



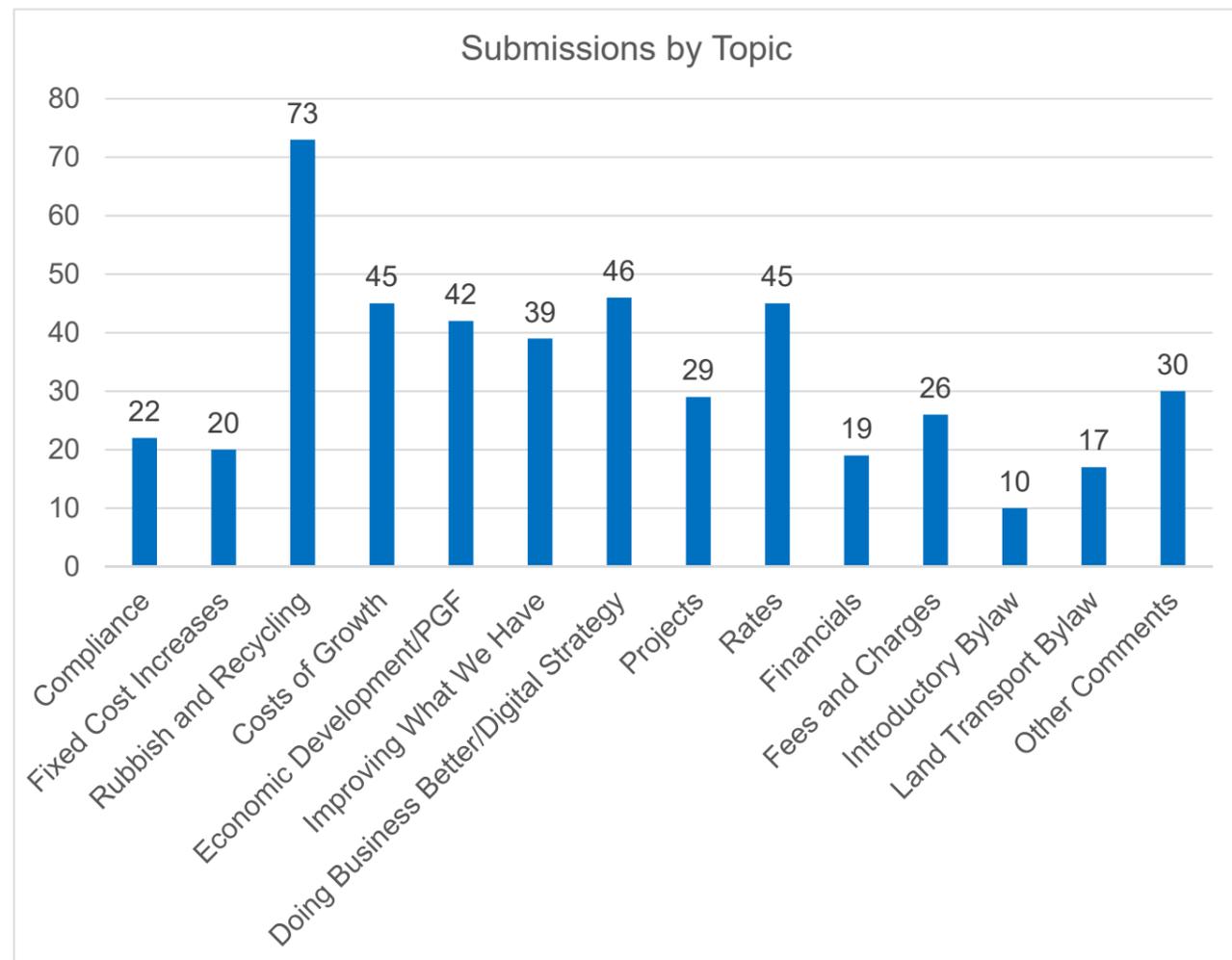
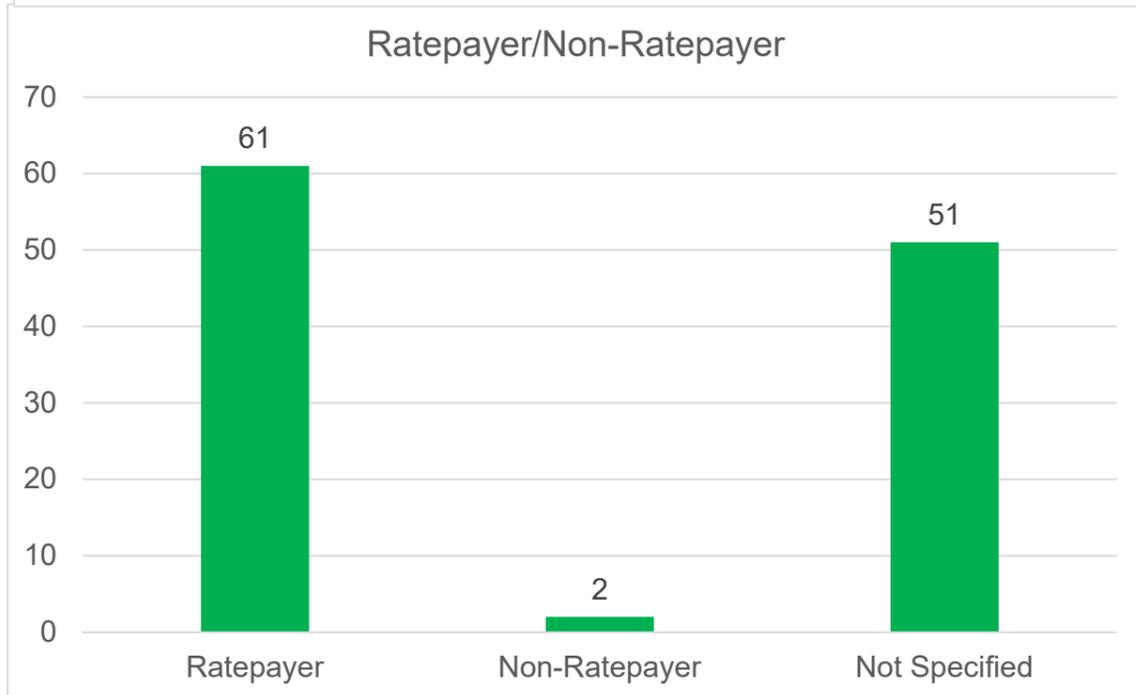
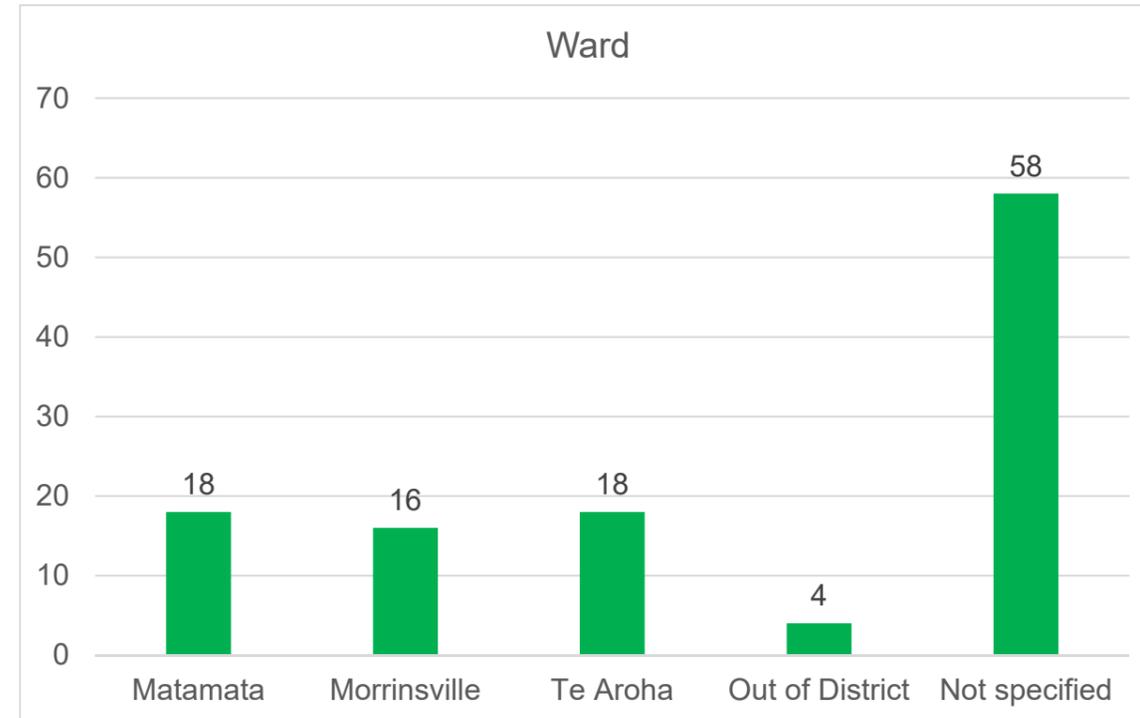
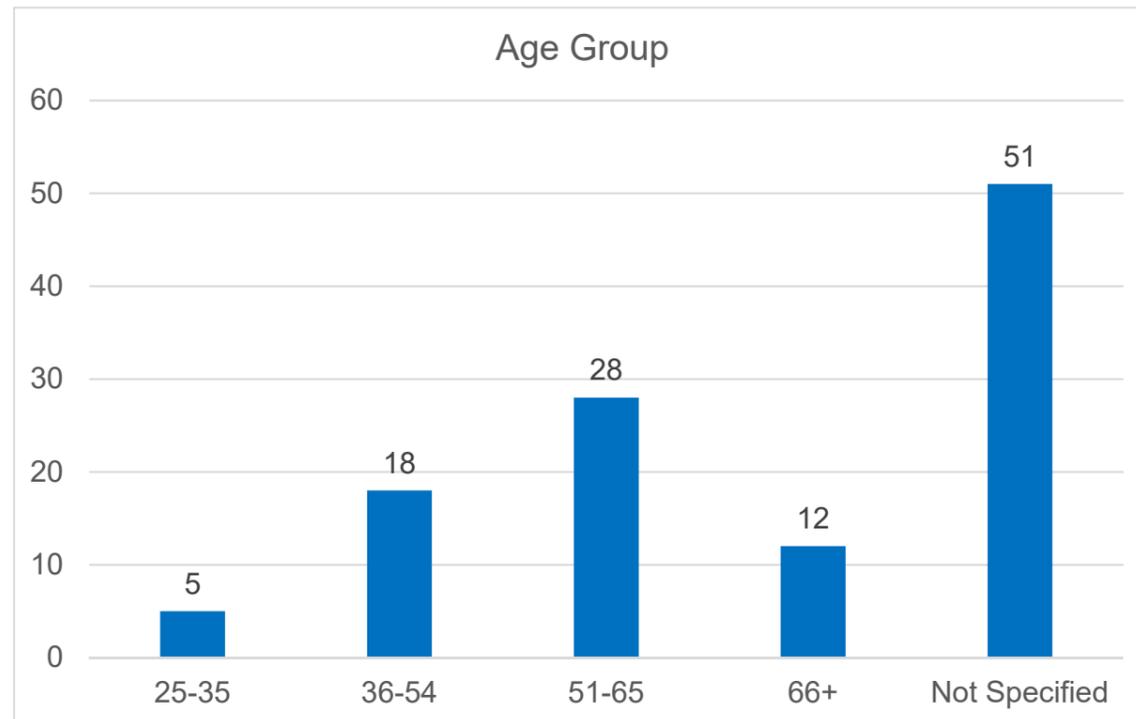
# Submissions

Hearing - 27 May 2020

# Contents

Submission Statistics .....	3
Annual Plan – Consultation topics .....	4
Compliance .....	4
Fixed Cost Increases.....	4
Rubbish and Recycling.....	5
Costs of Growth.....	6
Economic Development/PGF .....	7
Improving What We Have .....	8
Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy .....	9
Projects.....	9
Rates .....	13
Financials .....	13
Hearing Attendee Submissions – Wednesday 27 May .....	15
All Submissions .....	21
Facebook comments .....	48

# Submission Statistics



Total Submissions = 114 (two submitters put in two separate submissions each and two submissions where from two people each)  
 Note – late submissions are not included in any of the graphs in this document.

# Annual Plan – Consultation topics

## Compliance

Many of our core services have regulations that we are required to meet – like environmental standards for wastewater discharges, drinking water standards for water treatment plants, and minimum timeframes for processing consents. Since the Havelock North water supply contamination event a few years ago, some of these regulations are getting even tighter. We have to comply with these, and that comes at a cost - but at the end of the day, they also result in a higher standard of service from Council (e.g. safer drinking water). In the water area we have already improved the security and performance of our water supplies (using money we had already budgeted to spend), and improved water supply in Te Aroha West by connecting it to the main Te Aroha water supply. But we still need to make further improvements to water treatment plants and equipment, and improve training systems for all operating staff – we're budgeting an additional \$184,000 this year towards this. In the wastewater area – the improved maintenance we are proposing will also help us reduce the risk of non-compliance occurring in our wastewater network. The need for compliance with regulations in our water and wastewater activities has also meant an increase in staffing costs. This is not just additional work in these areas, but also changes to make sure the teams (who sometimes have difficult jobs to do in emergencies) are adequately staffed and meeting health and safety requirements. All up, these costs amount to \$324,000.



Do you agree with our proposal to increase rates to help fund the additional money required to make sure we are compliant with regulations?

Total Submitters = 22

## Fixed Cost Increases

**Our fixed costs are increasing. These are costs that we have to cover in order to continue to deliver our services to you. These cost pressures may seem small individually, but they add up to a lot.**

Just like you and your household budget, there are certain costs we have to cover in order to continue to provide our services. A household budget needs to cover the cost of inflation, and so do we. The household budget must cover things like interest costs on the mortgage, we have to cover the interest costs on our debts (which increase as we complete new capital projects and cover the cost of depreciation on our assets, new and old). These increases account for an additional \$309,000 of the total rates increase.



## Inflation

When the cost of materials and equipment goes up, so do our operating costs. When costs of labour goes up, so do our operating costs. Back in 2018 when we adopted our Long Term Plan we had to make some assumptions about what the inflation would be each year. We had originally assumed an overall inflation rate of 2.17% for 2020/21. Revised figures now show that for Local Government the overall inflation will be 2.2% for next year.

## Interests and depreciation costs

We borrow money to finance new assets (such as building a new cycleway), and we use depreciation to fund replacement or renewal of assets (such as renewing Headon Stadium, new cycle ways and walking tracks). We do this to ensure that today's ratepayers don't have to foot the bill for the entire build, and the costs are shared

across the generations of ratepayers who will benefit from them (this is known as intergenerational equity). We currently have \$21.5 million in debt. As we continue to improve our district's assets and facilities and building new ones, our debts are increasing. Even though the interest rate is lower, increasing in our debt means we need to find an additional \$309,000 to cover our interest cost for 2020/21. We currently own \$600 million worth of assets such as roads, pipes, buildings and parks, and we continue to add more as the district grows. Once major projects are completed, we also start to charge depreciation on the new assets, so that we have money there to replace them in the future and don't need to add further to our debt.

## Insurance

We also have insurance for our most critical assets. As the total value of our assets increases, so do our insurance costs, we have budgeted for a \$30,000 increase in our premiums this year.

## Power costs

This is another bill we all have in common – except that our bill includes paying to light our streets and keep facilities like to swimming pools, libraries and events centres running. While we have worked hard to make power savings (using LED street lighting, and solar power at the Matamata Civic Centre) we are still budgeting for a \$60,000 increase to our budgets.

Do you agree with our proposal to increase rates to help fund the additional money required for our fixed costs?

Total Submitters = 20

**Rubbish and Recycling**

We currently provide kerbside rubbish and recycling collection services to over 9,500 properties across the district, as well as operating transfer stations in Matamata, Morrinsville and Waihou. In 2018 we made changes to how we fund the kerbside collection service to make the charges fairer. We were still collecting the same amount of money in total, just ‘slicing the pie’ in a different way. These changes included:

- funding the majority of the cost of kerbside collection through rubbish bag sales.
- reducing targeted rates significantly, from \$153 to around \$33.
- increasing the fees to use the transfer stations to recover more of the actual cost of running this service.

The total cost of providing the rubbish and recycling service to our community is now about \$2.68 million. This is an increase of \$257,000 from 2019/20 – and an increase of \$360,000 from what we forecast in our Long Term Plan budgets back in 2017. This is due mainly to increasing contract and disposal costs. Our income (mainly from rubbish bag sales) has also been significantly less than what we budgeted for.

We have a limited number of places where the money to pay this bill can come from – our options are targeted rates (from those who receive the kerbside service), general rates (everyone), rubbish bag sales and transfer station fees (user fees). With this in mind we’ve developed a preferred option for funding this service.

Current budget	Proposed budget
<p>We currently fund this service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$853,000 from rubbish bag sales (we expect to have a shortfall in funding of \$500,000 this year).</li> <li>• \$256,000 from targeted rates.</li> <li>• \$680,000 from transfer station fees.</li> <li>• \$629,000 from the general rate.</li> </ul>	<p>The net cost of this service is approximately \$2.68 million. Our preferred option is to fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$753,000 from 325,000 of rubbish bag sales (after around \$220,000 of GST, commission and other costs are deducted). This would mean that Rubbish bags would increase from \$2.00 to \$3.00 each.</li> <li>• \$376,000 from targeted rates. This would mean that the targeted rate for those who receive the kerbside service would increase from \$33 to about \$43.</li> <li>• \$888,000 from transfer station fees. This would mean that the Landfill fees would to increase to \$245 per tonne for rubbish and \$130 per tonne for green waste.</li> <li>• \$672,000 from general rates – this subsidises some of the operation of the transfer stations, and pays for rubbish collection in our parks and reserves.</li> </ul>
What that includes	What else that includes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerbside rubbish and recycling collection in urban areas.</li> <li>• Transfer stations.</li> <li>• Monitoring three closed landfills at Matamata, Morrinsville and Waihou.</li> <li>• Waste minimisation and sustainability education to schools across the district.</li> <li>• Removing rubbish from public bins.</li> </ul>	<p>This increase does not include any additional services or improvements. It’s just covering the costs which have increased and addressing lower than anticipated income.</p>

This is our preferred option because these changes mean rubbish and recycling in our district would still be funded

- 19%-25% by General Rates (all ratepayers)
- 11%-14% by Targeted Rates (those who receive kerbside collection services)
- 64%-73% by Fees and Charges (those using the service, paying for it directly)

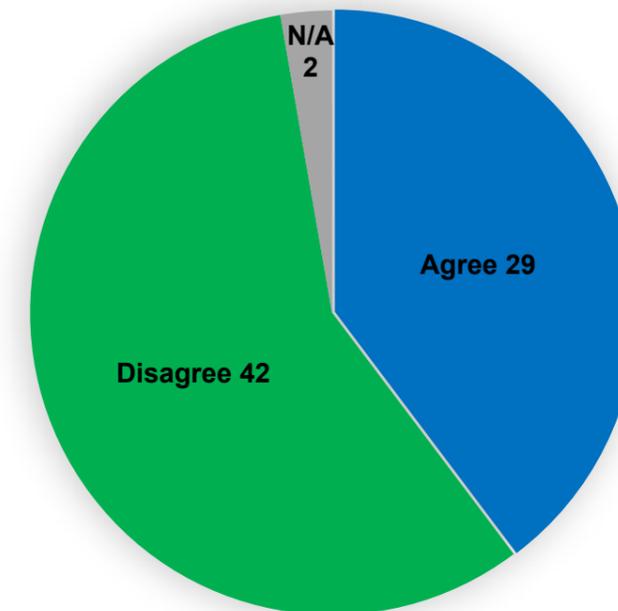
These increases means our fees and charges remain in line with our neighbours.

We can’t stop providing this service – we have a contract until 2023 and we’d like to talk to the community before any decision is made on what the future of this service looks like.

**Rubbish and Recycling - Response Summary**

Do you agree with our proposal to change how we fund the rubbish and recycling service to ensure we cover the bill?

Total Submitters = 73



**Costs of Growth**

The district is growing. Recent growth has meant more ratepayers to spread the costs – giving us 2% more income from rates. The work we’re proposing to do this year actually requires 8.4% more funding, but that 2% income from growth means rates only need to increase by 6.4% (instead of 8.4%).

And that growth also comes at a cost. It means we get more roads, parks, and pipes to maintain, and that increases our operating costs – such as needing more equipment, and more people. Growth also comes with additional planning costs – Council needs to employ more people to process the extra consents, and to ensure that our district is growing in a well-planned way.

**Parks and Tracks**

Our parks, gardens and tracks help make our communities a great place to live – we want to ensure they are something we can really be proud of.

We provide a variety of parks for the community to use and enjoy for sport and recreation activities. Playgrounds and skate parks provide physical outdoor and social activities for children. Our tracks provide opportunities for walking, cycling and experiencing nature - many of these are developed and maintained in partnership with volunteer community groups. Our parks and tracks also offer attractions and activities for the increasing number of visitors to our district.

As new subdivisions are created, so are new reserves, parks and gardens that require maintenance. While this growth and those new assets are great, they put pressure on staff time and resources.

Current budget	Proposed budget
Last year we had an operational budget of approximately \$1.6million	We’re proposing to increase this budget by about \$360,000
What that includes	What else that includes
Mowing and maintaining gardens, 10 parks and over 50 reserves throughout our district.	Maintaining over nine new reserves and tracks (including the Te Aroha Railway Reserve, Morrinsville River Walk, Memorial Rise, Richardson Street, Kaimai Drive, Jellicoe Road, Banks Road, Matipo Street, Mangawhero Road) and some overland flow paths for stormwater.

How else is growth affecting the budgets?

