

Submission ID: 440

Date: Apr 10 24 10:10:26 am

Name:

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation) Te Niaotanga ō Mataatua ō Te Arawa [Matatā Wastewater Project Co-design Group]

How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?

Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:

How should we manage foodwaste collection?

Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:

How quickly should we close our funding gap?

Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:

How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?

Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:

Supporting document

Attached

Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?

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3 April 2024

Steph O'Sullivan  
The Chief Executive  
Whakatāne District Council  
14 Commerce Street,  
WHAKATĀNE

Tēnā Koe Steph,

**Submission on the Whakatāne District Council's Long-Term Plan 2024-34 from Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa**

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to submit on Whakatāne District Council's ("the Council") Long-Term Plan 2024 - 34.

Enclosed within this correspondence are the submission points from Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa [Matatā Wastewater Project Co-design Group]. We firmly believe that these points will positively impact our region's ongoing development and the well-being of our communities.

Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa acknowledges the Council's involvement in the project and endorses the collaborative co-design approach embraced for the Matatā Wastewater Project.

Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa **wishes to be heard** in support of its submission. We look forward to your confirmation of a time and date to present our submission.

We have also enclosed copies of our recent community engagement materials as background for the project and our submission.

If you have specific enquiries related to the submission, please feel free to contact Janeane Joyce (Matatā Wastewater Project, Project Manager) at 021 245 7631.

██████████

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### ***Summary of submission:***

1. Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa endorses the collaborative co-design approach embraced by the Whakatane District Council for the Matata Wastewater Project. This approach seeks to ensure a cultural lens is applied, recognising the importance of tangata whenua's relationship with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.
2. Several significant consequences will persist in the absence of an appropriate wastewater treatment and disposal solution in Matata. These include heightened public health risks due to potential waterborne diseases and environmental degradation caused by increased nutrients and microbial contaminants. Furthermore, there is cultural abhorrence associated with the discharge of wastewater into water, further emphasising the need for an effective solution.
3. Recognising the cultural principles that underpin the project, the iwi and hapu members of Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa have expressed a strong preference for treatment with subsequent discharge to land.
4. Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa supports the proposed funding allocation of \$37.75 million as detailed on page 44 of the 2024-34 Draft LTP - Consultation – Infrastructure Strategy, noting that a portion of this will be contingent on external funding.
5. Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa supports the Council to seek alternative co-funding for the project, in acknowledgement of the significant funding pressures being faced by local government nationwide. To support this, Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa have also submitted on the BoP Regional Council Draft LTP 2024-34 seeking support, including future financial support, for the Matata Wastewater Project, in alignment with Council's draft Long Term Plan.

### ***The problem***

Matata township does not currently have a reticulated wastewater system, and individual properties rely on existing on-site septic tanks and land application fields, which, in some cases, are failing or are unsuitable for their environment, such as in areas with high groundwater. Recent results from seeps within the town centre, where groundwater emerges, have shown microbial and nutrient levels consistent with that which pose a risk to human health. The most likely source of this contamination is from septic tanks. These issues will not be rectified by simply replacing these systems, particularly as there are many properties that would be unable to install a system that

would meet AS/NZS 1547:2012, thereby making them uninhabitable. To reiterate, the issue with septic tanks in Matatā isn't necessarily that they are worse than elsewhere. Rather, it's the unique geomorphology of the area that limits septic tank effluent from properly soaking into the ground. In some cases, effluent may be confined to shallow groundwater or restricted from soaking away, which then leads to issues such as people being exposed to effluent via overland flow or where it emerges in shallow seeps within the town itself. Council and the BoP Regional Council have been conducting regular monitoring of streams in the Matatā township and of Te Awa o Te Atua [Matatā Lagoon].

The monitoring results have shown elevated levels of faecal indicator bacteria and nutrients in surface water bodies within the township, especially downstream, where human faecal sources have been prevalent at several sites. The most likely source of this contamination is from septic tanks and land application fields that have failed or are unsuitable for their environment. These issues pose a public health risk and are contributing to the degradation of the environment and water quality. As a result, iwi and hapū are collaborating with the Council to develop a fit-for-purpose wastewater system for Matatā.

