

Submission by**Hamilton City Council****WEL ENERGY TRUST'S 2021/22 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN****19 March 2021****1.0 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 As the WEL Energy Trust's largest Capital Beneficiary, we wish to build on the excellent partnership and working relationship HCC has with the Trust to progress increased community wellbeing in Hamilton and the Waikato Region.
- 1.2 HCC has a clear vision for Hamilton and has developed five priorities that set the direction for the city where HCC can influence the wellbeing of our community. We see the Trust as a key partner to achieving this vision.
- 1.3 Would like the opportunity to provide input to the review of the Trust's 5-year Community Investment Strategy.
- 1.4 Invites the Trust to partner with HCC in co-funding the delivery of Hamilton's priorities and aspirations as we are shaping the city that improves the wellbeing of those who live here now and the generations to come.
- 1.5 Requests that the Trust consider ringfencing a dedicated annual budget to support key projects of Capital Beneficiaries as Income Beneficiaries, rather than requiring them to enter through the annual contestable funding rounds.
- 1.6 The WEL Energy Trust and HCC could then develop annual partnership agreements to ensure that funding meets mutual goals and aspirations delivering impactful inter-generational outcomes.
- 1.7 Submits a variation request to the Annual Plan that the Trust enter into a co-funding arrangement for a number of key projects that will have immense benefit for Hamilton and the Waikato Region i.e. Hamilton Zoo/Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park Projects; Rototuna Pool; CBD River Walking and Cycling Bridge.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Hamilton City Council (HCC) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the WEL Energy Trust's 2021/22 Draft Annual Plan.
- 2.2 As the largest Capital Beneficiary of the WEL Energy Trust, HCC looks forward to building on the excellent partnership and working relationship that it has with the Trust to progress increased community wellbeing in Hamilton and the Waikato Region.
- 2.3 HCC has a clear vision for Hamilton and has developed five priorities that set the direction for the city where 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 Trust as a key partner to achieving this vision.

- 2.4 HCC acknowledges and endorses the Trust's commitment to community grants and its social impact investment approach to deliver on regional priority projects.
- 2.5 This submission also includes a formal variation request to the Trust's Annual Plan to co-fund a number of key projects that will have immense benefit for Hamilton and the Waikato Region.

3.0 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2019-22

- 3.1 The Draft Plan notes in Section 1 that *"Informed by our stakeholders and community, the Trust will review and refresh the 5-year Community Investment Strategy by Dec. 2021"*.
- 3.2 HCC would welcome the opportunity to provide input to the review/refresh of the Trust's 5-year Community Investment Strategy.
- 3.3 We wish to partner with the Trust to ensure that the Investment Strategy and the city's five priorities are aligned to fund projects that will make the most difference for our communities.

4.0 KEY QUESTIONS FROM THE TRUST TO CAPITAL BENEFICIARIES

- 4.1 Section 4 of the Trust's 2021/22 Draft Annual Plan (page 11) seeks feedback from the three Capital Beneficiaries on three key questions:

- 4.2 **Question 1:** *How can we engage on long-term capital growth expectations for the core investment in WEL Networks in terms of inter-generational benefit?*

- 4.3 **Question 2:** *How can we better contribute to Capital Beneficiary priority areas?*

- 4.4 **Question 3:** *How can we ensure we are engaging in inter-generational 'impactful' investing/granting that aligns with Capital Beneficiary strategy?*