Some of those increases include:

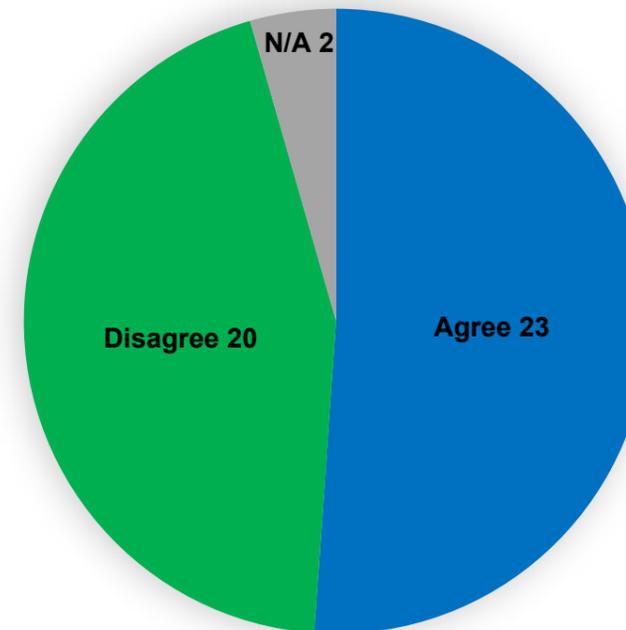
- Additional Planning staff to deal with the additional enquiries and consents, and ensure the growth occurs in a well planned way (about a \$78,000 increase).
- Maintaining new ponds/rain gardens for stormwater in new subdivisions throughout the district (an a \$110,000 increase).
- Improving public transport in the district – both between our towns, and through to Hamilton (we’ve committed \$70,000 to help Waikato Regional Council expand this service) including a new services from MM to Morrinsville and on to Hamilton.
- In the last 12 months, we also employed additional staff in planning, roading, project management to ensure that we continue to provide our services and facilities to the same standard, and deliver projects on time. These roles have added an extra \$891,000 to our salary budgets. These staff are focussed on delivering projects, and ensuring our training is up to scratch.
- We have had a lot of community feedback on our footpaths and pathways – particularly that they need upgrading or widening. The costs for maintaining and improving footpaths have increased over recent years – but our footpath budgets haven’t. We are proposing to increase the budget so we can act on your feedback and improve a

number of our footpaths. Costs to clean the CBDs have also gone up as part of the last contract we tendered. We are committed to having clean and vibrant CBDs we can be proud of, so we’ve committed to this increase as well. All up these increased costs amount to around \$60,000.

**Costs of Growth – Response Summary**

Do you agree with our proposal to increase rates to help fund the extra costs Council occurs that happen as a result of growth?

Total Submitters = 45



**Economic Development/PGF**



In 2019 Council secured funding from the government’s Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) to investigate developing Te Aroha as a tourism destination, and Waharoa as an industrial hub. Feasibility studies have already shown that these projects will stimulate business growth and economic development. We’re proposing to include further funding towards progressing these projects to attract visitors and business investment, and create more jobs and residential growth. We plan to use this money to progress one or both of these projects.

**Te Aroha Tourism Precinct**

The feasibility study has explored a range of tourism opportunities that could be developed. The study has looked at how the natural, historical and cultural assets of the Te Aroha Domain and its surrounds, could be enhanced and developed into a spa resort.

We know that Te Aroha is well situated in the Auckland-Hamilton-Tauranga triangle, and with the right improvements, has great tourism potential. Council currently operates a mineral spa in the Te Aroha Domain. In 2019 we sought input from the community into tourism opportunities in Te Aroha and got some great ideas that were considered as part of the feasibility study. The study identified that the best opportunity to kick things off is developing a new spa facility using the available geothermal water. This would be the anchor project for the Te Aroha tourism hub.

A business case has examined the financial and commercial case in detail, which indicates a new spa complex can stack up financially.

We plan to seek other funding for this project. If we are successful the \$500,000 funding we are proposing could be needed to cover preliminary work like obtaining the necessary consents, engaging further with iwi and the community, and developing more detailed plans and costings for a project of this scale.

If the overall project proceeds, the development of a new/rebuilt spa complex would be a major project (around \$20 million), and would also require significant improvements (around \$5 million) to the Te Aroha Domain. We would consult with the community on this as part of our next Long-Term Plan (in 2021).

**Waharoa Industrial Hub**

Similar to Te Aroha, we have carried out a feasibility study for an industrial hub to improve economic and social wellbeing in Waharoa.

Waharoa is strategically located, close to Port of Tauranga, under two-hour drive from most Auckland locations and at the centre of a major railway junction and on a State Highway. It is the logical eastern Waikato hub for economic activity.

The project has worked closely with Ngāti Hauā, local community, Crown agencies and business to develop a feasible plan to address the social, cultural, environmental and economic challenges faced in the community. We want to lay the foundation for a major increase in economic activity extending well beyond the immediate opportunities we have identified.

The feasibility study has proposed the following key projects:

- an employment and training hub
- a rail siding
- a gas pipeline extension to Waharoa
- Industrial Development including post-harvest food processing operations
- Increasing the capacity of the water and wastewater network

The study concluded the employment and training hub, rail siding and gas pipeline and food processing operations were the key things to get underway as soon as possible. These would act as a ‘catalyst’ for future development of Waharoa.

A business case has examined the financial and commercial case in detail, which indicates the overall proposal has potential.

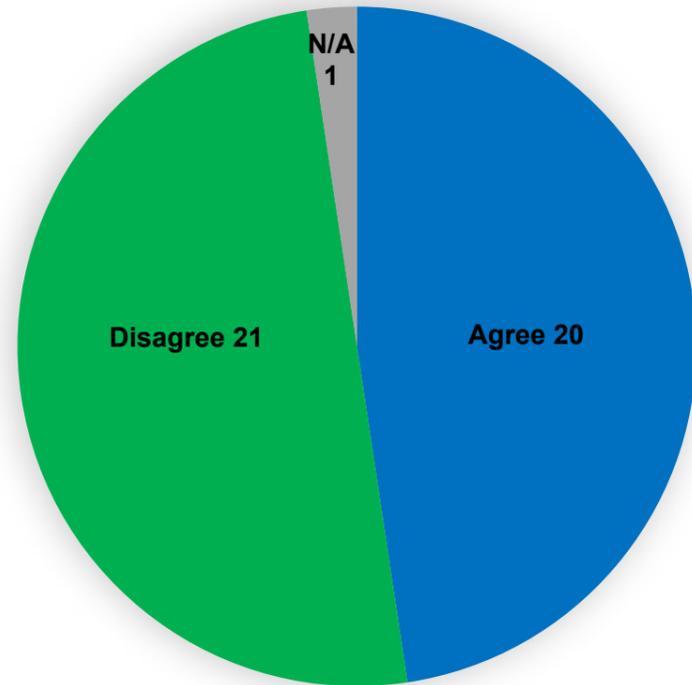
Some aspects of this project (such as providing natural gas to the area), would likely be led and managed by others so we are still working through what opportunities Council would be best placed to support. For example, we could use the funding we’re proposing to explore water, wastewater and housing issues further, as well as investigating opportunities for the Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome. The two projects funded by Provincial Growth Fund are coming to an end and we think we need to allocate funding to keep things moving. However, we believe that it is too early to commit major funding to either project. We’ve allocated \$500,000 in the draft budget towards progressing these projects, so that we can have sufficient information to decide whether to proceed in time for our next Long-Term Plan (completed next year). Both projects would require major investment from Council, so we would also like to consult with the community on this. In the meantime the funding we have proposed in the draft budget means we can keep working with our partners to lift the economic and social wellbeing of the District.

Current budget	Proposed budget
For the Te Aroha Tourism Precinct and Waharoa Industrial Hub, we have up to \$900,000 each available, mostly from the Provincial Growth Fund for the feasibility, business/investment case work.	Investing to progress the Te Aroha Domain Spa project and/or Waharoa Industrial Hub, a total of \$500,000 that could be used for either or both projects.
What that includes	What else that includes
Obtaining consents, engaging further with local iwi, and develop more detailed plans and costings for the Te Aroha Spa project. Continuing to work with Ngāti Hauā, local community, Crown agencies and business to address the social, cultural, environmental and economic challenges faced in the Waharoa community.	For Te Aroha: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring the appropriate ownership and operating structure for a new spa facility.</li> <li>• Making sure we understand the risks involved and have a strategy to address them.</li> <li>• Securing third party investors/funding to share costs.</li> <li>• Engagement with Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu, Heritage NZ and existing domain users.</li> </ul> For Waharoa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working out where Council is best placed to support the initiatives.</li> <li>• Making sure we understand the risks involved and have a strategy to address them.</li> <li>• Engagement with iwi, industry and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• Securing third party investors/funding to share costs.</li> </ul>

**Economic Development/PGF – Response Summary**

Do you agree with our proposal to put \$500,000 towards progressing both or either the Te Aroha Tourism Precinct and Waharoa Industrial Hub?

Total Submitters = 42



**Improving What We Have**

We are proud of our facilities and services, and want you to be proud to live in this community. This means we need clean buildings, well maintained facilities, and well maintained assets (like our pipes in the ground). Regular maintenance also helps extend the lifespan of our assets. We also know that there are areas where we could do better – so we want to commit more funding to do this.

Current budget	Proposed budget
\$465,000	Invest in the full implementation of the recommended maintenance programme \$755,000
What that includes	What else that includes
Priority maintenance, reactive repairs and compliance checks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular inspections of facilities.</li> <li>• Regular electrical audits of facilities.</li> <li>• Regular exterior cleaning of facilities.</li> <li>• Regular painting of exteriors of facilities.</li> <li>• Proactive tree maintenance</li> <li>• More funding for repairing damage caused by vandalism.</li> </ul>

Improving our buildings, pools, cemeteries, parks and public toilets

We want to undertake more proactive maintenance to ensure our facilities continue to provide spaces for people to meet and connect and be active, contributing to the social wellbeing of our community. Over the past few years we have kept budgets in this area pretty tight, which has meant deferring some maintenance work and being reactive instead of proactive in some areas. Deferring maintenance is not ideal for the long term, and we want to

take a more proactive approach to how we manage our facilities. Just like you do at home, you may choose to defer painting the house for a year or two, but you know that sooner or later you need to do this to maintain your home. This is what we want to do now. We want to catch up on deferred maintenance and implement a proactive maintenance programme for all our facilities.

For our facilities in the proposed budget for the 2020/21 Annual Plan we want to focus on maintenance that will improve the general appearance of buildings, and reduce long term and more significant capital upgrade costs. Moving forward, we would like to carry out more regular inspections for all our facilities to confirm priorities for that year and identify any potential new issues that needs addressing. We also want to undertake more regular electrical audits of all facilities, this is part of ensuring we meet health and safety requirements. Similarly trees help make our towns beautiful, but they can cause problems for people (such as getting old/diseased and becoming hazardous, or hanging over into private property). Currently, we only deal with tree problems when there are complaints. However, we'd like to manage tree maintenance more proactively – assessing trees, and identifying priorities for those that need trimming or removal. This would be a safer approach for our community, as well as ensuring our towns keep looking great. Similarly trees help make our towns beautiful, but they can cause problems for people (such as getting old/diseased and becoming hazardous, or hanging over into private property). Currently, we only deal with tree problems when there are complaints. However, we'd like to manage tree maintenance more proactively – assessing trees, and identifying priorities for those that need trimming or removal. This would be a safer approach for our community, as well as ensuring our towns keep looking great. Increasing vandalism of our property has also impacted these budgets – in particular we have seen an increase in the amount of vandalism of our public toilets which we have had to respond to and pay to fix.

We don't believe it is an option to keep our budgets at 2019/20 levels, as this would mean further delaying maintenance and the potential for facilities to fall into disrepair and require major investment to be brought back to acceptable standards.

Doing more on our underground assets

While you can't see them, these assets make up a large part of what we are responsible for. We have seven water treatment plants and over 330km of reticulated water supply – assets that at the time of our last Long Term Plan were worth over \$46 million. We also have five wastewater treatment plants, 34 pump stations and over 180km of reticulated wastewater pipes – assets that at the time of our last Long Term Plan were worth over \$60million. Just like our buildings, regular maintenance of these assets will help extend their lifespan.

We already have an extensive maintenance and renewals programme, but we also know we could do more to maintain these assets – and every time there is a leak or a problem, the community asks us if we're not maintaining them properly. So based on that feedback, we're budgeting to increase maintenance of our pipes.

Current budget	Proposed budget
Currently the budgets for water and wastewater reticulation are \$783,000	Start a staged increase of the maintenance programme – this would mean an increase of \$289,000 to the reticulation budgets this year, and a further increase next year
What that includes	What else that includes
Keeping on top of our renewals programme –making sure that pipes are replaced when they need to be.	<p>More work on the wastewater network including manhole inspections, jetting pipes and CCTV inspections on a more regular basis.</p> <p>More work on the water network including more regular Hydrant testing, backflow testing and valve exercising; and more regular trunk main inspections.</p>

Do you agree with our proposal to increase rates to help improve our assets through maintenance of our buildings and underground assets?

Total Submitters = 39

**Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy**

**We want to improve our online and digital services to make it easier for you to do business with us, whenever it suits you – we’ve given this a lot of thought and believe it’s important to do to stay current.**

Over the last ten years, technology and how we use it has changed significantly. Websites are now essential communication channels, wifi is expected in public places, social media is the most common use for the internet, and smartphones are “essential”. We now literally carry the world in our pockets. This changes how customers expect to do business with us – and we want to be able to meet those changing expectations.

We’ve steadily been improving our online services over the last few years – adding new features to our website (like online LIM applications, GIS, and the cemetery database) and other digital services (like enewsletters and the Antenno app).

But we think you should be able to do all your business with Council online, at a time that suits you – whether you want to look at what your neighbour is building, apply for a resource consent, register your dog, pay for any of our services, or make a presentation to Councillors (and more).

We also know that we could make some of our existing business processes smarter and faster by using more digital systems.

We’ve developed a Digital Strategy to deliver on all these things and much more over the next five years. But to do that, we need to commit more funding to improving our online and digital services.

Current budget	Proposed budget
\$205,000	Invest in delivering our Digital Strategy \$785,000
What that includes	What else that includes
Two in house developers and their operating costs (such as internet), website operating costs, and annual costs for Antenno.	\$355,000 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A business analyst who will look for digital solutions to make business easier for our customers and our systems smarter and faster across the whole organisation.</li> <li>• 1.5 in house developers to deliver new or improved online services in line with the Digital Strategy. We’ve opted for in house developers because this is typically cheaper than paying for contractors or external systems.</li> <li>• A part time person to build up our email database so we can communicate directly to our customers.</li> <li>• Operating costs for these 2.5 roles.</li> </ul> \$25,000 for an annual web security audit to ensure our website and your data is as secure as possible. \$8,000 for a system that monitors and improves Council’s websites, making them easier to use and more accessible for all users. \$8,000 for a system that provides video links between Council offices so staff and customers can meet remotely, or customers can present to Councillors via video link.

Do you agree with our proposal to increase rates for our Digital Strategy to help improve our online services?

Total Submitters = 46

**Projects**

While we plan to do projects in a certain year sometimes – due to funding (where third parties such as the government are involved), development timing, resource consents, access to land, staff/contractor capacity, and other challenges, we have to shift projects around.

Below is a list of some of the larger capital projects that we’re planning to deliver in the next year, and how the timing differs from what we initially planned in the Long Term Plan. You can view all the changes in our draft Annual Plan. These are capital projects (funded from loans), that were already budgeted for.



**Howie Park entrance, car parking and loop track upgrade - Phase II**

What we planned	We originally budgeted \$150,000 for this project in 2019/20.
What’s happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	We expect to spend about \$50,000 of this funding in 2019/20.
What we’re proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	In 20/21 we expect to spend the remaining \$100,000 to complete this project.
Why the change?	We developed an initial concept plan for improvements to the park, we are refining the concept plan in response to community feedback. This has taken a bit longer than planned due to staff resourcing and priorities.

**Matamata Streetscape Redevelopment**

What we planned	We originally budgeted \$750,000 for this project in 2019/20.
What’s happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	At this stage we expect to spend about \$375,000 in 2019/20.
What we’re proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	In 2020/21 we expect to spend the remaining \$375,000 to complete this project.
Why the change?	We haven’t been able to progress this project as quickly as we thought due to staff and contractor resourcing and a longer amount of time being put in to making sure we get consultation with the community and affected businesses right.

**Waharoa Rest Area - Carpark Upgrade**

What we planned	We originally budgeted \$200,000 for this project in 2019/20.
What’s happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	At this stage we expect to spend about \$30,000 in 2019/20.
What we’re proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	In 2020/21 we expect to spend the remaining \$170,000 to complete this project.

Why the change?	Council successfully applied to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund in 2019 for funding towards a new toilet block at the Waharoa Rest Area. Construction of the new toilet block has become our priority at the site as it is a condition of the co-funding agreement that the work be completed within a specified timeframe. The carpark will be designed to suit the new toilet location and layout and will be constructed after the toilets have been completed.
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**Te Aroha Streetscape Redevelopment**

What we planned	We originally budgeted \$500,000 for this project in 2020/21.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	We haven't planned any work on this project for 2019/20.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	In 2020/21 we expect to spend \$50,000 mainly on project scoping, planning, design and community consultation.  Much like the Matamata streetscape project we don't think we'll be able to progress this as quickly as we would have liked due staff resourcing.
Why the change?	We also want to make sure we get consultation with the community and affected businesses right.  All going to plan the remaining \$450,000 will be spent in 2021/22 to complete this project.

**Morrinsville Streetscape Redevelopment**

What we planned	We originally budgeted \$500,000 for this project in 2020/21.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	At this stage we expect to spend about \$50,000 in 2019/20.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	In 2020/21 we expect to spend the remaining \$450,000 to complete this project.
Why the change?	Planning for this project has been brought forward slightly, with scoping works for the project starting in the 2019/20 financial year.

**Te Aroha Cemetery Expansion - Planning and Scoping of Project**

What we planned	We originally budgeted \$200,000 for this project in 2018/19 which was then rolled over to 2019/20.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	At this stage we expect to spend about \$47,000 in 2019/20.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	In 2020/21 we expect to spend the remaining \$153,000 to complete this project.

Why the change?	Design and preparatory work is being undertaken in 2019/2020, with the remaining funding carried forward to 2020/2021 when physical works will be completed.
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**Matamata Inner Walkway Project (Phase I and II)**

What we planned	We originally budgeted \$300,000 for this project in 2019/20.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	We haven't planned any work on this project in 2019/20.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	At this stage we have budgeted to spend \$350,000 on this project in 2020/21.
Why the change?	While we've budgeted funding for this project in 2020/21 the timing of this project is dependent on the progress of various subdivision developments. We are likely to start acquiring some additional reserves in 2020/21.

**New Playground in Morrinsville**

What we planned	We originally budgeted \$200,000 for this project in 2020/21.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	We haven't planned any work on this project on 2019/20.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	We've deferred work on this project to 2021/22.  Council allocated funding in the Long Term Plan towards an additional playground in the north of Morrinsville in response to future subdivisions that were anticipated. A number of subdivisions are currently in progress and Council is likely to acquire additional reserve land as a result. This will give us more options to choose the best location for a playground to serve the new residential areas.
Why the change?	

**Morrinsville Sunridge - Anderson Linkage Park**

What we planned	We originally budgeted \$250,000 for this project in 2020/21.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	We haven't planned any work on this project in 2019/20.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	We budgeted to spend \$75,000 on this project in 2020/21.
Why the change?	While we've budgeted funding for this project in 2020/21 the timing of this project could be pushed out till 2021/22 - it is currently dependent on subdivision development. If this doesn't occur the project may be pushed out even further.

### Te Aroha Domain Redevelopment

What we planned	We budgeted \$500,000 on this project in 2020/21.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	We've spent a lot of time working on the PGF feasibility and business case this year. This work will ultimately inform what projects in the Domain this funding is put towards.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	We've made the decision to push out funding for this project to 2021/22.
Why the change?	Work has been delayed pending the outcome of the Te Aroha Provincial Growth Fund project as it is expected that this will have an influence on the work to be undertaken.

### Swimzone Splash Pads

What we planned	We originally budgeted \$210,000 for this project in 2018/19.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	We haven't completed any work on this project this financial year.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	We have pushed the \$210,000 funding for this project in to 2020/21.
Why the change?	Funding from 2019/20 has been carried forward - physical work may commence in 2020/21, but we have also identified that this might not be enough funding to achieve our desired result and the project may end up being reviewed as part of our Long Term Plan.

### Studholme Street Toilets, Morrinsville

What we planned	We budgeted \$100,000 for this project in 2018/19.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	We haven't completed any work on this project this financial year.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	We have pushed the \$100,000 funding for this project in to 2020/21.
Why the change?	Funding from 2019/20 has been carried forward as we expect physical works to commence in 2020/21. Council undertook an assessment survey of its public toilets in 2018-19 to help prioritise capital and renewal work on public toilets. Council decided to investigate the feasibility of alternative location options for an additional toilet in the Morrinsville CBD. Council's current preference is for an additional public toilet in the vicinity of Canada Street/Allen Street.

### Matamata Indoor Sports Facilities

What we planned	We budgeted \$2million for this project in 2019/20.
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What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)

We haven't completed any work on this project this financial year.

What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)

We're unsure at the moment how much funding will be spent in the 2020/21 financial year – much of this is dependent on the work of the project team.

Why the change?

The project is being advanced by a project team comprising members of the Matamata community and Council representatives. Council has ear-marked the funding that it will contribute when the project detail including design and funding, have been finalised by that project team.

### Infrastructure for Motorhomes / Motor Caravans

What we planned

We originally budgeted \$100,000 for this project in 2019/20.

What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)

At this stage we expect to spend about \$5,000 in 2019/20.

What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)

In 2020/21 we expect to spend the remaining \$95,000 and complete this project.

Why the change?

In 2019/20 funding of \$100,000 was included, of that \$5,000 is expected to be used with the balance of the work to be completed in 2020/21. Council is working closely with the NZ Motorcarvan Association on providing an additional dump station in Matamata. A preferred site has been identified in the industrial area and design work is underway.

### Matamata Bypass

What we planned

We originally budgeted \$1million for this project in 2019/20 and a further \$1million in 2020/21.

What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)

We have been looking at the scoping and cost/benefit of this project this year.

What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)

We've removed funding from the budgets on the Matamata Bypass for the time being.

Why the change?

We need to consider the reasons for and re-scoping of this project (if it goes ahead) as part of our next Long Term Plan.

### Transfer Station Upgrades

What we planned

We've budgeted \$600,000 in each of the 18/19, 19/20 and 20/21 financial years for upgrading the three transfer stations.

