



**Hamilton City Council Submission**

**Waikato District Council's  
2024/25 Draft Annual Plan  
(Consultation Document)**

**Waikato District Council**

**26 April 2024**



# 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 Council submission is aligned to all of Hamilton City Council's five priorities.

## Council Approval and Reference

This Council submission was approved under delegated authority by members of the Waikato District Council and Waipā District Council/Hamilton City Council Governance Group on 26 April 2024.

Submission # 762.

## Introduction

1. Hamilton City Council welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to **Waikato District Council's 2024/25 Draft Annual Plan (Consultation Document)**.
2. Hamilton City Council supports the direction of Waikato District Council's 2024/25 Draft Annual Plan, recognising the significant financial constraints that are impacting local government across the country and the ongoing uncertainty regarding new waters legislation.
3. Along with many other councils throughout New Zealand, Hamilton City Council is facing significant rates rises across the forthcoming years to continue to provide existing levels of service, without considering additional investment to keep pace with projected growth.
4. As these affordability issues are impacting all of local government, ongoing collaboration between our two councils, looking at further opportunities for shared services and efficiencies, and innovative solutions for three waters will become increasingly more important.
5. We look forward to continuing to work closely through our governance and staff relationships as we navigate the challenges ahead.

## Collaborative Investment Priorities

6. Through Future Proof, a number of sub-regional priorities have been identified and agreed to by the partners, including strategic infrastructure projects such as the Southern Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Pukete Wastewater Treatment Plant, and other wastewater upgrades.
7. We look forward to continuing discussions in line with the Detailed Business Case on the funding models for how Waikato communities connect to these facilities in the future.

## Three Waters

8. We recognise that Watercare has given notice that it will cease its contract with Waikato District Council in 2026, which requires a new approach to delivering waters services.
9. We note that Waikato District Council and Hamilton City Council have commenced due diligence, and we look forward to working together as we jointly explore water delivery options.
10. It is likely we will need to seek external advice and resource that both our councils will need to address as we move at pace to meet the Government's requirement for a Water Delivery Plan by 30 June 2025.

## Opportunities for Operational Efficiencies

11. Noting the significant funding challenges that local government is facing, Hamilton City Council seeks to continue to work closely with neighbouring councils on opportunities for shared services that may provide cost savings for ratepayers.
12. We have a number of successful cross-boundary arrangements in place for existing services, and we look forward to future discussions on these and other collaborative opportunities.

## Further Information and Hearings

13. Should Waikato District Council require clarification of the submission from Hamilton City Council, or additional information, please contact **Hannah Windle** (Special Projects Manager - Strategy, Growth and Planning Group) on **027 1800 2316** or email [hannah.windle@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:hannah.windle@hcc.govt.nz) in the first instance.

14. Hamilton City Council representatives welcome the opportunity to have ongoing discussions around the content of this submission with Waikato District Council.
15. Hamilton City Council representatives **do not wish to speak** at the hearings that are scheduled to commence on 14 May 2024.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'LVA', is positioned above the printed name.

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

Hamilton City Council  
Garden Place, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton

 /HamiltonCityCouncil

 @hamiltoncitycouncil

 07 838 6699

**hamilton.govt.nz**