

Submission by**Hamilton City Council****WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL – DRAFT 2021-31 LONG TERM PLAN****30 April 2021****1.0 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 Support the overall intent and direction of Waikato Regional Council's draft 2021-31 Long Term Plan.
- 1.2 Hamilton City Council requests Waikato Regional Council makes provision in its draft 2021-31 Long Term Plan for the funding of the Waikato Community Lands Trust.
- 1.3 Hamilton City Council supports the Sustainable Homes Programme to assist homeowners to make sustainable home improvements.
- 1.4 Hamilton City Council supports the Biodiversity Accord and requests the increase in resourcing to assist restoration efforts is directed to the Hamilton City gully network.
- 1.5 Hamilton City Council requests Waikato Regional Council makes provision in its draft 2021-31 Long Term Plan for collaboration on aligned regional visitor destinations.
- 1.6 Hamilton City Council supports the Waikato Regional Council's increased investment in Te Waka.
- 1.7 Hamilton City Council requests clarification of the treatment of the \$5 million passenger rail credit collected from Hamilton City ratepayers.
- 1.8 Hamilton City Council requests the consideration of a consistent regional passenger land transport targeted rate applied to all urban areas across the region in addition to the passenger transport rate currently applied only to Hamilton City ratepayers.
- 1.9 Hamilton City Council supports the proposal to extend the services operation for the passenger rail service.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Hamilton City Council supports the overall intent and direction of the Waikato Regional Council's draft 2021-31 Long Term Plan.
- 2.2 Hamilton City Council would like to acknowledge the value of our close working relationship with Waikato Regional Council through various regional partnerships such as Future Proof Te Tau Tiitoki, The Waikato Plan, the Regional Connections Committee, the Regional Transport Committee, the Integrated Catchment Management Committee and the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group as we collectively work to improve the wellbeing of our communities and region.
- 2.3 Hamilton City Council looks forward to further strengthening the collaborative interactions of our teams when they relocate close to Hamilton City Council in the CBD.
- 2.4 Hamilton City Council requests Waikato Regional Council considers the following in their deliberations on their draft 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

3.0 WAIKATO COMMUNITY LANDS TRUST

- 3.1 In 2019, Hamilton City Council supported the establishment of the Waikato Community Lands Trust with the aim to assist working families into affordable housing with security of tenure.
- 3.2 The Trust has been established with legal, charitable status and is independent of Hamilton City Council. It has a Waikato Region focus and is administered by independent and appropriately skilled volunteer Trustees.
- 3.3 The Trust is based on a successful Queenstown model that has enabled the delivery of over 170 homes in the Queenstown Lakes District, with more than 300 sites still to develop. This model ensures people can gain equity on their house as they pay back principal, but capital gains above inflation are retained by the Trust and recycled, thus preventing the continuation of unaffordable price brackets for new entrants. The Trust retains land ownership, and the property owners pay a nominal land lease while being housed.
- 3.4 Hamilton City Council contributed \$2 million of seed funding with the intention that other community Trusts, philanthropic organisations and councils would also contribute similar amounts to get it established.
- 3.5 Hamilton City Council has also contributed \$50,000, matching the WEL Energy Trust Vital Impact (Housing) grant, towards the Trust's operating costs and employment of a Trust Administrator.
- 3.6 Hamilton City Council asks that you consider matching our initial \$2 million funding (cash or land) to this very worthwhile cause that facilitates affordable housing in perpetuity for communities in the Waikato.
- 3.7 Through Hamilton City Council's District Plan review, Council is also considering the use of Inclusionary Zoning policies to enable a sustainable pipeline of sites to be provided to the Trust. Inclusionary Zoning refers to policies that require a portion of developments to be retained for affordable housing, often in return for greater density.

4.0 SUSTAINABLE HOMES SCHEME

- 4.1 Hamilton City Council supports the outcome of everyone in the Waikato Region to have a healthy home to live in by the creation of a Sustainable Homes Programme for the region. This programme will assist homeowners with loans to make sustainable improvements like water tank installation, insulation, double-glazing, heating, ventilation and solar power and septic tank upgrades. Hamilton City Council also recommends the Waikato Regional Council investigates how the Sustainable Homes Programme could further benefit residents experiencing housing stress and lower income households.

5.0 PROTECTING OUR BIODIVERSITY

- 5.1 Hamilton City Council supports developing a Biodiversity Accord with key partners in the Waikato Region, including Hamilton City. This will assist with the delivery of the City's Nature in the City Strategy and the Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy.
- 5.2 Hamilton City Council supports the investment of almost \$11 million over the 10 years for biodiversity outcomes and supports Waikato Regional Council's proposal **Option 2 - to start the work in Year 1.**
- 5.3 Hamilton City Council commends that you are proposing to continue to take a collective impact approach with ongoing partnership work that ranges from informing through to co-design to meet stated stakeholder needs. We would like to identify how Hamilton City Council and Waikato Regional Council can partner to deliver the Nature in the City work programme.
- 5.4 Hamilton City Council agrees this increase in resourcing will assist the restoration efforts of

communities and landowners, and we would like to understand more fully how the assistance will deliver 'on the ground' restoration efforts.

- 5.5 Hamilton City Council requests that an allocation of these resources is set aside for the Hamilton City gully network and the re-establishment of a conservation destination at the Hamilton Zoo-Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park.
- 5.6 Hamilton City Council requests a contribution of \$50,000 per year (being a 50% contribution) for the management of feral cats, as part of our programme for protecting biodiversity in the city.