What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)

Improvement works to our transfer stations have commenced in late 2019/20.

What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	We're expecting to spend \$600,000 across the three transfer stations in 2020/21.
Why the change?	We've been thinking about the right way to spend this money – to future proof our transfer stations in what is a rapidly changing area of our business. At this stage we are looking at getting the basics right – concreting areas so we have good quality, durable surfaces and making sure the services (most importantly electricity and water) are up to scratch.

**North Morrinsville Trunk Wastewater Main**

What we planned	We originally budgeted \$1.4million for this project in 2019/20.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	No spending is planned on this project in 2019/20.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	In 2020/21 we expect to spend \$1.9million, with another \$900,000 in 2021/22.
Why the change?	Now that staff understand the full extent of the Lockerbie development in Morrinsville, work is underway of increasing the capacity from Morrinsville North to Allen Street pump station. Some immediate work is required and planned to cater for Stage 1 of the development in 2019/20 and the major upgrade is planned for the following year. The total cost will be reviewed when the design is completed but at this stage it is estimated at \$2.8million.

**Upgrade of the Te Aroha Wastewater Falling Main**

What we planned	\$3million of funding was provided in 2019/20.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	No spending is planned on this project in 2019/20.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	In 2020/21 we expect to spend \$1.2million.
Why the change?	The project is being reassessed, with a condition rating of the pipe being undertaken in 2019/20. Part of the funding has been reallocated to the North Morrinsville trunk sewer main.

**Burwood Road, Matamata, Bulk Sewer**

What we planned	\$2.4million was budgeted in the Long Term Plan for 2022/23 for this project.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	No spending is planned on this project in 2019/20.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	\$200,000 has been brought forward to complete preliminary work on the project.

Why the change?	We've brought some of this funding forward because it is a large and complex project – development in Matamata is also progressing rapidly and we want to make sure this project is well scoped and planned out. It is likely that the main construction will still be in 2022/23 but some design work and minor improvements are being undertaken now to the main trunk sewer and plant to ensure the current line can be utilised to its full capacity.
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**Tahuroa Road, Morrinsville, Industrial Water Ringmain**

What we planned	\$400,000 of funding was budgeted in 2019/20.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	At this stage we expect to spend about \$50,000 in 2019/20.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	In 2020/21 we expect to spend the remaining \$350,000 and complete this project.
Why the change?	This is the bypass through Rukumoana for the trunk water main to enable the bypassing of Scotts Road and also to provide additional capacity to industrial users in the area. Work has been delayed due to other priorities around water compliance work.

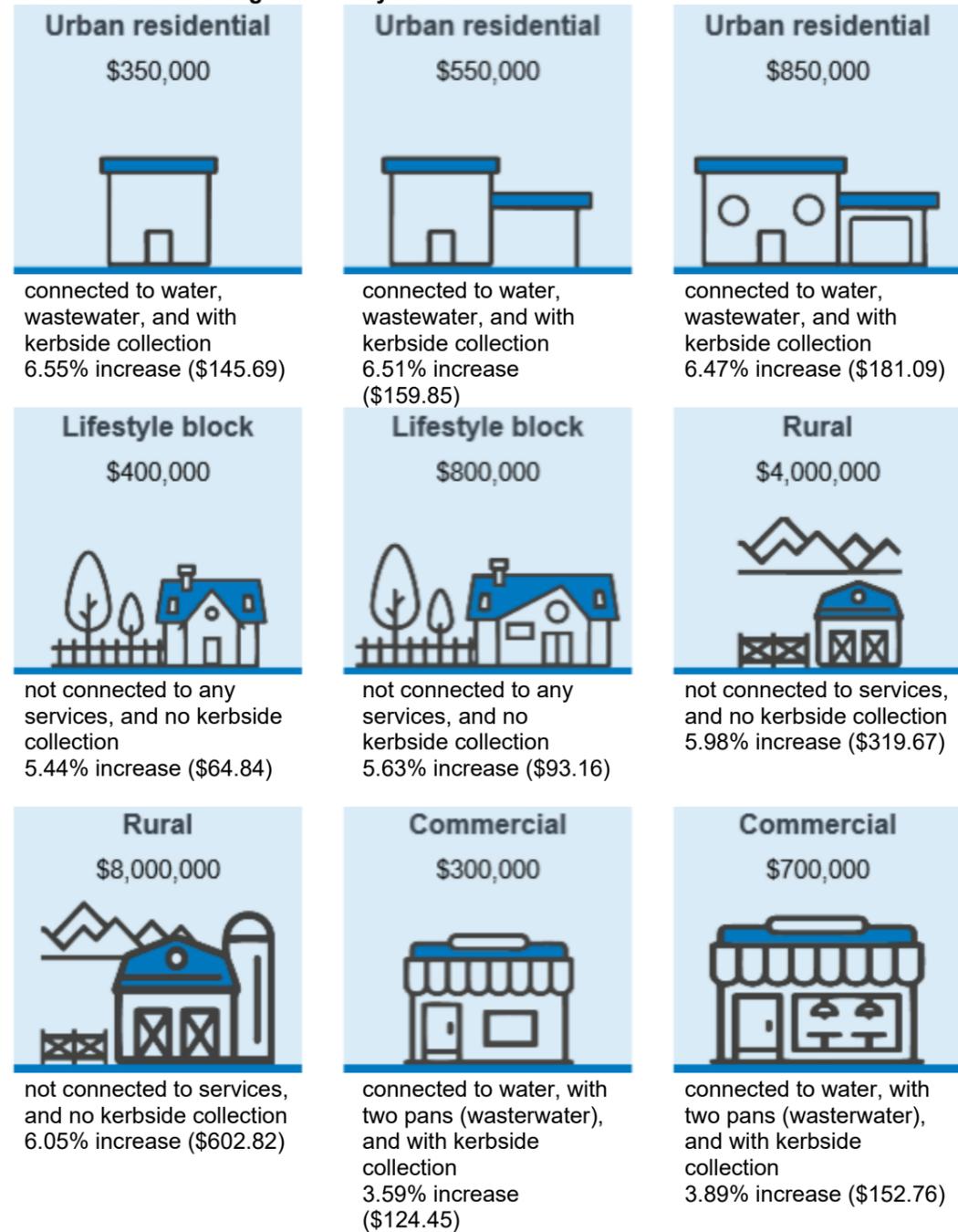
**Upgrade of Water Reticulation Infrastructure in the Morrinsville, Bolton Road Industrial area**

What we planned	\$250,000 of funding was budgeted in 2019/20.
What's happening in 2019/20 (this financial year)	No spending is planned on this project in 2019/20.
What we're proposing for 20/21 (next financial year)	\$250,000 has been carried forward to complete preliminary work on the project.
Why the change?	This project is the extension of the Tahuroa Road, Morrinsville, Industrial Water Ringmain project to provide the required firefighting flows to industries in the Bolton Road area. Work has been delayed due to other priorities around water compliance work.

Do you agree with our proposal capital projects that we're planning to deliver in the next year?  
Total Submitters = 29

**Rates**

**How will the draft budget affect my rates?**



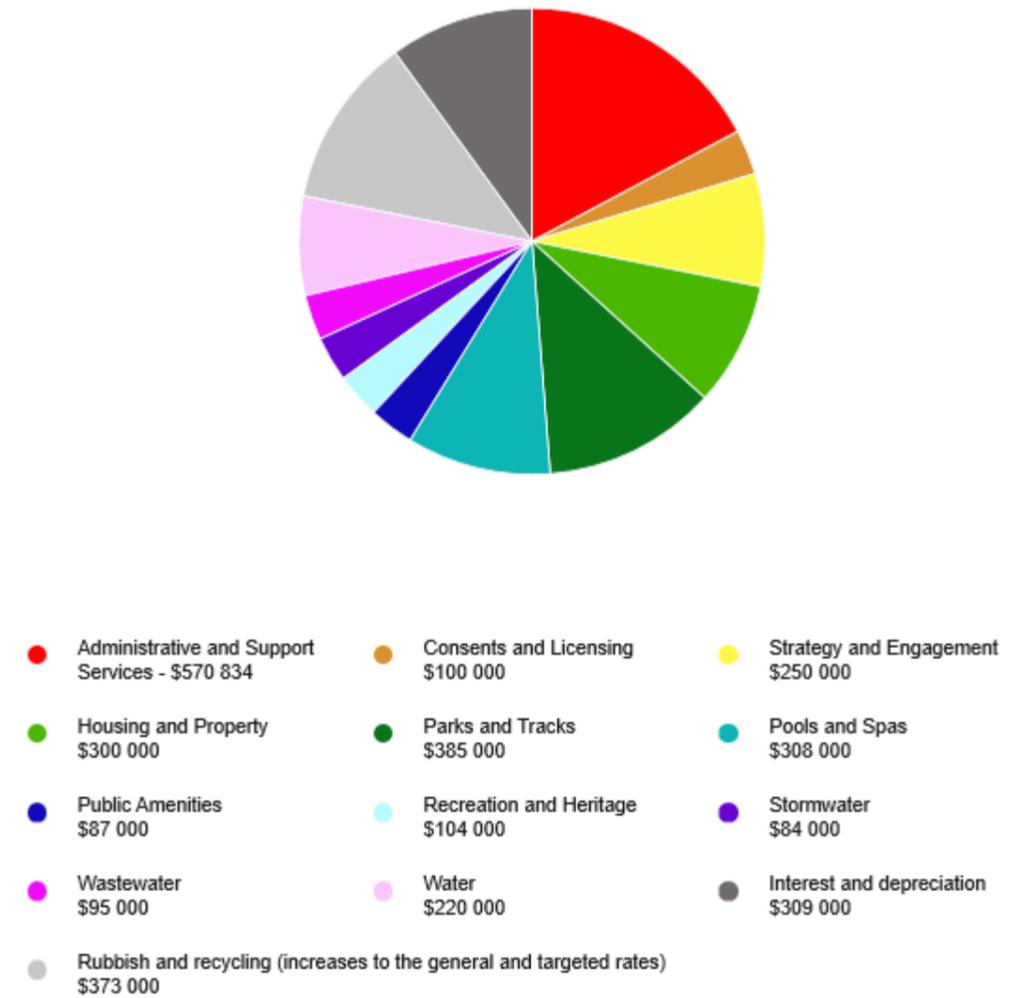
Total Submitters = 45

**Financials**

**What's driving the 6.4% increase?**

The big challenge we've faced with this budget, is that it is made up of lots of small increases - caused by compliance, growth, increasing fixed costs, improvements that we really need to stop putting off, and a desire to do more and do better (read all the [other topics](#) for details). But all those small increases add up to a significant increase. This graph shows how that 6.4% is spread across the different activities and services we deliver.

**Where the 6.4% rates increase is going**



**How do we stack up against what we thought in the Long Term Plan?**

In general our total rates increases have been at or below what we have forecast. This year however we're proposing to exceed what we planned in the Long Term Plan for the reasons that we've outlined in this document (see all the [other topics](#) for details)

In the past few years our debt hasn't been as high as we had forecast and that trend is expected to continue – we are still well below the prudent debt limit that we set for ourselves of 150% of revenue. In the [projects section](#) we provide more details about our expected capital programme, and that there are some projects that we haven't been able to progress as quickly as we would like for a number of reasons.

Total Submitters = 19



# Hearing Attendee Submissions – Wednesday 27 May

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
8	Mackay Downs	<p><b>Land Transport Bylaw</b> I believe you were contemplating reducing the speed areas from Avenue Rd to Kuaranui which is not sufficient and would like this to be extended towards Motamaho. We also believe Scott road should also be reduced further to limit the speeding in and around that area.</p>	
25	Barrie Mullins/ Insulmax Waikato & BOP	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> The Alpha One system is excellent to use. Congratulations on your decision to use it.</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> We would ask the Council to consider creating a separate category for "Retrofit Wall Insulation" in the fees schedule. While we understand the process is currently to apply for a building consent (under minor works) to install retrofit insulation, we would also ask the council to consider an "Exemption" process, which many other Councils across the country do. The key factor here is to assist the homeowners in the area to keep warmer and healthier and have more efficient homes and to not have extra compliance costs to achieve this. For example Dunedin City Council has decided that a building consent for retrofit wall insulation will be no charge.</p> <p>We appreciate the opportunity to give you this feedback. If you need to discuss it further please feel free to contact us7</p> <p>Barrie Mullins Insulmax Waikato &amp; BOP</p>	
17	Jason Stokes	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> Hi I would like to put in my say you as a council do not provide us in Hinuera a rubbish service as so a targeted rates is our preferred option and only fair option in short user pays.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> A rates increase for us is not warranted as you as a council do not provide us water, sewerage and rubbish collection so why increase our rates for services that we don't have available to us.</p>	
89	Anita	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree Due this pandemic situation so many people have lost job either hours of work this increment on rates will make things harder</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Disagree</p>	
1 & 77	Maurice Hight	<p><b>* Please note two submissions from same submitter</b></p> <p><b>Submission 1</b> <b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> In this challenging times-do what is necessary to hold rates at 0 increase. <b>Economic Development/PGF</b> See above <b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> See above <b>Costs of Growth</b> See above <b>Improving What We Have</b> See above <b>Projects</b> Keep our current assets in good repair. <b>Rates</b> No increase in rates <b>Fees and Charges</b></p>	<p><b>Financials</b> In view of the current pandemic and the huge reduction in income and financial security in the District, I submit that there be no increase in rates i.e. rates are frozen at 2019 levels for at least the next 12 months. For many years we have held significant investments dating back to the share of assets of the Thames Valley Electric Power Board and even before. These investments and savings have been kept for the rainy day event. We note that our government is prioritizing the 'here and now' as this, and is even borrowing for which future generations will need to fund in interest and capital. The entire world is in this new and game-changing situation, the likes we have never seen before. I submit that we should utilise our reserves to maintain the services and plans for the future and prioritise these. We should now use our reserves to fund the most cost effective and urgent of these projects to keep the District progressing. A previous Mayor, the late Ken Thomas dramatically illustrated this situation to me in recounting a discussion that he had with his wife Joan after she was diagnosed with a serious health condition. He said to her that they had been saving for a future "rainy day". He said to her that this is it!. "It is fair pissing down". We as a community need to also recognise that this is the rainy day that we have been holding these reserves and savings to carry us through. I submit that we should realistically recognise the current situation and utilise these</p>

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes	
		<p>As above</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> Streamline and speed up processes</p> <p><b>Bylaws</b> Change RURAL zoned areas to residential where appropriate</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> See above</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> This is a whole new world that we have not experienced before - this pandemic - Council needs to rethink a lot of what it does</p> <p><b>Submission 77</b> <b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree We need to constantly look to new technology to improve the quality of our services and the time taken to provide answers.</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree No increase in rates or charges. Fund out of reserves.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree No increase in charges - fund out of reserves - this is the rainy day !</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree Without any increase in charges. This is our rainy day.</p> <p><b>Projects</b> I trust Council, with all the facts at its disposal, to prioritise these and make the right decisions.</p>	<p>reserves to see the District through this 'one in a hundred year' crisis. THIS IS THE TIME FOR BOLD DECISIONS RECOGNISING THE CURRENT LIFE-CHANGING SITUATION REALISTICLY.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> NO RATES INCREASE - see above</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> NO FEES INCREASE - see above</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> Streamline the processing of these issues.</p> <p><b>Bylaws</b> Keep progressing these in the light of changing circumstances.</p> <p><b>Land Transport Bylaw</b> Condense these where possible.</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> NO INCREASE IN RATES OR CHARGES - see above</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> NO RATES OR CHARGES INCREASES - THIS IS OUR RAINY DAY - ACT APPROPRIATELY !</p>	
85	Brian Steele / Te Aroha Federated Farmers	<p><b>Other Comments</b> Te Aroha FF represents 160 members in the Te Aroha area. Rates are a large cost to our members and we welcome the chance to submit on the annual plan. For us this has been a season of mixed results. While prices have been good and we have been able to continue our businesses during the Covid 19 shut down we have also had a prolonged dry spell over the summer which has reduced our production and increased our costs due to the bought in feed to keep the livestock fed. This will affect profitability this season. The current forecast for next season is for lower prices than this season. While farmers have large assets they often carry large debts and are often cash poor. Farmers are in no better position to pay more rates any more than other rate payers. We acknowledge the pressures and stress on other businesses as a result of Covid 19.</p> <p>We would encourage the Council to look at it's budget to aim for no increase this year. We encourage the Council to fund capital projects via targeted rates from those who benefit and use debt over the life time of the project if possible. We also ask council to make full use of the UAGC as a mechanism to balance service provision and equity. We would welcome the ability to have a separate discussion on the UAGC as it is widely misinterpreted. FF has considerable expertise in this area.</p> <p>We acknowledge that Council has made efforts to improve the level of transparency. We would like to see a breakdown on expenditure for services and how much is being paid for out of the general rate, UAGC, or targeted rates. This would give a clear understanding of the value the Council is providing for the rates collected.</p>		
104	John Rayner / Enhance Te Aroha	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree I have taken particular interest in this matter, and was told by Council that it is not possible to detail the findings of both the Feasibility Study and the Business Case, as the Council has considered these in Public Excluded (confidential) meetings. Council has already made a significant cash contribution to the studies - I understand \$80,000 - and virtually nothing has been reported back to ratepayers. No reason has been given to me for the excessive amount of time spent getting to where we are now. Council is now asking citizens to approve further monies - huge monies - when we have no idea what has been done to date. I also would like to know the fees paid by PGF/Council to the companies who performed the studies. And, the fees paid to the company that issued the RFP to select the study applicants.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree Enhance Te Aroha has done a lot of work to beautify the Rail Trail surroundings in the area between the old Bunnings and the rail station. We now call it a park, and in future, it will be a place of beauty rather than the weedy, overgrown place it was before.</p>		

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
		<p>More and more people are now using and enjoying the park - not only cyclists, but large numbers of walkers. Lots of dogs now get exercised as well. We now find lumps of doggy-doo throughout the park. Why dog owners can't pick up the mess with their own bags is beyond me. I understand other areas such as the wetlands have the same issue. I propose that Council install bag issuing stations and dump bins throughout the park areas, and arrange collection. And, mount some sort of publicity plan to educate dog owners. More expenditure, I know, but we can't keep saying what a wonderful place Te Aroha is with filth like this around.</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Rates</b> I expect Councillors, who try very hard to promote themselves on to Council, to then have the experience and ability to keep costs within a set limit - probably the National CPI figure. It's simply not good enough for Councillors to cry "poor" and simply extract the income from ratepayers who can't do anything about it. I expect Councillors to be professional enough to keep rates under strict control. If they can't then give up being on Council. Pleasing now to see an effort by Council to have a 0% increase as a result of C19, and if this scrutiny works, implement it for future years.</p>	
66	Wolfgang Faber	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> - Disagree Nothing adds up, what the Council is saying---makes no sense no reference to the Long Term Plan-----I have made an OIA-request (waiting for answers), so will add to this submission later. COVID-19 makes such increases prohibitive and hurting and someone's mind must be on another planet!</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree The party is over! You cannot seriously wanting another \$500,000 for more consultancy work, when you already got \$900,000 from central government for a feasibility study! All pie in the sky!</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> - Disagree</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> - Disagree</p> <p><b>Financials</b> No plausible case made for the deviation from the LTP.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Last valuations were already over the top---where did the money go?</p>	
72	Mark Lewis / Builder	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree I think more people will be better informed. For me, I do not have any information as to what the figures, in the aforementioned, with regards to 6.4% increase against 0 increase.</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree Change is good if done properly and without unnecessary spending.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree To increase the cost of rubbish bags and transfer station is a fair increase.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree More efficient work and work ethic would be more effective.</p> <p><b>Doing More</b> – Agree Once again it is necessary to work efficiently and effectively. Get the work done in time and work done properly.</p> <p><b>Projects</b> It seems the projects are governed by people either not being able to do the work or are taking their time and not completing on time.</p> <p><b>Financials</b> I need more information. How can fixed costs increase.</p>	<p><b>Rates</b> Maintenance and proactive maintenance are very important in the long term.</p> <p><b>Fee and Charges</b> There is so much to comment on. Things like planning and consent are covered by the end user, so why should the fees increase?</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> Compliance would be better if communication was better. For example, education of those involved.</p> <p><b>Bylaws</b> Sorry I don't understand</p> <p><b>Land Transport</b> Don't understand</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> Don't understand</p> <p><b>Other comments</b> I wish I had more time to work through all of the above.</p>