### ***Our co-design approach***

The township of Matatā and its surroundings hold deep cultural significance to Māori. The ancestral lands are rich with sacred sites of the iwi and hapū of Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangitihī, and Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau. Through the practice of kaitiakitanga, embodying guardianship and stewardship of the land, tangata whenua maintain a deep connection with the Tarawera Awa [river] and Te Awa o Te Atua. Formerly a part of the Tarawera Awa flowing through Matatā, Te Awa o Te Atua now exists as a vast lagoon surrounded by wetlands. These wetlands serve as crucial habitats for various species, including Kōtuku (white heron), inanga [whitebait] and tuna [eels]. Beyond their ecological significance, these wetlands hold immense cultural value for tangata whenua.

Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangitihī, and Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau are entrusted with the ancestral duty to protect, maintain, and restore these culturally significant areas, ensuring that present and future activities, irrespective of their nature, uphold the mauri and mana of these sacred areas. As such, Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa, comprising iwi and hapū representatives from the aforementioned iwi, are collaborating with the Council to co-design a solution for the Matatā community whilst ensuring that cultural values are embedded in the process.

### ***Consequences of the status quo***

Several significant consequences will persist in the absence of an appropriate wastewater treatment and disposal solution in Matatā. These include heightened public health risks due to potential waterborne diseases and environmental degradation caused by increased nutrients and microbial contaminants. These factors not only impede tangata whenua from fulfilling their kaitiakitanga responsibilities but also hinder the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group, established under the

Ngāti Rangitahi Claims Settlement Act 2022, from fulfilling their aspirations as outlined in their aspiration document. These aspirations include the desire to "*regenerate the life-sustaining properties of the Tarawera Awa and Te Awa o te Atua so that it can return to the food basket it once was.*"

In addition, the BOPRC On-Site Effluent Treatment Plan ("**OSET plan**") categorises Matatā as a confirmed reticulation zone. Under the plan, if Matatā remains unconnected to a reticulation system, individual properties would be required to adhere to the plan's rules. However, a considerable number of properties in Matatā are unlikely to meet the necessary standards for compliance. This would effectively make some dwellings uninhabitable because, for example, a new aerated wastewater system would still need a new effluent disposal field, and the site limitations (size, soil, groundwater level) would make it very difficult or unfeasible to install a system that would meet AS/NZS 1547:2012 on many sections.

Therefore, progressing with a maintenance zone would result in significant costs for individual landowners to meet legislative requirements or could have severe consequences for properties that could not comply i.e. uninhabitable properties.

In the absence of reticulation, it's anticipated that the draft OSET plan provisions would lead to Matatā being reclassified as a maintenance zone, as requested by Toi te Ora Public Health in July 2018. A maintenance zone, as defined by the OSET Plan, is an area where on-site effluent treatment systems are contributing to waterway degradation or pose a risk to public health. Within such a zone, all on-site effluent treatment systems are subject to a maintenance and performance inspection program. Consequently, Matatā would face a lower threshold before repairs or upgrades are mandated. This may require individual landowners to seek resource consent to address substandard systems. The consent process, installation of a new more advanced system, and ongoing compliance would be significant for landowners.

The estimated compliance costs for designating Matatā as a maintenance zone are substantial, carrying potentially greater repercussions for individual households in the area. These costs and associated consequences would predominantly fall upon individual property owners.

### ***The solution and benefits***

Te Nīaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa has been working in conjunction with the Council to develop a solution for Matatā's current inadequate wastewater system. The process to date has worked through the community outcomes sought and the subsequent design of a reticulation and disposal system that will:

- Provide a safe and reliable wastewater system for Matatā that reduces public health and environmental risks.
- Provide a resilient wastewater system that will allow for future growth.

- Manage wastewater in an environmentally and culturally appropriate way that protects and enhances the environmental values of the Matatā taiao in alignment with the principles of Te Mana o te Wai.
- Share the cost of the new wastewater scheme across the Whakatāne District.

### ***The challenge***

Across New Zealand, local councils generally own and manage their community's three waters infrastructure. Currently, funding for maintenance or upgrades primarily comes from local government revenue (rates), user charges, development contributions or other local government financing mechanisms such as loans or central government grants. This presents a significant challenge across the country, with an estimated \$120 - \$180 billion investment required over the next 30 years to upgrade three waters infrastructure to meet modern legislative requirements and community and cultural expectations.

The previous government launched a water services reform aimed at transferring three-waters assets from local councils to regional entities, placing financial responsibilities on these regional bodies. This transition was part of a proposed move towards centralised funding and financing arrangements. However, with the recent government change and the repeal of the water services reform, three-waters assets are expected to remain under council ownership. This reversal has reinstated significant funding pressures and rate increases, exceeding what the community can afford.