4.5 Five Priorities Guiding Hamilton's Direction

- 4.6 Everything HCC does is aimed at improving the wellbeing of Hamiltonians. HCC makes decisions on a daily basis that impact the future of our city and the wellbeing of Hamiltonians.
- 4.7 HCC has a clear vision for Hamilton and has engaged in extensive community feedback to help develop five priorities that will ensure Hamilton becomes one of the very best places in the world to live.
- 4.8 The five priorities ([click here](#)) set the direction of where HCC can influence, collate, partner and deliver in actions that will improve/drive the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of our community i.e. the four well-beings as prescribed in the Local Government Act.
- 4.9 These priorities will shape future decisions, including HCC's 2021-31 Long-Term Plan, which sets the budget and projects for the next 10 years.
- 4.10 Hamilton's five priorities are:
 - **Shaping a city that's easy to live in.** *Ahuahungia teetehi taane e tau ai ten oho ki roto.*
 - **Shaping a city where our people thrive.** *Ahuahungia teetehi taane e puaawai ai ngaa taangata katoa.*
 - **Shaping a central city where people love to be.** *Ahuahungia te pokapuu o teetehi taane arohaina ai e te taangata.*
 - **Shaping a fun city with lots to do.** *Ahuahungia teetehi taane ngahau e tini ai ngaa kaupapa papai hei whai.*
 - **Shaping a green city.** *Ahuahungia teetehi taane tiaki taiao.*

4.11 **Proposed Dedicated Annual Budget and Partnership Agreement**

- 4.12 HCC invites the WEL Energy Trust to partner with us in co-funding the delivery of Hamilton's priorities and aspirations as we are shaping the city that improves the wellbeing of those who live here now and the generations to come.
- 4.13 Hamilton's five priorities are focused on delivery of long-term benefits to ensure community well-being, which aligns with the Trust's own view of delivering intergenerational impact.
- 4.14 HCC suggests that the WEL Energy Trust consider setting aside a dedicated annual budget to support key projects of Capital Beneficiaries as Income Beneficiaries, rather than requiring them to enter through the annual contestable funding rounds.
- 4.15 The WEL Energy Trust and HCC could then develop annual partnership agreements to ensure that funding meets mutual goals and aspirations delivering impactful inter-generational outcomes.

5.0 **APPLICATION FOR DELIVERY OF KEY CITY/REGIONAL PROJECTS IN 2021/22**

5.1 **Variation Request**

- 5.2 HCC, as a Capital Beneficiary and an Income Beneficiary of WEL Energy Trust, submits a variation request to the Trust's Annual Plan for funding to support delivery of a number of key city/regional projects.
- 5.3 HCC is mindful of the intergenerational benefits of identified key projects that align with WEL Energy Trust's 5-Year Strategic Plan, Community Investment Strategy and Annual Plan.
- 5.4 As the Trust's largest Capital Beneficiary, HCC acknowledges there is significant capital to receive when the Trust winds up. However, HCC does not want to save all of the benefits for capital beneficiaries in 2073 as there is great need now.
- 5.5 We believe there is a perfect opportunity to partner strategically with WEL Energy Trust Trustees over the next 3 years to deliver projects that will produce enhanced strategic outcomes/benefit for the city and region.

6.0 **THE KEY PROJECTS**

- 6.1 HCC has identified key projects through our engagement with the community about what would make Hamilton better for them. These are:

- **Hamilton Zoo/Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park Projects**
- **Rototuna Pool**
- **CBD River Walking and Cycling Bridge**

6.2 **Hamilton Zoo/Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park Projects**

- 6.3 The planned capital development projects establish new and greatly improved visitor facilities physically combine and profile the Hamilton Zoo and Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park as one of the region's premier eco-tourism conservation destinations.
- 6.4 The partnership funding options range from \$2,000,000 to \$7,717,000.
- 6.5 The Hamilton Zoo-Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park projects aligns with the priority of shaping a fun city with lots to do. The projects will:
- Provide new accessible visitor amenities.
 - Significantly improve multimodal transport connections.
 - Enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure.

- Increase cultural heritage benefits.
- Increase visitor numbers to the conservation destination.
- Increase annual revenue.
- Deliver an additional regional tourism asset in Hamilton alongside the Hamilton Gardens.

6.6 **Rototuna Pool**

6.7 The aquatic facility at Rototuna Village will positively impact on quality place making outcomes, being an important element in anchoring the Village Square, and will also positively impact on enhanced services, safety, economic activity and community identity.