6.0 REGIONAL VISITOR DESTINATIONS

- 6.1 Hamilton City Council is interested in working with Waikato Regional Council and neighbouring councils to explore the potential for aligned visitor and tourist information and collateral through structured collaboration via I-SITEs, museums and libraries as well as Hamilton-Waikato Tourism.
- 6.2 This increased collaboration can take visitors through river journey experiences, land wars journey experiences and conservation trail experiences that are unique to our region.

7.0 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

- 7.1 Hamilton City Council recognises and acknowledges the contribution made by Waikato Regional Council to the region's economic development initiatives, such as the proposed extended funding for Te Waka.
- 7.2 Hamilton City Council supports Waikato Regional Council's proposal to invest more in Te Waka, our regional economic development agency, lifting the investment from \$300,000 per annum to \$750,000 per annum.
- 7.3 Waikato's economic development ecosystem extends across many boundaries and is a truly regional collection of businesses, government entities, and communities. As such, an appropriately funded regional economic development agency such as Te Waka is a critical component to strengthening and growing a culture of collaboration and shared economic success in the Waikato.
- 7.4 The boundaryless, regional approach taken by Te Waka is also reflected in Hamilton City Council's Economic Development Agenda, which supports the Future Proof Te Tau Tiitoki strategy of a diverse and vibrant metropolitan centre strongly tied to distinctive, thriving towns and rural communities.
- 7.5 Importantly, Te Waka is also a vital resource that supports Hamilton City Council's work to contribute to Maaori wellbeings in Hamilton through the Waikato Region Maaori Economic Development Plan, increasing Maaori employment and career pathways through partnerships and projects.
- 7.6 Increased funding for Te Waka will support Hamilton City Council's work enabling our economic development success with initiatives that include sector-based action planning, partnerships with education providers, economic intelligence, a regional labour market strategy, employment initiatives, and the aggressive promotion of our value proposition for regional, national, and international investment opportunities.
- 7.7 Properly resourcing Te Waka will strengthen their partnership with Hamilton City Council as we both work to create economic conditions that are conducive to growth, investment, and new employment while providing the data, insights, tools and connections to support the needs of a wide range of organisations.

7.8 Without sufficient funding, Hamilton City Council is concerned that Waikato's economic development ecosystem will be unable to meet the moment and we could fail to bring the transformational investments and economic growth that would otherwise be possible.

8.0 PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE

8.1 Hamilton City Council supports Waikato Regional Council's proposal to extend the services operation from 2023/24 to an additional interpeak service on weekdays and to investigate the opportunities to extend the service from Papakura further into Auckland.

8.2 Hamilton City Council notes the proposed impact on Hamilton City ratepayers will be:

- 2021/22 - 53 cents per \$100,000 capital value.
- 2022/23 - 13 cents per \$100,000 capital value.
- 2023/24 - 1.61 cents per \$100,000 capital value.

8.3 Hamilton City Council requests clarification on the actual funding amount per annum generated from Hamilton City ratepayers by the proposed rate in the \$ amount and that this is disclosed in the final 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

8.4 Hamilton City Council also requests clarification on the treatment of the \$5m targeted rate collected from Hamilton City ratepayers for the passenger rail service. In particular, the application of the credit held over, and if this will be applied to the rates of Hamilton City ratepayers in 2021/22.

8.5 Our communities are increasingly travelling across our region in a boundaryless manner and therefore Hamilton City Council requests that Waikato Regional Council implements an integrated regional transport approach by creating a separate transport targeted rate on the urban areas across the region that can be used to fund regional transport initiatives. This would apply a consistent approach to all properties (not just Hamilton City properties) that benefit from the provision of bus and rail services.

8.6 Hamilton City Council supports the submission from the Hamilton-Auckland Passenger Rail Project Governance Working Group for the Regional Council to add two new projects for Year 1 (2021/22) of the 2021-31 Draft Long Term Plan. The projects are:

- Te Huia Push-Pull Safety Assessment; estimated cost \$250,000.
- Te Huia European Train Control System (ETCS) Retrofit; estimated cost \$2,200,000.

8.7 Both projects are essential requirements to allow the Te Huia Service to have the flexibility to use alternative timetable slots that assist with the service stopping at further Auckland metro stops such as Puhinui and the Strand. Hamilton City Council understands that discussions are ongoing in regard to a substantive Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency subsidy for these two projects.

8.8 Hamilton City Council also supports the submission from the Hamilton-Auckland Passenger Rail Project Governance Working Group to bring forward the Waikato Regional Council operational funding in Year 3 (2023/24) of the 2021-31 draft Long Term Plan to Year 1 (2021/22) to allow an interpeak service to commence.

9.0 FURTHER INFORMATION AND HEARINGS

- 9.1 Should the Waikato Regional Council require clarification of Hamilton City Council's submission, or additional information, please contact Liz Tuck (Corporate Planning Manager, Strategy and Research) on 07 8585775, email liz.tuck@hcc.govt.nz in the first instance.
- 9.2 Hamilton City Council **does wish to speak** in support of this submission at the hearings for Waikato Regional Council's draft 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

Yours faithfully



Richard Briggs
CHIEF EXECUTIVE