2017 Estimate \$856,801	\$ Change -\$102,884	% change -12.0%
Revenue				
Total Revenue	\$753,917	\$856,801	-\$102,884	-12.0%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$444,923	\$438,944	\$5,979	1.4%
Vehicles	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$35,700	\$35,700	\$0	0.0%
Total Expenditure	\$490,623	\$484,644	\$5,979	1.2%
Deficit/(Surplus)	-\$263,294	-\$372,157	\$108,863	-29.3%

Revenue is down reflecting levels of economic activity.

10 03 00 Inspectorate

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$1,174,500	\$1,082,900	\$91,600	8.5%
Total Revenue	\$1,174,500	\$1,082,900	\$91,600	8.5%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$886,530	\$874,601	\$11,929	1.4%
Vehicles	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$155,502	\$154,855	\$647	0.4%
Total Expenditure	\$1,097,032	\$1,084,456	\$12,576	1.2%
Deficit/(Surplus)	-\$77,468	\$1,556	-\$79,024	-5078.7%

No significant changes – revenue reflects recent levels of activity.

10 05 00 Navigation safety

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Operations	\$33,500	\$33,500	\$0	0.0%
Total Expenditure	\$33,500	\$33,500	\$0	0.0%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$33,500	\$33,500	\$0	0.0%

No significant changes.

20 03 00 Emergency management

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$678,703	\$392,764	\$285,939	72.8%
Total Revenue	\$678,703	\$392,764	\$285,939	72.8%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$498,494	\$335,108	\$163,386	48.8%
Vehicles	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	100.0%
Operations	\$173,590	\$141,591	\$31,999	22.6%
Total Expenditure	\$684,084	\$482,699	\$201,385	41.7%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$5,381	\$89,935	-\$84,554	-94.0%

Additional staffing capacity and support structures to reflect increased delivery of district council services – funded by increased district council contributions. The Council’s contribution is slightly reduced from last year. The budget for CDEM is still under discussion with the district council participants, but the net cost to the Council will not change.

20 04 00 Science Services Physical/Chemistry

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.0%
Total Revenue	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.0%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$900,618	\$869,144	\$31,474	3.6%
Vehicles	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$109,144	\$112,807	-\$3,663	-3.2%
Total Expenditure	\$1,029,762	\$1,001,951	\$27,811	2.8%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$1,024,762	\$996,951	\$27,811	2.8%

No significant changes.

20 05 00 Science Services Hydrology/Biology

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	0.0%
Total Revenue	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	0.0%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$940,944	\$917,779	\$23,165	2.5%
Vehicles	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$202,780	\$185,182	\$17,598	9.5%
Total Expenditure	\$1,163,724	\$1,122,961	\$40,763	3.6%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$1,156,724	\$1,115,961	\$40,763	3.7%

No significant changes. Some minor increases in equipment maintenance and servicing budgets.

20 06 01 Science Services Business Support

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$2,040,000	\$2,000,000	\$40,000	2.0%
Total Revenue	\$2,040,000	\$2,000,000	\$40,000	2.0%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$164,095	\$162,200	\$1,895	1.2%
Vehicles	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.0%
Total Expenditure	\$177,095	\$175,200	\$1,895	1.1%
Deficit/(Surplus)	-\$1,862,905	-\$1,824,800	-\$38,105	2.1%

No significant changes.

20 06 02 Science Services Laboratory Services

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$441,718	\$425,336	\$16,382	3.9%
Vehicles	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$76,172	\$74,906	\$1,266	1.7%
Total Expenditure	\$520,390	\$502,742	\$17,648	3.5%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$520,390	\$502,742	\$17,648	3.5%

No significant changes.

20 06 03 Waste minimisation

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$95,783	\$96,989	-\$1,206	-1.2%
Total Revenue	\$95,783	\$96,989	-\$1,206	-1.2%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$78,804	\$82,925	-\$4,121	-5.0%
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Operations	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$0	0.0%
Total Expenditure	\$84,304	\$88,425	-\$4,121	-4.7%
Deficit/(Surplus)	-\$11,479	-\$8,564	-\$2,915	34.0%

No significant changes.

20 07 00 Resource investigations

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	0.0%
Total Revenue	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	0.0%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Operations	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0	0.0%
Total Expenditure	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0	0.0%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$0	0.0%

No changes.

30 01 01 Land management

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$83,000	\$112,000	-\$29,000	-25.9%
Total Revenue	\$83,000	\$112,000	-\$29,000	-25.9%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$997,595	\$970,752	\$26,843	2.8%
Vehicles	\$79,000	\$79,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$255,012	\$261,799	-\$6,787	-2.6%
Total Expenditure	\$1,331,607	\$1,311,551	\$20,056	1.5%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$1,248,607	\$1,199,551	\$49,056	4.1%

Drop off in income and expenditure expected from activities associated with resource consent conditions. No other significant changes.

30 01 02 Riparian plant supply

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$1,406,222	\$1,305,000	\$101,222	7.8%
Total Revenue	\$1,406,222	\$1,305,000	\$101,222	7.8%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$64,222	\$82,327	-\$18,105	-22.0%
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Operations	\$1,242,000	\$1,129,000	\$113,000	10.0%
Total Expenditure	\$1,306,222	\$1,211,327	\$94,895	7.8%
Deficit/(Surplus)	-\$100,000	-\$93,673	-\$6,327	6.8%

Increase in the level of the riparian plant supply programme (450,000 plants).

30 01 03 Pole supply

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$83,466	\$110,000	-\$26,534	-24.1%
Total Revenue	\$83,466	\$110,000	-\$26,534	-24.1%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$36,216	\$35,350	\$866	2.4%
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Operations	\$40,250	\$68,000	-\$27,750	-40.8%
Total Expenditure	\$76,466	\$103,350	-\$26,884	-26.0%
Deficit/(Surplus)	-\$7,000	-\$6,650	-\$350	5.3%

Some small decrease in the pole supply programme.

30 01 05 Sustainable Land Management Initiatives STRESS

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change
Revenue	\$302,000	\$300,000	\$2,000
Total Revenue	\$302,000	\$300,000	\$2,000
Expenditure			
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operations	\$252,000	\$250,000	\$2,000
Total Expenditure	\$252,000	\$250,000	\$2,000
Deficit/(Surplus)	-\$50,000	-\$50,000	\$0

Small growth in the Government's STRESS scheme.

30 02 00 Environmental services

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$106,500	\$106,500	\$0	0.0%
Total Revenue	\$106,500	\$106,500	\$0	0.0%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$822,843	\$796,655	\$26,188	3.3%
Vehicles	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$477,910	\$778,033	-\$300,123	-38.6%
Total Expenditure	\$1,380,753	\$1,654,688	-\$273,935	-16.6%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$1,274,253	\$1,548,188	-\$273,935	-17.7%

Egmont National Park boundary control programme to align with the Department of Conservation's work not required this year.

30 03 01 River control and flood maintenance

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$74,261	\$76,347	-\$2,086	-2.7%
Total Revenue	\$74,261	\$76,347	-\$2,086	-2.7%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$97,236	\$92,089	\$5,147	5.6%
Vehicles	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$75,000	\$90,000	-\$15,000	-16.7%
Total Expenditure	\$178,236	\$188,089	-\$9,853	-5.2%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$103,975	\$111,742	-\$7,767	-7.0%

No significant changes – the use of consultants reduces.

30 03 02 River control schemes

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$574,869	\$586,530	-\$11,661	-2.0%
Total Revenue	\$574,869	\$586,530	-\$11,661	-2.0%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$29,887	\$29,301	\$586	2.0%
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Operations	\$145,200	\$165,200	-\$20,000	-12.1%
Total Expenditure	\$175,087	\$194,501	-\$19,414	-10.0%
Deficit/(Surplus)	-\$399,782	-\$392,029	-\$7,753	2.0%

No significant changes – the use of consultants reduces as major schemes work concludes.

30 03 04 South Taranaki river control schemes

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$328,728	\$20,000	\$308,728	1543.6%
Total Revenue	\$328,728	\$20,000	\$308,728	1543.6%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Operations	\$45,000	\$40,000	\$5,000	12.5%
Total Expenditure	\$45,000	\$40,000	\$5,000	12.5%
Deficit/(Surplus)	-\$283,728	\$20,000	-\$303,728	-1518.6%

STDC contribution to Opunake flood control schemes. No other significant changes.

30 05 00 Environmental enhancement grants

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Operations	\$370,000	\$358,000	\$12,000	3.4%
Total Expenditure	\$370,000	\$358,000	\$12,000	3.4%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$370,000	\$358,000	\$12,000	3.4%

No significant changes.

30 06 00 Biodiversity operations

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$713,678	\$560,365	\$153,313	27.4%
Vehicles	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$130,574	\$56,805	\$73,769	129.9%
Total Expenditure	\$857,752	\$630,670	\$227,082	36.0%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$857,752	\$630,670	\$227,082	36.0%

New position created – co-ordinator for the Wild for Taranaki Trust. Increased depreciation charge for traps under the predator control trial.

30 07 01 Tupare

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$27,000	\$13,000	\$14,000	107.7%
Total Revenue	\$27,000	\$13,000	\$14,000	107.7%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$243,792	\$239,730	\$4,062	1.7%
Vehicles	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$165,964	\$162,994	\$2,970	1.8%
Total Expenditure	\$418,256	\$411,224	\$7,032	1.7%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$391,256	\$398,224	-\$6,968	-1.7%

No significant changes. Some external rent from the Tupare house.

30 07 02 Pukeiti

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0	0.0%
Total Revenue	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0	0.0%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$369,138	\$360,102	\$9,036	2.5%
Vehicles	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$462,145	\$417,759	\$44,386	10.6%
Total Expenditure	\$836,283	\$782,861	\$53,422	6.8%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$716,283	\$662,861	\$53,422	8.1%

Increased depreciation expense arising from the recent developments at Pukeiti. No other significant changes.

30 07 03 Hollard Gardens

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.0%
Total Revenue	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.0%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$290,607	\$305,685	-\$15,078	-4.9%
Vehicles	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$94,868	\$97,952	-\$3,084	-3.1%
Total Expenditure	\$389,475	\$407,637	-\$18,162	-4.5%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$384,475	\$402,637	-\$18,162	-4.5%

No significant changes.

40 01 00 Yarrow Stadium

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$307,894	\$307,454	\$440	0.1%
Total Revenue	\$307,894	\$307,454	\$440	0.1%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Operations	\$876,000	\$876,000	\$0	0.0%
Total Expenditure	\$876,000	\$876,000	\$0	0.0%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$568,106	\$568,546	-\$440	-0.1%

No significant changes.

40 03 00 Public information

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%
Total Revenue	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$93,958	\$93,496	\$462	0.5%
Vehicles	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$178,529	\$167,129	\$11,400	6.8%
Total Expenditure	\$276,487	\$264,625	\$11,862	4.5%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$274,487	\$262,625	\$11,862	4.5%

No significant changes. Small increase in awards and sponsorship budget.

40 04 00 Investment management

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Operations	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	0.0%
Total Expenditure	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	0.0%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	0.0%

No significant changes.

40 05 00 Representation

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$571,174	\$559,806	\$11,368	2.0%
Vehicles	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$85,833	\$163,333	-\$77,500	-47.4%
Total Expenditure	\$665,007	\$731,139	-\$66,132	-9.0%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$665,007	\$731,139	-\$66,132	-9.0%

Election costs budgeted for October 2016 no longer required. No other significant changes.

40 06 00 Corporate Services

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$14,605,028	\$14,039,193	\$565,835	4.0%
Total Revenue	\$14,605,028	\$14,039,193	\$565,835	4.0%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$3,415,897	\$3,185,472	\$230,425	7.2%
Vehicles	\$67,500	\$67,500	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$3,260,800	\$3,069,413	\$191,387	6.2%
Total Expenditure	\$6,744,197	\$6,322,385	\$421,812	6.7%
Deficit/(Surplus)	-\$7,860,831	-\$7,716,808	-\$144,023	1.9%

General rates are up 1%. Dividends from Port Taranaki Ltd are up from \$4.9247m to \$5.417m reflecting the financial performance of the Company and the direction given to the Council in Port Taranaki Ltd's Statement of Corporate Intent. No other significant changes to expenditure levels. One new position for a health and safety co-ordinator's position. Audit fees for the audit of the 2018/2028 LTP (\$90,000) have been added to the budget. No other significant changes.

40 07 01 Regional land transport planning

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$101,450	\$88,700	\$12,750	14.4%
Total Revenue	\$101,450	\$88,700	\$12,750	14.4%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$60,292	\$60,428	-\$136	-0.2%
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Operations	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	250.0%
Total Expenditure	\$95,292	\$70,428	\$24,864	35.3%
Deficit/(Surplus)	-\$6,158	-\$18,272	\$12,114	-66.3%

Slightly higher transport planning workloads - no other significant changes.

40 07 02 Total mobility

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$332,944	\$339,950	-\$7,006	-2.1%
Total Revenue	\$332,944	\$339,950	-\$7,006	-2.1%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$50,233	\$49,480	\$753	1.5%
Vehicles	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Operations	\$379,000	\$404,500	-\$25,500	-6.3%
Total Expenditure	\$429,233	\$453,980	-\$24,747	-5.5%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$96,289	\$114,030	-\$17,741	-15.6%

No significant changes.

40 07 03 Passenger transport

	2017/2018 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	\$ Change	% change
Revenue	\$3,279,160	\$3,664,002	-\$384,842	-10.5%
Total Revenue	\$3,279,160	\$3,664,002	-\$384,842	-10.5%
Expenditure				
Personnel	\$122,405	\$116,440	\$5,965	5.1%
Vehicles	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	0.0%
Operations	\$3,193,254	\$3,182,060	\$11,194	0.4%
Total Expenditure	\$3,319,159	\$3,302,000	\$17,159	0.5%
Deficit/(Surplus)	\$39,999	-\$362,002	\$402,001	-111.0%

Capital subsidy for integrated ticketing project removed (\$402,000). No other significant changes.

Seizing new opportunities

Two years ago we consulted widely on a 10-year plan to take us through to 2025. We're still on track with this long-term plan, but we want to consult you about changes to three of our programmes in the 2017/2018 financial year.

Specifically, what we're proposing is:

- An exciting and potentially game-changing trial of enhanced predator control techniques in the region, leveraging off local and national initiatives.
- A new flood control scheme for Opunake.
- Replacement of The Lodge as part of the upgrade of Pukeiti.

In all three cases, new opportunities and/or changed circumstances add up to what we believe are compelling cases for the Council to slightly alter the course originally charted in our 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan.

Financially, the development of changes is relatively minor. With all three proposals included in the 2017/2018 Annual Plan, general rates will go up 1% as opposed to the 0.5% rise forecast for 2017/2018 in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan.

This Consultation Document sets out the details and implications of what we're proposing in these three specific areas, and how you can tell us what you think about them before we make final decisions.

You can make a submission by letter, by email, or via our website, www.trc.govt.nz. If you want more information, you can see the complete Draft Annual Plan 2017/2018 on our website, or at our office at 47 Cloten Road, Stratford. Or you can give us a call on 0800 736 222 and talk to one of our staff.

We look forward to hearing from you.

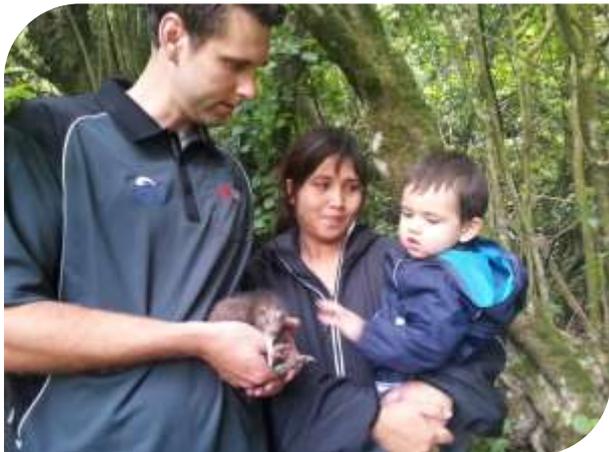


David MacLeod
Chairman
Taranaki Regional Council



Basil Chamberlain
Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council

Document Number: 1799922



Fact box:

- The Council is preparing its 2017/2018 Annual Plan.
- This is the Consultation Document prepared in conjunction with the draft 2017/2018 Annual Plan, which can be found on the Council's website (www.trc.govt.nz).
- The Council is seeking your views on three proposals that either accelerate or amend existing programmes.
- Otherwise, the proposals for 2017/2018, as set out in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan, are being delivered upon.
- Consultation is open until 13 April 2017.

What We Do



In the 2017/2018 Annual Plan, the Council intends to keep strongly focused on its core activities as established and consulted on in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan. These activities include:

- protecting our rivers, lakes and water from pollution
- managing the wise and productive use of water and soil
- protecting the quality of our air
- managing our coastal resources wisely
- controlling animal and plant pests
- providing flood protection
- protecting biodiversity
- promoting efficient and safe transport networks
- providing public transport services, especially for transport disadvantaged people
- ensuring emergency and civil defence systems respond effectively in times of need
- managing regional garden amenities and supporting the protection of heritage
- ensuring the ongoing development and maintenance of Yarrow Stadium
- owning and ensuring good governance of Port Taranaki Ltd
- advocating for and promoting the best interests of Taranaki people and the sustainable development of the region.



More specifically, for 2017/2018 the Council's work programme is to:



Resource Management

- Prepare, adopt and maintain a comprehensive suite of legally compliant, high-quality and publicly considered policies, plans and strategies that will deliver efficient and effective management of the Council's functions and Taranaki's natural and physical resources. The immediate focus is on completing a review of the regional coastal plan and progressing a review of the regional freshwater and soil plan.
- Process approximately 400 applications for resource consents annually; administer all current resource consents; undertake compliance monitoring of all resource consents including carrying out more than 3,300 annual inspections of agricultural and small business premises and completing over 200 annual tailored compliance monitoring programmes for major consents. The Council will also respond to all pollution incidents and, where necessary, undertake successful enforcement action.
- Monitor and investigate the state of the environment in Taranaki and the effects of the implementation of the Council's policies and plans in accordance with the Council's monitoring procedures and programmes. This will be done by applying recognised and reputable methods of data collection, analysis and reporting.
- Provide relevant research information for resource management purposes through a series of resource investigations and projects.
- Encourage and implement waste management and cleaner production initiatives in Taranaki, consistent with the Regional Waste Strategy for Taranaki.
- Promote sustainable land management and riparian management by providing property planning services, in conjunction with landowners, that identify actions for land use management on an individual property basis.



- Promote the implementation of the Taranaki Riparian Management Programme. Approximately 450,000 plants will be supplied to plan holders each year for planting.
- Maintain and enhance the indigenous biodiversity of the Taranaki region, working alongside landowners and other groups and agencies in accordance with the Council's policies and biodiversity strategy priorities. Annually, the Council will prepare 10 new biodiversity plans and monitor and report on the implementation of all biodiversity plans.
- Promote the protection of the environment through a programme of enhancement grants.