6.8 The partnership funding options range from \$1,000,000 to \$2,500,000.

6.9 The Rototuna Pool aligns with the priority of shaping a city that's easy to live in. The project will:

- Contribute to the lack of swim space and the importance of children learning to swim and learning water safety skills.
- Contribute to social connectivity and reduction in mental health rates.
- Deliver positive benefits of physical activity including for older adults.
- Enable Hamilton City Council to meet its community commitments but to retain investment for other areas requiring a greater degree of subsidy.

6.10 **CBD River Walking and Cycling Bridge**

6.11 This transformational project delivers a functional pedestrian and cycle bridge connecting the central city to Hamilton East and Eastern Suburbs.

6.12 The partnership funding options range from \$2,000,000 to \$6,972,000.

6.13 The CBD River Walking and Cycling Bridge project aligns with the priority of shaping a central city where people love to be. The project will:

- Provide more transport options and links into and out of the central city reducing congestion and parking demand.
- Provide the required infrastructure to make cycling and walking safer and more attractive as transport modes across Hamilton.
- Multiply the attraction of the central city river zone and bolster touring links to riverside features such as the Waikato Museum, Victoria on the River, Memorial and Parana Parks, Te Awa River Ride and the future Waikato Regional Theatre.
- Foster civic pride and amplify the city's sense of identity.
- Give greater substance to the city's cognitive/spiritual relationship with both the awa and Mana Whenua.

6.14 Additional high-level information on the key projects and the linkage these projects have to Hamilton's five priorities, wellbeing outcomes and a summary of investment has been provided in Appendix A.

6.15 We look forward to exploring the partnership investment options for each key project with the WEL Energy Trust further.

7.0 FURTHER INFORMATION AND HEARING

- 7.1 Should the WEL Energy Trust require clarification of the above points, or additional information, please contact Inde King (Partnerships Manager - Major Projects) on 07 959 9065, 027 808 6929, or email inde.king@hcc.govt.nz in the first instance.
- 7.2 HCC **does wish to speak** in support of this submission at the WEL Energy Trust's hearing that is scheduled for 23 March 2021.

Yours faithfully



Richard Briggs
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

APPENDIX A

HAMILTON ZOO-WAIWHAKAREKE NATURAL HERITAGE PARK PROJECTS

The planned capital development projects establish new and greatly improved visitor facilities physically combine and profile the Hamilton Zoo and Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park as one of the region’s premier eco-tourism conservation destinations.

The projects will:

- Provide new accessible visitor amenities.
- Significantly improve multimodal transport connections.
- Enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure.
- Increase cultural heritage benefits.
- Increase visitor numbers to the conservation destination.
- Increase annual revenue.
- Deliver an additional regional tourism asset in Hamilton alongside the Hamilton Gardens.

These key projects contribute to the social, environmental, cultural and economic wellbeing of our city and directly aligns and support the Waikato Wellbeing Project and associated UN Sustainable Development Goals as outlined below:

Alignment with Hamilton’s Five Priorities:

- **Shaping a fun city with lots to do.** Ahuahungia teetehi taaone ngahau e tini ai nga kaupapa papai hei whai.
- Investing in Hamilton Zoo-Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park is specifically identified in our second focus area under this priority to create new and unique experiences for our people and visitors.

Here are the positive outcomes we will achieve:

	Social Wellbeing	Hamilton Zoo-Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park provides opportunities for informal play and recreation in Hamilton. A key purpose of the site is connecting people with nature and all the acknowledged benefits (physical, mental and social) this brings. The conservation destination’s peaceful, natural landscapes complement our active city environment and contribute to our community’s mental as well as physical wellbeing. The urbanisation of Brymer Road will promote strong and safe pedestrian and cycling connectivity with the community and the destination centres. Less tangible but equally important, social commitment to the ‘greening’ of our urban landscapes and increasing our environmental awareness contributes to stronger social wellbeing and civic participation outcomes.
	Economic Wellbeing	This project will deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased job opportunities. • Growth to the local economy. • Increased revenue to re-invest in service delivery. • New Tourism offerings / access to new markets. • Increased visitor spending and supports overnight stay in the region. • New business development opportunities for mana whenua.