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
79	Paul W Cronin	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree This whilst sound is not necessary, it is nice to have, I believe that Council already operates sufficiently well to postpone this for a year. This is an opportunity to cut somewhere around 2 percent out of the rate take that will not impact on operations.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree I am not convinced that increasing the cost of bags will necessarily increase revenue. I predict that this will probably have the perverse effect where more people are likely to use a private-sector collection service. This will, in turn, lead to a demand for increasing the cost of bags. Firstly do we know the level of unused bags that used to be provided as part of rates. How many of these are left? Hard to tell unless the colour of the bags that are sold is changed and then the council will know the amount. Has the totals of refuse going to landfill changed, is there an increase or a decrease. Our goal for refuse is actually collecting less and minimizing that which goes to landfill. there does not appear to be enough information on this. Council needs to be leading the way in this, the cost increases reflect a decision made by a previous council to contract out landfill disposal leaving it exposed to the whims of the private sector. There is no doubt that landfill prices will increase. There is however plenty of scope for a reduction in the number of materials that need to go to landfills. Plastic is one of these. The council should be looking to partner with other councils in recycling plastic, the obvious usage of this is in roading materials. there are other councils doing it and we should be following. e also need to make a plan for a district-wide diversion system where goods are removed from the waste chain and recycled and or reused or repurposed. With the next contract for refuse collection and disposal coming up the planning for this should be well in advance, there are a number of models that can be used that are successful and meet the underpinning principles of our district goals "to achieve integrated management of the effects of the use, development and protection of the natural and physical resources within the District". In doing so under the RMA we need to ensure that "sustainable management means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment" [s.5 (2)]. So far diversions of material from waste streams going to landfill have by and large been lip service apart from the sludge reduction at Morrinsville wastewater plant. This is a great example of technology and great thinking achieving a great outcome. So how should we fund the current deficits in waste removal, A mixed model of a small rise in the costs of the bags to 2.50 per bag I think is more sustainable, a change in the colour of the bags so that council has better information because tonnage is not necessarily a good measurement. A rise in the cost of dumping at refuse transfer stations and a rise in the targeted rates and a rise in the general rate. This needs to be in tandem with a clearly defined and planned approach to reducing volumes of material that go to landfill and good research around non-privatised landfill schemes. these leave us to the mercy of the market which I would charitably describe as not much kinder than Atilia the hun.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree These costs are reflected as our front door. We are well placed to grow and to become a more vibrant community. This increases costs. I think we could look at our planning processes and have no doubt that we could do that better and cheaper. using consultants is expensive and does not build councils' capability. The council should be looking to continue to identify and upskill existing staff who show interest and aptitude in these areas. This has a number of advantages. people from within have often shown that they want to work and often live in their own communities and providing people with career development with clear pathways is a good tool in staff retention. Our foot paths have suffered from a poor management and reactive maintenance program. A big part of this is caused by kerbside trees. There is clear science around what kind of trees to plant and how to plant these. A review of this needs to be done and some hard decisions made about the kind of trees that we continue to have in our towns and where they should be planted. Our tree maintenance budget (read removal) needs to be extended and prioritised for a number of reasons, and Council should not be held to ransom by ill informed but well meaning submitters. So yes increase the budget. I will talk about how to pay for that in a more depth later.</p> <p><b>Projects</b> Howie Park is a health and safety issue, redevelopment needs to continue, it is another area where Morrinsville has been given the short straw when it comes to funding. the streetscape projects are set to deliver a major under delivery and with the current funding are essentially a waste of time. Council needs to address the footpaths and crossings only and acknowledge and tell the truth that any halfway decent street-scape will cost at least three times the amount that is being proposed to be spent. This can be pushed back without any real consequences. Once again in relationship to footpaths, the ball has been dropped from a height, the state of the shared crossings are abominable and show a clear disregard of the well being of our most vulnerable residents. From signage through to the condition of these it is just one great cluster pollution. Councillors should be ashamed. The amount of lichen on the streets in Te Aroha is another black mark against council. Swim zone splash pads should be left to lie where they are at the moment and nothing be spent on these nice but not necessary things, As it is the pricing of entry to the Municipal pools is already a barrier so these improvements are really only going to benefit those who can afford to take their children swimming. this is regressive taxation taking extra money from people who cannot afford it and providing facilities that those same people can not afford to use. Matamata Inner walkways are another example of nice to haves. these must be left in abeyance at the moment as they are not urgent. The other critical infrastructure needs to continue, we have seen the price to be paid if failure occurs, it is non-excusable that the ring main has not been completed yet, whatever excuses that are made for that are poor, this reflects again Morrinsville getting the short straw and decisions being made at management level not being given the correct prioritisation. The ring main is critical infrastructure and water cannot be clean if it is not available. Business and community need assurance that this critical part of our infrastructure is taken seriously. The Matamata Indoors sports facilities should be placed on the back burner until the community in Matamata get off their collective derriere and stop putting their hands out for extra council funding and get on with raising the effects and safety matters are e necessary prerequisite that is the community contribution to the asset. Until that has occurred then the rest is tam vanum. Shouting into the wind. Infrastructure for Motorhomes and self-contained vehicles is a priority as internal staycations are likely to be premium for a long time till Covid 19 safety aspects are very clear. there will be very little inbound tourism for the next good while.</p> <p><b>Financials</b> I think I have covered many of these things in my submission.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Tena koutou katoa nga Rangitara AshTanner me Kaunihera. Thank you for this opportunity to submit on the rating policy. I maintain that the value we get for our rates is generally good, Council has disappointingly dropped the ball in some areas, not depreciating streetscape furniture, a lack of a co-</p>	

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
		<p>ordinated approach to council-owned infrastructure maintenance is another poorly managed indictment. However, people will always moan about rates. I am not in favour of a zero-rated increase, this will invariably just push through some of the costs of the strategic needs that we have. I note that there are no estimates of the cost of secondary water supply for Morrinsville or allowances which is again indicative in my opinion of staff imposing their own priorities and the very clear wishes of Councillors for the Morrinsville are being subverted. Councils position in taking conservative growth figures as a guideline was rightfully criticised by Audit NZ. The very clear signals from the Regional Council have been essentially ignored and the council has played a catch me if you can game that sees water shortages imposed virtually every summer. How long will council continue to wave two fingers in the air to Morrinsville residents without doing anything meaningful whether that be by mandating water storage in new homes or the prioritisation of the new water source at Lockerbie Estate This is the time to borrow money, our balance sheets can withstand it and the Government has clearly indicated that it will intervene in the Local government Bond Market which will ease the cost of borrowing. Interest rates are at an all-time low. The electoral cycle is early and if Councillors are making decisions based on being worried about being voted out then they should resign now. Leaders are elected to lead not to follow and as Waldo Emerson says "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines. With consistency, a great soul has simply nothing to do. (they) may as well concern (themselves)with their shadow on the wall. Other Councils will undoubtedly follow a zero rates increase line, this will cost more money than it saves, we are entering an unprecedented time where infrastructure spending will be one of the key drivers of economic stability. It is classic Keynesianism economics, to screw down spending at a time like this risks further likelihood of a depression that will hit our area hard and it is a politically driven ideology that is clearly neo-liberal in its approach and frankly, we have seen the cost of that in our communities especially in te Aroha. There is some definite belt-tightening that can be done and places where costs can be saved. The communications department is one place where there could be significant gains made, it is stale, top-heavy and very inefficient in getting messages across. We have failed to invest heavily enough in future-proofing our own internal capabilities and the costs of management of projects and consultants is obscene and an absolute tort. We need to work smarter not harder and not take knee jerk reactions and follow like sheep other councils who have leaders more worried about re-election rather than doing what is right. We need to make sure our management attend a lot closer to the very clear directions that are given and that accountability where these are not done is assured. Councillors should not have to be pointing out staff failures and failures of maintenance and planning, that is not their role and in having to do that reflects on the Audit and Risk committee, and the past elected top leadership not being in touch with the realities and holding management to account. Business, as usual, is not something that can continue, we adapt improve or we will be subsumed into one of the greatest cluster pollinations that will set us back immensely and that is amalgamation. If we think that Te Aroha and Morrinsville are being shafted now, then look out for them under any amalgamation. There are many challenges that we have to face but we need to do this with courage and commitment and an assurance that all of our communities are treated fairly, that doesn't mean equally but it does need to look better than what it is now. So in conclusion, now is not the time to run with our collective tails between our legs but it is a time to be parochial and loud, and to ensure that wherever we can our work is given to local business's. I leave with two whakatauki to ponder on " Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua"(Those who lead give sight to those who follow, those who follow give life to those who lead). "Kia mate ururoa, kei mate wheke" (Fight like a shark, don't give in like an octopus). Ngā manaakitanga, nāku noa, nā Paul Cronin.</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> Fees and Charges are always contentious. I have made my submission around fees and charges for refuse collection and dumping. I do believe that too large an increase in refuse disposal fees may lead to more fly-tipping.</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> This is a critical area of spend. Without ongoing improvement and identification and remediation of identified problems then the cost of this in terms of possible break downs and breaches of our legal responsibilities will make this look like small change. Council has already seen the effect of a bellicose asinine regional authority. this needs to stay in the budget,</p> <p><b>Land Transport Bylaw</b> I think that the proposed speed limit changes are a missed opportunity, for instance, the speed limit on Avenue road North through to the residential zone on Snell Street should be 50 kmh, the roading use has changed and there is a need to reflect this with a changed speed limit, as it stands the sightlines and distances are not compliant with the NZTA guide outlines. I also believe that in the main shopping centres the speed limits should be reduced to 40kmh for the safety of pedestrians and to enable the more efficient flow of traffic. This is most important in Morrinsville however it should be consistent across the district. I think that our approaches to speed limits need to have more data put behind them with speeds on roads measured on a regular basis and where there are excessive speeds appropriate measure should be taken. The literature is clear, speed-related injuries are not linear, the higher the speed, the bigger the mess.</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> I have just received my insurance bill and it has increased, Council could perhaps look at increasing the risk carrying ability by increasing the size of the excesses that it could carry. This could be looked at on an actuarial based approach with some sound data to guide this decision. Interestingly my power costs are going down and this is an area that can always be improved on. Retrofitting of solar energy on all council buildings should be investigated, rates of return should be looked at in a holistic way, considering that energy prices can rise at any time. Contracting power prices for a year at a time gives some guarantees however I am sure that the Council can still do better with energy-saving efforts. All buildings that are being upgraded should start with energy efficiency at the heart of the project. Tacking it on at the end is contrary to the Council's own policies and has the real likelihood of meaning an increase in the cost. If it is planned from the start then the costs should be lower. Future-proofing is great for when the science is somewhat in question however solar power and double glazing should be a minimum standard. An increase of 60 thousand dollars is interesting, is this because the contract price is rising? Or is our energy usage increasing, without fuller information is hard to make a submission on? This should be spelled out 60 thousand dollars will buy somewhere around 180 thousand kilowatt-hours. that is a lot of extra power. So some further information will need to be provided. In the end, however, it is what it is and the budgeted spend for this year's power will be hard to change within a year. One area where savings can be made is with equipment that is always on. The necessity of this should be checked on an individual basis, I am sure that there are some savings to be made by actually turning the power off at the walls rather than leaving appliances in standby mode. The costs of power usage at our stadia on an hourly basis need to be calculated and these need to be reflected in the cost of using the stadia.</p>	

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82 & 83	Garry Voogt	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> Neither agree or disagree. While I agree that a good digital strategy is important and I do like the online submission process and format it does seem a lot of money. I am of no illusion that things will move this way and could be done in a better way I wonder if it has to be done right now.</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF – Disagree</b> I do not disagree with the progressing of the proposals which I think are good ideas what I think is that after spending \$900000 the plan should be substantially complete and require little extra to complete. If council were to commit more money I think that they should go back to rate payers and explain to them what the money has been spent on already and what we have got for our money.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling – Agree</b> The cost recovery split is right. Bag revenue being down is understandable as people try to use less bags as they have to buy them directly. As a rural person who uses the transfer stations very little I am comfortable with the level of funding from transfer station fees and general rates but would not like to see this proportion increase.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth – Disagree</b> Given that an extra \$891000 has been spent in the last 12 months and now asking for an extra \$78000 makes me wonder where this will end. At some point there must be a limit on the amount of staff needed. I do not feel I am in a position to determine this but would say that this may not be a good time to fund this. With regards to the maintenance of parks and reserves as a rural person who gets very little use of parks and reserves I think it would be more fair if this was mostly funded by a targeted urban rate and a CBD rate for CBD cleaning.</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have – Disagree</b> Not entirely disagree. It is important to separate must do with nice to do. As a rural person I build and maintain my own water supply any wastewater systems which I am happy to do. I do not expect anyone else to help me fund this and would be ridiculous of me to suggest this. Conversely I object to being asked to fund an urban network which should be funded from a targeted urban rate.</p> <p><b>Projects</b> Congratulations on reducing proposed expenditure in a year like this. I question if the Matamata street scape is an essential project to be done. I would prefer it if the holes in the roads were repaired than enjoying an upgraded urban centre.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> I fully agree with the comments about wanting to increase the transparency of the Council. From my point of view as a rate payer what this should look like is where the rates for each property type are being spent in all the categories. Otorohanga District Council has done this for many years and I see no reason why this could not be replicated at MPDC. As a farmer running a business it is important to maximise my income, which I have some control over and minimise my costs, which I do have a lot of control over. To do this I know what my costs are on a kg of milk solids and per hectare. With these benchmarks it lets me compare my business to the best in the Waikato and if mine do not compare well modify and adjust things as needed. MPDC is in a privileged position of being able to have control over its income by setting rates to suit the planned expenditure. This does not promote cost control and I would like to see transparency of spending against a set of KPI's which can be compared to other councils.</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> Agree with proposals</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> As a rural person I think that waste water and water treatment plants should be mostly funded via a targeted rate or user charges.</p> <p><b>Land Transport Bylaw</b> While I think road safety is important so is the need for an efficient transport system that people and goods can move in a timely manner from place to place. It is also important that road users including cyclists take care and responsibility in their use of the roads. With this in mind I would only support a reduction in road speed at Manawaru at the start and finish of school. At Te Aroha west the speed limits have been in place from when there was a primary school operating which is no longer there. Most of Te Aroha West houses have access to a footpath so that pedestrians are well separated from the road. There is a side road on the corner. This is virtually identical to Turanga Moana on Tower road which has no reduction in speed limit. I have long considered that the speed limit was too low in Te Aroha west. and would welcome a comprehensive review to determine an appropriate speed limit.</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> Cost review is an important part of any profitable business. I would encourage Council to look at alternative providers of services whenever possible noting that cheapest is not always best.</p>	

# All Submissions

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
1	Maurice Hight	<b>See submissions under Hearing Attendee</b>	
2	Trish Reichardt	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree The Council has to be able to cover the costs of these services. The general public have to be more proactive in their homes and find better ways to save on rubbish i.e rubbish free lunch boxes for the children, composting of food scraps, usage of shopping bags for all shopping, recycling of paper and cardboard.</p>	<p>Home Appliance Companies for example could look at a drop off centre behind their store where old appliances, packaging from the new appliances - i.e large cardboard boxes, polystyrene and large plastic sheets etc which can then be collected and sent to where they can then be disposed of properly.</p> <p>Building supplies - drop off of excess supplies .i.e roofing iron, timber, old showers etc</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree</p>
3	Willa du Plessis	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree These costs are excessive for what is supposedly includes.</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree As a rural property owner I get zero rubbish collection at home. Added to that, on roughly 3 out of 4 weeks of the month, I am not able to put my recycling in the recycling containers at the dump as they are full as they don't appear to be emptied on the regular. Why should I pay more rates for something that I don't get as it is???</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Rates increase for \$800 000 lifestyle block excessive.</p>	<p><b>Fees and Charges</b> Why do rate payers have to pay more rates but you are allowing commercial water delivery companies to help themselves to as much water I they like from the public water supply which they then sell at a premium to rural residents??</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> As a rural property owner I do not have access to town water supply or sewage removal. Why should I pay more for a service I don't use?</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> No comment.</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> Speed limit on Horrell Road needs to be reduced and ENFORCED. Speeds observed are well in excess of 100 km/hr regardless of conditions. You guys need to sort out what is going on at the town dump. It is becoming nigh impossible to get rid of recycling as a rural property dweller those containers never appear to get emptied.</p> <p>Overall extremely disappointed with the level of service delivered by this Council.</p>
4	ron clifton	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree user pays if u want to promote things makd the businesses that benfit from it pay ie tourist pay for use of things</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree we pay for a company to remove any rubbish we have yet j see bus loads of people passing through that dump their rubbish why should i have to pay for them make the shops that dish out or the tour comanys remove all thrir tubbish them selves</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree if these walkways pathways are so important let the people that use them pay for them</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Disagree</p> <p><b>Projects</b> get back to basics do the job once</p> <p><b>Financials</b> find the avage wage and dont pay any body more than that</p>	<p><b>Rates</b> how can council justify this increase by paying for cycle ways that are not used by locals well none that i know any new subdivisions should not only be paying for all the costs plus the costs of upgrading the systems to cope if u pass a 6.plus increase u need to look long and hard. in the mirrior maybe its time both councilors and senior stafftook a paycut to help decrease rates in stead of inflated paypackets</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> user pays</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> somebody in a office has forgot comon sense</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> no increase</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> o increase</p>

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5	John Watson	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree Not an issue for council. Concentrate on core Council obligations.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree Cannot see how more money is needed for this apart from wage increases of staff maintaining parks, reserves and tree management.</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Disagree Not an issue for council. Concentrate on core Council obligations.</p> <p><b>Projects</b> Not an issue for council. Concentrate on core Council obligations.</p>	<p><b>Financials</b> Cut non-essential Council funding rather than continue to make us wonder where the extra money you want is going to come from.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> My wife and I survive on what we get on the pension. At the end of each fortnight, we have about \$5.00 left once all our outgoings are taken into account. Our rates are going up by \$166.30 a year and we have no idea how we're going to pay this so we figure we'll have to use the money the Government is going to give us to help us warm our home during the winter. We figure it's time for Council to look at the salaries of its non-elected Managers and anything that has nothing to do with rubbish collection, water, infrastructure and libraries.</p>
6	Jessica Allen	<p><b>Rates</b> In light of current events.. there should NOT be a rates increase whatsoever. We are all facing serious financial difficulties from the inflow of covid19 . Job/work uncertainty. Even the banks are dropping rates. Ocr dropping. Government suggesting availability for relief packages. All to try help the people. and then our local council suggesting rates INCREASE . your immoral . Greedy . And insensitive to even suggest such a thing. There are so many new builds giving you more new rates etc. And EVERYONE has recently had property re-evaluation which means you charge more rates \$\$ . AS YOU CAN SEE BY THE COMMENTS ON YOUR FACEBOOK POST I AM NOT ALONE IN THIS OPINION.</p>	
7	Carolyn Hooton	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree We have to pay full internet services via our own satellite (wireless) so your proposal only benefits a few and probably less rural people.</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree I thought the Government was contributing to Waharoa - not my rates. And why don't their iwi also contribute, they earn millions each year.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree I get NO benefit at all from rubbish and/or recycling.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree Developers should pay the roading costs, but the parks/mowing etc does help our community look good.</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Disagree Yes maintenance is important as are trees etc.</p>	<p><b>Projects</b> Don't know</p> <p><b>Financials</b> Everyone that does anything pays via consents.... yes compliance is increasing, but by 6.4%? Maybe I should get a job at the Council, they must pay well.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Yet again our (lifestyle) rates are increasing dramatically. What Mtm Piako don't offer us (when some of our local councils do offer their small rural landowners) is: rubbish collection including recycling, we don't get a water supply, septic services etc yet we continue to get large increases - way above CPI - each year. \$100 this year is the proposed lift for me - for nothing new in return.</p>
8	Mackay Downs	<p><b>See submission under Hearing Attendee</b></p>	
9	Michelle Hamilton / Northern Health School, Waikato Unit	<p><b>Fees and Charges</b> Northern Health School, Waikato Unit hires a room at Matamata-Piako Civic and Memorial Centre twice weekly so that we can work with unwell students who have a medical certificate signed by a specialist stating that they are too unwell to attend their usual school full time. We are a school, as for any other, therefore non-profit and providing an essential community service. I would ask that there is some flexibility around fees that are charged so that services such as ours can continue to offer students a local meeting point. Rather than a flat rate, perhaps there is a fee scale to fit services like ours?</p>	
10	Benjamin Ross	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree Just do it. You can't stop the future from coming so you better embrace it.</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree If I had to pick one of the projects I would choose Waharoa first. An industrial hub there would benefit one of the poorest communities in the area and have positive knock on effects in the other towns in the area.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree I am satisfied with service and fees.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree</p>	<p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree I have lived in a number of places and I have consistently seen that rural areas that are not willing to spend money become shabby and less vibrant over time while those that are willing to spend money often manage to be lively places with proud communities that people enjoy living in. I am happy to spend the extra amount on my rates to live in a town where maintenance is up to date, things are kept tidy, and recreational resources are developed.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> This is not a huge increase (\$150 - 200 a year for me) and I am happy to pay that to keep maintenance up to date and the towns looking good.</p>

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		<p>I have lived in a number of places and I have consistently seen that rural areas that are not willing to spend money become shabby and less vibrant over time while those that are willing to spend money often manage to be lively places with proud communities that people enjoy living in. I am happy to spend the extra amount on my rates to live in a town where maintenance is up to date, things are kept tidy, and recreational resources are developed.</p>	<p><b>Compliance</b> If you have to do it, you have to do it!</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> If you have to do it, you have to do it!</p>
11	Renee Heath	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree Seems fair for everybody to pay their part. However, others like myself may resort to Wheelie bin services as this can work out cheaper in the long run rather than paying \$3 per bag.</p>	
12	Ann Armstrong	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree Charge freedom campers and tourists for using community services like this and loos. They dump rubbish for free locally in council bins in CBDs. Remove Council bins and make them use the tip as locals are going to do this too if they cant afford bags. Stop building bikeways which are luxury items and provide core services like this as part of the 6.4% rate rise. Let people use cheaper bags if Council insists on adding it to rates. \$3 a bag will be too much and people will start illegally dumping.</p>	
13	Lee White	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree I agree with the increase in rubbish bags as a user pays service. Yet I believe that if you keep increasing the costing of the dump services people will resort to dumping their rubbish on the ground anywhere they please as they will no longer be able to afford this.</p>	<p><b>Rates</b> I personally believe that the increase is extravagant and needs reducing. With the situation that we have at present, I believe that we should be stopping all new development in the community until things are more certain.</p>
14	Jan Shoemark / Bell Cottage Crafts	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree There is still a large number of people in our community who don't have access to the net or are not familiar with Face Book. You are missing the poor and the elderly both groups that would be really disadvantaged if costs go up whether ratepayers or not costs go up rents go up.</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree Alot of building materials especially wood get dumped. Other councils have an area for wood to be set aside for recycling. As an artist I would love to scrounge through off cuts. Also a lot of councils now have a recycle shop where items can be reused and sold . Both these solutions could save costs and help the community. In a time of hardship I think the council needs to look at more ways of helping reduce costs as well as reduce rubbish.Years ago there were drop of bins in communities for tins maybe these could be reintroduced?</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree But I believe you are only servicing the larger communities and missing the smaller towns. All children need access to playgrounds and the elderly need a place to walk to and sit outside there home. If you are looking at parks then look at waitoa waihou Tahuna</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree</p>	