Recreation, culture & heritage

- Facilitate the continued development and maintenance of Yarrow Stadium and ensure that Tupare, Hollard Gardens and Pukeiti are maintained as regionally significant recreational and heritage amenities. The implementation of the asset management plans for Pukeiti will continue.
- Maintain an ongoing partnership relationship with the Puke Ariki regional museum and library, including the ongoing use of display and presentation material within an annual project(s).



 **Biosecurity**

- Prepare, adopt and maintain a comprehensive suite of legally compliant, high-quality and publicly considered policies, plans and strategies that will deliver to the Taranaki community, efficient and effective management of the Council’s biosecurity functions.
- Control pest animals to minimize their adverse effects on biodiversity, primary production and the regional economy and environment, in accordance with the Council’s approved regional pest animal management strategy. The Council’s self-help possum control programme, implemented in partnership with land occupiers, will be continued to ensure that landholders maintain possum populations within acceptable limits on the 240,000 hectares of land already within the programme.
- Control and/or eradicate pest plants to minimize their adverse effects on biodiversity, primary production and the regional economy and environment in accordance with the Council’s approved regional pest plant management strategy.

Annually the Council will undertake the direct control and eradication of all known infestations of senegal tea, climbing spindleberry, mignonette vine, giant reed and Darwin’s barberry in the region; confine the spread of or reduce the extent of ‘eradication’ and ‘containment’ pest plants through a programme of inspections and, where necessary, enforcement on all properties; and take necessary actions on all pest plant complaints.





Hazard Management

- Promote and enhance within the Taranaki community, an integrated, comprehensive civil defence emergency management system. Specifically, the Council will implement the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan for Taranaki and the Emergency Management Annual Business Plan.
- Manage and maintain the Waitara and Waiwhakaiho flood protection schemes and manage other minor river control schemes to accepted or agreed design standards to minimize and prevent damage by floods and river erosion.
- Provide accurate and timely flood warnings, flood control advice and undertake minor works and associated actions to minimise and prevent damage by floods and river erosion.





Representation, advocacy & investment

- Ensure that the Council-owned port company, Port Taranaki Ltd, is efficiently managed as a successful business and that property and treasury investments owned by the Council are efficiently managed. The Council will seek to attain at least a 6% return on land and treasury investments.
- Promote community awareness and understanding of the Council's functions and activities and make quality and timely information publicly available. This area of activity will include further development of the Council's website.
- Continue its environmental education programme where the Council expects to involve approximately 5,000 school students in class visits and field trips.
- Ensure that public representation by the Council and its Committees is carried out effectively and efficiently in accordance with statutory requirements and advocate on behalf of the Taranaki community on matters of regional interest or concern.





Transport

- Promote an integrated, safe, responsive and sustainable land transport system for Taranaki, promote the provision of community passenger transport in Taranaki and assist the special transport needs of the transport disadvantaged.
- Promote safe navigation for all users of the waters of Port Taranaki.
- Operate and improve passenger transport services in New Plymouth urban areas and regional Taranaki and the Total Mobility subsidy assistance programme, subject to funding approval processes.
- Provide harbourmaster and harbour warden services for Port Taranaki to implement relevant harbour bylaws and regulations.



Predator control



Making aspiration a reality

Introduced predators are a major threat to our native plants and wildlife, and to our economic well-being. However, Taranaki is better placed than most regions to investigate opportunities that may lead to a predator free Taranaki by 2050, thanks to strong and enduring partnerships and a track record of innovation and successful results.

The adoption of the national predator-free 2050 goal opens up new opportunities for extra support and funding.

For 2017/2018, the Council is proposing an extra investment in a trial programme to test large-scale predator suppression and eradication techniques across an entire catchment – the Waiwhakaiho, which encompasses alpine rainforest, farmland and built-up urban areas. The area has multiple biodiversity values and many biodiversity protection initiatives currently occurring.

The trial will target possums, mustelids (weasels, ferrets and stoats), feral cats and rats. It will test a range of techniques including one of the new technologies seen as essential to achieving predator-free status – monitoring devices that allow traps to be checked remotely and wirelessly, reducing costs and increasing efficiency.

It will be coordinated under the 'Wild for Taranaki' banner, through which the Taranaki Biodiversity Trust channels the efforts of its wide range of member organisations, including the Council. It will also build on the Council's own long-running Self-Help Possum Control Programme and more recent Urban Possum Control Programme.

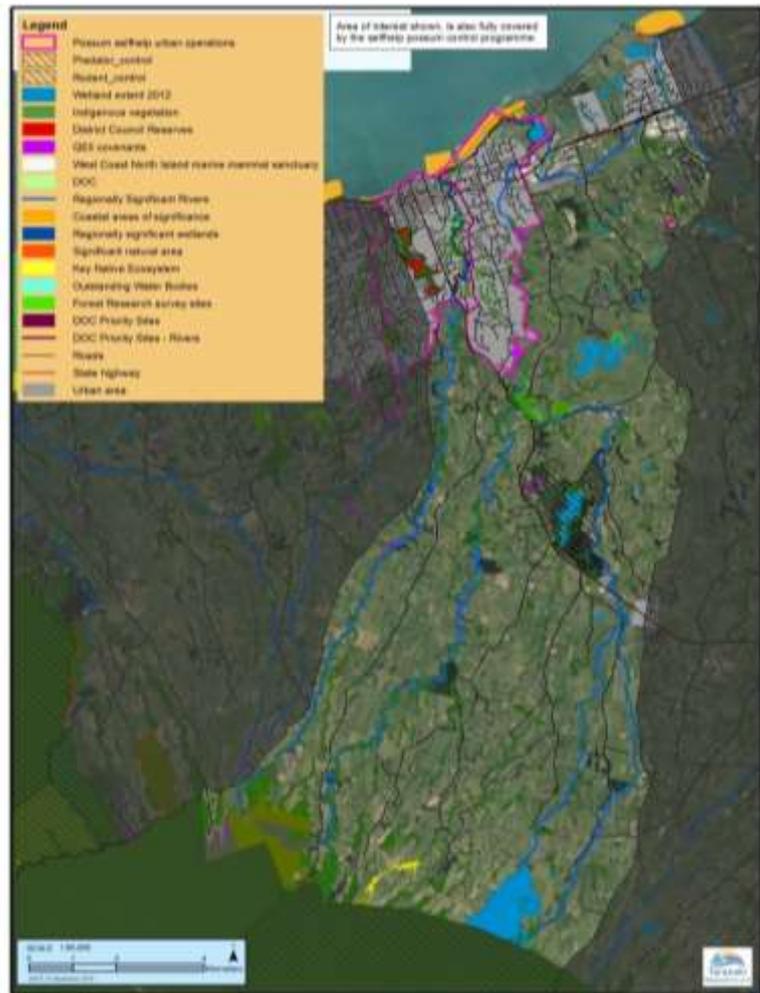
The trial will not proceed if external funding partnerships are not successfully negotiated.



The adoption of the national predator-free 2050 goal opens up new opportunities for extra support and funding

What it means for ratepayers

The trial will cost \$1.7m for 2017/2018, of which the Council is proposing to fund capital expenditure of \$700,000. Operationally, the only additional costs that will need to be funded from general funds (general rates and investment funds) are depreciation (\$70,000 pa). The rest of the funding is proposed to come from the Government and, possibly, from philanthropic organisations. The trial will not proceed if external funding partnerships are not successfully negotiated for a significant portion of the project.



OPTIONS:

1. Do nothing, that is carry on with the current predator control programmes as outlined in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan.
2. Undertake the proposed trial programme at a capital cost of \$700,000. This is the Council's preferred option.
3. Undertake an extended trial programme at a higher cost over a wider area.



Opunake flood diversion

Preventing a repeat of August 2015

Options for controlling floods at Opunake have been investigated since August 2015 when the Hihiwera Stream and a smaller tributary burst their banks and inundated a number of properties.



The Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) and the South Taranaki District Council (STDC) have come up with a plan that's already won support at a community meeting, and detailed survey and design work has been carried out, but is still to be fully completed.

It's in two parts: A rural component to divert floodwaters away from the township, and an urban component to upgrade culverts and channels within the township. The urban part will be designed and implemented by the STDC, with the rural component being handled by the TRC. The scheme is designed to protect Opunake from a one-in-100-year (1% probability) flooding event.



Above: Gisborne Terrace, Opunake, inundated by rain. [Image courtesy of South Taranaki District Council.]

Right: Hihiwera Stream overflowing through a residential property.

**Partial flooding
closed SH45
between Opunake
and Pihama**



What it means for ratepayers

The rural component will cost an estimated \$600,000. The proposal is that \$257,500 is paid for by the STDC as a capital contribution with the remainder being paid for by a targeted rate over the South Taranaki constituency.

The TRC proposes to wrap the funding of this scheme and its two other South Taranaki flood protection schemes at Waitotara

and Okato into one targeted South Taranaki rate of approximately \$51,000 a year. This equates to approximately 58¢ per \$100,000 of the capital value of a property. A South Taranaki property with a \$500,000 capital value will pay approximately \$2.90 for flood protection. This would be in line with how the Council's North Taranaki (Waitara and Waiwhakaiho rivers) flood protection schemes are funded.



OPTIONS:

1. Provide one-in-100 year flood protection to the Opunake community. This is the Council's preferred option.
2. Leave the current flood protection standards in place.

The Lodge at Pukeiti

Keeping heritage values alive

A major redevelopment project at Pukeiti is now entering its final stages, bringing the iconic and unique property into a new phase in the wake of its transfer into public ownership in 2010.

Refurbishment of The Lodge, the 62-year-old building that was the cultural hub for the development of Pukeiti in its early and middle years, was always part of the original plan. Unfortunately, detailed inspection revealed the poorly insulated and damp building to be in poor condition with a number of significant structural issues. Refurbishing it would be both costly and risky.

The Council and the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust have both agreed that a completely new building is a better option. A number of architects were invited to submit design proposals evoking the heritage values of the old building while meeting the current and future needs of Pukeiti's users – the public of Taranaki and their visitors.

The preferred architect is Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner, a local firm with a strong track record. It has prepared a design concept. The old building has been dismantled to allow salvageable material to be stockpiled for the new Lodge, and so that geotechnical analysis of the site can be carried out.

A major redevelopment project at Pukeiti is now entering its final stages, bringing the iconic and unique property into a new phase...





What it means for ratepayers

The total cost estimate for the new Lodge is \$1.2 million. Along with a likely \$100,000 contribution from the Trust, an additional capital budget allocation of \$700,000 would be required. This would be met from accumulated funds with depreciation the only rating implication in the longer-term. This funding is in-line with all other garden developments at Pukeiti, Tupare and Hollard Gardens.

OPTIONS:

1. Increase the budget for the construction of an appropriate Lodge replacement by \$700,000. This is the Council's preferred option.
2. Retain the existing budget allocation and replace the old Lodge with a more modest replacement
3. Increase the budget further for the construction of a higher specification Lodge.



Tell us what you think

You can have your say online, by email or through the post. And if you want to, you can come along and explain your views personally to Councillors.

All submissions will be carefully considered before final decisions are made.

If you want more information, see the Draft Annual Plan at www.trc.govt.nz, or you can inspect a copy at the Council office at 47 Cloten Road Stratford, or at District Council service centres or libraries. You can also call us on 0800 736 222.

Making a submission

Submissions must be received by **4pm on Thursday 13 April 2017**.

Online: www.trc.govt.nz

Email: info@trc.govt.nz ('Annual Plan submission' in subject field)

Post: Annual Plan Submission
Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
STRATFORD 4352

(The attached submission form can be used for postal submissions.)

What happens next?

Submissions open: 13 March 2017.

Submissions close: 13 April 2017.

Hearing of and deliberation on submissions: 8 May 2017.

Adoption of 2017/2018 Annual Plan: 16 May 2017.

2017/2018 Annual Plan becomes operative: 1 July 2017.

Submission form

Submitter

Title *(please circle)*

Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other *(please specify)* _____

First name _____ **Surname** _____

Organisation/group *(if applicable)* _____

Postal address *(Please provide full postal address, including rural delivery and postcode)*

_____ **Postcode** _____

Phone *(daytime)* _____ **Mobile** _____

Email _____

I wish to present my submission personally at a hearing scheduled for 8 May **Yes** **No**

Signed _____

Your submission

Note that your submission and any information you supply as part of it is considered public information and will be available in reports and documents relating to this process and will be published on our website, www.trc.govt.nz.

Predator control

Do you think the Council should go ahead with the proposed trial predator control programme, to be partially-funded with \$700,000 from accumulated funds? **Yes** **No**

Comment _____

Agenda Memorandum

Date 20 February 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

**Subject: Submission on the Awakino Gorge to Mt
Messenger Programme: Community
Consultation on Options Summary
Booklet**

Approved by: M J Nield, Director – Corporate Services

B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1808737

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to receive, consider and, if necessary, amend the Council's submission on the NZTA's options document seeking the community's feedback on the options for improvements to the Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger route.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives Council's submission on the NZTA's options document seeking the community's feedback on the options for improvements to the Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger route
2. advises the Chief Executive of any changes to the submission.

Background

Major improvements to SH3 North have long been called for by both the Council and the SH3 Working Party.

Late last year, the NZTA undertook a community consultation process on the options for the Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger Programme – see attached Options document. The Agency was seeking the community's feedback on the options for improvements to the Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger route.

The attached submission outlines the Council's preferred route options and notes that the Agency will need to work with all stakeholders to address cultural and ecological issues.

Discussion

The document was released in November 2016 and the due date for feedback was 6 January 2017. With the Christmas break and the end of year work programme, this was a tight timeframe in which the Council could provide its feedback to the Agency. Accordingly, the attached submission was prepared and provided to the Agency.

As Members know, major improvements to SH3 North, particularly through the Mt Messenger and Awakino Gorge area, have long been called for by the Council and by the SH3 Working party, of which, the Council is a member. It has featured prominently in our policy and strategy documents and has been the subject of ongoing advocacy on behalf of the regional community for many years.

When the Government announced, in January 2016, that funding would be made available for major by-pass projects, the Council fully supported the projects whilst also recognising that further work would be required in selecting the final route(s).

The attached submission is, therefore, firmly based upon the positions that the Council and the Regional Transport Committee have previously considered and formed views on.

In addition to the preferred route options, the Council noted the need for the Agency to work with all stakeholders to address the cultural and ecological values and issues that arise from the Option 3 bypass of Mt Messenger. This is the Agency's process and project. Accordingly, it is their responsibility to engage with stakeholders and ensure that the cultural and ecological values and issues that arise from the Option 3 bypass of Mt Messenger are appropriately investigated and addressed.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 1796285: Submission on the Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger Programme:
Community Consultation on Options Summary Booklet

Document 1808945: Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger Programme: Community Consultation
on Options Summary Booklet

23 December 2016
Document: 1796285

Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger Programme Team
PO Box 5084
Wellington 6145

Submission on the Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger Programme

The Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) thanks the New Zealand Transport Agency for the opportunity to make a submission on the options outlined for the Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger Programme.

The Council makes this submission in recognition of the purpose of local government set out in the *Local Government Act 2002*, and the role, status, powers and principles under that Act relating to local authorities. In particular, the Council's comments are made in recognition of its:

- functions and responsibilities under the *Land Transport Management Act 2003*;
- and its regional advocacy responsibilities whereby the Council represents the Taranaki region on matters of regional significance or concern.

The Council has also been guided by its Mission Statement '*To work for a thriving and prosperous Taranaki*' across all of its various functions, roles and responsibilities, in making this submission.

General

The importance of State Highway 3 (SH3) to the Taranaki region is illustrated by the Council establishing the cross-region and cross-sector SH3 Working Party in 2002, in response to ongoing concerns about the route security, safety and efficiency of SH3 between Taranaki and Waikato. The Working Party and the Council have been actively advocating on the need for improvements to these sections of SH3 north for years. We therefore strongly support the Government's decision to fund significant improvements along this strategically important inter-regional corridor. We look forward to the day that the Working Party's existence is no longer necessary, as the highway will be in a fit-for-purpose state with appropriate levels of service meeting the community's needs.

The Council notes that the consultation material provided is at a very high level, with limited information provided. Feedback on the potential options outlined in the consultation material is therefore at a high level also.

SH3 safety and resilience corridor improvements

The Council is strongly supportive of the package of engineering-focused corridor improvements outlined.

The smaller Stage 1 works expected to begin in early 2017 will in themselves bring important improvements to the corridor – particularly slow vehicle bays, rest stop areas, and more consistent signage. The Council acknowledges the visibility improvements that simply enhanced vegetation control along the route can and will provide.

The Consultation Booklet highlights three areas where it is proposed to review the speed limit. The Council acknowledges that there is merit in providing better guidance to travellers on the appropriate safe speed for sections of the road. Concern remains however that this may be used to avoid engineering the road up to the modern highway standard that it needs and deserves. The Council supports all speed consistency initiatives that allow travellers to maintain speeds, with these being important for improving the journey experience as well as safety and efficiency of the highway. Further, the Council believes it is imperative for the improvements along the route, including the bypasses, to enable vehicles to travel at the open speed limit.

In respect of Stage 2, the Council's preferences for the four types of safety and resilience improvements proposed are:

- 1st – Slope stability treatments
- 2nd – New passing opportunities
- 3rd – Road realignments
- 4th – Road widening and intersection improvements

The Council most strongly supports improvements to slope stability to reduce the risk of further road closures and casualties caused by landslips. Such road closures are disastrous for the Taranaki region given the importance of this strategic inter-regional corridor and the lack of viable alternative routes.

Improving passing opportunities, particularly given the high proportion of HCVs on the route, remains a high priority for the Taranaki community.

Strong support is also given for road realignments to eliminate out-of-context or slow-speed curves, to improve safety and allow more even travel speeds.

Awakino Tunnel bypass

Of the two route options short-listed, the Council strongly supports **Option 2 – A bypass away from the Awakino Tunnel with two bridges**.

The Council agrees that this option appears to offer the best solution because it provides significant travel improvements by avoiding the existing narrow section of highway. It also minimises impacts on the river environment and avoids the potential landslips and ongoing erosion by the river of Option 1. Additionally there will be minimal disruption to traffic during construction of the bypass, and leaving the nearly 100 year old Awakino Tunnel intact will retain a historic site of interest to many.

Option 1, as noted in the Summary Booklet, is not a bypass and, accordingly, does not meet the criteria set by the Government for these projects (namely that the project is a bypass). The Council is strongly opposed to Option 1.

Mt Messenger bypass

The Council supports **Option 3 – A 5.3km bypass route running further west of the existing highway.**

Option 1 (tweaks to the existing highway) is strongly opposed by the Council, as it does not meet the Government's, the community's and the Council's expectations of a bypass. While Option 1 may be less intrusive on the environment, it does not adequately address a better road corridor, nor any real time savings. The Minister has set strong community expectations by announcing this project as a bypass, and repeatedly referring to it as such. It is the Council's expectation that a bypass (of Mt Messenger not just the Mt Messenger Tunnel) is what will be delivered.

Of the two bypass routes put forward, Option 3 is preferred over Option 2 because of the significant improvements in safety, resilience and journey experience (including travel time and distance savings) that this more direct route offers. While this may involve more upfront construction costs than the alternative options, this state highway has waited too long for meaningful improvements. The Council believes that given the corridor's importance and vulnerability, the Transport Agency must try to achieve the very best outcome with this rare opportunity – it must be a case of "Do it once and do it right" by selecting Option 3.