	<p>Environmental Wellbeing</p>	<p>Hamilton Zoo-Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park is a conservation destination and this project has significant potential to further enhance environmental wellbeing in Hamilton. Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park is a unique and important asset for improving biodiversity outcomes within the city. The work undertaken by the Zoo promotes and contributes to preservation, conservation and environmental education work both within New Zealand and internationally e.g. preservation of Southern White Rhino population through breeding programme, native Whio (blue duck) and Pateke (brown teal) breed for release programmes. Improving the infrastructure for these facilities includes providing greater access and education opportunities for residents and visitors alike.</p>
	<p>Cultural Wellbeing</p>	<p>Hamilton Zoo-Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park is acknowledged as an important site for Maaori and therefore provides key opportunities to partner meaningfully with Iwi and Mana Whenua to enhance cultural wellbeing. Waiwhakareke speaks strongly to local Maaori heritage and will provide an opportunity for the community to have insights into the city's landscape pre-European settlement. As a significant cultural site for Mana Whenua, Waiwhakareke provides an important space where all cultures can gather and share knowledge and experiences. Mana Whenua (Te Haa o te whenua o Kirikiriroa -THaWK) continues to work in close partnership with this project and the opportunities to strengthen the cultural wellbeing outcomes are regularly being discussed and explored as we progress through the stages of development.</p>

Waikato Wellbeing Project and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

This project makes its most significant contribution towards UN Sustainable Development Goal 15 - Life on Land and the Waikato Wellbeing Target to prevent loss of existing indigenous vegetation and increase indigenous habitat in biodiversity depleted environments to a minimum of 10% land cover by 2030. This project is driving the restoration of land, clean water, enabling our native vegetation and flora and fauna to thrive.

This project also supports:

- UN SDG 13 – Climate Action and WWP Target of reducing carbon emissions by a minimum of 25% by 2030, on the path to net carbon zero by 2050 through the planting of 50,000 trees.
- UN SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being and WWP Target of reducing rates of non-communicable diseases and mental illness improve associated health equity outcomes for target groups as Waiwhakareke is a free and accessible conservation destination.
- UN SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities and UN SDG 4 – Quality Education by delivering education programmes promoting conservation and providing a space for people to connect with nature within an urban setting.
- UN SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals as the vision and delivery of this project is in collaboration with mana whenua to ensure that Maatauranga and Te Ao Maaori principles are embedded into the conservation destination.

HCC Investment Summary:

Project	Project Description	Total Budget	10 Years 2021-2031
Zoo and Waiwhakareke Entrance Precinct	Continuation of current Zoo/Waiwhakareke entrance precinct project (Stage 1). This project is underway.	\$1,642,000* (55% funded)	Year 1
Zoo Master Plan Implementation – Savannah Accom Stage 1	This plan is to complete an accommodation option based on a safari-style experience overlooking the Savannah exhibit where the giraffes and zebra gather. Feasibility, design and any pre-requisite enabling works will be essential to the delivery of an accommodation offering and attractive visitor experience.	\$4,745,000	Years 1, 2
Zoo/Waiwhakareke Shared Entry Precinct – Stage 2 – Visitor Connections	This stage will introduce carparks for both Zoo and Waiwhakareke, which will bring both sides of the precinct together with stormwater management and landscaping. The programme of works will deliver infrastructure upgrades to enable an enhanced visitor arrival precinct, enhanced visitor experiences, creating a third visitor destination within the city, infrastructure to support the local community (café and function spaces) and safer pedestrian, cycle and vehicle access and parking. Ultimately it should deliver an increased length of stay and spend per visitor both within the City and in the wider region thereby improving economic outcomes.	\$4,009,000	Years 1, 2
Waiwhakareke Development Programme	To continue development of the City's flagship natural heritage park amenities by developing further path networks required for public use and enhancing the attractiveness of the Zoo and Waiwhakareke as a visitor destination.	\$1,444,000	Years 5, 6
Zoo Master Plan Implementation – Animal Exhibit Projects	Design and construction of two medium sized animal exhibits (one in Years 1-3 and another Years 4-6). This Masterplan will increase visitation and ensure that people have fresh reasons to continue to enjoy and visit the zoo. A regular schedule for new/refreshed experiences is critical to our success as a visitor destination and our reputation as a quality modern conservation centre. The new exhibits are in line with projects identified in the Zoo Master Plan and offer an opportunity for improvement from a visitor perspective and build upon a modern conservation	\$2,893,000	Year 6