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		<p><b>Rates</b> This year is going to be a year of hardship for so many due to both the drought and now health concerns. Other than water maybe the council needs to look at higher permit fees to help combat the rate increase. Its the new growth that is adding to how services being stretched as well as age. Possibly this year is a year to look at only the major concerns and hold of till next year what can be done.</p>	
15	Judith Doughty	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree You will see a lot more roadside dumping of rubbish and green waste which will cost the council more in the long run.</p>	
16	Chris Pritchard	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Because you are obviously addressing the issue wrong. You spell it out about the shortfall with the pay bags, that is because people dodge buying bags and dump around the place. Why not target your contractors and charge for missed pick ups? Why not move to wheelie bin collection for rubbish if we want to reduce waste? I bet we don't recycle rubbish bags so that flouts the no plastic bags policy also. Get with the programme guys! Make us all pay our share and you will see behaviour changes. If you add more to bags, you will see more people buying less bags.</p>	
17	Jason Stokes	<p><b>See submission under Hearing Attendee</b></p>	
18	Sharon Lawson	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> Font know what it is</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree Spend the money infrastructure first</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree 6.4% increase in rates is horrendous. Every household uses curbside rubbish so dont penalise the ratepayers. We cant keep everything afloat. Put in water meters to create more revenue, every household needs water. Share the costs to the community as a whole, dont target homeowners.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree Our river needs some serious clean up. As a kid we used to swim in the water whole along the river walk. Its disgusting, polluted, fallen trees with rubbish hooked on them. Ruins our great river wslk facility.</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree Our water infrastructure needs upgrading and has for sometimes above</p> <p><b>Projects</b> As above</p>	<p><b>Financials</b> Share costs throughout the whole community, dont penalise the rate payers.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Share costs throughout the whole community, dont penalise the rate payers.</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> Share costs throughout the whole community, dont penalise the rate payers.</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Bylaws</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Land Transport</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> Share costs throughout the whole community, dont penalise the rate payers.</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> Share costs throughout the whole community, dont penalise the rate payers.</p>
19	Karen Chandler	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree I am a Business Analyst and I am not sure why you are asking for developers when you haven't completed analysis....what is the business objective? what is the problem you are trying to fix? what other options are there? what RFP/Tender processes will you use? why cant you leverage off other council system implementations?</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree</p>	<p><b>Fees and Charges</b> I pay for our own rubbish and maintenance to my car due to the rough condition of Manuel Road!!!! we have our own pool....I don't need to pay for services that we don't even use..and as for "Roading" well.....our road is a disaster and a health and safety issue although not a priority for the council</p> <p><b>Compliance</b></p>

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
		<p>as above</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree I pay for my own rubbish as we are in Manuel road so don't get rubbish collection</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree the level of maintenance on our roads by Manuel road is poor so not sure what "roading" improvements I should pay for...we are on tank water so we use our own stormwater hence don't use any maintenance that you speak of.</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Disagree We don't use these facilities. The level of maintenance on our roads by Manuel road is poor and I will already be paying more rates due to the fact that we have put our own pool in so why would I pay for other pools etc?</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Hope the value you have within your system and the proposed is current? not sure if your systems are aware of what letters you have sent out regarding valuations? not sure why my value hence rates will increase due to us putting in a pool? Manuel Road maintenance is poor and in most instances when "Maintenance" is done it makes the road worse and very dangerous...we will start being accepting of increases when the health and safety of dirt roads is of importance for the council</p>	<p>I would not be expected to be impacted by these costs as we live on Manuel Road in Tauhei so we are on Tank water and Septic, and the level of maintenance on our road is very poor</p> <p><b>Land Transport</b> are these areas going to be policed? coming through Tauhei is already 80k...not many people follow this.....perhaps speed cameras set up to gain revenue to support your "Projects" and "Roading"?</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> We don't have street lighting in Manuel Road so we have limited access to these "Facilities" hence wouldn't think we should pay for services that we don't receive</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> Leverage off other council's IT projects perhaps?</p>
20	Tosch	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree We should have a soft plastic drop off station in Morrinsville. Thanks</p>	
21	Tracey Richard	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree We need to be rid of plastic bags. Wheelie bins would be a better idea. Using local people to collect waste would also be better, instead of coming from Auckland. Green waste collection would be great if there was a fertiliser company that would take it off your hands.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree</p>	
22	Gail Brook	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree Rubbish bags at Coromandel are \$3. That seems a reasonable option. This seems a balanced way of achieving your goal. Can green waste be mulched and used in parks and reserves and sold at cost or small profit (to help reduce water use over summer). Would that be a cheaper option? Could recycling be targeted or prioritised to products that are genuinely recyclable? (Then you could pick up the glass from the golf club and camp ground ?)</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree</p>	<p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Disagree Your funding for most areas has small increases. I am not familiar with your overall financial situation but feel strongly that the underground systems should have serious money put in to upgrades ASAP. The sewage, storm water and water supplies need to be at the highest possible standard; prepared for emergencies such as earthquakes and able to cope with increased demand from towns expanding through new subdivisions and infill housing. You need to be upgrading a calculated length of the underground systems every year, with as much urgency as you can.</p>
23	J P Brooks	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree Increased costs of waste disposal should be financed by an increase in residential rates. The cost of rubbish bags should not be increased - to avoid exacerbating the existing actual problem of a number of residents abusing and defeating the system by putting "ALL" of their rubbish in their recycling bins. MMPDC should not discourage the use of rubbish bags by putting the bag price up. It could result in a more expensive</p>	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree Our rubbish collection system is currently being abused and therefore shackled by a (suspected) minority of the community. Therefore the best way to fund increasing waste disposal cost is an increase in our residential rates. This will reduce the temptation on the less responsible to citizens to avoid rubbish bag cost by putting "ALL" of their rubbish in their recycling bin. Unfortunately this is already happening, but</p>

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
		problem of increased misuse of our recycling system. A rates increase is more acceptable than the abandonment of our waste disposal objectives. John Brooks Matamata	thankfully only by a small number of addresses in most streets. We need to avoid that becoming a big number. MMPDC should not encourage people to stop using rubbish bags by increasing their price. John Brooks Matamata
24	Tyne McBriar	<b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree We pay higher rates than parts of Auckland and at this time with COVID 19 going is just absurd. 100% disagree with this	
25	Barrie Mullins / <i>Insulmax Waikato &amp; BOP</i>	<b>See submission under Hearing Attendee</b>	
26	Glenda O'Sullivan	<b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree see submission  <b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree see submission  <b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree see submission  <b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree see submission  <b>Improving What We Have</b> – Disagree see submission  <b>Projects</b> Everything should be halted until economic recovery is possible  <b>Financials</b> Everything should be halted until economic recovery is possible	<b>Rates</b> I think the timing of the increase of rates are not a good idea given the current economic crisis our country is facing and so many Matamata residents are going to be out of work and under extreme financial pressure. All increases should be put on hold at this stage until our country has time to recover. Secondly as a rural Matamata resident - if you intend to increase our rates we would as least like to be offered some of these services that you refer to e.g. Rubbish collection? Recycling collection? of which we have to pay privately for. Glenda O'Sullivan  <b>Fees and Charges</b> Everything should be halted until economic recovery is possible  <b>Compliance</b> Everything should be halted until economic recovery is possible  <b>Bylaws</b> Everything should be halted until economic recovery is possible  <b>Land Transport</b> Everything should be halted until economic recovery is possible  <b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> Everything should be halted until economic recovery is possible  <b>Other Comments</b> Concentrate on delivery of essential services only at this stage
27	Diana Vaughan-Williams / <i>Hospice store</i>	<b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree  <b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree My concern is that we were told that the cost of the bags were covered by our rates increase. Increasing the cost at the transfer station will just mean that people will bring more of their rubbish to charity stores. So in effect the council are passing the cost of dumping onto charities. Charity stores already have to spend the money they raise on dumping and this will just increase. And it's no good telling people not to dump at the shops they just ignore us.	
28	Craig Oakley	<b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree  <b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree I think cost should be split across targeted and general rates. Rubbish bag sales probably have declined as our recycling services cover a lot of recycling types. People will not be buying more bags. I would advise against raising transfer station costs for dumping. There is already plenty of examples of rubbish being dumped on side roads, let's not make it more enticing for them to do so. Using general and targeted rates will spread the load across the community for disposal, and also a good sum will sit on those actually utilising the service.	
29	Eugene Williams	<b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree  <b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree Stop producer's excessive package. Set up a plant that burns the rubbish at high heats and produces electrical power. Think ahead and not making the normal person who has no control paying for it	
30	Linda Newton	<b>Other Comments</b> Opposed to the huge rate increase you are proposing. You do not take into consideration that many people do not get a yearly wage increase in their jobs and many people are on fixed incomes, not to mention the fact that many people will have lost work or be on low wages due to the Covid	

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
		19. I hope you are working out a plan to allow those people to have much more time to pay their rates. You need to budget the money you have more wisely and cut out non essential nice to have projects or costs. It is always very easy to spend other people's money.	
31	Rachel Scott	<p><b>Rates</b> Hi Matamata-Piako District Council, I think you must have made a mistake. The country is in lock down, thousands of people are losing their jobs, tourism in the area has been halted, and for a moment there it sounded like you want to increase our rates by 6.4%. You might want to send out a correction as soon as possible. Cheers, Rachel Scott</p>	
32	Bryan Trenwith	<p><b>Rates</b> The administration of council always prepares the ground for a large rates increase at the start of the three year election cycle. As expected, the council agency produced material for a full page advertisement in the local papers indicating a 6.4% rate increase. <b>THIS IS 3 TIMES THE RATE OF INFLATION!!</b> As councillors you were not to know in advance the ruinous economic effects of the corona virus. Over 200 jobs lost in the Hobbit operation alone and a host of stricken small and medium business facing bankruptcy in our area. I therefore trust that as elected representatives you will take the lead of central government and play your part in reducing the burden of rates during the predicted economic depression.. <b>AS A MATTER OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY PLEASE WITHDRAW THE RATES INCREASE NOW.</b> Bryan Trenwith Morrisville</p>	
33	Katie Milne / <i>Federated Farmers of New Zealand - National Office</i>	<p><b>Other Comments</b> To Mayors, Chairs, Councillors and Chief Executives All Regional, City and District Councils <b>CALL TO CONTAIN RATES RISES AND RECONSIDER CONSULTATION PROCESSES</b> On behalf of Federated Farmers of New Zealand I am asking all Councils to keep their ratepayers in mind when considering their draft annual plans for 2020/21 and to consider whether some consultation processes in the pipeline need to be extended and/or delayed while their ratepayers, citizens and staff guard themselves against the threat of Covid-19. Draft annual plans currently being put out by regional, city, and district councils show some alarmingly large rates increases, some in excess of 10% and a number well over 5%. Ratepayers are facing a very difficult and uncertain time and the last thing they need to worry about right now are runaway rates increases. Federated Farmers is deeply concerned about the serious impact of Covid-19 on our communities and on our economy. We have applauded the decisive action of central government both in terms of public health and its economic rescue package. Despite the Government's rescue package, the economy will suffer a sharp shock and will likely enter a deep and long recession. At a time of economic downturn and uncertainty it is particularly important that councils focus on their core functions and operate as efficiently and effectively as possible to keep the rates burden down for the wellbeing of their communities. 'Nice to haves' need to be shelved. As well as focusing on core business councils could also consider following the Government's lead and take on more debt, especially for capital investment. Most councils have little debt and have plenty of scope to borrow while remaining prudent while those that are close to their debt limits could be forgiven for breaching them at this extraordinary time. We also note that many councils aren't planning to consult this year on their annual plans and will simply be adopting annual plans based on the numbers from their 2018-28 Long Term Plans. The environment has changed dramatically since they'd have made their decision not to consult and these councils should now urgently review their planned rates increases too. Another serious concern we have is the ability of councils to meaningfully consult and engage with their communities on other policy and regulatory matters, including district and regional plans. We ask that Councils look to adjust their work programmes and timeframes. Assuming business as usual for these processes is unwise with the restrictions on gatherings and the simple fact that most people (both inside and outside councils) are trying to focus first and foremost on their wellbeing and will be avoiding gatherings as much as possible. Finally, Federated Farmers will be approaching central government asking that they consider using taxpayer resources to help councils meet the costs with three waters infrastructure investment needed to comply with the Government's tougher regulation of drinking water. We will also be asking that drinking water quality be regulated at point of supply to humans rather than at source. The Three Waters Reforms look like being incredibly expensive for councils and will be a major driver behind large rates increases. Federated Farmers' provinces will be making their own submissions on councils' specific draft annual plan consultations and I acknowledge their submissions. Yours sincerely Katie Milne National President and Local Government Spokesperson</p>	
34	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree The current system is looking alright compare to other councils. That's sounds a huge expense with too much uncertainty. Ex. How to choose a the right guy? How do people know it won't just end up with a website with new layout. It simply doesn't sound to be beneficial to everyone either.</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree Yes for Waharoa Industrial Hub but not for Te Aroha Tourism Precinct</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree</p>	

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		<b>Costs of Growth – Agree</b>	
35	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rubbish and Recycling – Agree</b>  <b>Costs of Growth – Agree</b>  <b>Land Transport</b> Rawhiti And is used as a speed road to get around the Broadway traffic and is a danger to the folk who cross that road. This is not the only road used liked this. I would like to see all roads in the red zone of Matamata set at 40kmsperhr. People will still do 50 but they won't be doing 60 & 70 as they do now. Matamata is a residential town and should be treated as one in that people have the rights over vehicles. Currently vehicles own the roads of Matamata.	
36	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rubbish and Recycling – Disagree</b> Why not forget about "Waste minimisation and sustainability education to schools across the district." Kids know it all already and are busy preaching to the older generations. Eduction is not core council business.  <b>Fees and Charges</b> I'm very disappointed to see you are proposing to raise the cost of council rubbish bags. They are already smaller than previous years. I think it is counterproductive to say you are promoting use of the libraries for teens and yet not charging them overdues, which is a way of helping them to be responsible about the little things in their lives, leading them to become responsible for bigger things in their adult lives.  <b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> Petrol isn't rising, in fact it is coming down in price.	
37	Incomplete Submission	<b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy – Agree</b> But what about people who are not up to the electronic age? Like the elderly who live alone.	
38	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rubbish and Recycling – Disagree</b> It's increases rates by far more than was proposed. People just cannot afford it in these uncertain times. If it had all been set up properly in the first place this would not be necessary.	
39	Incomplete Submission	<b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy – Disagree</b> a digital platform works well adn the antennio system is a great programme i downloaded almost immediately. I feel it is under utilised and more content should be added to it. however in a tech based world shouldnt councils collaborate around issues and solutions to consolidate and centralise costs. i do not value creationism of a district- based system above functionality, to which other council would also benefit. lets work smarter together.	
40	Incomplete Submission - B. Gibson 0274573700	<b>Compliance</b> I would like to know what health and safety training staff get, as a basis all staff should have hazard identification, risk assessment and control training with others where appropriate confined space with other appropriate staff having traffic management training. I ask this as an H & S professional and qualified adult trainer	
41	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rubbish and Recycling – Agree</b>	
42	Incomplete Submission	<b>Compliance</b> So, we are already compliant? Have we not been maintaining our systems to this point? \$508,000 increase , not really sure why .	
43	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rates</b> You are planning to increase my rates from \$1053.95 to \$1808.63... that is an increase of \$754.73... that is 71.6% increase... We have our own water, septic, we pay for private kerb side collection of rubbish.. I just don't see how you can justify a 71.6% increase from 1 year to the next... this is wrong... this is thieving... this is stealing... you taking my hard earned income...	
44	Incomplete Submission	<b>Costs of Growth – Disagree</b> Morrinsville doesn't have cycle ways, bush walks (apart from the 5min river walk) or any attractive parks. All your funding goes to Matamata or Te Aroha. Morrinsville doesn't even have pools that are open all year round (yes an added cost) but the pool is basic & more expensive than Te Aroha.	

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		The parks are old & outdated in Morrinsville. Is there a plan for upgrading a park & creating something great for the many children in the area, for scooters & bikes. If your current budget included upgrading footpaths then you should have done that within the current budget.	
45	Incomplete Submission	<b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree	
46	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rates</b> Over the past 7 years paying rates we have encountered many of your council staff including district planners, building inspectors, customer services, noise control, animal control, Kaimai Valley services etc. In every case the service has ranged from poor to appalling. Why is the cost of this terrible service, in the midst of an economic recession now costing me more? When will you look at ways to curb your own expenditure as we will now be doing to continue paying our rates? And why do the lowest valued properties have the highest percentage increase?	
47	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rates</b> I think that an increase at this time would be a tough thing to do with people facing job losses. If the council stopped wasting OUR money on flash buildings etc then there might be no need for a rates increase	
48	Incomplete Submission <i>Sue Tesselaar</i>	<b>Fees and Charges</b> I believe the Council charges are adequate as they are under the unprecedented circumstances NZ finds itself in the middle of. This is NOT the year to have a rates rise. Too many families and businesses are struggling with the Covid-19 at present and do NOT need another cost inflicted on them. Rates is a simple way to get extra money. Maybe look within your own walls for a different solution. Sue Tesselaar	
49	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree	
50	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree We were told the 2018 change to purchasing rubbish bags vs allocating them to households was to reduce waste. We were given suggestions like sharing bags with neighbours and increasing recyclables. Now the goal has been achieved, we're sending less to landfill yet we have to pay more for less.  You say targeted rates went down significantly, but that's not a fair comparison. It went down for the proportion relating to rubbish and recycling yes, but we still paid the same, you just spent in differently.  Our neighbours are looking at more sustainable options, composting food scraps and on shore recycling. We pile it up at Tirohia and then what? It sits there until the fire department is called.  Perhaps a rates increase for more sustainable options would get people on board. Perhaps a rates increase at another time may be a consideration but when there are predictions of a global recession worse than we've seen in my life time. Don't think so. Perhaps in line with our neighbours we need to be considering a zero percent increase and where costs can be cut until such time as a more efficient, more sustainable provider can be found.	

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51	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Land Transport</b> Hi.</p> <p>I have already provided the Council with my comments, but I confirm I support the reduction of speed limits proposed for Banks Road and Burwood Road Matamata.</p> <p>David Parker</p>	
52	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree	
53	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree at a time of crisis due to the global pandemic, the council must show leadership by pushing forward to maintain confidence. it must use its resources to create local employment.</p> <p>when the crisis has passed, the region will have something to show. tourism will return but habits may be changed for a period. nzers may holiday locally.</p> <p>panic food buying shows the importance of staples being readily available. food habits are changing and we are moving towards a plant based diet. there are numerous food opportunities that could be developed and even combined with tourism.</p> <p>i have previously submitted on the TA tourism project.</p>	
54	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree	
55	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree	
56	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree I Understand that costs go up, but what are local and national govt doing to stop the supply of all the packaging in the first place. especially the non recyclable products.?</p>	
57	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree User pays is the fairest option. Increase bag and landfill rates for those who use. I dont use bags as I have a wheelie bin. I also only have the recycling wheelie bin emptied maybe once every 6 weeks. The target rate should not increase as your income is from the bags and landfill. Simply recover any additional cost you require to break even from those who use it...</p>	
58	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree Your rubbish bags are so small to increase the price by another \$1. With all your recommendations look out for more dumping....</p>	
59	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree In the light of everything going on right now I don't think putting the rates up for parks reserves is a great idea. Finances are tough enough across the board right now wait wait wait, that's your best option don't make thing harder on families.</p>	
60	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree I live alone and may use kerb side service perhaps once a month. Don't appreciate paying in my rates for others who have problems reducing their use of the service.</p>	
61	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree Until someone stands up and acknowledges the fact that rubbish is generated by what we buy and when people stop buying items wrapped in rubbish there is not a lot council can do to reduce these costs</p>	
62	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree I think we need to stop rubbish bags and start with rubbish bin like the recycle bins.</p>	
63	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree Why are there not wheelie bins. These are cheaper to operate long term</p>	
64	Incomplete Submission	<b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree	
65	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree This aspect of council work is critical.Had work been done regularly on this type of work, emergency work would be reduced therefore so would costs and rates increases.</p>	

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		A point in mind is the provision of water services. A major increase in capacity would stop water restrictions in summer. To experience restrictions of alert level 4 in 2020 is third world and should be remedied as soon as possible.	
66	Wolfgang Faber	<b>See submission under Hearing Attendee</b>	
67	Glen Brownlee / <i>Environs Ltd</i>	<b>Fees and Charges</b> Hi Thats great. Just one issue I have with AlphaOne is that if plans get altered for the Planner to address a DP rule those amend drawing do not get added to the Stamped Consent set. The portal should be open to planners to also request & receive RFI information. Just a suggestion.  Thanks Glen Brownlee	
68	Leonie Freeman / <i>Property Council New Zealand</i>	<b>Other Comments</b> Re. Local Government Annual Plans 2020/21 On behalf of Property Council New Zealand, I urge all local authorities to delay their proposed rates increases from 1 July 2020, and to instead adjust rate increases to the level of inflation for the 2020/21 financial year. The global pandemic has created uncertainty, and financial instability for both families and businesses alike. Local government proposed rates increases will not only affect our members but New Zealanders as a whole. We wish to see Local Government adapt and adjust also. Particularly, given ratepayers are facing a time of unprecedented uncertainty. Property Council New Zealand is a member-led, not-for-profit organisation offering a collective voice for the property industry. Our membership is broad and includes some of the largest commercial and residential property developers and owners in New Zealand.  At this time of uncertainty, we must balance the requirement for councils to exercise fiscal responsibility with the need to continue to invest in key infrastructure projects.  Initially we expect local government will focus on essentials such as core infrastructure upgrades to water services and roads during the lockdown. However, we ask that it be prepared to kick start projects once the restrictions are eased. This includes identifying and supporting private sector programmes and projects that can be fast tracked. Local authorities should also consider taking on more debt, especially for capital expenditure. We hope that by doing this it will ensure that key infrastructure projects continue to progress in order to maintain the workforce that will be needed in the long term. Local authorities should also make use of the depreciating on buildings which was recently introduced by the Government to help free up further funding for capital expenditure.  Local authorities should also investigate rates relief or rebate options such as waving late payment fees and allowing delayed rates instalments. This will provide property owners with the ability to provide rent relief to their tenants. The property industry is willing to take the lead in supporting businesses in these tough times however local authorities need to support this.  I believe that we can work closely with Local Government to ensure we build a fairer and more equitable rating system during this time of uncertainty. We look forward to hearing from you.  Yours sincerely, Leonie Freeman Chief Executive	
69	Julie White / <i>Hospitality New Zealand</i>	<b>Other Comments</b> Dear Council  Hospitality New Zealand ("HNZ") is writing to all councils under these extraordinary times to seek urgent assistance to combat COVID-19, and to provide further suggestions for much need relief as they draft annual plans for 2020/21.  The Hospitality industry has been significantly affected during alert levels 2, 3, and 4, resulting in reduced operations and then full closure of premises, putting these businesses at peril. Central Government has taken substantial measures to help limit the damage inflicted to business and to ensure New Zealanders will have jobs moving forward. Most of the initiatives from Central Government have been focused on the employment relationship.  Further support is required for Hospitality businesses (especially small and medium businesses) who are adversely affected by Covid-19, who cannot operate during levels 3 and 4, and who can only operate at severely reduced capacity during level 2. The Hospitality industry is for most councils, the heart of the community, offering our communities social and economic wellbeing, employing hundreds of thousands of New Zealand's.	