The Council acknowledges that the Mt Messenger bypass project is the largest and most complex of the three projects in the Programme, and that it involves areas of strong cultural and ecological values – and includes one of the Council's key native ecosystems. The Transport Agency will need to appropriately address the needs/concerns of existing landowners and iwi along the route, build-in suitable environmental mitigation measures, and ensure the high cut slopes are well-stabilised.

The Council particularly notes the potential impact of this project on iwi land at Parininihi and the efforts of Ngāti Tama and the wider community through the Tiaki Te Mauri O Parininihi Trust to control animal pests and reintroduce species that have been lost, including kokako. The great work of the Trust to restore and protect the values of Parininihi, by undertaking a major long-term ecological management project that includes pest control, species recovery and translocations, has been formally acknowledged by the Council through an Environmental Award.

The Council recognises the seemingly conflicting aspirations for improving the highway and improving the ecology of the Mt Messenger area. However, it believes that these issues can be worked through to the satisfaction of all stakeholders. There are surely a range of opportunities to mitigate the adverse impacts on the environment in ways that may improve the long-term conservation goals in the area – including improved access and funding support for the Trust's projects.

Other matters

The Council notes that there is no mention in the consultation booklet about improving mobile phone coverage along the corridor, which is an area of ongoing concern and advocacy. Applications to the Mobile Black Spot Fund have been made to address this issue, but the outcomes are still being awaited. We trust that this is a matter that will be considered during the more in-depth development stages of these improvement works.

The Council also notes that the views expressed above, on the two bypass options, appear to match well with general community feeling as expressed through the media and social media.

The Council reiterates that the Minister set strong community expectations by announcing the projects as the Awakino Tunnel Bypass and the Mt Messenger Bypass from the outset, and these remain the expectations of the Taranaki region.

The Council looks forward to working with the Transport Agency as these projects move forward.

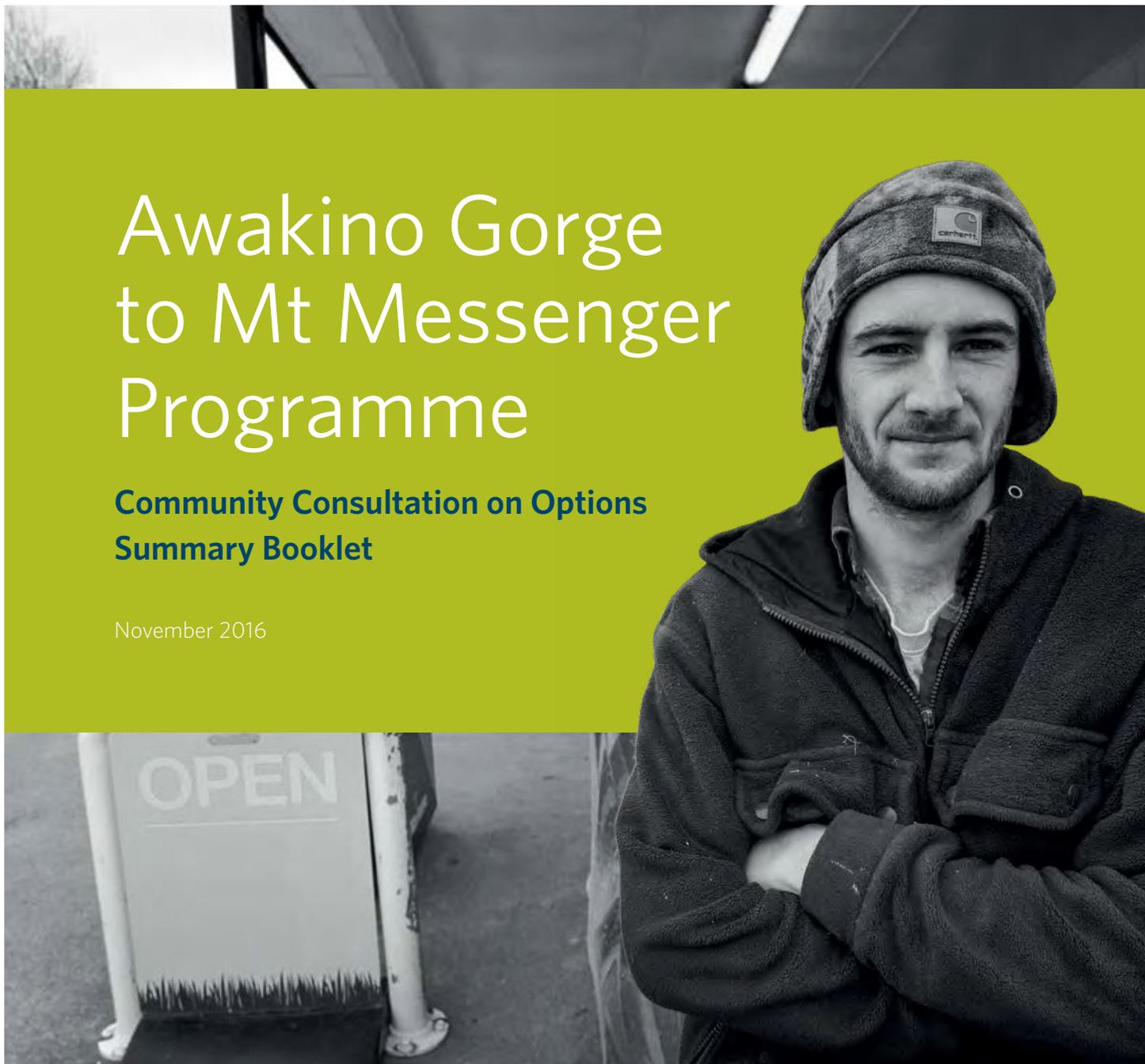
Yours faithfully
B G Chamberlain
Chief Executive

Per: M J Nield
Director - Corporate Services

Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger Programme

**Community Consultation on Options
Summary Booklet**

November 2016



Kia ora

Welcome to the Community Consultation on Options for the Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger Programme.



We are investigating options for improvements on a 58km stretch of State Highway 3 (SH3) from Mt Messenger to Awakino Gorge.

State Highway 3 provides a vital link between Taranaki and the upper North Island and the Mt Messenger to Awakino route is the main route between New Plymouth and Hamilton.

The proposals aim to improve access, safety and travel time reliability along the route, which will provide significant benefits for road users and the region.

The projects

The Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger Programme is made up of three projects: SH3 safety and resilience improvements and bypass projects for Mt Messenger and the Awakino Tunnel.

This booklet contains the essential information about the proposals that we are consulting on.

- Awakino Tunnel bypass – two options
- Mt Messenger bypass – three options
- SH3 safety and resilience improvements (two stages)

Your feedback is important

Please tell us about the options you prefer and the reasons for your choices. Your feedback will be combined with technical findings to help shape the final design proposals.

You can provide feedback on the proposals by:

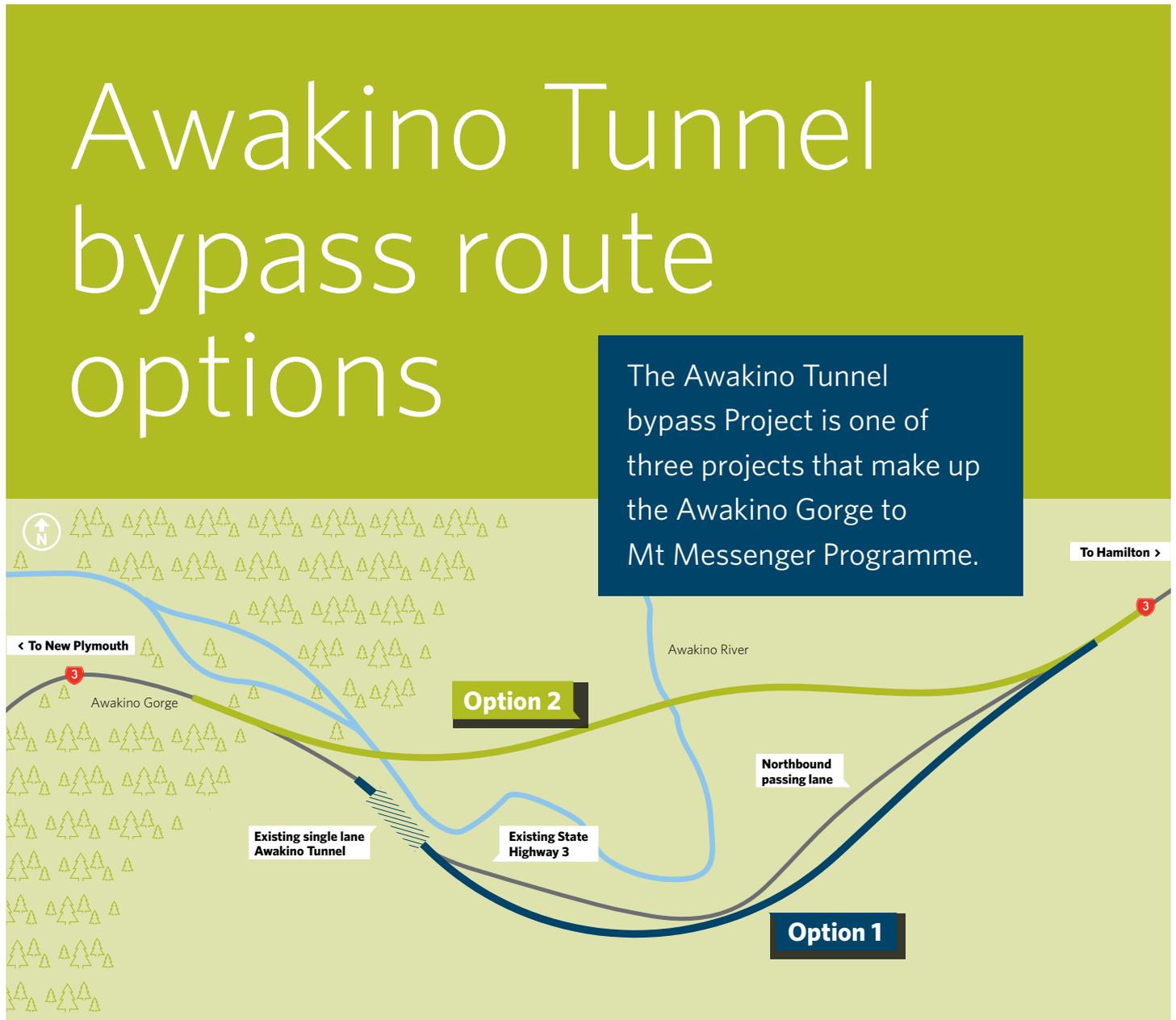
- sending a submission to the Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger Programme team at SH3@nzta.govt.nz or PO Box 5084, Wellington 6145
- coming along to one of our [community drop-in sessions](#)
- using the [electronic feedback form](#)

The closing date for feedback is 6 January 2017.

More information

A full set of information will be available online www.nzta.govt.nz/ag2mm and at our drop-in sessions from the week of 5 December 2016.

Awakino Tunnel bypass Project



From a range of possible options following wide-ranging investigations, these are the two route options that we have short-listed:

Option 1: This is not a bypass but provides safety improvements along the existing route.

It includes opening up and widening the Awakino Tunnel to two lanes and making the curve to the north safer.

Option 2: A bypass away from the tunnel with two bridges.

This option appears to offer the best solution because it provides significant travel improvements by avoiding the existing narrow section of highway, at a reasonable cost.

Awakino Tunnel bypass Project

Option 1: Improvements to existing route

This option, which is 800 metres long, generally follows the existing highway and opens up the Awakino Tunnel creating a 70 metre high cut slope. It is widened to provide two lanes of traffic.

The curve north of the tunnel is eased to make it safer and the slope on the southern side is improved to reduce slips.



Key features

Overall, these are some of the key features of Option 1.

Safety, resilience and journey experience

This option provides moderate improvements in safety and resilience, and removes potential delays associated with the single lane tunnel.

Impact on the environment

The large cut slope to open up the tunnel is highly visual. It fits in with the surrounding hillsides and can be softened by landscaping. Overall this option has a low to moderate environmental impact.

Land required

A small amount of land is needed from two properties adjacent to the route.

Maintenance

The large cut rock slope will need ongoing maintenance, but removes the need for tunnel maintenance.

Construction period diversions

During construction a temporary diversion is put in place, involving two temporary single-lane bridges and a length of temporary road. This diversion would probably be controlled by temporary traffic signals.

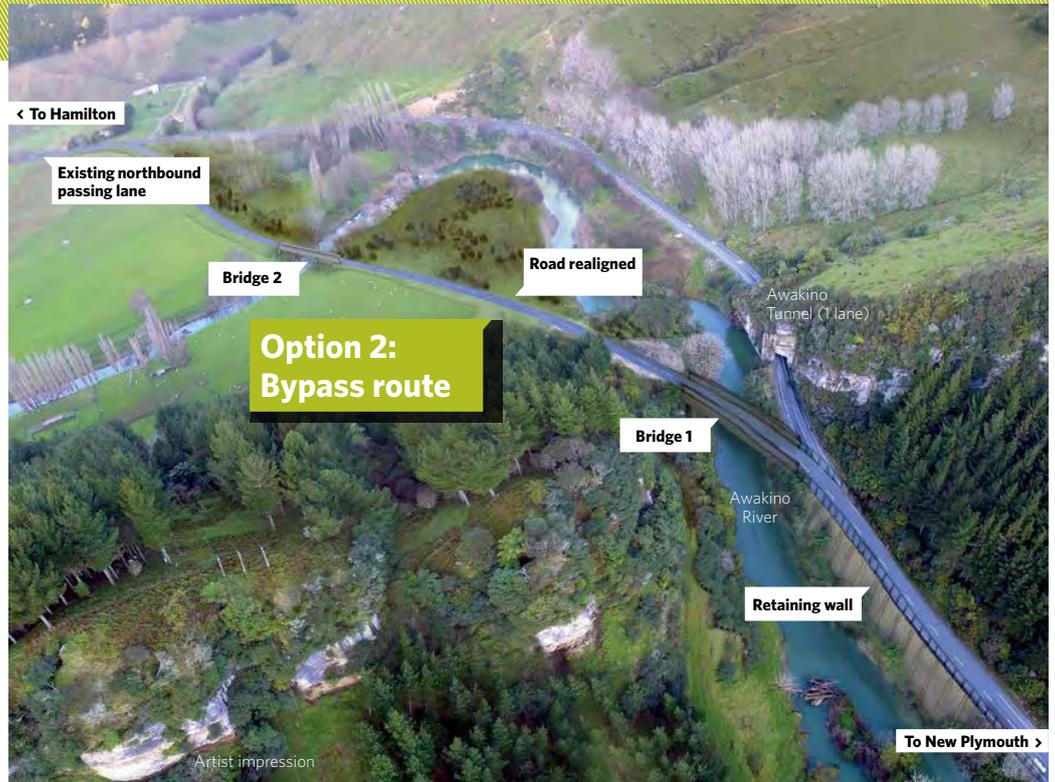
Awakino Tunnel bypass Project

Option 2: Awakino Tunnel bypass route

Option 2 is an 800 metre route that bypasses the Awakino Tunnel.

It involves:

- » repositioning the current highway away from the Tunnel with two bridges over the Awakino River
- » building complex retaining walls at the western end of the bypass where it reconnects to the existing highway.



Key features

Overall, these are the key features of Option 2.

Safety, resilience and journey experience

This option delivers comprehensive improvements in safety, resilience and journey experience including travel time. It provides more improvements than Option 1.

Impact on the environment

This bypass route has a low impact on the environment. The retaining walls and bridges over the Awakino River will lead to very minor loss of vegetation near the river.

Care has been taken to make sure that this bypass option does not involve diverting the Awakino River.

Land required

A small amount of land is needed from two properties crossed by the route.

Construction cost

At the current stage of the Project's development and using available information, we expect Option 2 to be marginally more expensive than Option 1.

Mt Messenger bypass Project

Mt Messenger bypass route options

The Mt Messenger bypass Project is the largest and most complex of the three projects that make up the Awakino Gorge to Mt Messenger Programme.



We've carried out considerable investigations into possible routes to bypass Mt Messenger and there is still more work to do.

We've short listed three possible options, each with advantages and disadvantages.

Based on the work to date, we favour one of the bypass routes because it appears to provide a better solution overall than the other two options.

While investigations continue, we would like your feedback about the options, your preference and reasons.

This will help inform the option we take forward for more detailed design and to address the impacts it creates.

Our short list of route options is:

Option 1

This is not a bypass but provides safety improvements along the existing route, including opening up and widening the Mt Messenger Tunnel.

Option 2

A 6.4km bypass route running west of the existing highway.

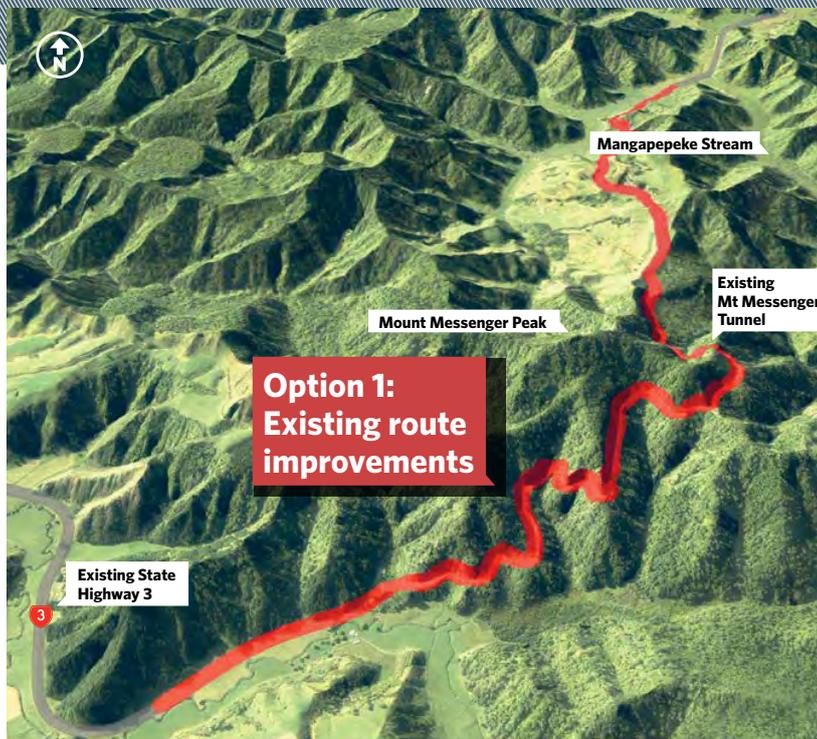
Option 3

A 5.3km bypass route running further west of the existing highway.

Mt Messenger bypass Project

Option 1: Improvements to existing route

This option is not a bypass route. It follows the existing highway, opens up and widens the Mt Messenger Tunnel to provide two lanes of traffic. An option to fully reconstruct the highway in its current location was discounted because of resilience issues and the practical problems of building it while still maintaining the main link between Taranaki and Waikato.