Project	Project Description	Total Budget	10 Years 2021-2031
	centre brand. This plan demonstrates our commitment to providing exemplary animal welfare, and responds to the changing standards, compliance and priorities for modern zoos.		
Zoo/Waiwhakareke Shared Entry Precinct – Stage 3 – Function and Education Centre	This stage plans to build a new function and education centre with toilets, outdoor spaces, providing for overnight education stays, kitchen/staff area complete with landscaping. The overall programme outcome is to enhance the biodiversity and green infrastructure of the park. It will offer an attractive hub to the community and visitors to gather and enjoy and enable further business opportunities through new experiences and events, enhances education offerings and contributes to the city's tourism portfolio and broader economic growth.	\$7,717,000* (unfunded)	Years 9, 10
Hamilton Zoo Renewals	Renewal of Zoo buildings, structures, animal enclosures, plant & equipment, infrastructure and site assets. Major renewals include – Reception (year 1), quarantine/back of house buildings (year 4), free flight aviary (year 5).	\$29,338,000	Years 1-10
ZAA Safety and Compliance Requirements	Various safety and compliance works at Zoo. Projects in first years including off display animal management systems, keeper safety, giraffe house works.	\$3,140,000	Years 1-10



ROTOTUNA POOL

The aquatic facility at Rototuna Village will positively impact on quality place making outcomes, being an important element in anchoring the Village Square, and will also positively impact on enhanced services, safety, economic activity and community identity.

Further benefits include:

- Contribution to the lack of swim space and the importance of children learning to swim and learning water safety skills.
- Contribution to social connectivity and reduction in mental health rates.
- Positive benefits of physical activity including for older adults.
- Enables Hamilton City Council to meet its community commitments but to retain investment for other areas requiring a greater degree of subsidy.

Alignment with Hamilton's Five Priorities:

- **Shaping a city that's easy to live in.** Ahuahungia teetehi taaone e tau ai ten oho ki roto.
- Investing in Rototuna Pool is aligned with our fifth focus area putting more focus on our neighbourhoods having a community identity and supporting community spaces across our city.

Here are the positive outcomes we will achieve:

	Social Wellbeing	The pool at Rototuna has the potential to strongly enhance social wellbeing at Rototuna village and for the city by including places for social connection and activity.
	Economic Wellbeing	A key economic benefit of the pool in this location is the increased footfall that the facility will generate in the village. This in turn will improve the economic viability for other businesses in the village over the long term. Completion of the pool alongside the library and hub, play spaces, Korikori Park and other public realm will accelerate commercial and residential development, of which there is significant areas set aside in the immediate vicinity. This development will in turn, provide short term employment for construction related trades and assist in reducing the housing shortage.
	Environmental Wellbeing	The facilities included within the pool development provide crucial end of journey facilities (showers and changing rooms) which may be used by workers cycling/running to the village.
	Cultural Wellbeing	Mana Whenua (Te Haa o te whenua o Kirikiriroa - THaWK) works in close partnership on the overall Rototuna Village project and the opportunities to strengthen the cultural wellbeing outcomes are being incorporated as we progress through the stages of development.

Waikato Wellbeing Project and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

This project makes its most significant contribution towards UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being and the Waikato Wellbeing Target by 2030, reduce rates of non-communicable diseases and mental illness and improve associated health equity outcomes for target groups.

