

## Submission by

# Hamilton City Council

## CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE (ZERO CARBON) AMENDMENT BILL

2 July 2019

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hamilton City Council (HCC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.
- 1.2 HCC is committed to adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change and supports the intention and direction of the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2016, Hamilton City Council adopted a set of sustainability principles which underpin how sustainability is considered in the Council's decision-making processes and operations. This includes the principle: *"HCC works with central government to deliver on national greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and supports resilience to climate change in our communities"*.
- 2.2 As such, HCC is actively engaged in a number of initiatives which contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change. Major initiatives include:
  - A significant investment in walking and cycling infrastructure, including \$52m of biking plan projects and a doubling of the footpath maintenance and repair budget.
  - A Mass Transit Plan for the city, produced with Waikato Regional Council, the NZ Transport Agency and neighbouring districts, to enable the movement of more people more efficiently.
  - Working with the Government and other partners on progressing a passenger rail service between Hamilton and Auckland.
  - Replacement of Hamilton's streetlights with new energy efficient LED lanterns (with a 50% reduction in energy usage over standard streetlights).
  - The development and extension of Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park.
  - The introduction of a new kerbside rubbish and recycling service in 2020, which aims to significantly reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.
  - An Energy Management Programme, which includes a Carbon Emissions Reduction Programme and has resulted in millions of kilowatt hours of energy saved since 2001.
  - A draft Biodiversity Strategy that aims to significantly increase the level of indigenous vegetation in Hamilton and restore the region's biodiversity.

### 3.0 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION AND HEARINGS

- 3.1 Hamilton City Council is due to meet on 8 August 2019 to consider wider issues relating to climate change, including consideration of the implications and obligations of declaring a 'climate change emergency'.
- 3.2 **Please note that HCC will be providing supplementary information to this submission after the report on climate change issues is considered at the 8 August 2019 Council meeting.**
- 3.3 HCC **does wish to speak** in support of this submission at the hearings for the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.
- 3.4 Should Parliament's Environment Committee require clarification of the above points, or additional information, please contact Sean Hickey (General Manager, Strategy and Communication) on 07 838 6432, email [sean.hickey@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:sean.hickey@hcc.govt.nz) in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



**Richard Briggs**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**