Key features

Safety, resilience and journey experience

Option 1 delivers improvements in safety and resilience, but considerably less than the other options. This route does not provide significant travel time savings but has considerably less impact on the surrounding environment than the bypass options. The main improvements include:

- » opening up and widening the tunnel
- » widening the shoulder of the road in some areas (includes some drainage improvements) to enable better forward visibility around curves and to provide pull over and slow vehicle bays

- » new road edge barriers
- » rock fall retaining walls and bunds (barriers to keep rocks off the highway)
- » cut slopes that step back from the roadside (to provide better visibility around corners).

Improving the existing route does not offer the benefits of an alternative route (that the bypass options would) if any closure occurs through natural hazards or crashes.

Impact on the environment

This option has significantly less impact on the landscape and environment compared to the other two options. However ways to avoid or

minimise effects will form part of the overall project. These include drainage improvements to the road with increased storage for stormwater run-off.

Land required

None or minimal land needs to be purchased.

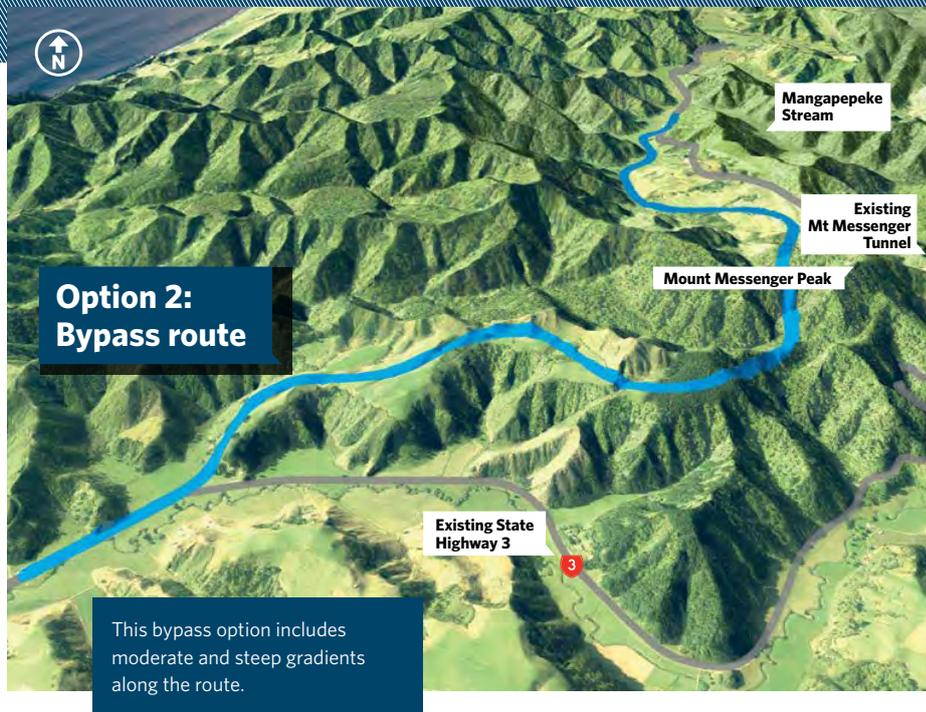
Construction period diversions

There will be delays and disruption to traffic during construction. There will be traffic management measures and, where possible, works scheduled outside of peak times.

Mt Messenger bypass Project

Option 2: Mt Messenger bypass route

Option 2 is a bypass route running west of the existing highway and is approximately 6.4km long. It generally follows the contours of the surrounding hills and valleys, but does have approximately 100 metre high cut slopes and steep gradients in some locations.



This option provides a likely speed limit of 60 to 70km/h and passing lanes uphill in both directions.

At this stage of the investigation work, this option appears to offer the best solution of the three options. It provides a bypass with moderate to significant journey improvements, while impacting less on sensitive ecological areas and costing less than the other bypass option. It also improves the highway's resilience by providing a bypass built to modern safety standards. However we are interested in your views to help us select the preferred option.

Key features

Safety, resilience and journey experience

When compared to Option 1, Option 2 provides much better travel times and significant improvements in safety and improved resilience.

It avoids the worst stretch of Mt Messenger's current road layout, including the narrow tunnel.

This new route offers the best possible design features within the constrained and challenging terrain. It takes a slightly longer driving time compared to Option 3 and minimises impacts of going through or cutting off potentially sensitive ecological and cultural areas.

The route design fits in better with the existing landforms so that fewer safety improvements are needed to the north and south of the bypass.

Impact on the environment

There is a moderate to high impact on sensitive ecological and cultural areas. Ways to minimise or avoid them will be agreed with the local iwi, private landowners and the Department of Conservation.

The approximately 100 metre high cut slopes have a high visual impact. The possibility of softening the cut slopes by landscaping, need to be further investigated.

Land required

Approximately 35 hectares of private land, and 13 hectares of local iwi land will be required to implement this option.

Construction cost

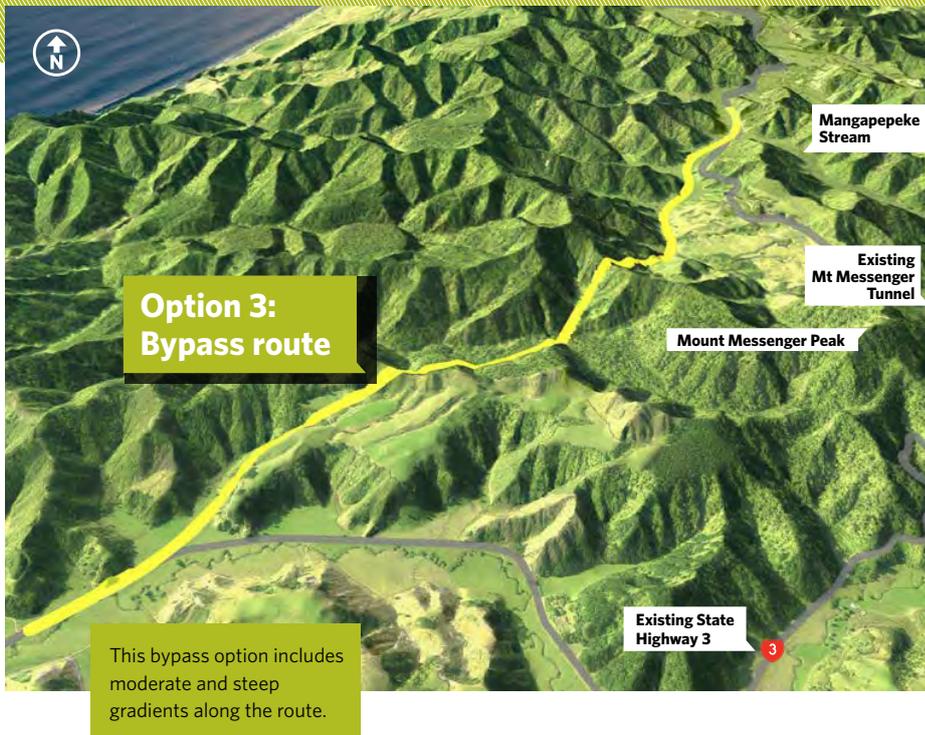
At the current stage of the Project's development and using available information, we expect Option 2 to be two to three times more expensive than Option 1.

The final expected cost will be influenced by the suitability of the ground conditions and the costs of minimising and avoiding the impacts on the areas of ecological and cultural value.

Mt Messenger bypass Project

Option 3: Mt Messenger bypass route

Option 3 is a bypass route running west of the existing highway and is approximately 5.3km long. It generally follows a straight-line pathway, which makes it the most direct route compared to Option 1 and Option 2.



To get through the hills and valleys the route includes some very high cut slopes (up to 120 metres high) and areas built up by about 50 metres from the existing ground level to new higher levels.

This option provides a likely 90km/h speed limit and slow vehicle bays in both directions for passing opportunities. So that traffic can maintain its speed in or out of the bypass and along the existing route to the north, there would need to be transition sections on the new bypass route or improvements on the existing section of highway.

Key features

Safety, resilience and journey experience

This option delivers significant improvements in safety, resilience and journey experience and avoids the worst of the current road layout of Mt Messenger.

Impact on the environment

There is a high impact on sensitive ecological and cultural areas. Ways to minimise or avoid them will be agreed with the local iwi, private landowners and the Department of Conservation.

The very high cut slopes have a high visual impact. The possibilities of softening cut slopes by landscaping need to be further investigated.

Land required

Approximately 33 hectares of private land, and 19 hectares of local iwi land will be required to implement this option.

Construction cost

At the current stage of the Project's development and using available information, we expect Option 3 to be three to four times more expensive than Option 1.

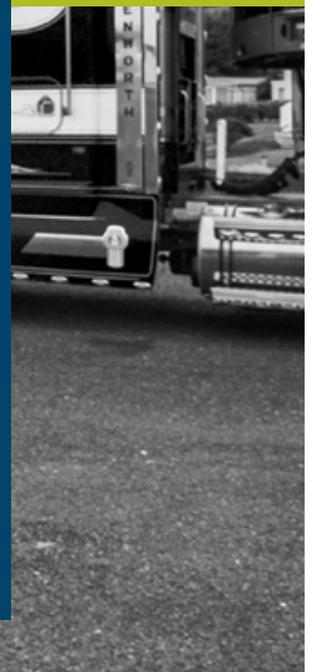
The final expected cost will be influenced by the suitability of the ground conditions and the costs of minimising and avoiding the impacts on the areas of ecological and cultural values.

SH3 Safety and Resilience Improvements Project

State Highway 3 Improvements



This project aims to deliver a balanced programme of safety, resilience and journey experience improvements over 58km between the northern end of Awakino Gorge and southern end of Mt Messenger.



What are the issues with State Highway 3 (SH3)?

Safety

There are many serious crashes on the road because of its sharp bends, narrow lanes and numerous unforgiving roadside hazards.

Poor resilience

This road is regularly closed because of vehicle crashes, and slips and debris blocking the way. There is no convenient alternative route so these road closures can cause big delays for motorists.

Poor journey experience

A lack of passing opportunities and safe places to pull over on the road frustrates drivers. Frustrated drivers can make unsafe decisions which lead to crashes.

What will the benefits be for motorists?

Safer journeys

- » Fewer crashes resulting in deaths and serious injuries.
- » More people returning from their journeys safe and sound.

A more resilient road

- » Fewer road closures due to slips and vegetation falling onto the road.
- » Fewer delays caused by crashes and congestion creating a more predictive journey time.

Less stressful / more enjoyable journeys

- » More safe opportunities to pass other vehicles.
- » Fewer delays caused by road closures and congestion.
- » More scenic areas for motorists to pull over and take a break.

SH3 Safety and Resilience Improvements Project

What improvements are we considering?

Stage 1



Side safety barriers
Installation of side barrier at high risk locations to reduce the severity of a run-off-road crash.



Visibility improvements
Trimming and removal of vegetation to improve visibility through curves.



Rest stop areas
Formalised stopping areas, safe for pulling over to allow vehicles to pass, check loads and take a break.



Review of speed management
There are three areas where we would like your views on how speed is managed.



Signage
Consistent and appropriate curve signage to warn drivers of high risk curves.



Slow vehicle bays
New areas for slower vehicles to pull over and let traffic past



Rumble strips
Installation of centre line and selected edge line to reduce cars running of the road and head-on crashes.

Stage 2



Road widening and intersection improvements
Additional tarseal in isolated locations to provide extra road width allowing vehicles to pull over or recover more easily.



Passing opportunities
Additional safe passing opportunities to reduce driver frustration and improve travel time reliability.



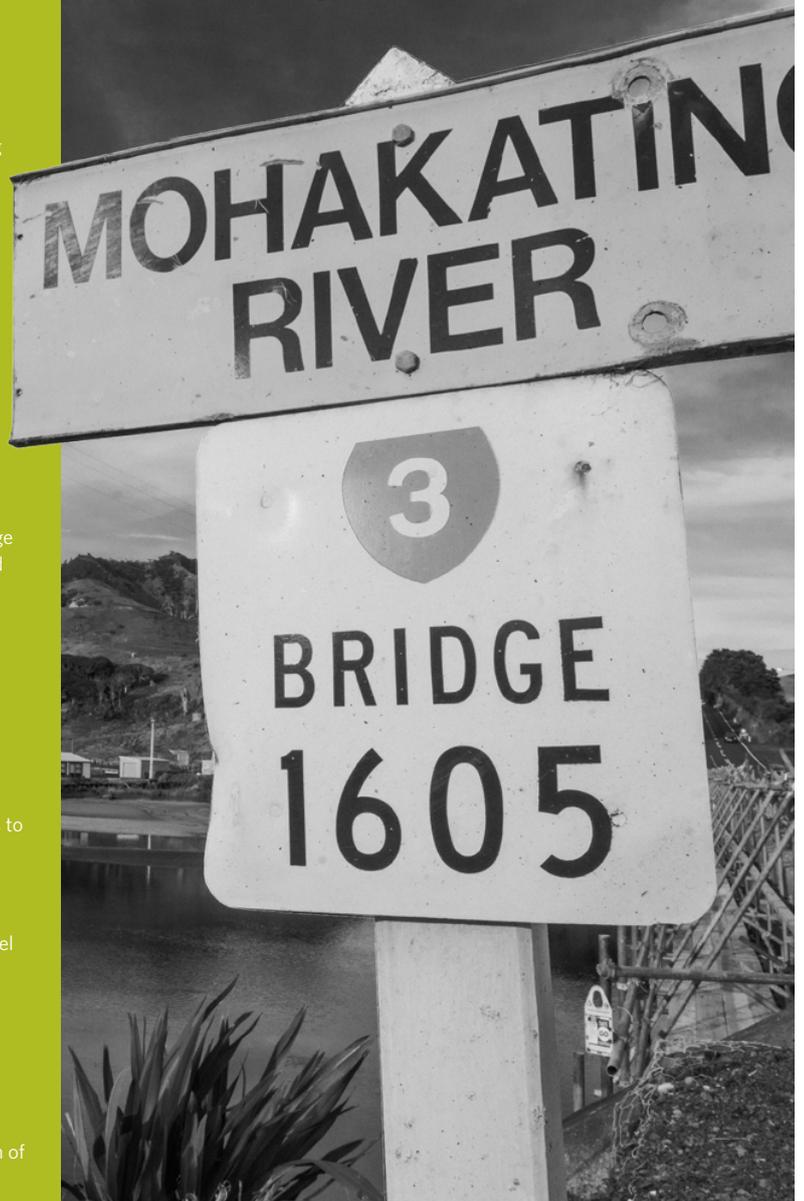
Road realignments
Easing curves to improve safety, route resilience and driver experience.



Slope stability
Slope stability improvements at high risk sites to reduce the frequency and duration of road closures.

The improvements are focused on engineering solutions.

Physical works will be split over two stages.



SH3 Safety and Resilience Improvements Project

Stage 1: What's happening first?

This package includes work on State Highway 3 (SH3) within the existing road reserve. The improvements will not require a resource consent and are relatively simple to implement.

Physical works are expected to begin in early 2017, allowing us to deliver early benefits to all road users.

Please talk to one of our team to learn more.



The location of possible options are shown on the map.

Estimated works time line



SH3 Safety and Resilience Improvements Project

Stage 1: Managing road risk



New Zealand roads can be unforgiving

- » Our roads are unique. Our roads are windy, hilly, often single lane.
- » These roads can be challenging and demanding to drive, and the consequences of small errors can be fatal.
- » Not all risks are visible, and often our roads aren't easy to read.



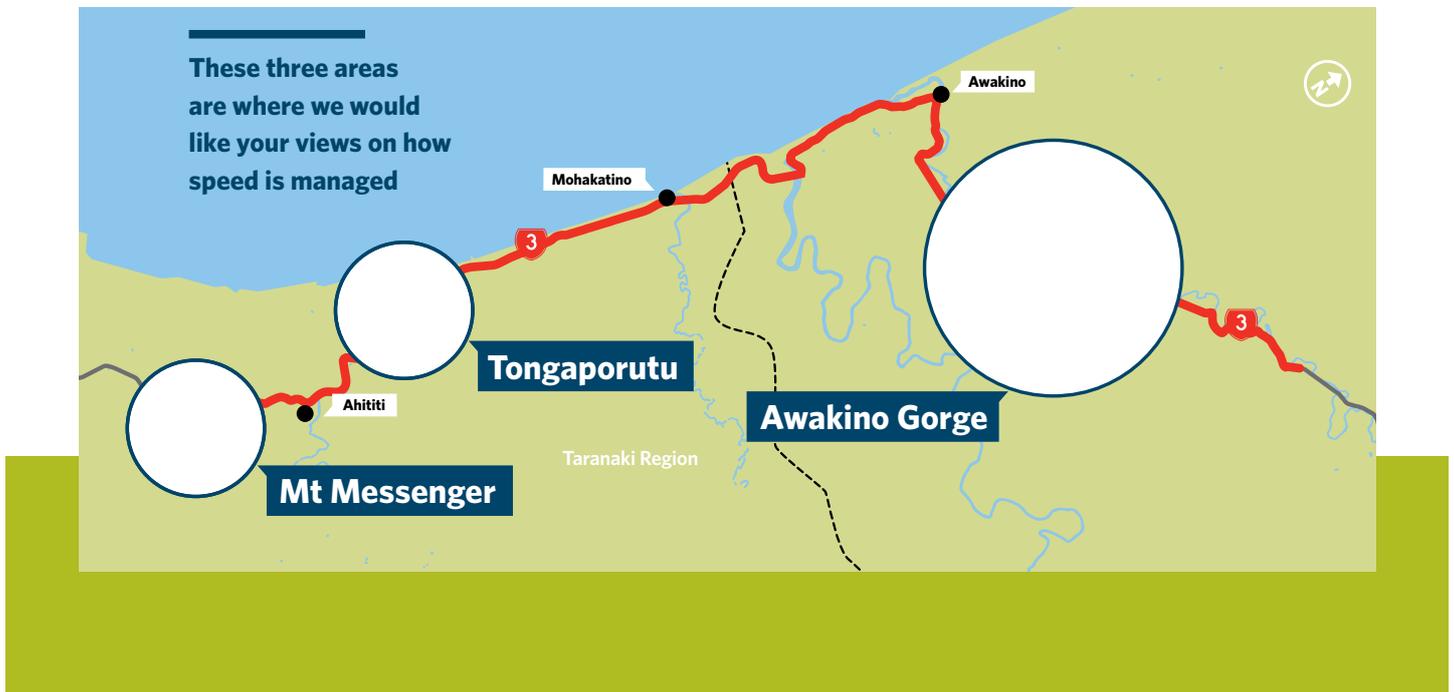
Drivers need to choose the right speed for the road

- » Drivers use a lot of cues to read the road and assess the right speed for the road and the conditions.
- » Conditions include the shape of the road, the weather, traffic, other road users, and road-side hazards.
- » Regardless of what causes a crash, speed always plays a part.



When communities understand risk, they can discuss what to do

- » To reduce the risk on the road, we can improve the roads. We can also lower speed limits.
- » Locals know local roads, and have a perspective on what needs to be done.
- » Communities can contribute to discussions about local risk and how to make their roads safer.



SH3 Safety and Resilience Improvements Project

Stage 2: What's happening next

We are investigating a number of more complex improvements such as road realignments, passing lanes and slope stability improvements.

Road realignments

These ease unexpected tight curves on the highway making it safer. For example straightening the road where accidents have occurred or to allow more even travel speeds.