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
		<p>We acknowledge that draft annual plans have been developed well before COVID-19, however as these are unprecedented times, unprecedented action is required.</p> <p>1. No Rate Increases It is alarming that some councils across the country are considering proceeding with large rate increases, some in excess of 10%. In the current climate, we strongly urge all councils to consider no increases for the next twelve months at a minimum.</p> <p>2. Temporary Rates Remissions Councils should consider rate remissions or rebate options for business adversely affected by COVID-19, including delaying rate instalments and waiving late payment fees – these should be timebound, we suggest up to six-months.</p> <p>3. Alcohol Licencing Businesses with Alcohol Licences have been significantly affected by the COVID-19 restrictions and HNZ requests the following actions from Local Government.</p> <p>a) Decrease in licencing fees: Licenced premises are currently unable to operate under Alert Level 3 and 4, and will face significant restrictions even at lower levels, however their standard associated fees still apply. We request that Council's provide financial relief in the form of a reduction in this years licencing fees relative to the effective shutdown period.</p> <p>b) No Increases to Licencing fees: Currently licenced businesses are carefully managing their heavily decreased funds to ensure that they are able to keep their staff employed. For this reason, we request that any Council's considering increases to licencing fees, hold off on pursuing these for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>c) Licencing Extensions: Licenced businesses will be hindered in their ability to complete their licence renewals due to the restrictions currently in place. Once the restrictions are lifted and business may reopen, operators may still be left unable to trade due to now lapsed licences. We request that Council's issue an automatic renewal or extension to those licences due for renewal during this crisis to ensure they may operate once the restrictions are lifted.</p> <p>d) Temporary Off Licences: With On-Licence holders unable to operate under the restrictions, we have seen other countries in similar situations issue temporary off- licences to current on-licence holders to allow for the online sale and contactless delivery of alcohol. Under the New Zealand determinations for essential businesses, this is permitted under the following conditions:</p> <p>a. You must hold an off-licence with an endorsement for remote sales under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act. You must comply with requirements of your license</p> <p>b. The agreed quantity for spirits purchased must be no more than the customs/duty free allowance which is 3 bottles (or other containers) of spirits or liqueur (each bottle or container can hold a maximum of 1.125 litres) per order. Many operators are able to quickly pivot their business during this time to meet these requirements, with the only restriction being the issue of the off-licence itself. We request that Council's allow current on-licence holders to apply for temporary off- licences (for remote contactless sale) for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis, preferably without the associated off-licence fees and reduced processing times.</p> <p>In addition, we encourage and support the establishment of a Local and Central Government COVID- 19 response team. Working alongside industries to address key topics that councils are challenged with from, finance and recovery, community wellbeing, governance and coordination – all forming and shaping decision-making of councils over the coming weeks and months.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p> <p>Julie White Chief Executive – Hospitality New Zealand</p>	
70	Jason McQuinn	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> All glass recycling should stop, cutlet is only worth \$150 a ton plus we pay for a truck to run around and collect it! Council will run a truck to collect then crush all glass and mill it to sand for roading in the district.</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> Also post covid 19</p> <p>Council is going to have to have a full rethink on economic policy and future proofing.</p> <p>Building and resource consents have to be processed at cost to promote new builds.</p> <p>Roading has to be moved to concrete surfacing to give it a ten year non contact guarantee, lower lighting cost, less maintenance cost , a safer surface with higher grip coefficient and a greener solution that does not weep every hot day.</p> <p>Poisoning programs for pest species should be replaced with bounties for tails to ensure unemployment does not skyrocket.</p> <p>There's far too many beaurecrats in council with foreign companies pulling their wood. That's got to stop. Only award contracts to kiwi companies.</p>	

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes	
		Council expenditure on ratepayers behalf should focus on economic and social return, Building council flats for our elderly, renters and young families should be a priority.  Keep it Local.		
71	Andrew Wade	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree 2020 is a year that no one expected and it has already impacted everyone much more than could be expected and it will continue throughout the next several years. As each individual household is faced with difficult choices to make regarding expenditure, so should our council make difficult choices as to where our rates are invested. There are undoubtedly increased costs due to compliance, growth, infrastructure etc. This is understood as our community grows. If you want to do the right thing for our community, you need to make cuts in projects, discretionary spending and in labour - just like we are all now facing. Now is not the right time to impose further cost burden on rate payers and I would urge you to reduce spending to result in a 0% increase in cost. If the global situation improves throughout the 2nd half of the year then I am sure you will review this situation but with growing unemployment, business closures and health impacts from the current situation, we expect our local council to do the right thing!</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree See above response.</p>	<p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Same comment as Digital Strategy</p> <p><b>Projects</b> Same comment as Digital Strategy</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Same comment as Digital Strategy</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> Same comment as Digital Strategy</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> You need to make the necessary cuts to keep rates at the current level (or even reduced). I cannot believe that anyone is seriously considering increasing cost burden on our community at the present time. Either defer spending or cut expenses to deal with cost increases. That's what everyone is doing right now.</p>	
72	Mark Lewis / Builder	<b>See submission under Hearing Attendee</b>		
73	Paul Hurrell	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree What relief is going to be provided to the ratepayers who are currently paying for general rubbish services to be collected. The council should be reducing their involvement in kerbside collections by outsourcing this to a provider and increasing the number of wheelie bins available to bring the council in line with other forward thinking councils in NZ. Even the rubbish tips, which do a great job need to have been outsourced with very strict key targets set on the provider by council about quality and standards. The cost of outsourcing, whether to one or multiple companies could be borne directly by the homeowner/landlord for a reduction in their rates of a similar amount.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> See comment related to rubbish</p>		
74	Jan Beishuizen	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree I suggest to increase bag cost to \$4 but maintain the collection rate of once per 2 weeks instead of every week. This means the cost to the ratepayer for bags remains the same per week or per annum. There should be significant savings in renegotiating the kerb collection contract and increase pressure on ratepayers to reduce the amount of waste per household.</p>		
75	David Harris / Challenge Matamata & Caltex Te Aroha	<p><b>Rates</b> It is completely unacceptable for Council to even think of increasing rates, be it this year or as a catch up in future years. The COVID event has decimated many businesses &amp; those revenues are unlikely to catch up once we are out of lockdown, meaning they are gone for good. Employee wages that have been reduced through people being paid only 80% or the Wage Subsidy, or worse still loosing their job, will never come back. Hence it would be appalling for Council to continue on their plan without sharing any of the pain being felt in the business &amp; wider community. As with the rest of us, we have all had to "re-cut our cloth" to suit what has happened, &amp; Council should not think they are above having to do the same. The rates increase should be 0% &amp; the Council should reshape it's business to suit this level of income.</p>		
76	Lyall Wilson	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree COVID-19</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree COVID-19</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree COVID-19</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree COVID-19</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Disagree COVID-19</p> <p><b>Projects</b></p>	<p><b>Rates</b> Proposed increases should be put on hold while we all recover from the effect of COVID-19</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> As above</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> No comment</p> <p><b>Bylaws</b> No comment</p> <p><b>Land Transport</b> No comment</p>	

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
		<p>Over the next 12 to 18 months, all activities, spending and proposed increases should be put on hold while people and businesses recoup and recover from what the world has just suffered.</p> <p><b>Financials</b> Common sense must prevail</p>	<p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> No comment</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> Common sense must prevail</p>
77	maurice Hight	<b>See submission under Hearing Attendee</b>	
78	Peter Burrell	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree Every organization must keep up to date with technology etc but only to improve service and decrease costs to ratepayers,while making it easier for workers to comply.Continued rate increases above the cost of living,are not sustainable.</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree While I agree in principal,if a project will benefit one or other particular town or district,funding should be by a targeted charge for that area.Unless the whole of MPDC benefits from a project,then the whole district should not have to pay.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree This is a core council responsibility and judging from the procession of rubbish and recycling vehicles in our Cul de Sac each week,should be extremely competitive.It is therefore difficult to understand how costs increase so much.The proposed price increase of rubbish bags from \$2 to \$3,is I believe difficult to justify in this period of low inflation and should be reconsidered.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree The costs involved in maintaining parks etc obviously involves large sums of money and should be automatically increased inline with cost of living etc.Water restrictions have a direct bearing on the normal maintenance of sports grounds and as such the water supply should be improved dramatically.</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree If this work is not done regularly we get into the situation we are in now.In an historical article written in the Morrinsville news,it was stated the new water system for Morrinsville,was opened in 1922 and would cater for 9,000 residents.This quite obviously was not maintained or improved otherwise we would not have water restrictions to Level 4 as we have had,as I understand,for many years.Surely in the 21st century,we require a water supply and disposal system which caters for modern living.With restrictions to level 4 this does not happen.As far as storm water disposal is concerned,the present system in the Meadowview drive/Andrew Hilton Close area is a danger to pedestrians,cyclists and motorists,and a number of accidents have been witnessed in the area due to the poor design of the current system.Coupled with the danger aspect,is the fact the system does not work efficiently,and as had been said,if it was up for consent today it would not be approved.Council should look at reworking this area to make it safer and to make it work more efficiently.Minor piece meal work in some areas has improved some places but a comprehensive study and rework by council,to get rid of the exposed rocks in the middle of the road and then underground storm water pipes,should be considered a priority. With the central drains,large vehicles also have difficulty turning the corners and some have to take two or more bites at turning,on road parking is also confusing resulting in vehicles parking on the berm,which in turn causes danger for pedestrians.</p> <p><b>Projects</b> Projects are fine but have to be placed in some sort of priority.If they are must haves,then they get approved,but nice to haves should be considered only when funding and general acceptance is indicated.Morrinsville has serious water supply and storm water disposal problems and these should both be addressed before any other projects are considered.</p> <p><b>Financials</b> I have difficulty rationalizing the cost of walk/cycle ways,and other nice to have other things,when in my opinion critical infra structure,as mentioned above,ie.water supply and storm water disposal in particular,is in need of urgent attention.As I commented about projects,do the must haves,and then do the add ons.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Rates increases,well above the rate of inflation and the rate of wage/benefit increases continue,alarmingly,each year,to the point where those on fixed incomes have serious concerns about their ability to pay.At some point,and I believe that point has been reached,some other form of local body funding has to be found.</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> There seems to be poor storm water services for northern areas such as Meadowview Drive/Andrew Hilton Close/Young Street etc.A letter from council to the previous owners of our home stated the problem was with the down stream outlets which council said were over capacity before all the houses in the area were built,but in spite of this,building continued and home and land sections are still advertised for sale.</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b></p>	

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		Rates increases continue to cause hardship for those on low and fixed incomes, but objections are generally disregarded in favor of nice to have projects not everyone wants. This also applies to council debt, again not everyone agrees with borrowing and eventually someone will have to repay it. Council finances will be interesting when the aftermath of the pandemic is felt.	
79	Paul W Cronin	<b>See submission under Hearing Attendee</b>	
80	Gis Ludtke-Faber this is only PART ONE	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree Speed increase: would be for convenience - not essential. Changing expectations: do not have to be catered for if about convenience mainly. Database updating: should be normal practice anyway - wasn't it (digitalisation) about freeing time from handling paper? If you must, get half a helper in; but I think it better to familiarise actual permanent staff with names and addresses and how to find them digitally.</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree Too bad if too much has been sunk into it already. Time to cut ones losses is now. New spa facility? - Rethink. Tourism? - Detox now. Nz has to wean itself off that one. Regional support of our existing facilities will continue to suffice.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree Since we are all consuming less now (hopefully) - could limits on rubbish sold in supermarkets be put in concrete - less plastic packaging (refund system, or out-regulation) etc.? Bottle shops might have to take care of recycling (under control). Consumers could be reminded: of the cost of 'landfilling' to all, the sums that go to Big Rubbish, and the ethics of using resources that future generations might need.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree If population growth in the district was such a bad idea with regards to costs vs income, someone failed in his /her duty, and needs to be shamed, sacked, or re-educated, right?</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Disagree See above. Of course the existing pipe network to residents and essential facilities needs to be maintained. what could possibly be more important???</p>	<p><b>Projects</b> Taking additional industrial capacity (MV ring main), additional tourism (Te Aroha), and streetscape designers out of the equation for now, toilets seems to be missing (Wairere Falls). Sure they could be done for less?</p> <p><b>Financials</b> time for detox.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Don't you dare! ;-)</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> Developments contributions have been removed???? They were meant to lighten ratepayers load, right?</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> Sounds sensible, acceptable.</p> <p><b>Bylaws</b> Unable to view. (Could it be your link?)</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> Interest and depreciation: biting us now. I put it down to excessive building - Events centre, cCvic centre, Rail Trail. Building Industry has been over-subsidised in this district for too long!</p>
81	Daniel	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> Disagree \$785k. Are you taking the piss?? You could employ 2 full time staff for 100k at 50k each... MPDC wasting rate payers money as usual...</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree Waharoa industrial park is privately owned. Why would council use rate payers money??</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree User pays. I dont use but still pay towards it. How is that fair??</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree Still can be done cheaper. I noticed kauri cres was re sealed about 4 years ago the redo e just over a year ago. Great waste of rate payers money...</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> Pools. Library. Public toilets. Should all be user pays. Once again I never use but pay towards them.....</p> <p><b>Projects</b> Nil</p> <p><b>Financials</b></p>	<p><b>Rates</b> As above</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> User pays</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> Nil</p> <p><b>Bylaws</b> Nil</p> <p><b>Land Transport</b> Nil</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> Nil</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> The rate payers notice the many employees standing around doing nothing and getting paid. I'm sure if council sharpens its pencil there could be massive cost savings by negotiating better with contractors.</p>

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		Once again user pays is the system MPDC should work towards. New builds cover cost of any connection and pay a fee toward additional services. (Upgrade of water supply etc..)	
82 + 83	Garry Voogt	<b>See submission under Hearing Attendee</b>	
84	Kay Russell / Kays Way Hair Design	<b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree The Town will need it more then ever after CV19.  <b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree Always needed  <b>Projects</b> My thoughts are that we should bush ahead with the PGF project in Te Aroha as the town will need to be brought back to life after CV19, making the most of local tourism offer the lockdown.	
85	Brian Steele / Te Aroha Federated Farmers	<b>See submission under Hearing Attendee</b>	
86	Sue Callis	<b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree Timing  <b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree Cost  <b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree Cost  <b>Improving What We Have</b> – Disagree Cost  <b>Projects</b>	All projects that are nonessential should be put on hold  <b>Rates</b> No change  <b>Fees and Charges</b> No change  <b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> Due to difficult times rate increases should not be approved but if this is not possible inflation at most please  <b>Other Comments</b> Please cut our cloth to suite our unprecedented times
87	Ross and Janet Miller / Miller Books	<b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree  <b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree  <b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree Fees at all transfer stations need to be increased. We use the TeAroha station and it is ridiculously cheap, compared to other stations we have used in Auckland.  <b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree  <b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree  <b>Financials</b> Recently we applied for a permit to replace and install our existing fire box. Can you explain why this takes 20 working days, as the application was put in by a registered plumber who has dealt with the council for years. With the lockdown we are still waiting for our fire box to be installed. If this service had been more efficient we would have our fire box already.  <b>Rates</b> We agree with the increase of rates.  <b>Other Comments</b> We think our new council will do a good job in the years to come. We think that the most important thing is to advertise TeAroha as a place to visit and to settle in. To look at ways of increasing employment, to encourage businesses to trade in Te Aroha, perhaps with some rent relief. We have a gem of a district and think the council should exploit its charms. We think the council should spend the money to do this.	
88	Troy Smith / Learning Developments	<b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree Ownership of your infrastructure, including the website, is key to staying in control of longterm costs.  <b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree Now is not a time to be investing in new tourism activities. There are too many uncertainties around international travel and funds should be consolidated to ensure we can weather a storm.	

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		<p>Waharoa is supporting one or two key businesses who are themselves able to fund these developments. Morrinsville has a much higher need for commercial and residential building spaces. Invest should be made in improving the water, wastewater and roads to hamilton. Cambridge and Te Awamutu are becoming hubs of Hamilton because of their long term planning. Morrinsville is closer to the Rail hub than Waharoa and can become a gateway to the Matamamat Paiko district.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling – Disagree</b> We don't need to pay for council bags. I buy large cheaper bags from the supermarket and dump them for less. It's a loophole.</p> <p>Forget bags, go to bins like other areas. green waste, plastics, metals etc: No one needs to pick up the bags, the machine dumps the bin. safer that way too.</p> <p>Yes, increase the cost of going to the transfer station. User Pays. But provide more than enough basic service so low income and middle-income families have the chance to do the right thing without having to buy bags or pay to go to the dump. It's not the rent payers fault so much waste gets produced in our modern consumer market.</p> <p>Targeted Rates. Reviewed annually like Waikato Regional Eco rates. Everyone pays based on the actual waste costs of the previous year.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth – Disagree</b> I think you are massively underestimating the growth we will have. There is a massive housing and industrial supply shortage in Morrinsville and the infrastructure can not support the growth. Where is the vision for us in 20 years? How will we have a greener healthier and sustainable community? All new buildings should be self-sufficient. Rainwater catchment, greywater reticulation, composting stations, solar energy storage etc:</p> <p><b>Projects</b> Fix the water supply issues in Morrinsville. Make the lake bigger! Build holding tanks. We are on water restrictions for 6 months</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> Fix the water supply issues in Morrinsville. Make the lake bigger! Build holding tanks. We are on water restrictions for 6 months</p>	
89	Anita	<b>See submission under Hearing Attendee</b>	

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90	Chris Pritchard	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree The work to Te Aroha sounds good and needed. However, if something could be cut/scaled back then this is a good fit unless safety is compromised</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree Have seen dumping in town worsen, will get worse if cost of bags goes up. Go to a generic black sack in wheelie bin situation and make it a flat rate for all. It fits in with other councils. Happy to pay for this. If contractor can't supply trucks that pick up wheelie bin then change, they regularly miss picking up rubbish with no consequences in any case. Council needs to get tough on them.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree Pass on to rates of new subdivision residence. They cause the growth so they should contribute more to the cost.</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree Pipe network just scares me. So old! Broken so often. Anything to improve this is welcomed</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Go for an increase of rates now rather than major pain in the future. Paying for waterworks can provide work which will then help the person pay rates. Circle of life!</p>	
91	Vanessa Payne / <i>Scissorhappy Hairdesign</i>	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree With improvements in this field it would be so much easier to just go online and ask for advice instead of going into the council building in between clients and before council shuts at 4pm when most people like me work beyond 5pm.</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree If this means creating more jobs for people then I'm all for it.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree Recycling is a major bonus for the years to come. I personally would like to see how our recycled rubbish is re used. Where is the nearest plant.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Projects</b> Upgrading our storm water system is essential and at the same time upgrading out water system to improve flow rates</p> <p><b>Rates</b> At the current state of our economy with the covid 19 virus, alot of businesses will be starting from scratch. I do not want this proposed rate increase. Not this year anyway</p>	
92	Brian & Margaret Wiffin	<p><b>Other Comments</b> As residents of Parkside Villas for 12 years we are concerned that neither the Matamata-Piako Council nor Environment Waikato want to take responsibility for the disgusting mess in the drain in the Neil Algar Reserve. We would have thought as the drain was almost dry during the last several weeks it would have been a golden opportunity for the drain to have been dug out and all the weeds and growth removed, along with the blackberry that has overtaken the northern end.</p> <p>There are trees within the whole reserve that need attention. We have already spoken with David Wrigglesworth and he he has been most helpful and has had some trees pruned, but it is the whole drain that is disgusting and is not a good look for the many people who walk or cycle through the reserve every day.</p> <p>Maybe this needs to be included in the annual plan discussions.</p> <p>Another item for discussion is the water supply for Matamata.</p> <p>With all the new houses and subdivisions going on it is time the council gave serious consideration to the lack of water in town. As soon there is no rain for several days during summer we are told to conserve water, then no water to be used outside. This should not happen as there is abundant supply in the area. It is time the storage was increased. Water and waste water should be your biggest priority as the demand for these two services is steadily increasing.</p> <p>Recently the Morrinsville water supply was rebuilt - to only the same size that was previously there. Do you call that forward planning?</p>	

