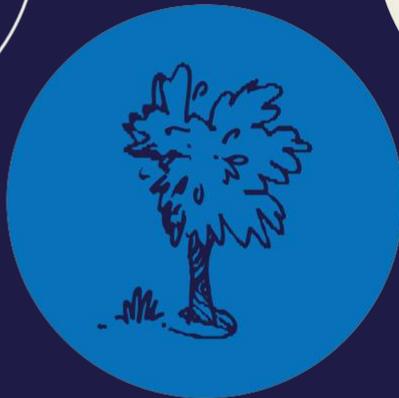
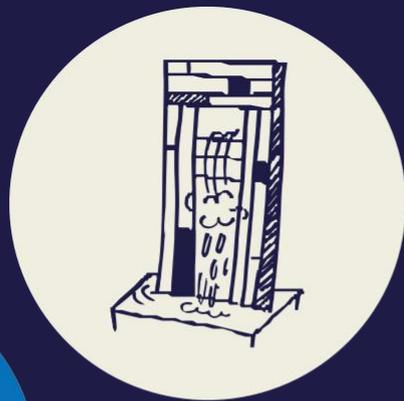


# HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION

## WEL Energy Trust 2022–23 Draft Annual Plan

WEL Energy Trust



17 March 2022



**Hamilton  
City Council**  
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

## Improving the Wellbeing of Hamiltonians

Hamilton City Council is focused on improving the wellbeing of Hamiltonians through delivering to our five priorities of shaping:

- A city that's easy to live in
- A city where our people thrive
- A central city where our people love to be
- A fun city with lots to do
- A green city

The topic of this submission is aligned to the priority 'A city where our people thrive'.

The five priorities set the direction for the city where Hamilton City Council can influence, collate, partner and deliver in actions that will improve/drive the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of our community. We see the WEL Energy Trust as a key partner to achieving this vision.

## Council Approval and Reference

This submission was approved by Hamilton City Council at its meeting held on 17 March 2022.

Hamilton City Council Reference D-4093742 - submission # 681

## Key Messages

1. Hamilton City Council encourages increased contribution to our priority areas and projects that is representative of being WEL Energy Trust's largest Capital Beneficiary.
2. Requests the Trust to co-fund the delivery of our Sports Parks Floodlighting project, which has been developed through a partnership with key sector and community stakeholders.
3. Hamilton City Council would like the opportunity to provide feedback into the Trust's 5-year Community Investment Strategy review.
4. Considers WEL Energy Trust as a key partner to supporting a city-wide solutions-focused approach to investment.

## Introduction and Specific Comments

5. Hamilton City Council welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the WEL Energy Trust's 2022-23 Draft Annual Plan.
6. Hamilton City Council support the overall direction and intent of the Trust's 2022-23 Draft Annual Plan.
7. As the largest Capital Beneficiary of the WEL Energy Trust, Hamilton City Council looks forward to building on the current working relationship it has with the Trust to create a strategic approach to investment. This will contribute to the intergenerational wellbeing of our community in Hamilton and the Waikato Region.
8. Hamilton City Council is committed to a strategic city-wide approach to projects and funding solutions that deliver the greatest benefits to our community. We see the Trust as a key partner in this.

## Support for Community Investment Alignment

9. We acknowledge the Trust's long-standing commitment to community grants and its social impact investment approach to deliver on regional priority projects.
10. We also note the reduction of funding to support core granting activities as set out in the 2022-23 Draft Annual Plan "Outcome Area - Effective Community Investment-Action Priorities".
11. We strongly believe there is greater opportunity to align with Hamilton City Council's Annual and Long-Term Plans, which is supported in the Trust's Deed i.e., "Clause 9.5 REGIONAL OR COMMUNITY PROJECTS OR GRANTS: The TRUSTEES in making decisions on projects or grants in accordance with clauses 9.3 (d) and 9.3 (e), will take into account the recommendations of the relevant TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES..."
12. Section 4 of the Trust's 2022-23 Draft Annual Plan (page 11) seeks feedback from the Capital Beneficiaries on three key questions:
  - *Question 1: How can the Trust optimise long-term capital growth of core investment in WEL Networks in terms of inter-generational benefit?*
  - *Question 2: How can the Trust better contribute to Capital Beneficiary priority areas?*
  - *Question 3: How can the Trust ensure we are engaging in inter-generational 'impactful' investing/granting that aligns with Capital Beneficiary strategy?*
13. Hamilton City Council invites an increased contribution by the Trust to our priority areas and projects. We strongly encourage funding approval through the Trust's annual contestable fund that is representative of being the largest Capital Beneficiary (63%) of the Trust.