New passing opportunities

Installing new passing lanes and/or slow vehicle bays reduce driver frustration and improve travel experience. They are useful in places where trucks travel slower than other vehicles, eg on uphill sections of highway.

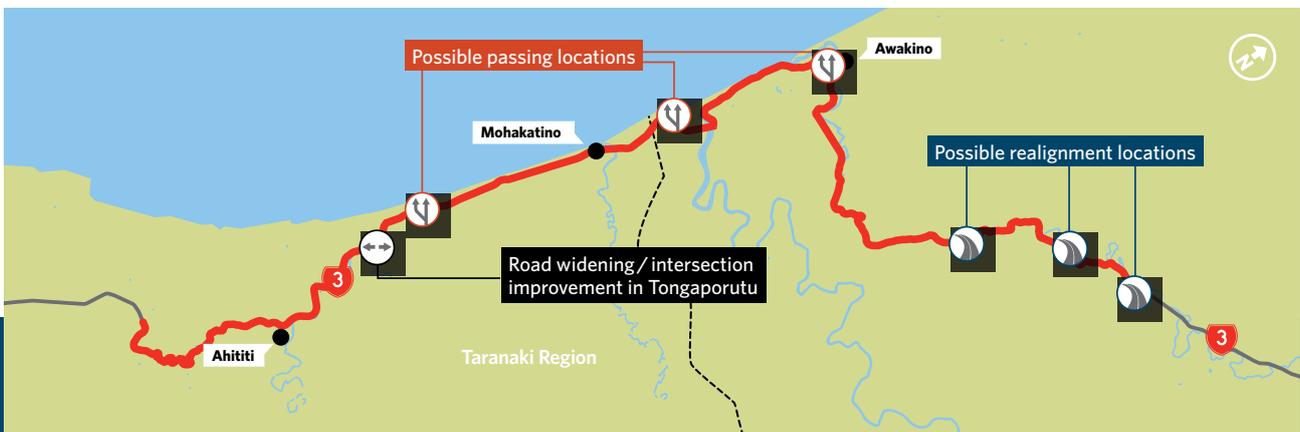
Slope stability treatments

Natural events cause 60% of road closures on this route. Making slopes more stable reduces highway closures and improves safety. We are assessing the highest risk areas on the route including rockfall and underslip (washout) sites.

Road widening and intersection improvements

These make the road safer for turning and through traffic. Improvements in Tongaporutu and other areas of greatest need are being investigated.

Although we'd like to do everything, the reality is we need to prioritise. We would like to hear your feedback. What treatments do you think are most needed on this route?



The location of possible options are shown on the map.

Agenda Memorandum

Date 20 February 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

Subject: Riparian management and ecosystem services – PhD thesis studies by Fleur Maseyk

Approved by: G K Bedford, Director-Environment Quality
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1816559

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise the Council of the completion of studies towards a Doctor of Philosophy degree by Fleur Maseyk, which focused on aspects of riparian management in Taranaki as the core topic for her investigations. Dr Maseyk will be delivering a presentation on some of her findings during today's meeting. Attached to this memorandum for the information of Members is a paper prepared by Dr Maseyk, *Farmer perspectives of the on-farm and off-farm pros and cons of planted multifunctional riparian margins*. The paper summarises key aspects of her thesis *Applying ecosystem services thinking to natural resource management and conservation decision making* (A thesis submitted to the University of Queensland for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy), which is available upon request.

Executive summary

The studies described in the report and thesis and within this memorandum have formed part of this Council's investment in research and investigations for the benefit of the development of appropriately targeted and effective policies and methods of implementation towards sustainable natural resource management. Dr Maseyk has examined several aspects of the Council's riparian programme, to explore how human behaviour and human perceptions might recognize ecosystem services offered by riparian margins, the value placed on these various services by participants, and how these perceptions might then be integrated into resource management policy and practice.

Dr Maseyk conducted interview with two groups of farmers in Taranaki- those who had undertaken riparian plantings within their on-farm riparian management, and those who had not.

The findings and conclusions of Dr Maseyk's research are set out below and within the report attached as an appendix to this memorandum. While the Council provided considerable assistance by way of financial support, logistical arrangements, and provision

of information to Dr Maseyk, her analysis, interpretation, and views were independent of this Council's policy position.

The Council may note that her overall conclusions from the farmer feedback of the different riparian management options deliver an in-depth analysis of the Council's current direction of travel and investment in riparian management as a foundation of sustainable use of land and water in the region, while offering some further matters for the Council's consideration as it continues its review of the current Freshwater Plan for Taranaki.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Riparian management and ecosystem services- PhD thesis studies by Fleur Maseyk*
2. notes the findings and interpretations set out in the memorandum.

Background

As set out in the Council's Long-term Plan, resource investigations and studies are a core activity for the Council. The *Resource Management Act 1991* requires the Council to make policy and decisions based on sound knowledge and information. It further requires the Council to monitor the state of the Taranaki environment and the results of the Council's policies and decisions.

Scientific knowledge is a fundamental prerequisite of effective resource management. Environmental science is complex and challenging. Precise, accurate and comprehensive understanding of cause and effect relationships and the cost effectiveness of various methods of addressing environmental issues seldom exist, to a totally satisfactory level. The Council seeks to gain and maintain defensible, comprehensive, current and strategic data and information through targeted research and monitoring at an appropriate level. The collection and application of information and data recognises the imperatives of the *Resource Management Act* and the scale and nature of current or potential resource issues in the region. Investigations enable the Council to develop and review effective policies that demonstrably sustain and enhance the state of the region's environment.

Such studies may be undertaken wholly by internal resourcing, or by shared collaborations, or by Council support of external investigations that might utilise the Council's very comprehensive databases, experiences and expertise across a variety of fields. In this particular case the Council was approached by Fleur Maseyk, who was seeking to undertake a course of investigation leading to a Doctor of Philosophy degree that was based on consideration of the ecosystems services that riparian management might provide and extending both to modelling these services at a farm scale and taking into account a range of possible effects, and to incorporating the views of local landowners about riparian management. Given this region's longstanding and comprehensive riparian programme, much of Dr Maseyk's fieldwork was undertaken within this region, and with staff and financial support from the Council.

Discussion

Applying ecosystem services thinking to natural resource management and conservation decision making

Ecosystem services thinking is a concept that goes beyond describing the structural elements that might be present within a landscape, and their physico-chemical state, to describe and assess the functionality and inter-play of the elements as a whole. So, for example, rather than simply catalogue the vegetation types, length of water course, and climatic range within a particular environment, an ecosystem services approach will cover off energy flows, inputs, and outputs, water regulation, nutrient filtering and uptake, carbon sequestration, and other services and connections. It is about what a particular ecosystem 'does' and what is happening within it, as distinct from what the ecosystem is comprised of.

The underlying purpose of Dr Maseyk's examination of the riparian programme in Taranaki was to explore how human behaviour and human perceptions might be recognizing ecosystem services offered by riparian margins, and how these perceptions might be integrated into resource management policy and practice. To this end she sought farmers' perceptions and experiences of the region's riparian programme.

In brief, Dr Maseyk found that farmers who had implemented riparian margin planting as well as riparian exclusion (fencing) identified many benefits in doing so, including production, environmental, and social. This grouping of farmers identified 32 different aspects of riparian vegetation across ten categories: 65% of the aspects they identified were positive and 35% negative. The categories their perceptions fell into embraced biodiversity values and services, stock management, pasture productivity, animal welfare through shade and shelter, water quality, Council-farmer relationships, financial costs, farm management, weeds and pests management, and public perceptions of farmers and farming.

Benefits noted included on-farm benefits of improved animal welfare, pasture growth, improved quality of water supply, and reduced labour costs (eg not having to rescue stock from streams; not having to erect temporary fencing each time streamside paddocks were grazed). On the other hand, management of riparian vegetation was seen as meaning loss of productive land (although better animal condition could compensate for this) and increased pest and weed control. Sixty-three per cent of this group felt that the financial benefits on-farm outweighed the costs.

Participants identified the enhancement of biodiversity and environmental values as important benefits achieved by planting riparian margins, with 94% of this group agreeing that riparian margins increase biodiversity values, and all participants of this group agreeing that rip plantings have benefits for water quality. The entire group agreed with the proposition 'I undertook riparian planting because I have a responsibility for environmental enhancement', and 75% of the group agreed with the proposition 'I undertook riparian planting because I wanted to improve future water quality'. The social values of riparian planting that were identified by this group included improved farm appearance, attracting better staff, increased property values, and better relationships with this Council (93% support, but with explicit emphasis from the group that this referred only to TRC). This group also strongly preferred the Council's programme over the Water Accord requirements, and voluntary participation now as a means to avoid compulsory obligations at some future stage.

By contrast, a second grouping of farmers, those who had implemented riparian exclusion only and with no planting, similarly identified that fenced riparian margins provided benefits for water quality, animal safety, and farm management, but were not convinced about the virtues of riparian planting. They identified 15 aspects to riparian vegetation, all of which were negative. The two most negative aspects were held to be: riparian planting will not provide the in-stream benefits claimed, and the cost of loss of productive land outweighs any benefits (indeed this group held that there were no benefits to farm management or production at all).

Both groups felt that while the costs of riparian margin management fell on them, the wider community stood to benefit by what they were doing. Both groups also raised concern about the problems caused when riparian plants were washed away downstream, and the damage developing riparian plantings could do to fences.

In her thesis, Dr Maseyk then goes on to evaluate these attitudes in the light of scientific findings around riparian management, and in the light of national-level moves towards nutrient management, water quality, and biodiversity.

Dr Maseyk concludes: Our findings show that farmers with planted margins perceive the introduction of vegetation natural capital stocks into riparian margins to provide many benefits and have started to recognise and value the environmental, production, and social functions of riparian margins in an integrated way. Strengthening multifunctional agriculture is not only positive for the farm system but can resonate with the non-farming community who see this as a preferable model for farming..... However, the planting of riparian margins needs to sit within a more comprehensive policy framework providing incremental mitigation options if a wider range of negative externalities generated by land use practices are to be reduced.

Conclusions

Dr Maseyk's work provides insights into community perceptions of the values and costs of the Council's riparian programme, across a wide range of on-farm and off-farm considerations and economic and non-economic factors. It will allow the Council to further develop and target effective policy formulation and implementation to enhance the management of the region's resources in conjunction with and with the engagement of the regional community. In particular, the farmer feedback delivers an in-depth analysis of community reactions to the Council's current direction of travel and investment in riparian management as a foundation for sustainable use of land and water in the region. At the same time, her work offers some further matters for the Council's consideration as it continues its review of the current Freshwater Plan for Taranaki.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

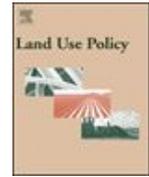
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Farmer perspectives of the on-farm and off-farm pros and cons of planted multifunctional riparian margins



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ABSTRACT

The planting of riparian margins is a policy option for pastoral farmers in response to land use induced environmental issues such as declining water quality, stream bank erosion, and loss of aquatic and terrestrial habitat. We elicited the views and experiences as to pros and cons of planting riparian margins from two sets of dairy farmers from Taranaki, New Zealand: those who are or have planted riparian margins, and those who have not yet done so. Those farmers who have planted riparian margins identified 21 positive aspects of riparian margin plantings and 11 negative aspects of riparian margin plantings. Perceived benefits identified by this group include water quality, increased biodiversity, the provision of cultural ecosystem services, immediate direct benefits to farm management and the farm system, and in some instances increased productivity on-farm. In contrast, those farmers that had fenced but not planted their riparian margins did not consider that riparian margin plantings could add further benefits to that which could be achieved by excluding stock from waterways, and associated only negative perceptions with riparian margin plantings. Planting riparian margins is not cost neutral and will not deliver anticipated environmental benefits in every situation. However, we argue that riparian margin plantings are an important ecological infrastructure investment that needs to be captured within a wider policy framework, the benefits of which extend beyond the mitigation of a single negative externality generated by land use practices, such as nutrient loss, and contribute to a multifunctional landscape.

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1. Introduction

Conversion of forested landscapes to provide for the development of agriculture has occurred throughout the world (Tanentzap et al., 2015). While this whole-scale transformation of landscapes has increased food production, it has come at a cost to system functions, many of which underpin the provision of other ecosystem services which food and water security and human health are also reliant upon (Bommarco et al., 2013; Costanza et al., 2014; Gordon et al., 2010). Spatial separation of land used for food production, from land used for other ecosystem services including biodiversity protection (i.e. land sparing (Fischer et al., 2008)) has reduced social-ecological flexibility of agricultural landscapes by favouring food production in most cases at the cost of all other functions

(Meadows et al., 2008). Emphasising productivist notions of land use restricts the transition to multifunctional landscapes (Wilson, 2008).

In agricultural landscapes, land management interventions aimed at improving diversity are increasingly being regulated or otherwise incentivised to mitigate the environmental impacts of agricultural practices and facilitate transitions to greater 'multifunctional agriculture' (Wilson, 2009). An example of an intervention is using riparian zones to separate agricultural practice from waterways. Riparian zones (herein riparian margins) are the margin of land adjacent to waterways where direct interaction between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems occurs. Riparian margin habitat is not found anywhere other than the riparian zone and has a disproportional influence on ecosystem function relative to the size of the catchment (Collier et al., 1995).

Functioning riparian margins are the source of ecological processes such as filtering the flow of nutrients and provision of organic input into aquatic food webs (Bennett et al., 2014). Utilising riparian margins as production land heavily compromises their ecological functionality, and removes the ability to spatially separate the

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detrimental impacts of land use from the receiving environment. The exclusion of livestock from riparian margins and waterways can have immediate environmental benefits (Parkyn et al., 2003) by protecting banks from erosion and waterways from the direct input of nutrients and bacteria. Retired, grassed riparian margins of an adequate width for local soil and slope variables also provide a buffer to the input of sediments, nutrients, pathogens, and pesticides transported by overland flow into waterways, reducing contaminant and sediment loadings in-stream (Collier et al., 1995). While retired single-tier grassed margins create beneficial buffers, diverse, multi-tiered riparian margin vegetation builds on and enhances the benefits provided by grassed margins increasing both riparian margin functionality and in-stream values (DairyNZ, 2012). Multi-tiered riparian margins additionally buffer flood flows and reduce their effect in-stream, maintain a microclimate, increase terrestrial and in-stream habitat, structural complexity, and biodiversity, increase terrestrial carbon inputs into the aquatic system, maintain food webs, and provide shade which maintains lower summer maximum in-stream temperatures and prevents nuisance plant growth (Collier et al., 1995; Moller et al., 2008).

Management of riparian margins is considered to provide a public benefit (Buckley et al., 2012; Cooper et al., 2009) and is increasingly becoming embedded in policy and industry standards internationally, including in Europe under The European Union Nitrates and Water Framework Directives; in Ireland under the Agricultural Environmental Options Scheme; and in New Zealand under the Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord. Beyond the public benefits generated by riparian margins there is evidence to suggest planted riparian margins also provide a wide range of ecosystem services directly useful on-farm (a private benefit). The ability for incentives to effect change depends in part on the strength of the incentive farmers require to adopt a new practice (Pannell, 2004). Recognising that integrating riparian margins into the farm system can self-generate incentive through the provision of private as well as public benefits is therefore critically important for developing policy or industry practice change incentives.

Programmes to reinstate lost vegetation are driving landscape transformation and manipulation of system function. We were principally interested in benefits and values that farmers perceive or experience to be associated with riparian margin plantings on their farms, and how these values are linked to farmer willingness and motivations to plant riparian margins or not. To better understand these values, we invited dairy farmers from Taranaki, New Zealand to participate in half-day workshops to explore their perspectives on the pros, cons, benefits, values, and liabilities arising from the reinstatement of woody vegetation within riparian margins. In particular we aimed to answer the following three questions:

1. What values, benefits, costs, constraints, and liabilities (pros and cons) do farmers perceive to be associated with the planting of riparian margins?
2. What do farmers see as the influence of planted riparian margins on the operation of the farm and its biological and financial performance?
3. How do identified values influence farmer's motivations for planting riparian margins and are there additional motivational factors?

Knowledge of the private-public benefits experienced by farmers can assist in refining current or developing future policy-driven land management interventions.

2. Methods

2.1. Riparian margin management in New Zealand

The reintroduction of vegetation (natural capital stocks) is a necessary component of replacing lost biological and structural diversity across large areas of New Zealand as historic and contemporary agricultural practices have led to substantial loss of native vegetation (Ewers et al., 2006; Lee et al., 2008; Myers et al., 2013; Walker et al., 2006). Native landscapes in lowland New Zealand have been almost completely replaced with systems dominated by exotic species introduced from the Northern Hemisphere by European settlers from the early-mid 1800s. While exotic dominated systems can deliver most functions and services necessary for food production, this shift has come at a cost to the provision of other ecosystem services. Intensification of farming practices over recent decades has accelerated the shift towards single-use landscapes where food provision is favoured over other services.

There is currently no overarching regulatory obligation or subsidised incentive scheme to compel or encourage New Zealand farmer's to exclude riparian margins from the productive areas of their farm systems (Tanentzap et al., 2015). The statutory responsibility for controlling land use sits at the local government level administered by regional councils. Local government driven riparian margin management in New Zealand typically involves the retirement of the margin from the farm system, or 'set-back' requirements for several land use activities involving discharges into the environment such as the application to land of herbicides, pesticides, fertilisers, or effluent. Retirement of margins is typically focused on dairy systems, horticulture, and commercial forestry while set-back restrictions for discharges can also apply to other farm systems (e.g. sheep and beef). The width of a retired riparian margin varies greatly between regions and between farms and is often a farmer-negotiated distance that can be as narrow as <1 m, and is often determined independent of the influence of adjacent slope characteristics. Under some policies or programmes, the management of riparian margins may also include planting native riparian vegetation, and it is this activity that our study focuses on. Local authorities (regional and territorial councils) also have responsibilities for the protection and maintenance of existing remnant native vegetation on-farm, including riparian margin vegetation in some cases. However, these approaches are highly variable (Maseyk and Gerbeaux, 2015) and there remains no national policy to retain or increase native vegetation (Welsch et al., 2014).

The industry-led initiative, 'Dairying and Clean Streams Accord' (Clean Streams Accord) was signed by Fonterra (New Zealand's largest dairy cooperative), the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry for the Environment, and Local Government New Zealand in 2003. The Clean Streams Accord operated at a national level to address the environmental impacts of dairy farming on waterways and included targets for stock exclusion, and effluent and nutrient management. The Clean Streams Accord was replaced by the 'Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord' (the Water Accord) in 2012. While sitting outside of legislative requirements, compliance with the Water Accord is mandatory as an industry condition of supply.

2.2. States of riparian margins

We conceptualise three typical states of riparian margins: 1. *Farmed*, margins are utilised for farm productivity (e.g. cropping or grazing livestock to the waters edge); 2. *Retired*, productivity is separated from the riparian zone leaving a single-tier ungrazed grass strip; and 3. *Retired and vegetated*, multi-tiered riparian margin habitat including a diversity of plant forms is established and

maintained. Relative functionality (environmental, productive, and social) increases from state 1 to state 3, although complete restoration of ecological riparian function is uncertain (Parkyn et al., 2003; Stockan et al., 2012), is a long-term prospect (Collier et al., 1995; Stockan et al., 2012), and is influenced by the spatial arrangement and scale of planted reaches (Parkyn et al., 2003).