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		<p>Council are increasing our rates every year. Council is wasting our money on cycle tracks for tourists etc. What about looking after the rate payers who supply the money - the tourists don't contribute.</p> <p>We await your reply, with interest.</p>	
93	Amanda Allan	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree improving digital will make things easier long term</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree this will need reviewing as covid 19 will affect us differently than when this plan was written</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree more support needs to be factored in for those living outside of the rubbish collection areas. We are rural and take our rubbish in weekly to the dump. We manage our own recycling at the dump.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree The council needs to invest in playgrounds, to get community using them. The playgrounds are highly disappointing in Matamata. Hamilton has invested in playgrounds and made the city quite desirable for families.</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Projects</b> this will need reviewing as covid 19 will affect us differently than when this plan was written</p> <p><b>Financials</b> this will need reviewing as covid 19 will affect us differently than when this plan was written. No one can afford a rates increase. Another look at the financials will need to be done now.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> this will need reviewing as covid 19 will affect us differently than when this plan was written. No one can afford a rates increase.</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> disagree on an increase of the fees at refuse station. we don't get a town collection where we live. this would not benefit us. they do an excellent job at the refuse station, always tidy and clean! great service.</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> I see this area as necessary expense.</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> We request you spend money to seal Piakonui Road, or at least to past 649 Piakonui. We live on this road, and the road is rarely seen any maintenance during our 2.5yrs living here. The rough road creates regular punches in our 2 vehicles, costing us money.</p> <p>For at least 4 months of the year we are in an extreme drought and the road becomes dry, and we end having dust from the road blow everywhere, making our windows dirty, but more seriously we end up breathing the toxic silica dust. We feel we are at a very high risk of developing silicosis from exposure to the dust from the road. Our neighbours Andrew and Alison Gillingham share these concerns, their home clouded with dust. We have two young daughters, and we have a real concern for theirs and our own health. Also, we have rain water tanks, which catch the water from our roof - meaning we are ingesting this toxic dust.</p> <p>Every year we have request by the Thames Rally Car Club to run their rally race around our road. This makes the road in an awful state! it is left in a mess - we end up getting a puncture due to the sharp rocks uncovered. Eventually when the road does get 'graded' by Fulton Hogan, it is a poor result because it doesn't last to the next time it is graded (whenever that ends up being - usually more than a year later, and not all the road gets done, at least it does not get around to where we live). The dust is horrible and poses a real fire risk in April when they host the rally race. They have also tentatively put another date down to run this, however, we firmly oppose it, as we just want the road to be sealed. We believe there are members of the council who are part of the club and because of this our road gets overlooked.</p> <p>Piakonui Road, we understand is one of only 2 roads in the district which are unsealed. We would like this to be included in your next annual plan. Our neighbours who share the part of the road, support our request. PLEASE SEAL OUR ROAD!!!</p> <p>We welcome any correspondence, as our comments on the Matamata contact page are never answered.</p>	
94	Vicky Kelly / Manawaru Heritage	<p><b>Bylaws</b> I am submitting this response on behalf of the Manawaru Heritage Centre and Thackray's Hall. We support the changes in the transport bylaw for Manawaru with a couple of changes.</p>	

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	Centre/Manawaru Historical Society	<p>Firstly, that the school speed zone is extend up to past the bike trail crossing out side the Manawaru Playcentre - many kids walk and cycle to school a long this path and cross here.</p> <p>Secondly - the hours for the school zone speed restrictions are wrong. Manawaru school starts at 8.30am and ends at 2.30pm - there for the morning hours should be - 8.05am to 8.40am then 2.20pm to 2.50pm.</p> <p>looking forward to a reduced speed limit! Vicky Kelly Manawaru Heritage Centre and Thackray's Hall</p>		
95	Kelvin Forsman / Adventure Te Aroha	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree Makes sense,more now than ever</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree These projects should progress with haste. The viability of the Te Aroha tourism prescient project is now even more relevant as it was based on domestic tourism which is set to have a large increase. For Te Aroha the "do nothing" scenario did not paint a very nice picture for future of the mineral spa or Te Aroha in general. In would be negligent not to progress.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree There is a huge amount of waste that gets dumped on road sides, rivers etc. This gets worse as the cost of disposal increases. There needs to be a better plan in place to deter this whether it be signage, policing or an increase in fines. Raglan has a good system for the community to engage in waste disposal, this model needs to be looked at and adopted if feasible.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree Increase in population is inevitable. Keeping these areas up to scratch is vital for town pride and tourist appeal. This may be under NZTA but the Coulter bridge is well overdue for a paint.</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree</p>	<p><b>Projects</b> I believe many of these projects should be pushed forward if possible. In particular the streetscaping and domain upgrades as other avenues of funding may now be available for these projects.</p> <p><b>Financials</b> We look like we are not in a bad position.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> It has been advised by government to keep to any proposed rate increases and to carry on with projects planned prior to covid 19. Maybe not a popular decision but a necessary one.</p> <p><b>Bylaws</b> As mentioned in Waste section, there may be a need to increase fines for dumping rubbish illegally.</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> THIS FORM HAS BEEN EXTREMELY FRUSTRATING TO FILL OUT AS WHEN YOU GO TO "READ MORE ABOUT THIS TOPIC" OR "BACK TO TOPICS" ALL THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE WRITTEN DISAPPEARS. I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED THIS TO BE THOROUGHLY TESTED BEFORE GOING LIVE. IF THERE IS LOW SUBMISSION NUMBERS THIS MAY WELL BE THE CAUSE. VERY DISAPPOINTING.</p>	
96	daniel grover	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree Collaborate with other councils to centralize costs to present similar digital objectives.</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Disagree I do not believe the current recycling strategy is worth finding any further. Council should be collaboratin/ lobbying with central government to install national centralised sorting services. This should remove barriers of cost amongst waste industry to provide a greater coverage of service.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Disagree All unnecessary funding to be placed on hold due to covid</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Disagree All unnecessary funding to be placed on hold due to covid with exception of emergency maintenance</p> <p><b>Projects</b> Reassessment of priorities to recession</p>	<p><b>Financials</b> This is all needing a review. But a freeze to reasses for next financial year is best.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Rates freeze due to new recession environment</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> Cost freeze to recession</p> <p><b>Land Transport</b> Reassessment needed due to recession</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> Fixed costs should decrease with deflation and recession.</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> Councillors and senior management should take lead and take salary freezers and 20% reduction. One's lifestyle does not need a 6 figure salary to keep fed dry warm and housed while the district is suffering to unemployment. I am also uninterested in council raising further debt.</p>	
97	Jenny Davis	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Disagree Not an essential expense at this time. More beneficial to businesses (i.e. builders and developers) than the general public.</p>	<p><b>Rates</b> I was stunned when I first saw there would be a potential rate increase in excess of 6%. I'm not sure where pensioners are supposed to keep finding this sort of increase. Many of the supposed benefits are not used</p>	

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
		<p><b>Economic Development/PGF – Disagree</b> Minimal costs at this stage</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling – Agree</b> I believe the cheapest option is best even if it means I pay more for a rubbish bag HOWEVER I don't believe you should be selling smaller bags and increasing the price which seems to be the case currently as the bag is now too small to stretch over the rim of my bin.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth – Agree</b></p> <p><b>Improving What We Have – Agree</b> Do not want to see things in a state of disrepair and get hit with a massive rates increase at a later date.</p> <p><b>Projects</b> All non essential projects should be postponed.</p>	<p>by pensioners. In the current situation keeping a zero increase would be wonderful but realistically we do not want to have poor quality water, breaking sewerage pipes and pot holed roads so I think we should be looking at a scenario where these things can be maintained but no large capital works started. Spending on Tourism at this point in time would be ludicrous as for some months, it is likely, even New Zealanders are not going to be able to move freely around the country. I think careful consideration needs to be given to all council expenditure but we should not go backwards to the extent that we will have a thumping big rates rise down the track. It may be that there will be growth in the local economy where people prefer to stay close to home and it could be beneficial to encourage businesses to start locally with New Zealand mad/grown goods. Good luck at keeping everybody happy.</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> All fees should be kept to a minimum or user pays.</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> I did not complete last three items as every time I went back to "Read more" it wiped out what I had already put and told me page was not available after I'd spent 1 1/2 hours working on it. This is the reason a lot of people don't bother to fill in submissions.</p>
98	Maree Capper	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling – Agree</b> Rubbish needs to be disposed of correctly regardless of costs.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth – Agree</b> Parks etc need to be looked after.</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have – Agree</b> Buildings etc need to be looked after.</p> <p><b>Rates</b> According to our assessment &amp; Valuation Numbers we would rather our rates don't increase to much due to covid19 pandemic</p>	
99	Heidi dreyer	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy – Agree</b> Online is the future and it save cost of not having so many customer service staff at different places. Upgrade the website and make the font of writing bigger for senior readers. Make it more attractive</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling – Disagree</b> You cannot add one dollar per bag the jump is to high and not sustainable for people to pay. The best is maybe 25cents extra. You force people to look at other ways to dispose their rubbish because it will be to expensive.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth – Disagree</b> Tourism will drop and why advertise if we don't have the upmarket shops and hotels in this area.</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have – Disagree</b> Owner's should look after their own buildings as residential people look after their own homes. Iconic things should be maintained like the clocks,Bridges. No one can enjoy the parks in Te Aroha to many sandflies anyway. Gut the grass and spray so we can walk for exercise</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Freeze the rates . No one can afford to pay so much. Think smarter and don't up the budget as an easy way out.</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> Recreational shares should stay the same.</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> Summary: 1. stop library expenses and start give a service of reading books online. Use your address/rate number as reference 2. Upgrade your website with bigger fonts so senior people can read and make it more customer friendly and easy to use. It is not the way now. 3. Rubbish bags can only go up with extra 25cents max. People will look with other ways to get rid of their rubbish if it is too expensive to use the service. 4. Recreational entries should stay the same. We pay the same taxes as big cities with much more less facilities for recreational use. Parks should be keep up the mowing and spraying for sand flies no one can walk in the parks at Te Aroha. What do you want to upgrade if we cannot walk there? 5. Dogs on leaches. 6. Effort on swimming pools,cycle ways that is what people use daily for exercise. Other social activities are dropping in numbers</p>	

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes	
100	Glenn Bunting / New Zealand Transport Agency	<b>See comments at end of table</b>		
101	Steve Southall	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree Better service and efficiency through improved digital services</p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree Agree partly, particularly with regard to developing Te Aroha's tourism potential. The cycleway extension to Matamata provides greater opportunity for low impact but potentially lucrative "green" tourism.</p> <p>Ambivalent re Waharoa.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling</b> – Agree Seems like an appropriate balance between user pays and general funding.</p> <p><b>Costs of Growth</b> – Agree Sound arguments presented</p> <p><b>Projects</b> In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic Council needs to look carefully at the project portfolio and re-rank them in terms of affordability, cost/benefit. and available subsidies. There is one project missing from the portfolio which should be added, and that is to make Te Aroha much more pedestrian and cycle friendly, and there are now Government subsidies to facilitate. We are blessed by having the Hauraki Cycle Trail run right through the town, opening up low environmental impact tourism and business development in the vicinity. Yet the road layout remains car-oriented without a single acknowledgement to (in particular) cycle safety. There are so many projects that could be done to improve the environment for tourists and locals alike, especially our school children. A few ideas: - development of more protected cycle lanes. This can be done cheaply with planter boxes etc as a trial initially - the use of sharrows to indicate where cyclists should position themselves on the road - implementation of a 30kph speed restriction in the town centre, and around schools/community facilities - wayfinding and signage - subsidising more Adrian Worsley sculptures as streetscape art, particularly those with a cycling theme - educating locals and motorists of the need to slow down around cyclists and give them a wide berth. Hauraki Trail users could become the lifeblood of Te Aroha and the last thing we need is stories getting out on social media as to how hostile some locals are to cyclists - a specific but higher capital project would be to work with NZTA to widen Te Aroha's Waihou Bridge. At present it is extraordinarily cycle-unfriendly. An alternative would be to improve the bridge from the skate park by making it wider and an all-year all-weather facility - the mountain bike trails on the lower slopes could be opened up and improved for recreational trail users. Most of the MTB trails are Grade 3 which are too daunting for those preferring Grade 1 trails. But some improvements to the lower trails at Grade 1 / Grade 2 would provide a good recreational facility for visitors, and encourage them to stay another night in the vicinity - obviously any tie-in with tourist facilities around our Edwardian architecture, spa facilities and Domain would tie in well. Hoping you can spin off a project to get this underway.</p>	<p><b>Financials</b> Really comes down to a cost/benefit analysis, and pruning expenditure to fit revenue</p> <p><b>Rates</b> Only comment here is to keep rates increases low, and swing from general rates to more targeted rates and revenue from services consumed</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have</b> – Agree It's a false economy to keep deferring maintenance</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b> Fees should reflect cost of service provision, with some cross-subsidisation for the more disadvantaged in the community who don't have the ability to pay</p> <p><b>Compliance</b> Certainly need to ensure water and wastewater are kept safe. Compliance also extends those flouting environmental regulations, where fines should be tougher</p> <p><b>Bylaws</b> Tidy-up sounds reasonable</p> <p><b>Land Transport</b> Greater use should be made of speed limit restrictions, particularly: - in town centres (30kph) coupled with aggressive speed bumps - at both rural and urban schools (30kph during arrival/departure times) - 80kph on selected rural roads off the State Highways where there is an accident history, or they are narrow and winding - increased use of 70kph threshold zones prior to a 50k zone. Eastbound on SH26 approaching Te Aroha is a case in point</p> <p><b>Fixed Cost Increases</b> They're a given, including interest on modest borrowing. Just continued scrutiny, and competitive re-tendering where possible</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> While there are three towns in the district, my focus is currently on Te Aroha which is close to where I live. I'm concerned with the general decline in economic activity in the town, the number of vacant shops, and particularly the closure of Bunnings. Te Aroha needs a shot in the arm, and my proposal is that capitalising on its natural features in conjunction with the Hauraki Cycle Trail can assist with recovery. Modest, targeted investment should facilitate this.</p> <p>Regards - Steve</p>	
102	Nigel McWilliam / Morrinsville	<b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy</b> – Agree Noting the need for UFB in our towns never more relevant than now. Need to press on with all digital development.		

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
	Chamber of Commerce	<p><b>Economic Development/PGF – Agree</b>  This is a summarised version of original as first version lost during moving between submission input screens :  1. \$860k Stormwater to be applied to Power upgrade in same location  2. PPP to be formed with developers and purchasewrs to enable a trade precinct project  3. Increase grant to Chamber given we will be deferring sub invoices until well after lock down \$50k increase in grant required.  4. Borrow for development given strenght of balance sheet.  5. Rate increaase to be CPI this year with use of borrowing to cover any shortfalls  6. Ensue MPDC has shove ready projects with Government - we have not heard of any submissions. Get Govt to do to Te Aroha Domain and the Waharoa transport hub  7. Lever off Waharoa proposal for Morrinsville by upgrading rail terminus and rezoning buses to that site also so easy for people to commute to and from Morrinsville so business and people will locate here.  8. Subsidy to Landlords to refurbish shop frontages now. say \$5k subsidy max to be used within 12 months.  9. Activate all projects approved and use local trades  10. Announce a project that will get the district excited. There has been \$1.6m spent on PGF reports - now do it !  11. Resource consents and planning department so speedy turn-around and engagement.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling – Agree</b></p> <p><b>Costs of Growth – Agree</b>  See above</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have – Agree</b>  See above Economic development</p> <p><b>Projects</b>  Need to reach into Govt \$10m project funding and propose precinct development at Avenue Road and investigate using existing rail link to bring business to town. A cycleway link to Te Aroha rail trail would help domestic tourism. I lived in Alexandra when the Central Otago railtrail was first proposed to link small dying towns such as Omakau, Ranfurly &amp; Middlemarch Now a world class attraction. This was achieved over a larger distance and greater physical obsticals in an already economically challenged district.</p> <p><b>Financials</b>  Council has plenty of scope to borrow funds at low cost of funds.  Use PPP concepts  Use Govt funding</p> <p><b>Rates</b>  Cashflow will be an issue for next 12 months. Many business offering payment terms, Landlords offering rent holidays. Rate increase should be limited to CPI this year.</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b>  See above economic development</p> <p><b>Compliance</b>  Council needs to be growth focused and bold. Attract competent staff who can do this with accuracy and speed and use necessary measures to manage RMA constraints.</p> <p><b>Other Comments</b>  The stormwater outcome for Avenue road is a situation where funds were spent on a report that recommended no further action required by Council to enable development. Council must press on to remove all obstructions for the development of this MPDC light industrial zoned area. This includes Power supply and possibly being a first to build (to set standard) by creating a PPP trade precinct for trades to base themselves , provide community training and therefore jobs and buyers for houses. This increasing property values and ratepayers in the town.</p>	
103	Michele Laurie	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy – Agree</b></p> <p><b>Economic Development/PGF – Agree</b>  Yes, to both but I feel focusing on the Domain alone would be a missed opportunity. Any spa facility relies on the natural resource of hot water from Mt Te Aroha. We need to ensure we are giving back more to our maunga than we are taking.</p> <p><b>Rubbish and Recycling – Disagree</b>  The whole we we deal with rubbish and recycling needs to change. Visitors from Europe are appalled at our lack of recycling facilities and the way we deal with waste. We need lots more public recycling sites around the district and we should be aiming for zero waste events. There is some great work being done in this space in NZ and overseas. People need to be encouraged to produce less waste. Yes, that includes education on purchasing choices. Lets catch up MPDC!</p>	

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
		<p><b>Costs of Growth – Agree</b> I believe along with increased funding we could better engage the the help of the community to do some of this work. Volunteers could be encouraged to work alongside Council staff on agreed projects rather than the ad hoc manner in which volunteers do work on public land now. How about some rates relief for pensioners or anyone to 'adopt a garden' or patch of public reserve?</p> <p><b>Improving What We Have – Agree</b></p> <p><b>Other Comments</b> I feel while Council does a good job of maintaining the tracks there is little or no work to enhance or conserve what we have. My comments are specific to the tracks on Mt Te Aroha, however much of this is relevant across the district. I would like to see a network of tracks accessible to people of all ages and abilities with emphasis on the conservation of our native flora and fauna.</p> <p>Upper and Lower Domain Tracks These are the most accessible short walk tracks in the Te Aroha Hot Springs Domain Reserve. There are a couple of numbered springs along the path which have been capped. Council maintains these tracks to an easy walking track level, however, the surface is gravel and is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs. Not everyone's definition of a walking track or walking shoes are the same and there is more demand for more accessible walking options for people in 'street wear'. We have the opportunity to -  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- upgrade these tracks to walking paths to make them easily accessible to pushchairs and wheelchairs,</li> <li>- reconstruct the pumps on the springs so people can interact with them – not necessarily reconnect to spring water.</li> <li>- provide interpretation on historic and natural features on the walk – the springs and their properties and what they where used for, the inhalatorium – what it was and why it is not in operation today, glow worms.</li> <li>- pick out significant trees and name them providing an educational nature walk</li> <li>- build weta houses which can be opened to view these forest creatures</li> </ul> </p> <p>Horseman's and Lipsey Tracks These historic tracks where cut in the 1800's to give access to mining operations on the mountain. Long since abandoned, they were reopened by the Te Aroha &amp; District Tramping Club under the guidance of the local DOC ranger and are mentioned in Council's 2008 Track strategy. These are classified as 'easy tramping tracks' and form a great 1.5 hour return loop via the Te Aroha Mountain Track. They are well used by locals wanting a good workout. The original staircases were built using the DOC 'floating staircase' method and are quite robust. Additional steps have been put in over the years in an ad hoc fashion and are in various states of repair. While the tramping club does its best to maintain these tracks, the reality is, club membership is dwindling with most members being in their 70's and older. Under Council's health and safety requirements, volunteer groups are not permitted to use power tools so work is limited to light pruning, small repair jobs and regular trimming of vegetation. Disintegration of the track and some of the steps means the track is not very safe in places. The tracks need professionally upgrading to make them more safe and accessible to users. The tracks could be enhanced with interpretation as the area has an interesting history.</p> <p>All Council tracks on Mt Te Aroha - In partnership with DOC, Iwi, Council and user groups Introduce conservation measures to eliminate introduced pests Set up non working traps along a nominated track to educate and engage people to show them what is being done. Initiate and regularly maintain a weed (Introduced flora) eradication programme including privet and wilding pines</p> <p>I believe after the current unprecedented pandemic has passed the whole country will be looking to rebuild economically and socially. Domestic tourism will be vital to reignite our district. The health of our community and maunga go hand in hand. Investment in our maunga is investing in our future. Thank you</p>	
104	John Rayner / Enhance Te Aroha	<b>See submission under Hearing Attendee</b>	
105	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Doing Business Better/Digital Strategy – Disagree</b> There are still a lot of people out there that don't have digital technology or dont want to put financial information on digital applications. We also need to cater to these people, there needs to be balance so I think 500k is a little too much to be spending on this</p>	
106	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling – Disagree</b> I can't afford a large rate increase as I on a fixed income</p>	
107	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Rubbish and Recycling – Agree</b> The cost of bags is in the hands of the ratepayer. Buy less rubbish in the form of packaging.</p>	
108	Incomplete Submission	<p><b>Economic Development/PGF – Disagree</b> The tourism aspect in te Aroha has been around for years and to date little has been achieved. The hub in Hamilton is going to have a huge impact maybe this should be delayed</p>	

Sub #	Name/ Organisation	Comments	Notes
109	Incomplete Submission	<b>Projects</b> All projects need to be deferred for the 2020/21 Financial year. You must learn to live within what revenues you will get from a 'Nil' rate increase and manage those funds both astutely and professionally. No 'wish lists' or unnecessary expenditure must be considered for the year including any wage increases for council staff, councillors or contractors. Remember it is not your monies, but your ratepayers who are funding your rates	
110	Incomplete Submission	<b>Improving What We Have</b> - Agree	
111	Incomplete Submission	<b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Disagree Money has already been spent in this area for the feasibility study without any clear direction emerging. There are now more pressing concerns for the area.	
112	Incomplete Submission	<b>Projects</b> Matamata Indoor sport facility. Have they been fundraising and putting in the same percentage as the Te Aroha people had to put into the Silver Ferns event centre, If not why not <b>Rates</b> I like how you put up rural rates where we don't get a lot from council. Most of the price increase you list are for the town's water waste and recycling so why should we have to help cover that. We already pay for this ourselves so why should we help pay for the town's residents	
113	Incomplete Submission	<b>Economic Development/PGF</b> – Agree I do agree with this but will now be the right time when so many people are struggling? I understand that in the future this will hopefully be a significant benefit to local businesses and individuals. Perhaps, best left until next time to give people a chance to get a bit more back on their feet? <b>Compliance</b> A very important service and a basic necessity for all.	
114	Incomplete Submission	<b>Projects</b> Leisure related projects are unnecessary at this time, do the upgrade of necessary services.	
Late 1	John and Tina Peters NZMCA members and Motorhome owners  Received 27 April	Hi, I am writing this letter to prompt the councils and government to take action over our very precious camping life in New Zealand. We have lost our way with respect to the wonderful life style that we once had in the family camping holidays. To put it simply the camp grounds are far too expensive for the general campers and particularly for larger families. To some extent the camp grounds have in my opinion got a little greedy and appear to charge what they like as they often have a monopoly. However their overheads are very high and a lot of this is driven by the very high rates that are imposed on them by councils. Often the rates are extremely high as the land values are high being close to the sea etc. We have seen a big change in the camping scene over the last 10 years with many camp grounds closing as they are simply not getting campers and an increase in "Freedom " camping. Freedom camping has increased because campers simply cannot afford to stay in camp grounds. I am a pensioner and I could spend all of my NZ superannuation on just the camp grounds and have no food. A small number of camps have reduced their charges but up to a half over winter and now they are getting patronage. Two strong recommendations from me : 1. Councils/Government review the rating system for campgrounds so that they pay minimum or no rates as a public service to the district. 2. Campground owners study the market and reduce their charges to a reasonable amount once rates have been reduced. If they cut their charges they would attract more people in to their camps. It is better to have people coming in at a reduced price than none at all.  I hope you will see this letter as a positive way forward for campers, towns and cities and campground owners. It is a good opportunity now to kick start the campgrounds as they are going to struggle big time with no overseas tourists and just now no campers at all.  Kind regards John and Tina Peters NZMCA members and Motorhome owners	
Late 2	Alison Bunning  Received 28 April	<b>Land Transport Bylaw</b> Tahuna School Zone – I support the proposed change Changing the speed limit will not make any change at all. A full time fixed speed camera hurt them, the speeding drivers in the pocket won't change otherwise. Idiot speeding drivers they don't care they pass each other going through the village not caring at all.	