This project also supports:

- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities.
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

HCC Investment Summary:

Project	Project Description	Total Budget	10 Years 2021-2031
Rototuna Pool	Costs associated with Community use of a private commercial pool at Rototuna Village.	\$1,000,000 - \$2,500,000* unfunded	Year 2



CBD RIVER WALKING AND CYCLING BRIDGE

This transformational project delivers a functional pedestrian and cycle bridge connecting the central city to Hamilton East and Eastern Suburbs. At present none of the city’s road bridges are suitable for unconfident or child bike and scooter riders, meaning the river is currently a city-long physical barrier to an integrated off-road cycle and foot path network, suppressing the numbers willing to commute by bike, scooter or foot.

This project will:

- Provide more transport options and links into and out of the central city reducing congestion and parking demand.
- Provide the required infrastructure to make cycling and walking safer and more attractive as transport modes across Hamilton.
- Multiply the attraction of the central city river zone and bolster touring links to riverside features such as the Waikato Museum, Victoria on the River, Memorial and Parana Parks, Te Awa River Ride and the future Waikato Regional Theatre.
- Foster civic pride and amplify the city’s sense of identity.
- Give greater substance to the city’s cognitive/spiritual relationship with both the awa and Mana Whenua.

Alignment with Hamilton’s Five Priorities:

- **Shaping a central city where people love to be.** Ahuahungia te pokapuu o teetehi taonee arohaina ai e te taangata.
- Investing in the CBD River Walking and Cycling Bridge is aligned with our first focus area to strengthen the connection and access between the city centre and the Waikato River, and our fifth focus area to make it easy to get into and around the city through a range of alternative travel options.

Here are the positive outcomes we will achieve:

	<p>Social Wellbeing</p>	<p>The bridge will add to the creation of a fun city with lots to do, by providing an iconic structure that is part of the journey and entry into Hamilton’s central city, supporting access to key destinations in the city. It provides a safe walking and cycling connection between the destinations of the central city and Hamilton East, allowing people to move quickly and easily.</p>
	<p>Economic Wellbeing</p>	<p>The project establishes a city where our people thrive, by investing in infrastructure that supports Hamilton as an attractive place to do business, by providing easy and safe connections to the central city. The associated paths from this project encourages people using the Te Awa River Ride and Te Araroa trail to venture into the central city, which will support local business.</p>
	<p>Environmental Wellbeing</p>	<p>By encouraging walking and cycling, this project provides the opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint and use alternative transport modes. The construction of the bridge will need to balance the natural and built environment, having as light a touch as possible on the environmental values of the Waikato River. The CBD walking-cycling bridge removes a barrier to low-carbon transport arising from safety concerns for cyclists on alternative river crossings.</p>

	<p>Cultural Wellbeing</p>	<p>This project assists in reconnecting the Waikato Museum with the central city by generating pedestrian and cycle movement on the back doorstep increasing exposure and awareness of our cultural heritage. This project strengthens the connection between the Waikato River and the city, providing a new viewing point and opportunity for people to pause and connect with the awa in a pleasant environment.</p>
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Waikato Wellbeing Project and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

This project makes its most significant contribution towards UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Climate Action and the Waikato Wellbeing Target to reduce carbon emissions by a minimum of 25% by 2030 (from 13.8 mega tonnes CO₂e to 10.3 mega tonnes CO₂e), on the path to net carbon zero by 2050. This project is supporting the shift to an integrated, sustainable, multi-modal transportation system in Hamilton’s CBD.

This project also supports:

- UN SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being.
- UN SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- UN SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

HCC Investment Summary:

Project	Project Description	Total Budget	10 Years 2021-2031
<p>CBD Walking and Cycling Bridge</p>	<p>The construction of a new walking and cycling bridge across the Waikato River. The bridge will create a new way for people to walk, bike, scoot and skate to and from the central city and the eastern side of the river, schools in Hamilton East and The University of Waikato. It will also act as a destination and centrepiece for wider riverside developments, supporting the long-held desire to face the central city towards the river.</p>	<p>\$27,888,000* (75% funded)</p>	<p>Years 1-4</p>