2.3. Study site

The study was based within the 723,610 ha volcanic ring plain of Mt Taranaki in the Taranaki Region, west coast of the North Island, New Zealand. Following European settlement in the mid-1800s, the once forested landscape was rapidly and almost entirely developed into a largely homogenous pastoral landscape with small, fragmented, isolated remnants of native wetland, scrub, and forest. This transformation is similar to that experienced elsewhere in New Zealand and globally (Welsch et al., 2014). Native biodiversity on the Taranaki ring plain has been reduced to less than 10% of former cover and continues to decline (Lee et al., 2008; TRC 2008, 2014). This historic and contemporary loss of diversity from the ring plain has caused the irreversible loss of many of the native biodiversity elements and associated ecosystem services that would have been provided by a more diverse landscape. Pastoral farming operations on the ring plain are of an intensity that effectively prevents unassisted reestablishment of lost biota. Over 300 short reach (average length of 20 km), high gradient waterways radiate from Mt Taranaki flowing rapidly and steadily into the Tasman Sea. This extensive network of waterways has a total length of 7330 km (14,660 km of stream bank), with a total of 6517 km (13,034 km of stream bank) on the ring plain (TRC, 2011).

2.4. The Taranaki Riparian Margin Management Programme

In 1993 Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) initiated the 'Taranaki Riparian Management Programme' (Taranaki programme), a voluntary regionally-focussed riparian margin planting programme targeted at dairy systems on the ring plain, with a key objective to 'protect the water quality in Taranaki'. The Water Accord also applies to dairy farmers in the Taranaki Region, thus there are two major riparian margin programmes co-existing in Taranaki. While both are non-statutory, there are several differences in their design. Of most relevance here are: 1) the reach of the Taranaki programme is greater than the Water Accord with all streams (down to 1st order streams) and all riverine wetlands captured by the programme, while the Water Accord applies only to waterways greater than one metre in width and deeper than 30 cm and only 'regionally significant' wetlands; 2) the Taranaki programme is focused on fencing and planting while the Water Accord focuses on stock exclusion via fencing; 3) the Water Accord includes actions beyond riparian margin management (e.g. management of nutrient loss, and implementation of nutrient use efficiency) that is not part of the Taranaki programme; 4) under the Water Accord, dairy companies have committed to develop support tools (such as guidelines), while under the Taranaki programme, the regional council prepares a riparian planting plan at no cost to the farmer, facilitates supply of plants, and provides plants at wholesale costs. Critically, the Water Accord carries with it the threat of penalty as under the condition of supply agreement, dairy companies can cease to collect milk should farmers not comply with targets.

Of the total 13,034 km of stream bank on the ring plain, 11,093 km has been fenced (85%) and 2138 km (16%) planted under the Taranaki programme. Combined with existing vegetation, the new plantings bring the total combined length of vegetated riparian margins across the ring plain to 6874 km (53%).

2.5. Farmer workshops

2.5.1. Selection of participants

Our study group comprised dairy farmers farming on the Taranaki ring plain (from a total population of ~1760 dairy farmers in the Taranaki Region). Eligibility for participation was simple:

1. A dairy farmer farming on the Taranaki ring plain that had planted or was in the process of planting riparian margin vegetation (Group A), or
2. A dairy farmer farming on the Taranaki ring plain that had not planted riparian margin vegetation (Group B).

Beyond these criteria, no preference was made based on any other characteristic. The two farmer groups participated in the study via two workshops (one for each group) held in Stratford, Taranaki Region in May 2015.

A total of twenty-two farmers attended the workshops, 17 in Group A and five in Group B. One rural professional (who had previously been dairy farming) also participated with Group A (bringing Group A participants to 18).

2.5.2. Workshop design

We were interested in farmers' perspectives on the environmental, social, and production values provided by riparian margin management and their motivations for planting riparian margins. Workshop activities were designed to answer the research questions.

Facilitated discussions followed a mixed-method approach including semi-structured break-out group and whole-group discussions and feedback, and structured voting methodologies (open and blind) to elicit responses from participants. The definition of riparian margins was presented during the introduction of both workshops to establish consistent context amongst participants and between workshops. Discussions were prefaced with a brief presentation and parameterisation of the topic for discussion and their duration time-restricted (between ten minutes and half an hour), but not obstructed otherwise. Before breaking into discussion groups, participants were asked to reflect on the topics raised in the previous discussion. In this way, each subsequent discussion advanced the prior and allowed for further detail to emerge.

2.5.2.1. Workshop with Group A. Following an initial discussion and feedback session participants were each allocated three votes which they used to indicate three aspects of riparian margin plantings from the list generated during the group discussions that they felt best captured what was most relevant to them. Voting was open and conducted as a group exercise. This exercise produced the 'top ten' responses that were of most relevance to the group as a whole. Following the workshops, the responses were evaluated to identify thematic similarities and retrospectively grouped into categories (Table 1). Each comment was assigned to one of nine categories. Negative comments were taken to represent 'cons' and positive comments to represent 'pros' within each category.

To further gauge variance in opinion between participants, the language of the top ten responses from the first discussion (pros and cons of riparian margins) was refined to remove potential ambiguity and transposed into statements (the focal statements) (Table 2). Participants were then asked to indicate their level of agreement with each of the ten focal statements using a five-point fixed Likert scale (5, Strongly agree, 4, Agree, 3, Neutral, 2, Disagree, 1, Strongly disagree). This exercise was conducted 'blind', using interactive Turning Technologies software (TurningPoint version 5.3.1) and hand-held voting clickers (Turning Technologies, ResponseCard RF LCD). This method allowed the votes to be confidential, addressing

Table 1
The nine categories summarising farmer perceived pros and cons of planted riparian margins.

Category		Themes captured
A. Environmental		
1	Environmental	Environmental responsibility; environmental enhancement
B. Social		
2	Social responsibility	Personal values; relationships; perceptions of the non-farming community
3	Equity	Distribution of costs and benefits between farmers and non-farming community; differing requirements between farms
4	Community-scale benefits	Benefits to local economy; benefits to local community
5	Aesthetics	Visual amenity
C. Financial		
6	Financial	Farm productivity; direct on-farm costs and savings
D. On-farm management		
7	Practical considerations	Practicalities of establishing and maintaining riparian margin plantings; interaction with wider farm management
8	Welfare	Safety of personal; safety and welfare of stock
E. Taranaki programme specific		
9	Programme design	Programme requirements; priorities; programme implementation; supporting policies; messaging

Table 2
The ten focal statements describing aspects of planted riparian margins. The statements were transposed from the top ten aspects of riparian margin plantings of most relevance to Group A (voted by Group A from a group-generated list of 32 pros and cons). The category (Table 1) that each statement falls within is shown in the fourth column.

Rank	Theme	Statement	Category
1	Biodiversity	Riparian margin plantings increase biodiversity value	1
2	Stock management	Riparian margin plantings assist in stock management (avoided losses)	6
3	Pasture management	Riparian fencing helps with pasture management	7
4	Shade & shelter	Riparian plantings provide multiple functions (shade and shelter for stock)	8
5	Water quality	Riparian plantings have benefits for improving water quality	1
6	Council-farmer relationship	The riparian planting programme has fostered good relationships between farmers and regional council	2
7	Costs	Different farms are subjected to different costs with riparian plantings	3
8	Farm management	Riparian plantings make you think about management in a broader way	7
9	Weeds & pests	There are ongoing weed and pest maintenance costs from riparian plantings	7
10	Public perceptions	Riparian plantings improve public perceptions of dairy farming	2

any potential peer pressure and maintaining independence from the group dynamic.

Finally, participants were presented with a questionnaire investigating why farmers had planted riparian margins and how they felt about them. The questionnaire proposed 26 fixed statements of which the respondent could tick as many as they agreed with. Respondents were also given the option for a 'don't know' response or to provide their own statement(s). Sixteen participants completed the questionnaire. Responses to the questionnaire were summarised with descriptive statistics.

2.5.2.2. Workshop with Group B. The Group B workshop followed the same format as that for Group A. Following their own discussion, response feedback, and preference voting on the pros and cons of planting riparian margins, Group B were presented with the focal statements generated during the workshop with Group A. Group B participants were then asked to indicate their level of agreement with each of the ten focal statements using the same five-point fixed Likert scale (Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly disagree) and blind polling methodology. Comparison between the two groups of the level of agreement with the ten focal statements was conducted using Pearson's *t*-tests conducted using R Studio version 0.98.1091 (R Core Team, 2014).

2.6. Online surveys

To gauge how representative the responses generated by both workshop groups was of the wider Taranaki ring plain dairy farming community, the views of the TRC Land Management Officers (LMOs) were elicited via an anonymous online survey. The LMOs are directly involved on a day-to-day basis with implementing the Taranaki programme and are regularly engaged in discussions with farmers regards the merits or otherwise of riparian margin plantings. The LMOs were asked to indicate how frequently (All the time, Frequently, Infrequently, Never) they heard each of the ten focal statements derived from responses generated by Group A and all of the responses generated by the Group B (n = 15). Respondents were also given the option for a 'don't know' response or to provide their own comment(s). The online survey was emailed to seven potential participants (four current LMOs and three who were recently but are no longer working as a LMO with the TRC). Four responses were received. While the sample size of the LMO survey is small, each LMO interacts with a large number of farmers on a regular basis. Responses to the online survey were summarised with descriptive statistics and evaluated alongside the outcomes of the farmer workshops.

3. Results

There was a notable difference in how each group perceived riparian margins. Group A always assumed plantings to be present when they conceptualised riparian margins, while Group B explicitly differentiated between fenced, single-tier grass strip riparian margins and planted or multi-tier riparian margins and considered the difference to be critical in their assessment of the potential for riparian margins to generate benefits.

Group A identified 32 pros and cons of planted riparian vegetation while Group B identified 15. Group A's list covered a broader range of aspects that could be aggregated into nine categories (Table 1), while Group B's list only populated four of the same categories. Group A's list predominantly identified positive aspects (pros, 65%) while Group B's list contained only negative aspects of riparian margin plantings (Fig. 1). The notable disparity between the two groups reflects the general consensus of Group A that riparian margin plantings provide benefits beyond just the protection of water quality values ("*Riparian plantings make you think about management in a broader way*") while Group B struggled to identify benefits additional to those achieved by excluding livestock from waterways, openly questioning the ability of plantings to protect water quality ("*Goals are unrealistic and unattainable*").

The ten focal statements derived from responses generated by Group A are presented in Table 2. The farmers in Group A (n = 17) took part in the Likert voting on the focal statements, returning a total of 168 (of the 170 potential) responses (only 16 participants responded to two of the statements). Group B returned a total of 50 responses (all five participants responded to each of the ten statements).

Group A participants showed a tendency to Strongly agree (71, 42%) or Agree (77, 46%) with the group generated statements although some individuals were Neutral (18, 10%). Disagreement with the statements by Group A participants was minor with only two (1%) Strongly disagree responses. Group B participants' responses were more evenly spread across the levels of agreement (Strongly agree, 11 (22%); Agree, 8 (16%); Disagree, 9 (18%); Strongly disagree 9 (18%)) with the highest proportion of responses falling into the Neutral category (13, 26%). However, a significant difference in level of agreement between the two groups was detected for five of the ten focal statements (Fig. 2).

3.1. Farmer perceived pros and cons of planted riparian margins (Q1)

The range of pros and cons identified by Group A include environmental, social, and production values (Fig. 3). Productivist benefits included gains in the management of livestock (including animal welfare), pasture growth, water quality and supply, and reduced labour costs. Long-term management of plantings was identified as a liability, and loss of production land and increased pest and weed control were identified as some of the associated costs. Participants connected riparian margins with environment benefits such as improved water quality (reduced nutrification and reduced sedimentation) and ecological values such as increased terrestrial and aquatic habitat. Social values were also identified as flowing from planted riparian margins including improving the farm appearance, the ability to attract better staff, and increased property values. Several of the pros and cons identified also arise with fenced-only grass-strip riparian margins (Fig. 3).

The enhancement of biodiversity and environmental values was perceived as an important benefit of planting riparian margins for Group A participants (focal statement 1: "*Riparian margin plantings increase biodiversity values*" and focal statement 5: "*Riparian plantings have benefits for improving water quality*"). Individually, 94% of the 17 Group A participants who responded indicated they

either Strongly agreed (65%) or Agreed (29%) with statement 1 (one participant was neutral), and all participants Strongly agreed (41%) or Agreed (59%) with statement 5. Group B's lower level of agreement with the statement "*Riparian margin plantings increase biodiversity values*" is not unanimous but is significantly different ($p=0.0058$) to Group A's high level of agreement with the statement. Notably, none of the matters raised by Group B when considering the pros and cons of riparian margin plantings covered biodiversity values. The participants of Group B were, however, more concerned about water quality and felt strongly that while excluding stock from waterways had merit, planting riparian margins did not contribute further to meeting water quality objectives. There was also a sentiment expressed by Group B that Taranaki's water quality was of a high standard and therefore riparian planting programmes were not only ineffective, particularly in comparison to other practices ("*efficiency of margins vs. tiles and drains*"; "*targeting of point sources*"), but also unnecessary ("*... retain water quality that is already well above the world standard*").

Group A identified improved relationships with the council as a positive outcome of planting riparian margins under the Taranaki programme specifically (focal statement 6: "*The riparian planting programme has fostered good relationships between farmers and regional councils*"). Twelve percent of Group A participants Strongly agreed with this statement, while 81% Agreed, and 6% were neutral, although the group was explicit this was only in the context of TRC and not other regional councils in New Zealand. Group B did not share the same enthusiasm for improved relationships between farmers and TRC, with 40% Strongly disagreeing with this statement, 20% Disagreeing, 20% neutral, and 20% Agreeing (Fig. 2). Group A also acknowledged the ongoing one-on-one engagement with council staff, advice, and assistance as a benefit of, and a motivation for, engaging in the Taranaki programme to implement riparian plantings.

Both groups felt the costs of riparian margin management fell unfairly on them ("*life-stylers have no responsibility*"), while benefits accrued to the wider community ("*benefit to the wider community at cost of farmer with margins*"; "*cost to famers vs. community benefits*") creating perceived equity issues.

3.2. Farmer perceived influence of planted riparian margins on the operation and performance of the farm (Q2)

Group A participants identified a wide range of pros and cons of the influence of riparian margin plantings on farm productivity and management of the farm system (Fig. 3). While acknowledging that there were cons (and costs) involved with riparian margin planting and long-term management of riparian margins, the Group A participants indicated that these were countered by the benefits that riparian margin plantings contributed to the farm system. Two things were notable in the discussion. First, that many negative aspects could be overcome by best practice implementation and management and were not a consequence of riparian margin plantings *per se* (e.g. facial eczema management or plants causing electric fences to earth). Second, while not all perceived benefits of riparian margin plantings directly influenced productivity, they ultimately did. For example, any labour savings gained by not needing to erect temporary fencing in winter or rescue stock from waterways "*can be used to think about feed*" and the ability to attract better quality staff and the improved condition of the herd due to the provision of shelter results in "*more milk in the vat*".

The loss of effective productive land was identified as a direct and immediate trade-off of excluding production from riparian margins. However, the majority of Group A stated that the ability to improve pasture management and the condition of the herd compensated for this loss and profits were the same or better. Group B also identified the loss of production land as a cost of

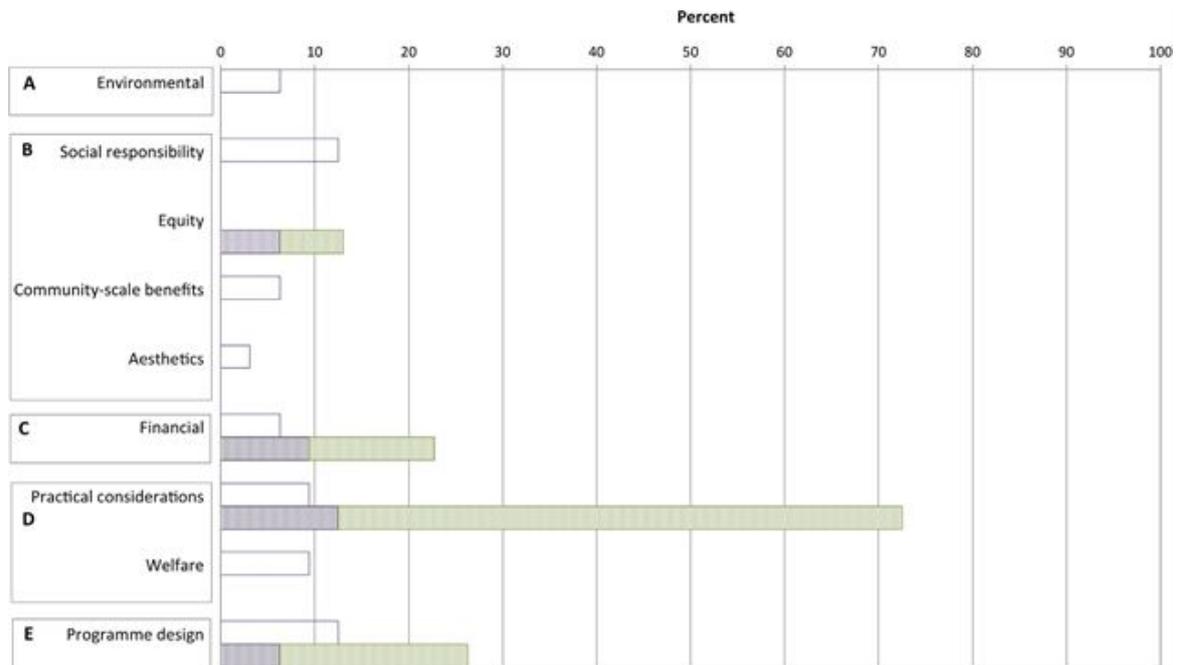


Fig. 1. Aspects of planted riparian margins by category showing the percentage of pros (upper hollow bars) and cons (lower striped bars) generated by farmers. Categories are grouped by type: A = Environmental; B = Social; C = Financial; D = On-farm management; E = Taranaki programme specific. Group A (Planters) identified a total of 21 (66%) positive aspects across eight categories (hollow purple bars); and 11 (34%) negative aspects across four categories (purple vertical striped bars); Group B (Non-planters) identified zero positive aspects and 15 (100%) negative aspects across four categories (green vertical striped bars). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

riparian margin management placing it second in importance (after water quality goals of riparian margin planting programmes being unrealistic and unattainable). However, Group B didn't identify any benefits to farm productivity that riparian margin plantings could bring to their farm systems (Fig. 1), thus for these farmers, the loss of production land was an unmitigated cost rather than a trade-off between values.

In regards practical considerations (Fig. 1), both groups recognised the negative association between riparian margin plantings and increased pest and weed issues on-farm (“*maintenance of weeds and pests, costs, impacts on development*”; “*building a home for pests we are trying to get rid of*”). However, Group A did acknowledge that the extent of weed issues is related to the type and age of the riparian margin plantings. Responses from the LMO survey confirmed that weed and pest management in relation to riparian margin plantings is a pervasive issue for farmers with riparian margin plantings and a perceived issue for farmers without plantings. The surveyed LMOs reported hearing comments to this effect: Frequently (50%), All the time (38%), or Infrequently (12%), although it was noted that the tolerance for weeds in riparian margin plantings varies between farmers.