## Land Transport

This email is Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's formal response to the Matamata Piako District Council Speed limits Bylaw consultation.

The Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2017 (the Rule) details a number of requirements for road controlling authorities in setting speed limits on their network:

- Section 2.2(2): "In carrying out its functions under 2.2(1), a road controlling authority must consider whether a speed limit for a road is safe and appropriate in accordance with this Rule."
- Section 4.2(2) "In reviewing a permanent, holiday, or variable speed limit or considering a new permanent, holiday, or variable speed limit, a road controlling authority must have regard to—

(a) the information about speed management developed and maintained by the Agency; and

(b) any relevant guidance on speed management provided by the Agency; ..."

The information and guidance provided by Waka Kotahi meets its requirements under the following sections of the Rule:

- 2.4(1) "The Agency must supply, to each road controlling authority, information about speed management for public roads within that road controlling authority's jurisdiction."
- 2.4(2) "The Agency must, in supplying information under 2.4(1), prioritise information about public roads where achieving travel speeds that are safe and appropriate is likely to deliver the highest benefits in terms of safety and efficiency."

The guidance provided by Waka Kotahi is in the new Speed Management Guide dated November 2016, and the Safer Journeys Risk Assessment Tool (MegaMaps) available to all road controlling authorities (Edition II dated September 2018 is the latest edition). Safe and Appropriate travel Speeds for all roads in the network that Waka Kotahi has information available for, together with the top 10% of regional networks likely to deliver the highest benefit in terms of safety and efficiency, are detailed in the MegaMaps.

Waka Kotahi's response, and the detailed comments below, are focused on assisting Council with alignment of the proposals with the Rule and the intent of the Speed Management Guide, and particularly achieving national consistency (ie alignment with the information provided to RCAs by Waka Kotahi) for speed limits across all RCAs (ref clause 1.3(a) of the Rule).

Roads in the top 10% of high benefit speed management opportunities

The government has tasked all Road Controlling Authorities with addressing the top 10% of regional networks likely to deliver the highest deaths and serious injury savings in terms of safety and efficiency, and treating these lengths as quickly as possible is a requirement of the current Government Policy Statement. The information provided by Waka Kotahi identifies a number of top 10% roads within the Matamata Piako District and addressing speed on these roads will contribute a combined saving of over 8 DSi over 5 years to the national saving of 274 DSi per annum if addressed. Waka Kotahi encourages Council to treat these roads with safe and appropriate speed limits as quickly as possible:

Tahuna-Ohinewai Rd; Paeroa-Tahuna Rd; Stanley Ave; Cameron Road; Morrinsville-Tahuna Rd; Piako Rd; Kereone Rd; Landsdowne Rd;

Schedule 2:

- Hetana and Arawa Streets – agree with proposals

Schedule 4:

- Burwood Road and Banks Road – agree with proposals to change existing 70km/h lengths to 50km/h. However disagree with the proposed 50/80 change point in Banks Road which is in the current 100km/h area and still rural in nature as drivers will not see the reason to slow (see comment in Schedule 7 below). Although not listed in the Schedule 4 changes, I note that O'Sullivan Drive and Kelso Place have been included in the urban traffic area shown on the Matamata map MPDC522204 - the SAAS for these roads is 40km/h (mean travel speeds are less than 30km/h), and 40km/h is the safe and appropriate speed limit for these roads based on the information provided by Waka Kotahi (as for all other residential access roads).
- Tahuna Ohinewai Road – disagree with proposal to relocate 50/100 change point – this will not comply with 3.3(3) as drivers will not see the reason to slow. Notwithstanding the 50km/h speed limit past the school, mean operating speeds past the school are in the 60-64km/h range so Council should also be implementing speed management interventions for times outside the operation of the proposed variable speed limit to comply with clause 4.4(2)(c) of the Rule – shifting the speed limit change point even further out into the rural area will further lower compliance past the school, further increasing safety risk. Waka Kotahi notes the comment from Council (24/3/20) "We are happy to proceed with leaving the change point and accepting the reduced length of variable speed limit as this is supported by NZTA."
- Manawaru Road – disagree with the 50km/h proposal - mean speeds are very high through Manawaru at 70-74km/h and Council will not comply with clause 4.4(2)(c) of the Rule (must aim to achieve a mean operating speed less than 10% above the speed limit) without significant speed management interventions. Statistics NZ regards this as a rural area, which is reflected by the rural type environment with no kerb and channel and footpaths, which is encouraging the high travel speeds. Table 1.4 in the Guide does not provide for 50km/h speed limits in rural environments. The SAAS from MegaMaps 60km/h, which is the appropriate safe and appropriate speed limit for rural towns like Manawaru, and aligns with Government's expectations for speed limits past rural schools. To achieve urban travel speeds of 50 (and 40km/h for the proposed variable school zone) Council would have to invest in physical infrastructure to make it look and feel like an urban area, which road users would then respond to with urban travel speeds. Only changing the number on speed limit signs will not deliver urban travel speeds in the current environment, and Council will not therefore comply with clause 4.4(2)(c) of the Rule. It is noted that the SAAS is 80km/h for the surrounding network approaching Manawaru, and mean speeds are 80-89km/h. This confirms that an 80km/h speed limit replacing the current 100km/h speed limit would deliver mean speed reductions approaching Manawaru, which would also help reduce speeds through the settlement. Without appropriate urban infrastructure to reduce travel speeds and achieve consistent compliance with lower speed limits, 60km/h is the safe and appropriate speed limit for the Manawaru rural village based on the information provided by Waka Kotahi.

Schedule 5:

- Alexandra Road Mace Road, and Stanley Road – agree with 60km/h proposals

Schedule 7:

- Banks Road – agree with proposed 80km/h but disagree with proposed 50/80km/h change point 30m east of O'Sullivan Drive – there is no change of environment at this location as drivers will not see the reason to slow, so Council will not meet the requirements of clause 3.3(3) in the Rule - the point at which a speed limit changes must be at, or close to, a point of obvious change in the roadside development or the road environment. Recommend the 50/80 change point be retained at the start of the kerb and channel and footpath at the existing 70/100 change point.
- Kuranui Road – disagree with proposal to arbitrarily introduce a speed limit change on Kuranui Road at Avenue Road South as drivers will not see the reason to slow where there is no change of environment (clause 3.3(3) - the point at which a speed limit changes must be at, or close to, a point of obvious change in the roadside development or the road environment) – all Kuranui Road has SAAS of 80km/h and mean speeds of 80-84km/h, so agree that 80km/h is the correct speed limit, but Council will not comply with the Rule if 80km/h is arbitrarily introduced at Avenue Road South.
- Scott Road – agree with 80km/h proposal.

- McKinley Road – disagree with 80km/h proposal – while SAAS is calculated at 80km/h for McKinley Road, mean operating speeds are 40-44km/h reflecting the narrow carriageway, and Council is proposing to lower the speed limit for Alexandra Road to 60km/h – recommend extending 60km/h to McKinley Road as well (meaning a speed limit sign would not be required at the intersection).
- Buckland Road – disagree with 80km/h proposed for entire length of Buckland Road. SAAS is 60km/h governed by medium-high IRR at 1.87 based on windy alignment, higher than the 1.6 required to make 80km/h safe. Mean operating speeds are 60-64 so drivers understand the risk. Agree that the northern end (north of the 55km/h curves environment change) could be 80km/h, however setting an 80km/h speed limit on the winding section of this road will message to road users that 80km/h is the safe speed, resulting in an increase in the mean travel speed, increasing crashes, which will not be addressing the current risk on this corridor. All evidence indicates that the safe and appropriate speed limit for the windy length of Buckland Road is 60km/h. The proposed physical works (no-stopping lines, pull-over bays and advanced warning signs) will not make it safer for traffic to travel faster. Waka Kotahi also notes Council comment (24/3/20) that “there is very little community support for a reduction to 60km/h” – however the clear intent of the Rule is that safe and appropriate speed limits are set based on road safety evidence, not popularity.
- Mathieson Road – recommend the same speed limit as is set for Buckland Road (60km/h in this area)
- Puketutu Road - agree with 80km/h proposal
- Hopkins Roads - Disagree with 80km/h proposal for 165m of Hopkins Road as there is no change of environment (clause 3.3(3) - the point at which a speed limit changes must be at, or close to, a point of obvious change in the roadside development or the road environment) – all Hopkins Road has SAAS of 80km/h and mean speeds of 80-84km/h, so agree that 80km/h is the correct speed limit, but Council will not comply with the Rule as drivers will not see the reason to slow if 80km/h is arbitrarily set 165m north of SH29.

Schedule 10:

- Tahuna-Ohinewai Road – agree with proposal to implement a 40km/h variable speed limit but without extending the existing 50km/h area (see comments in Schedule 4 above).
- Manawaru Road – disagree with 40km/h variable speed limit proposal if there is no speed management infrastructure to manage travel speeds to achieve compliance with the 50km/h speed limit proposed (see comments in Schedule 4 above)

In conclusion, Waka Kotahi strongly encourages Council to set safe and appropriate speed limits in line with the information provided to Council by Waka Kotahi, and to ensure national consistency in the application of the Speed Management Guide. Should the Council decide to apply the speed limits proposed that are different to the information supplied by the Agency, we encourage Council to seek legal advice regarding the Council’s compliance with the Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2017 considering clauses 2.2(2) and 4.2(2) of the Rule, and encourages Council to consider clause 2.10 in this regard.

# Facebook comments

**Matamata-Piako District Council - March 20 - “Disposing of rubbish and recycling is getting harder and more expensive. Lower than expected revenue and increasing costs means we need to make some hard decisions on how to pay the bill for this service. Go to <https://www.mpd.govt.nz/.../annual-plan/rubbish-and-recycling> to find out more or make a submission”**

- **Brenda Smith:** 50% increase in rubbish bags. I hope they're not going to make them any smaller and thinner than they already are. And I can see more people dumping it on the side of the road.
- **Stephanie OHara:** Half size bags would be fine for us old age pensioners, then they could go out once a week instead of fortnightly. Same amount of course but easier to handle.
  - **Matamata-Piako District Council:** This is a great suggestion **Stephanie!** If you click the link here: [https://www.mpd.govt.nz/.../ann.../rubbish-and-recycling...to make your submission on the topic :\)](https://www.mpd.govt.nz/.../ann.../rubbish-and-recycling...to make your submission on the topic :))
- **Clive Williams:** Why stay with bags at all - go to 1/2 size wheelie bins and only collect every second week
- **Stephanie OHara:** **Clive Williams** fair comment.
- **Helen Gall:** **Clive Williams** I like that idea
- **Matamata-Piako District Council:** Thank you for everyone's ideas for how we can change the rubbish and recycling system. We'll be consulting later this year on the future of the rubbish and recycling service - and that's where ideas like wheelie bins, composting, soft plastics etc will...
- *(Please note, original comment removed by user)* **Matamata-Piako District Council:** Hi **John**, that's great feedback for them, thank you 😊 Disposing of rubbish and recycling is getting harder and more expensive to do (all over NZ). Our contract costs have gone up and we need to increase the charges for rubbish and recycling so we can pay our bill. If you want to have a read, we've put some different options on how we can do this here: <https://www.mpd.govt.nz/.../annual.../rubbish-and-recycling>
- *(Please note, original comment removed by user)* **Matamata-Piako District Council:** Hey **John**, we consider rubbish collection an essential service for sanitary reasons (along with water, wastewater and cemeteries). In an absolute worst case scenario, these are the core council services that would still continue to operate. In those circumstances, there could be changes to the service (for example, we might not collect recycling), but we're working through what the options would be now to ensure we are prepared for different scenarios. You can find out more about our planning here <https://www.mpd.govt.nz/.../3379-what-is-council-doing...>
  - **Sharon Lawson:** Have rubbish and recycling bins (large & small) instead of bags, collect each on alternate weeks. Always penalising the rate payers is not the fairest way.
  - **Matamata-Piako District Council:** Thanks **Sharon** . We'll be keen to hear these ideas when we consult on the future of the rubbish and recycling service later this year. We're also keen to hear what you think on the cost issue we are facing now. We've come up with a few options and want to see which ones you agree or disagree with and why or why not. We hope you can take part: <https://www.mpd.govt.nz/.../annual.../rubbish-and-recycling>
  - **Mapuna Teresa Turner:** instead of rates increases. let the costs fall on the householder who must recycle their own household rubbish and not just dump it through collection. what is in that bag?
  - **Caron Stewart:** I'll tell you what... Matamata quite possibly has the best looking refuse centre there is! Those guys keep it so clean and tidy, it's a credit to you!

- **Matamata-Piako District Council** Thank you **Caron**, that's wonderful feedback. We'll be sure to pass it on to our team 😊
- **Zara Coughy:** **Ross Thomson** might be time to get a green rubbish bin instead \$3 for a rubbish bag I don't think so!!!!
- **Ross Thomson** **Zara Coughy:** omfg is it going up? yup go buy one.
- **Zara Coughy** Yep they are going up \$1 each!!!!
- **Matamata-Piako District Council:** Hi **Zara** and **Ross**, putting more on rubbish bags is one option but we can cover the shortfall in different ways - like putting more on the rates, and less on the rubbish bags, etc. The ideas we have are in our draft annual plan and we are taking the time now to ask if you agree or disagree with what we propose and why or why not, before anything is confirmed. If you go to <https://www.mpd.govt.nz/.../annual.../rubbish-and-recycling> you can have a play with the interactive sliders to see different ways we can cover that shortfall and how they would impact rates and fees. We're keen to hear what you think 😊
- **Gayle Dickson:** Stop! Enough with blaming rising costs. Minimise those bags. Use bins. Compost.
- **Caron Stewart:** **Gayle Dickson** I like the idea of bins and compost too but as far as rising costs... think about our personal costs that have increased- insurances, petrol, power etc. These costs have also increased for the council and when I look around at our community owned assets and services provided by council, I completely get that there has to be an increase in rates. I like the fact that lawns, parks and reserves are mowed, I like a clean, well kept refuse centre, I like that my rubbish is collected at my gate, I like that I have clean water and a flushable toilet. Much of the compliance associated with these things is government requirement, not specifically on a regional level. Council staff are ratepayers too and I think it's important to remember that where many pay weekly installments for their rates, this means less than \$3 extra per week. I'll give up half a coffee to continue getting their services!
- **Gayle Dickson:** **Caron Stewart** true... But timing!!!
- **Caron Stewart:** **Gayle Dickson** no one could have predicted this and regardless, no one can afford to sit on their hands until there's no concern. Grass will still grow, rubbish will still mount up, we will still need services (probably more than ever) and Council will not go bust in a couple of months 😊 no point being complacent, there are always solutions to short term problems.

**Matamata-Piako District Council - March 23 - “Growth is a great thing for our community, but it also comes at a cost. It means we get more roads, parks, and pipes to maintain, which increases our operating costs – such as needing more equipment, and more people. Growth also comes with additional planning costs. Go to <https://www.mpd.govt.nz/have-your-say/annual-plan/growth> to find out more about how we're budgeting for this, or to make a submission”.**

- **Lynice Richards:** I think that your timing is absolutely poor. You should be ashamed of yourselves at a time like this when everyone is about to become even poorer and more stressed with the shutdown of NZ. How could you possibly be thinking about budgeting and the raising of rates. And for what parks that people won't be using and for how long, and new roads that people probably won't be driving on anytime soon. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Just because you have more time to do nothing now, doesn't mean to say you should go and create more ways to spend people's money they dont have and won't have for sometime possibly. Shame on you MPDC. Government should hear about this one sooner rather than later!
- **Ann Armstrong:** Fair go. A more vital message right now is are you closing the library or any council services working on restricted public access.

- Matamata-Piako District Council: Hi there Ann, we are adhering to the Ministry of Health guidelines and are waiting until the government announces this afternoon at what level we are at before we can make a decision. We will let you know as soon as we decide anything which will be soon after 😊
- Ann Armstrong: Matamata-Piako District Council Thanks for that.
- Matamata-Piako District Council: Ann Armstrong following the Prime Minister's announcement all non-essential Council services, including Council offices are closing effective immediately. Essential services such as water, waste water, rubbish collection and cemetery services remain operational. You can still connect with us online and over the phone 0800 746467 and all online library services are available. We will be providing updates on Council related services via the Antenno app. For more information see our website. <https://www.mpd.govt.nz/.../3379-what-is-council-doing...> Anna McLoughlin

**Matamata-Piako District Council - April 8 - "Morrinsville, thank you for your amazing water conservation efforts, we know this hasn't been easy, but your hard work has paid off! Our water reservoirs are now looking much better. From today, Morrinsville has now been moved to level 3 - a full sprinkler ban. So currently, Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha are now all sitting at level 3 restrictions, which means only hand held hoses on alternate days. Any unnecessary watering is still banned for a little while longer until our reservoirs are replenished"**

- Todd Janes: Matamata-Piako District Council sort it out council, you are totally incompetent, 5 months on restrictions, don't blame a drought either, if you had sufficient storage we wouldn't be in this predicament.
- Tyson Price: Yes wash your car you pay hundreds in your rates it's there problem they were meant to make rates less when they stop providing us with rubbish bags but they didn't even 😊
- Todd Janes: Matamata-Piako District Council struggling families you say and yet you want to put our rates up over 6 % and can't even supply us with water properly, hope that rates increase is going to sort out water issues out.
  - Matamata-Piako District Council Todd Janes - we developed our budgets for next year and put these out for consultation, then the world changed dramatically. We've already said that the proposed 6.4% will not be going ahead, and that we are reworking our budgets. You can sign up to receive email updates from us on topics like this at [www.mpd.govt.nz/sign-up](http://www.mpd.govt.nz/sign-up)  
The water situation is a bit more complex - it's about balancing the need for expensive infrastructure, vs managing demand during peak periods. You can read more about how we plan for our water infrastructure and growth in our communities here: [www.mpd.govt.nz/water/water-restriction-faqs](http://www.mpd.govt.nz/water/water-restriction-faqs)

**Matamata-Piako District Council - April 16 - We need to adopt an Annual Plan, and we need to know what's important to you. We originally proposed a 6.4% rates increase, but are now investigating what a zero rates increase would mean for our community – what are the risks? What would that mean for the services we provide? And what costs might it mean for the community later on? We are taking time to ensure the decisions we make now are right for our community – so we need you to take the time to tell us what is important to you. Go to [mpdc.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://mpdc.govt.nz/haveyoursay) to tell Council what you think by 19 April.**

- Monique Alexander Denise Alexander only for rates and projects for the next year, doubt they will be looking at subdivision or changing rural rules :(
  - Matamata-Piako District Council: Depending on what you want to do, we do have a review coming up in the next couple of months that could be of interest. We're reviewing the rules for settlements - so the

small rural areas like Hinuera, Te Poi etc. Or if you have questions about the existing rules, give us a call on 0800 746 467 and ask to speak with the duty planner.

- Jan Heal As far as the rates are concerned what damage would it do if we kept them the same or looked at maybe a lesser percentage.
  - Matamata-Piako District Council: Jan Heal that's exactly what we're trying to understand at the moment. Our costs have increased - the district has grown, so we have more things to maintain, and we have stricter regulations to comply with from government. That's a lot of what was driving the proposed increase - so now we're trying to work out, if we don't increase the budget to cover those costs, what will that mean for our existing services? Council want to consider this information, as well as feedback from the community before making any final decisions.
- Chris Roberts Matamata-Piako District Council what I don't understand is that if the area is growing with more subdivision and sections being sold does that not mean more rates are being collected as a result instead of the one block of it once was
  - Matamata-Piako District Council Chris Roberts yip, it does. Growth in the last year means we will have about 2% more income from rates. The original proposed budget was an 8.4% increase, but because of that 2%, we were proposing a 6.4% rate increase. And this is factored into the 'zero' increase we're investigating as well - if we don't increase rates from what you paid last year, we'll still get that extra 2% from growth. And were currently trying to work out whether that will be enough to cover the essential cost increases, or what the other options are.

**Matamata-Piako Mayor Ash Tanner - April 7 - Hey everyone, here is today's update. If you are struggling to be able to pay your rates, give our team a call and we can work some arrangements out. 0800 746 467 There has been an increase in family violence over the lock down, so please be kind and show patience, we understand this is a really uncertain time.**

- Kathleen Bradley Rates should be put on hold some people don't have automatic payments set up
- Sherry Lindsay Kathleen Bradley I agree. Not everyone has phone banking either.
- Kathleen Bradley Shouldn't have to make a call they just let all us home owners know we don't pay any rates till further notice
- Allison Edwards Rates are going to be the death toll for many of our families in the matamata piako district many have lost their jobs and have no idea how to do it let alone feed their families so they will need assistance for months to come let alone bldy rates demands and penalties, let's get real people are going to be at least Christmas till this is totally done (hopefully) so come on Council go easy please especially for the many people who have lost their jobs and in some families that has been both the household so please don't put people in harms way.