14. Hamilton City Council's [five priorities](#) set the direction of where Council can invest, influence, collaborate, and partner to deliver actions that will improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of our community i.e., the four wellbeings as mandated by the Local Government Act.
15. Through community consultation and partnership with key community stakeholders, Hamilton City Council considers the Sports Parks Floodlighting Improvement Project as the most aligned project for funding at this time.
16. The project aligns with Hamilton City Council's priority of: Shaping a fun city with lots to do. Ahuahungia teetehi taaone ngahau e tini ai ngaa kaupapa papai hei whai.
17. This project aims to establish improved floodlighting facilities to 21 sport fields (5 Sports Parks) across Hamilton. Working with key sector and community stakeholders, this project will be delivered through a partnership approach.
18. The total cost of the project is \$4.5 Million. The total investment required to deliver this project as approved is \$1.3 Million.
19. This project is a critical component to create well-functioning and high performing network of sport facilities provides our sports community places that are inclusive for all to be active, have fun and socialise and connect.
20. Key benefits of the project include:
  - Provides increased activities and participation opportunities for all ages.
  - Provides cost-effective, energy efficient, and equitable infrastructure.
  - Increased capacity and usage by extending availability for training, postponed scheduled games and mid-week games.
  - Unlock infrastructure and interdependent developments to provide improved community facilities and asset management.
21. Hamilton City Council requests that the WEL Energy Trust co-fund this project through its upcoming contestable fund.

## Maximise Our Partnership for City-Wide Intergenerational Benefits

22. As with our submissions to the Trust's previous Draft Annual Plans, Hamilton City Council continues to support the Trust's Community Investment Strategy and notes in Section 1 that *"Informed by our stakeholders and community, the Trust will review and refresh the Community Investment Strategy for implementation by 1 April 2022"*.
23. Hamilton City Council would welcome the opportunity to provide input to the review and refresh of the Trust's Community Investment Strategy, particularly regarding review item 3 *"What the Trust's focus areas will be over the next three to five years and how we can work with other funders to deliver the greatest benefit to our community"*.
24. Hamilton City Council has undertaken a review of how we consider and attract funding for key projects, resulting in a realigned programme.
25. The aim of the realigned programme (City Investment Programme) will see a significant shift to a city-wide solutions-focused approach to investment.
26. Hamilton City Council, along with other city and regional leaders, will seek solutions together supporting intergenerational impactful investing with the needs and benefits of our community at the forefront of our decision making. We consider the Trust to be a key investment partner.

27. This will deliver and drive enduring social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing for the community.

## Further Information and Hearing

28. Should the WEL Energy Trust require clarification of the submission from Hamilton City Council, or additional information, please contact **Lisa Topcsov** (External Funding Manager - Major Projects) on 07 929 2715 or 027 808 2971, email [lisa.topcsov@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:lisa.topcsov@hcc.govt.nz) in the first instance.
29. Hamilton City Council **does wish to speak** in support of this submission at the WEL Energy Trust's hearing that is scheduled for 22 March 2022.

Yours faithfully



**Lance Vervoort**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Hamilton City Council  
Garden Place, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton

 /HamiltonCityCouncil

 @hamiltoncitycouncil

 07 838 6699

**hamilton.govt.nz**