Both groups also identified damage to fences, the blockage of drains and culverts, and damage to infrastructure by plants washed downstream in flood events as negative aspects of riparian margin plantings. The surveyed LMOs reported that the damage caused by washed out plants was raised: All the time (25%), Frequently (25%), or Infrequently (50%). However, the LMOs did note that the likelihood of this being an issue was dependent on where in the catchment the plantings were located, and how established the plantings were, with newer plantings being more susceptible to being washed out. The damage caused to fences by riparian margin plantings was raised: Frequently (50%), Infrequently (25%), or

Never (25%) with comments of this nature typically referring to the shorting of electric fences. Group B also reflected that impeded drainage by plants blocking drains resulted in further loss of productivity as the land becomes saturated. Riparian margin plantings not only caused blockages but prevented access to remove plant material and sediment from waterways (“*no access to waterway for maintenance*”).

While Group B considered labour costs would increase as a result of these practical problems caused by riparian margin plantings, Group A, while recognising these factors as negative issues, were more likely to acknowledge they could be overcome by improved implementation of riparian margin management (e.g. allowing enough space between fence lines and stream banks to allow plants to grow and planting more high-flow tolerant plants at the waters-edge).

Group A had given thought to the integration of the riparian margins into their farming system (Fig. 3) and saw only small outstanding cost implications. Ten of the 16 (63%) Group A participants who completed the questionnaire agreed with the following statement “*I think that the on-farm benefits from riparian margins are greater than the cost to maintain them*” (questionnaire results). In contrast, planting riparian margins was seen by Group B not just as an unnecessary step that came at a cost (“*loss of productive land*”; “*labour costs*”), but an intervention that did not add to the structure or value of the farm.

3.3. Farmer motivations for planting riparian margins (Q3)

In responding to the questionnaire, Group A farmers indicated environmental stewardship responsibilities and perceived on-farm benefits as key motivators for planting riparian margins. All Group A participants agreed with the statement “*I planted riparian margins*

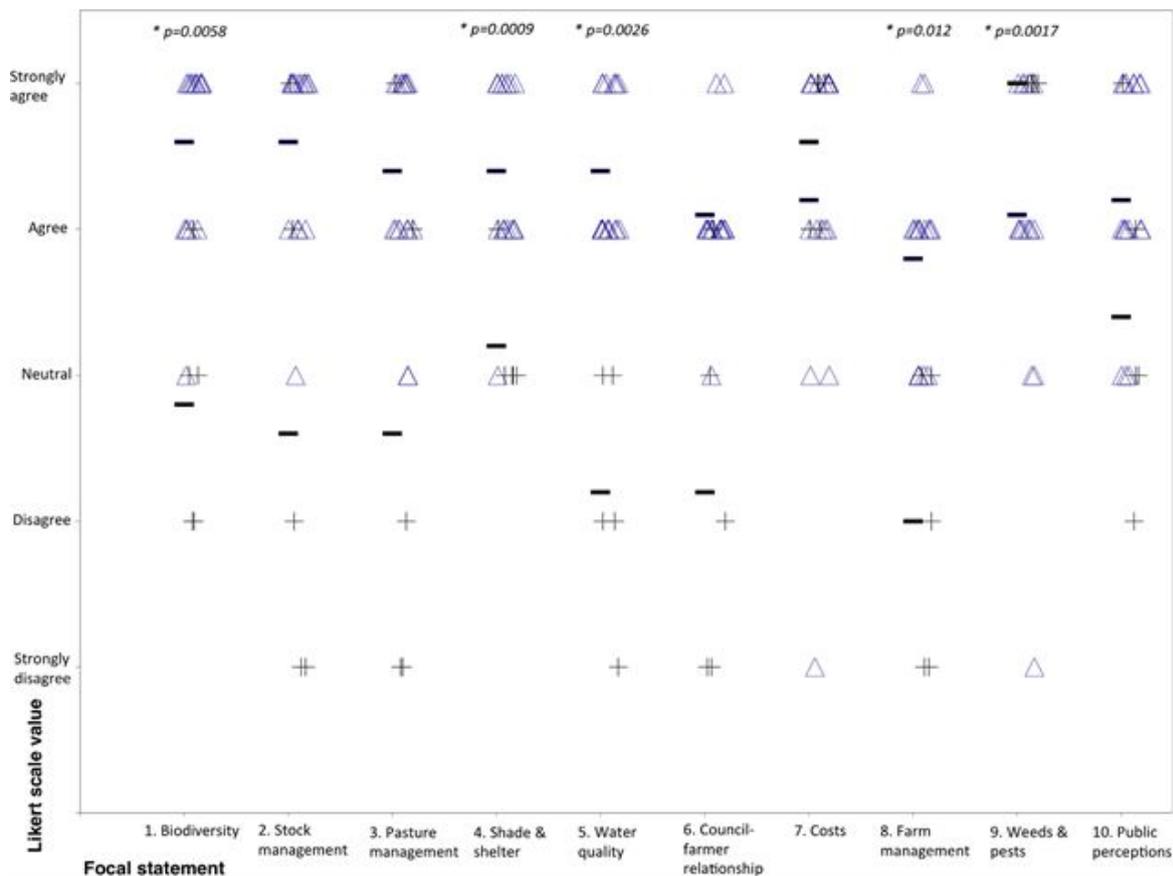


Fig. 2. Farmer agreement with the ten focal statements generated by Group A describing aspects of riparian margin plantings. Level of agreement was measured using a five-option Likert scale (y-axis). Blue triangles denote Group A responses, mean values indicated by blue horizontal bars. Grey crosses denote Group B responses, mean values indicated by grey horizontal bars. A significant difference in level of agreement (95% confidence level) between the two groups was detected for five statements (1, 4, 5, 8, and 9) as indicated by an asterisk (*). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

because I believe I have a responsibility for environmental protection and enhancement” and 75% agreed with the statement “I planted riparian margins because I wanted to improve water quality for future generations” (questionnaire results). Ten of the 16 (63%) Group A participants agreed with the following statements “I planted riparian margins because I was confident that they would improve the productive performance of my farm” (questionnaire results).

Group A farmers were also motivated by the non-farming communities perceptions of dairy farming and recognised that riparian margin plantings, as a highly visible feature, provided tangible evidence of farmers being pro-active thus improving the image of dairy farmers (“riparian margin plantings improve public perceptions of dairy farming”). Feedback from LMO survey confirmed this motivation, stating farmers will often prioritise plantings visible from the road in order to be “seen to be doing something” (LMO survey).

In regards the Taranaki programme specifically, Group A farmers indicated their preference to participate in the voluntary Taranaki programme over the Water Accord with its associated threat of compliance (“double message from regional council and Fonterra— incentives carrot vs. sticks”). The group also expressed their perception that voluntary participation now will avoid being subject to regulation in the future (“participation in programme keeps regulation away”).

4. Discussion

The experience of our participant farmers was that retired grass-strip margins provide a range of private and public benefits. The group of farmers who had planted riparian margins perceived the range of benefits flowing from riparian margins to increase due to the addition of riparian vegetation. These benefits fell across the environmental, ecological, social, and production realms. This was in contrast to the group of farmers who had not planted riparian margins, who perceived that retired grass strip riparian margins were adequate to provide the water quality benefits they and the authorities were interested in. Both groups of participant farmers perceived the pros and cons of riparian margin management across a spectrum of scales (paddock, farm, whole catchment) and beneficiaries (self, neighbours, non-farming community). Our results add production and social values to existing environmental and ecological values that have been associated with riparian margin plantings.

4.1. Benefits and values farmers perceive to be associated with planted riparian margins

Several of the benefits for productivity and managing the farm system of planted riparian margins as identified by our partici-

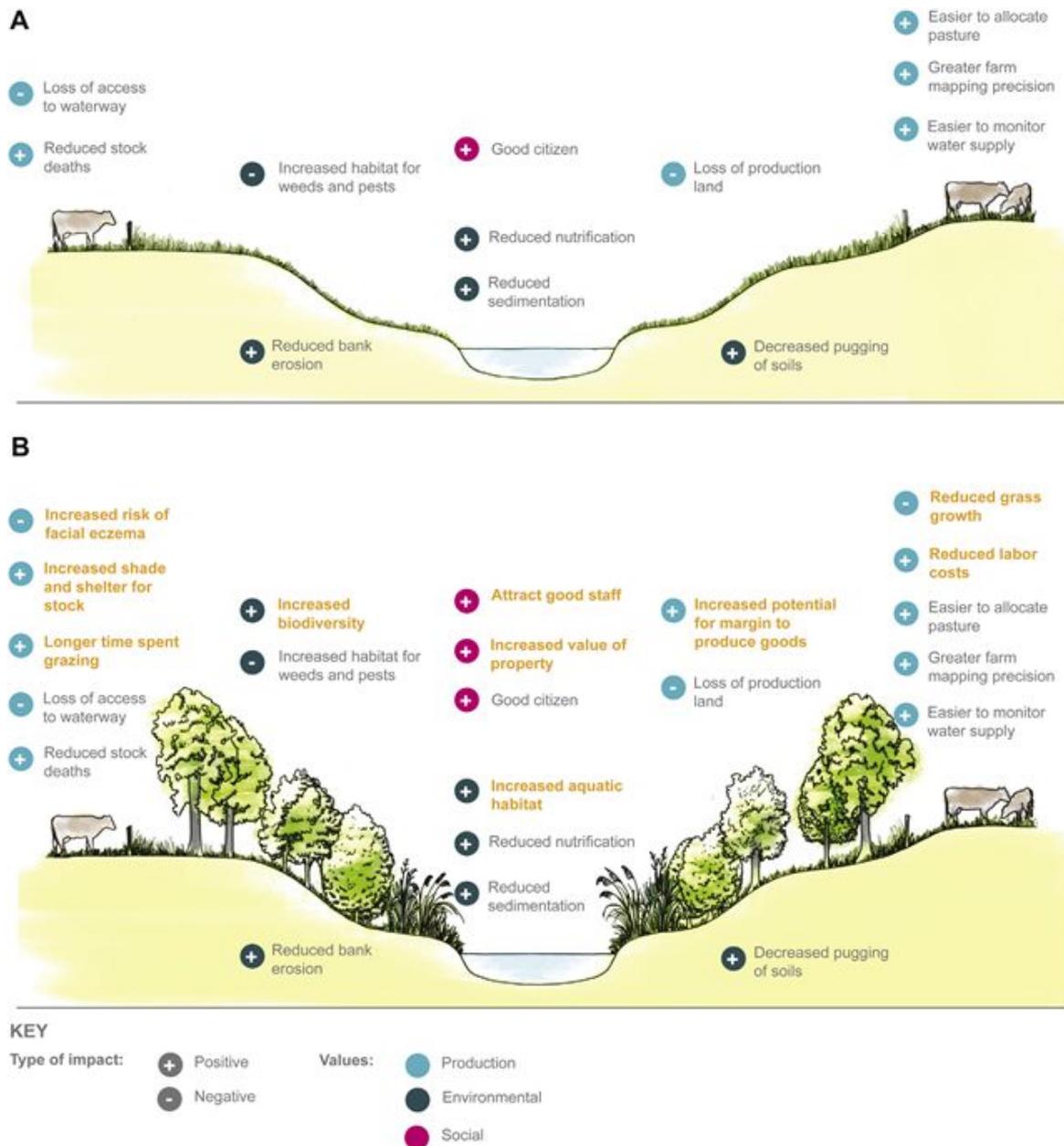


Fig. 3. Schematic of pros and cons of retired single-tier grass strip riparian margins (Panel A) and retired multi-tier planted riparian margins (Panel B) as identified by dairy farmers farming the Taranaki ring plain (n = 23). *Stock exclusion from waterways* avoided livestock deaths of 2% of the herd/year, saving \$2000/cow; \$50/calf and 2 h labour/day. Fencing costs \$5/m (\$1–\$15/m depending on fence type and topology, authors figures). *Reduction of production land* can range between 5 and 15% and leads to the reduction of stock numbers. The loss of grass due to retirement of riparian margins may require the use of supplementary feed. *Greater farm mapping precision* allows for better allocation of feed and greater paddock selection for rotational grazing. Better utilisation of grass can deliver the same or better profit and if grazing riparian margins. *Better management water supply* avoids stock illness and death due to liver fluke (\$2000/cow). *Planting of riparian margins* costs \$5/m (or ranges from \$10–\$30/m for 5 m wide multi-tiered planting, authors figures) and requires ongoing maintenance. *Labour costs* are reduced by not having to care for sick animals or dispose of dead animals (2 h/day). Permanent fencing removes the need to erect temporary fences around drains and waterways during winter (1–2 h/day). *Value of property* is increased as a fully fenced and planted farm is more attractive to buyers as they save on fencing and planting costs. Planted riparian margins have the potential to produce goods (e.g. firewood, stock fodder, crop trees) but are required to be greater than 20 m wide to gain carbon credits. Individual attributes of riparian margins can contribute values across the spectrum, for example, a well managed farm attracts better staff which is shown here as a social value, but also ultimately contributes to great productivity of the farm (a production value). All figures and trade-offs supplied by participant farmers from Group A or supplemented by the authors as indicated. Dollars are given in New Zealand dollars (NZ\$100 = USD\$75 on 14 May 2015).

pant farmers can also be delivered by fenced only riparian margins. Fencing creates infrastructure that allows for improved farm design and feed allocation that improves farm performance. For example, improved farm mapping of infrastructure assists with the allocation and utilisation of forage, enables greater precision around inputs and management, and prevents injury or death of both livestock and farm staff.

Fenced riparian margins are effective in removing animals from waterways, reducing stream bank erosion, and filtering pollutants (phosphorus and pathogens) transported in overland flow to waterways (Collier et al., 1995; Parkyn et al., 2003). In situations where grassed riparian margins are limited in their capacity to filter nutrients (e.g. such as where the phosphorus retention and buffering capacity of soils is limited (Aye et al., 2006)), riparian margin plantings can enhance the functionality of the riparian margin through the uptake of plant available phosphorus. However, the inherent capacity of natural capital stocks to filter and retain nutrients is finite and riparian margins are less effective in reducing the losses of nutrients lost by leaching through the soil profile (e.g. nitrogen in porous soils) than in overland flow processes (Buckley et al., 2012; Muscutt et al., 1993; Parkyn, 2004). When combinations of soils, stocking rates, hydrological flows, and farm performance lend themselves to greater nutrient loss, planted riparian margins are less likely to be successful without further management intervention (Howard-Williams et al., 2010; Quinn et al., 2009; Stockan et al., 2012). Therefore, in areas that experience nutrient (particularly nitrate-nitrogen) issues, riparian margin planting programmes should be part of a bigger initiative focused on sustainability and multifunctionality at the catchment scale based on incremental and transitional nutrient management programmes.

The addition of multi-tier planting to retired riparian margins combines natural capital stocks (riparian vegetation) with built capital which, despite the limitations outlined above, were perceived to deliver further benefits for the farm system. These benefits include shade and shelter for livestock and potential reductions in evapotranspiration of pastoral species. Further, the combination from different natural capital stocks within riparian margins influences margin utility for both farm performance and environmental enhancement. However, to achieve benefits as far-reaching as possible riparian margins need to be considered as fully integrated components of the farm system and not as exclusive strips on the farm-edge. Group A participants appear to have made this transition, based on the wider range of impacts and benefits they recognise to be provided by their riparian plantings.

The Taranaki programme explicitly links riparian margin plantings to improved water quality. This suggested causal influence has resonated with our study group, who either believed riparian margin plantings contributed to improved water quality (Group A) or questioned this relationship (Group B). However, it is difficult to untangle the benefits of livestock exclusion from waterways and the stabilisation of stream banks from the capacity of riparian plantings to intercept nutrients and other drivers of change impacting on water quality in the Taranaki Region. For example, currently half of the dairy farms in Taranaki legally discharge pond-treated dairy effluent directly into waterways, although there has been a gradual shift to land-based dairy effluent treatment systems in recent times. Eliminating discharge of treated dairy effluent to water is expected to reduce nitrogen loss by an estimated 20% (TRC, 2015). Concurrently, improvements to municipal wastewater treatment systems have driven measurable improvements for the catchments to which they discharge. The strong conviction of Group A farmers that there is a causal relationship between planted riparian margins and improved water quality may be attributable to messaging regards the benefits of riparian margin plantings, that they conceptualise plantings to occur hand-in-hand with fencing and are thus conflating impacts of stock exclusion from waterways with

plantings, or other factors such as pre-existing world-views which we did not test for. We also did not investigate which parameters of water quality (e.g. water clarity, nutrient concentrations, water temperature etc.) farmers perceived riparian margin plantings to enhance.

It is evident from our study that planting riparian margins generates a number of perceived benefits across a range of values. However, great care needs to be taken in extrapolating perceived benefits to actual benefits where these lie beyond what margins realistically can deliver. Importantly, re-establishing riparian margins is not a panacea for all the environmental challenges confronting agricultural landscapes. This was a critical point for some of the participant farmers who recognised that the objective of protecting water quality was unachievable by planting riparian margins alone (Group B). These farmers felt connecting water quality objectives with planting riparian margins was 'misguided', and this perception obscured recognition of all other potential values and benefits in planting riparian margins and prevented these farmers from implementing plantings within their riparian margins. Lessons can be learnt for engaging farmers in riparian management programmes elsewhere in the country whereby wider uptake may be achieved through both broadening the objectives for riparian margin planting programmes to more adequately reflect the potential for benefits beyond improved water quality, and recognising the inability of planted riparian margins on their own to fully address the national water quality challenge.

4.2. Farmer identified motivations for planting riparian margins

The recent National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (Ministry for the Environment, 2014) has given greater urgency to nutrient management. As a consequence, greater regulatory intervention nationally for nutrient management in some form is on the horizon. Although Taranaki does not experience nutrient loss issues of the same magnitude as elsewhere in New Zealand due to the high, frequent rainfall and short, fast stream flows, combined with good soils and a long history of dairy farming with relatively low stocking rates (TRC, 2015), participant farmers possess a well-tuned awareness of national water quality issues. Despite TRC operating a non-regulated approach to nitrogen management, participant farmers expressed anticipation of increased regulation on-farm to combat declining water quality in agricultural catchments. Taranaki Regional Council were proactive in creating the Taranaki Programme, being the first council in New Zealand to implement a riparian margin planting programme and pre-dating industry-driven programmes to exclude stock from waterways. Under the Taranaki Programme, a large number of riparian plans were developed well before water quality became especially topical in the public conversation nationally. However, in more recent times, the 'threat' of future regulatory action may have increased the appeal of the Taranaki programme. In partaking in the voluntary Taranaki programme, farmers are anticipating impending nationally-led regulation and pre-empting future obligations.

A further benefit of planting riparian margins expressed by Group A participants was improving non-farmer perceptions of dairy farming. Farmers are increasingly conscious of the wider community's perception of them as individuals and of their industry as a whole which has attracted the unenviable label of 'dirty dairy-ing'. The public's perception of farming and reduced tolerance for land use induced environmental degradation is likely to be providing a concurrent motivation for farmers that haven't already done so to voluntarily plant riparian margins on their farms. Fenced and planted riparian margins are highly visible features in the landscape and thus send a tangible message to the non-farming community that good land use practices are being implemented.

The continued trends of native biodiversity decline (Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand, 2015), suggest that enhancing biodiversity values is not perceived to be beneficial enough on-farm to be a sufficient motivator for farmers to engage in riparian margin planting, or perceived to be a beneficial outcome of doing so. Contradicting this assumption, Group A perceived a causal relationship between riparian margin plantings and increased biodiversity values (in particular bees, birds, and frogs). However, the definition of 'biodiversity' (and therefore the associated values) referred to by our study group is not restricted to native biodiversity or that required to achieve conservation objectives. The planted riparian margins are not providing complete ecological equivalents for lost native habitat, and where they differ in species assemblage, are unlikely to be in the future. Thus, while Group A farmers perceive biodiversity benefits to flow from planted riparian margins these benefits are not analogous with biodiversity conservation benefits. Rather, a wider view of biodiversity is reflected relating to, for example, greater structural diversity, benefit of biodiversity for production values, and amenity values associated with diversity in the landscape. This illustrates an encouraging step towards integrating riparian margins into the farm system in its entirety, although conservation challenges are likely to persist.

Both groups of participant farmers expressed a preference for a non-regulatory approach to riparian margin management. In the absence of compulsion, the voluntary motivation to undertake specific actions requires not just an attitude change but also a behaviour change (Rhodes et al., 2002). When left entirely to voluntary mechanisms this shift in behaviour (adoption of action) is based on subjective rather than objective decision making and can be very slow (Pannell et al., 2006). This can be problematic in situations where riparian margin management is being used in response to urgent resource issues.

A switch in focus from riparian margins sitting outside the farm system to riparian margins being integrated into the farm system would likely expedite their adoption by demonstrably providing a suite of services and benefits. If retired and planted riparian margins can be shown to have a relative advantage over fenced-only or farmed riparian margins the practice will likely become more economically and socially appealing. Land management practices that have a relative advantage over alternative actions are more likely to be adopted (Pannell et al., 2006). Further, effective voluntary schemes require effort, commitment and clear expectations from both the implementing agency and land owner. Ultimately, voluntary schemes should be time-bound and replaced with regulation to capture the minority of land owners who choose not to partake voluntarily. When these aspects are in place, uptake is likely to be more rapid and implemented by more landowners. The Taranaki Programme illustrates this well, where sustained support and encouragement from TRC over the past 20 years has resulted in large-scale uptake of the programme (c.99.5% of dairy farmers on the ring plain now have a riparian planting plan in place, TRC *pers com*), while those farmers who have not yet planted their riparian margins will in the future be obliged to do so under proposed rules in the Regional Freshwater Plan (RFPW).

Many studies have recognised the value of riparian margin management for ecological or environmental benefits (e.g. Bennett et al., 2014; McCracken et al., 2012; Wilcock et al., 2009). Other studies take a more productivist view and recognise the values to the farm system that riparian margin habitat can provide, such as provision of habitat for pollinators and fauna beneficial for pest control or potential benefits of native vegetation for animal nutrition (Cole et al., 2015; Hahner et al., 2014; Wratten et al., 2012). Our study brings productivist, ecological, environmental, and social values together, providing a broader foundation of information that is useful for refining future policy. Further quantification and qualification of the raft of values provided on

and off-farm by planted riparian margins is required to identify and incentivise riparian margin management that best supports multifunctional farm systems.

5. Conclusions

Our findings show that farmers who had not yet planted riparian margins were reluctant to do so because they were not convinced that planted multi-tier riparian margins provided additional gain over fenced grass strip riparian margins for the purposes of improving water quality and they did not perceive any additional benefits from riparian plantings. In contrast, farmers with planted margins perceive the introduction of vegetation natural capital stocks into riparian margins to provide many benefits and have started to recognise and value the environmental, production, and social functions of riparian margins in an integrated way.

The reinstatement of native vegetation within riparian margins in highly modified landscapes like the Taranaki ring plain, creates novel ecosystems, the establishment of which can generate social, environmental, biodiversity, and functional benefits. Strengthening multifunctional agriculture is not only positive for the farm system but can resonate with the non-farming community who see this as a preferable model for farming (Wilson, 2008). However, the management of riparian margins is not a panacea for all land management issues and the practice does necessitate trade-offs. We suggest that multi-tiered riparian margins can become an integral part of the farm system and can contribute to multifunctional landscapes. However, the planting of riparian margins needs to sit within a more comprehensive policy framework providing incremental mitigation options if a wider range of negative externalities generated by land use practices are to be reduced.

Ethical clearance

This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. Approval number: 2015000319.

Conflict of interest

The authors confirm that there is no conflict of interest with the organisations or any other aspect of the content of this paper.

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Agenda Memorandum

Date 20 February 2017

**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**



Subject: External Appointment to the Policy and Planning Committee 2016-2019

Prepared by: M J Nield, Director-Corporate Services

Approved by: B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1817420

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to receive and confirm an external appointment to the Council's Policy and Planning Committee.

Recommendation

That the Taranaki Regional Council

1. considers and confirms the appointment of Bronwyn Muir (Taranaki Federated Farmers) to the Policy and Planning Committee.

Background

At the Council's 8 November 2016, external appointments to the Council's Policy and Planning Committee, Regional Transport Committee, Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committee were agreed to and nominations were called for. This memorandum considers Federated Farmers' nomination to the Policy and Planning Committee.

Policy and Planning Committee

Taranaki Federated Farmers have nominated their Provincial President Bronwyn Muir to the Policy and Planning Committee for 2016-2019. This nomination can now be considered by Council.

In confirming the nomination from Taranaki Federated Farmers, this completes the external representative appointments to the Committee for the 2016-2019 period.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Agenda Memorandum

Date 20 February 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

**Subject: Appointment of TRC Trustee to Dairy
Trust Taranaki**

Approved by: G K Bedford, Director-Environment Services

B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1813476

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to make an appointment of a councillor as an invited trustee to Dairy Trust Taranaki.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Appointment of TRC Trustee to Dairy Trust Taranaki*
2. appoints Councillor <name> as the Council's Trustee on the Dairy Trust Taranaki for a term of twelve months.

Discussion

Pre-existing dairy-focused research entities in Taranaki have determined to merge into a new charitable trust, Dairy Trust Taranaki. The Settlers of the trust are the Stratford Demonstration Farm Society Inc, the Waimate West Demonstration Farm Trust, and the Taranaki Agricultural Research Station Trust. These parties have determined that combining their assets, knowledge, and ability into one charitable trust will help them continue their purpose of educating and benefitting the dairy industry in Taranaki and in New Zealand. The stated purpose of the new Trust is '*to research and promote improved dairy farming methods for the benefit of the New Zealand dairy industry and the public of New Zealand.*'

The Regional Council, along with Fonterra Co-operative, NZ Young Farmers, DairyNZ, and the South Taranaki District Council, have been designated Appointing Entities, able at all times to appoint (and remove) one trustee, for a term not exceeding 12 months. Cr Joyce has been closely involved in bringing about the merger of the existing research entities to create the Trust and in initial strategic planning and scoping sessions.

It is recommended that the Council make an appointment to Dairy Trust Taranaki.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Dairy Trust Taranaki is launched

www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/86977975/dairy-trust-taranaki-launch-

SUE O'DOWD

SUE O'DOWD

Last updated 11:06, December 5 2016



SUE O'DOWD/FAIRFAX NZ

Toasting the new Dairy Trust Taranaki as it came into being on Thursday are Stratford Demonstration farm chairman Graham Robinson, Waimate West Demonstration Farm chairman John Fischer and Taranaki Agricultural Research Trust chairman Brendan Attrill.

Undertaking studies that will boost the knowledge and skills of Taranaki farmers are the focus of a new trust set up to oversee dairy industry research in the region.

Dairy Trust Taranaki (DTT), comprising the incorporated society which operates the Stratford Demonstration Farm (SDF), the trust which operates the Waimate West Demonstration Farm (WWDF) and the Taranaki Agricultural Research Trust (TART) which leases a commercial farm and the 126-hectare Westpac Taranaki Agricultural Research Station, came into being on December 1.

The two trusts and the incorporated society, which have been working together to establish DTT for 18 months or more, are now in the process of being wound up.



SUE O'DOWD/Fairfax NZ

Drinking to the future of Dairy Trust Taranaki are Graham Robinson, John Fischer and Brendan Attrill.

"Everyone's worked hard - it's like a good cheese," TART chairman Brendan Attrill said at the launch of the new trust.

READ MORE:

[*Taranaki Regional Council environment award for Luff farm leased by Taranaki Agricultural Research Trust](#)

[*New Taranaki Dairy Trust sets strategy](#)

[*Farmers support formation of Taranaki Dairy Trust](#)

[*Taranaki research farms propose formation of new trust](#)

While the formation of DTT might cause only a ripple nationally, for Taranaki it would become a significant asset. Its trustees were decision-makers who would lead and steer the new entity for the good of Taranaki dairy farmers, he said.

The two demonstration farms were established almost 100 years ago by local farmers wanting a model dairy farm in their area to develop and promote better farming methods.

WTARS replaced the Normanby Research Station established in 1974. Kiwi Dairies chairman John Young, deputy chairman Harry Bayliss and director Philip Luscombe led its move to company-owned land near the dairy co-operative's Whareroa site and promoted the establishment of the trust in 1992.

WWDF chairman John Fischer said while the end of the three entities brought a tinge of sadness, it was the future of dairying research in Taranaki that was important. "The three of us can do much more and so much better by being one entity."

Attrill said under the leadership of newly-appointed regional science co-ordinator Debbie McCallum who would be assisted and supported by WWDF and SDF farm supervisors Joe Clough and Graeme Pitman, DTT would now set about creating a clear research strategy for the region.

[Ad Feedback](#)

"We'll work on fleshing out those areas of science that we should focus on," he said,

Research already under way on the three farms would continue for the rest of this season. "We'll build on those programmes we have now to get a clear direction by early next year."

That would allow time for a research programme to be put in place for the 2017-18 season.

"In Taranaki we do it our way - the province has always been like that." Attrill said.

"We're different from the rest of the country. Our agriculture industry, particularly dairying, has always been independent and willing to drive forward."

An example of the industry's visionary approach in Taranaki was the 1963 merger of the Kaupokonui and Joll co-operative dairy companies to create Kiwi Dairies and the new company's revolutionary decision to centralise its processing on one site at Whareroa, near Hawera. Opened in 1972, the Whareroa site was at one time the world's largest dairy manufacturing site.

Attrill said DTT recognised agricultural research had been undertaken in Taranaki for 100 years and would ensure future study conducted here would be relevant to the region. Its creation attracted unanimous support from the region's dairy farmers.

"It's about having a cool idea, seeing it through to fruition and setting up something that will really help farmers."

DTT would have one of the biggest science platforms in New Zealand and would conduct sustainable regional research that would enhance the profitability of dairy farming in Taranaki and beyond by creating value in the areas of research, education and demonstration of up-to-date farming methods.

"It's exciting times, but in this low milk price environment we have to have sharp business skills and to be careful with the resource that we have built.

"DTT will give us a platform to grow, to do research that Taranaki farmers want and to fit into DairyNZ's strategy for identifying and conducting research in the province," he said.

Without DTT, the future of dairy industry research in Taranaki would have been at risk because the three entities were so small that attracting funding for them was difficult.

With more than 200 years of history behind it, DTT would establish a co-ordinated research programme with a strong interface with DairyNZ.

Fischer said it was Attrill who brought the three groups together to create DTT. "The three entities were in agreement that the time was right for this move."

Previously the organisations didn't know what research was being done on each other's farms until it was under way.

DTT would allow research in the region to be co-ordinated and the different locations, climate and geography of the three farms would allow comparative trials to be undertaken.

Taranaki was well-suited to dairying, with its free-draining, fertile, volcanic soils, fast-flowing streams and temperate climate.

Fischer said land set aside in 1885 for a school of agriculture for the North Island was taken over in 1918 for the WWDF by a group of farmers who wanted to demonstrate best farming practice.

In 1961 a relationship established with the Department of Agriculture led to ground-breaking research on the farm, including into the use of magnesium supplements to prevent metabolic diseases.

Fischer said he thought those farmers who set up the demonstration farm would be proud their vision had led to DTT, which would take what they had envisioned a century ago to a new level.

In recognition of the historical legacy of the three entities, the Stratford and Waimate West demonstration farms will retain their names. The research station will be known as the Gibson Farm and the Whareroa Research Farm to be leased by DTT next season will be known as the Kavanagh Farm. The names recognise the previous owners of the farms, which were bought by Kiwi Dairies.

"It's important to keep those links - without getting too parochial," Fischer said.

SDF chairman Graham Robinson said DTT would help Taranaki farmers keep up-to-date with changes in farming and would provide better access to research funding. "We'll be able to undertake better science and more trials of more interest to farmers."

The three organisations' independence had led to fragmented dairy industry research in Taranaki. DTT would ensure research would continue in the region and that it would benefit the wider industry.

He thought all those farmers who had established and been associated with the two demonstration farms and the research station would be extremely proud of DTT and its vision for continued research relevant to Taranaki.

Ground-breaking research into the dairy industry has been conducted in Taranaki in the past, including cows' feed efficiency conversion, comparisons between the efficiencies, economics and environmental impact of high-input and low-input feed systems and the profitability and environmental sustainability of growing crops on the dairy platform.

DTT farms 300 hectares, milks about 900 cows, employs or contracts 8.5 fulltime equivalent staff and owns assets worth \$4.5 million, including about 290,000 Fonterra shares, livestock and machinery. Their significant equity provides a solid foundation for the new venture.

DairyNZ manages the two research farms and Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre manages the two demonstration farms.

Each entity will have three trustees on the new trust. They are: WTARS, Brendan Attrill, Duncan Johnston, of Waitotara, and DairyNZ senior scientist John Roche; SDF, Graham Robinson, of Inglewood, Brian Hockings, of Bell Block, and Paul Kuriger, of Opunake; WWDF, Roger Landers, Steve Poole, both of Kapuni, and Lloyd Morgan, of Rahotu. Fischer is retiring. Fonterra, South Taranaki District Council, Taranaki Regional Council and Young Farmers will also have seats on DTT.

- Stuff

Next Farming story:

[Fonterra's new South Waikato plant opens](#)

[Business Homepage](#)

Agenda Memorandum

Date 20 February 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

**Subject: 2017 Local Government New Zealand
Conference**

Approved by: M J Nield, Director-Corporate Services

B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1817045

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to appoint attendees to the 2017 Local Government New Zealand Conference and Annual General Meeting to be held in Auckland, 23 – 25 July 2017.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. appoints the Chairperson, Councillor D N MacLeod, together with the Chief Executive, Mr B G Chamberlain, to attend the Local Government New Zealand Conference to be held in Auckland from 23-25 July 2017
2. seeks expressions of interest from Councillors who may wish to attend the Local Government New Zealand Conference to be held in Auckland from 23-25 July 2017
3. delegates to the Chairperson the authority to finalise the attendees at the Local Government New Zealand Conference to be held in Auckland from 23-25 July 2017
4. appoints the Chairperson, Mr D N MacLeod as Presiding Delegate to the Annual General Meeting of Local Government Zealand to be held on Tuesday 25 July 2017 in Auckland
5. noting that the Taranaki Regional Council is entitled to be represented at the Annual General Meeting of Local Government Zealand by up to three delegates, appoints up to two delegates to the Annual General Meeting of Local Government Zealand from amongst Councillors that will be attending the 2017 Local Government New Zealand Conference.

2017 Local Government New Zealand Conference

The 2017 Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Conference is to be held in Auckland on 23-25 July. The Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 July.

The full programme of the 2017 LGNZ Conference can be obtained from www.lgnz.co.nz for further information in the coming weeks.

The Council needs to determine who will be attending the 2017 LGNZ Conference in order that registration, travel, accommodation and other conference arrangements can be made. The intention is to seek expressions of interest from those Councillors that wish to attend the Conference and then delegate to the Chairperson the authority to finalise the list of attendees.

Regional Sector Group (Pre-Conference tour)

As with other years, a Regional Sector Group tour will be held prior to the Conference. Northland Regional Council will host this tour beginning at Kerikeri on Thursday 20 July. The tour concludes in Auckland on Saturday 22 July.

Background

At the Ordinary Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in July 1991, Members resolved the following:

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) *keep a register of Members' Conference Attendance to enable all members to have an opportunity to attend necessary conferences on a roster basis;*
- b) *receive through the respective committees or full council a report on an "as and when required" basis, on proposals for members to attend conferences to enable a reporting procedure to be put in place prior to Members attending conferences.*

Attendance Register of the Local Government New Zealand Conference

The attendance register for the past two years is listed below:

Year	Venue	Councillors
2015	Rotorua	Councillor MacLeod
2016	Dunedin	Councillor MacLeod Councillor Horton Councillor Irving Councillor Joyce Councillor Maxwell Councillor Williamson

30th Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting

The 30th Annual General Meeting of Local Government New Zealand will be held on Tuesday 25 July 2017.

The constitution of Local Government New Zealand outlines the following:

Delegates

Clause G13(e)

At the Annual General Meeting and Special General Meetings, member authorities are entitled to representation as follows:

Regional Councils having populations of 100,000 or over and less than 250,000 – not more than 3 delegates;

And

Clause G15

Every member authority must appoint one of its delegates as its presiding delegate and may appoint one or more alternate delegates, provided that the number of delegates does not exceed the number of delegates allowed.

The Taranaki Regional Council is entitled to have up to three delegates attend the Annual General Meeting. However, the Council is only entitled to one vote at the meeting and this vote is exercised by the Presiding Delegate. The other two delegates can only vote on behalf of the Taranaki Regional Council should the Presiding Delegate is absent from the Annual General Meeting.

Other people wishing to attend the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting may do so but as an observer only.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Agenda Memorandum

Date 20 February 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Taranaki Regional Council**

Subject: Meeting Dates March-April 2017

Approved by: M J Nield, Director-Corporate Services

B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1819951

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide notification to Members of the next six-weekly round of Council meetings for 2017.

Meeting Dates

The six-weekly round of Council meetings for **March-April 2017** will be as follows:

Regional Transport Committee	Wednesday 8 March 2017	11.00am
Consents and Regulatory Committee	Tuesday 14 March 2017	9.30am
Policy and Planning Committee	Tuesday 14 March 2017	11.00am
Executive, Audit and Risk Committee	Monday 27 March 2017	10.00am
Ordinary Meeting*	Monday 3 April 2017	

**Venue and Time tbc*

Joint Committee Meetings

Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group	Tuesday 7 March 2017	10.30am
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Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the Act.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

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Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Ordinary Meeting Public Excluded

In accordance with section 48(1) of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1986*, the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting on Monday 20 February 2017 for the following reason/s:

Item 10 - Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 8 November 2016

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Item 11- Confidential Minutes Executive, Audit and Risk Committee

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Item 12- Confirmation Joint Committee Minutes

That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Agenda reports

Ordinary Council meeting, February 2017

Item 6

[Draft Annual Plan 2017/2018](#) (1.2 MB)