As we understand, Whakatāne District Council acknowledges that current local government funding systems are fundamentally flawed, as the demands for funding far surpass Council's capacity to fulfil them. Council relies almost entirely on ratepayers to finance, meaning the Council keeps tapping into the same pool of people and businesses for funding. This view is supported by a recent review of local government that has identified that councils' funding system is not sustainable in its current format.

# Celebrating our cultural richness


**The area of Matatā has a rich history. Through kaitiakitanga practises, the iwi of Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangitihī, and Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau have had a long-standing connection with the Tarawera Awa, their ancestral lands, wāhi tapu (sacred areas), and locations of cultural and spiritual importance.**

According to Ngāti Awa traditional histories, Tarawera's tears formed the Tarawera River. When Putauaki left Tarawera for the island of Whakaari, she longed for him. Ancestors of Ngāti Awa such as Te Tini o Toi, Te Tini o Awa, and Te Tini o Kawerau once lived on the banks of the Tarawera River before the advent of the waka Mataatua.

The river's resources were used by hapū like Ngai Te Rangihouhiri II, Ngāti Hikakino and Te Tawera in more recent times, but this was well before the advent of European settlers. The Tarawera Awa is the Waikamihī's parent river because the Te Tawera (as well as Ngai Te Rangihouhiri II and Ngāti Hikakino) have a spiritual connection with the river through Te Waikamihī. Te Tawera, Ngāti Hikakino and Ngai Te Rangihouhiri II used to catch fish, eels, and white bait at the intersection of Te Waikamihī and Tarawera (Hughes, 2013).

For Ngāti Rangitihī, they have been residing at Te Awa o Te Atua, Matatā, as mana whenua for centuries. A series of intertwined whakapapa that represent continuous occupation at Te Awa o Te Atua from Ngatoroirangi to the present day can be used to illustrate Ngāti Rangitihī's occupation of the land previous to this period. Due to the Tarawera River's cleanliness and purity, Ngatoroirangi gave it the moniker Te Awa o Te Atua, or the river of the Gods, when the Te Arawa waka arrived there. He offered special prayers before moving south. Following the Tarawera river upstream, he named landmarks and made claims to various pieces of land there.

Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa  
Matatā Wastewater



Other descendants of the high priest Ngatoroirangi, who arrived in Aotearoa on the Te Arawa canoe, are the iwi of Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau. Tūwharetoa-i-te-aupouri is the direct descendant of Ngatoroirangi. In the sixteenth century, he and his people resided in the Kawerau region where they intermarried with the local iwi, Te Tini-a-Kawerau. His mother belonged to the latter and had ties to Ngāti Awa. From Otamarākau, the location of Tūwharetoa's birth, his people migrated north to Kawerau and along the coast to Matatā. Over time, he gathered his supporters in Waitahanui, not far from modern-day Kawerau. Tūwharetoa passed away and was interred there. Later, his remains were moved to Te Anakari hou o Tūwharetoa, a new name for the old Te Atua Reretahi burial cave close to Maungawhakarua.

Undoubtedly, these iwi have protected, preserved and conserved wāhi tapu, cultural sites of significance and the natural resources of the whenua (land) and wai (water). Their long-standing uninterrupted link with both the whenua and wai have been there for centuries. Central to the kaitiaki role held by the iwi has been the protection of the mauri (life force) of the people and the environment through kaitiakitanga. It has allowed the iwi to develop reciprocity and responsibility with the whenua through protecting culturally significant food gathering sites. It has enabled food to be available as the whenua and wai are the 'kai cupboard' for iwi. This in turn has helped the physical and spiritual well-being of the iwi to be maintained. If the mauri of the iwi was degraded through the contamination of the food and water sources, it led to the inability of iwi to manaaki (provide and care for) manuhiri (visitors). It would also create whakamā (collective embarrassment) amongst iwi that could be long lasting.

Therefore, today, any temporary or permanent changes to the land and water in Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangitahi, and Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau land and waterways needs to involve mandated iwi members to advise how to make changes without the environmental degradation and declination in land and water quality.

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## References

- Hughes, B. (2013). Cultural Assessment for the Proposed Matatā Wastewater Scheme
- Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitahi (2017). The Ngāti Rangitahi Story.
- Waitangi Tribunal (2003). The Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Cross-Claim Settlement Report. *Wai 996*.
- Waitangi Tribunal (1999). The Ngāti Awa Raupatu Report. *Wai 46*.

## Bibliography

- Pourotu's history of Te Nīotanga ō Mataatua ō Te Arawa - Matatā Matters - *Issue 10 April 2022*.

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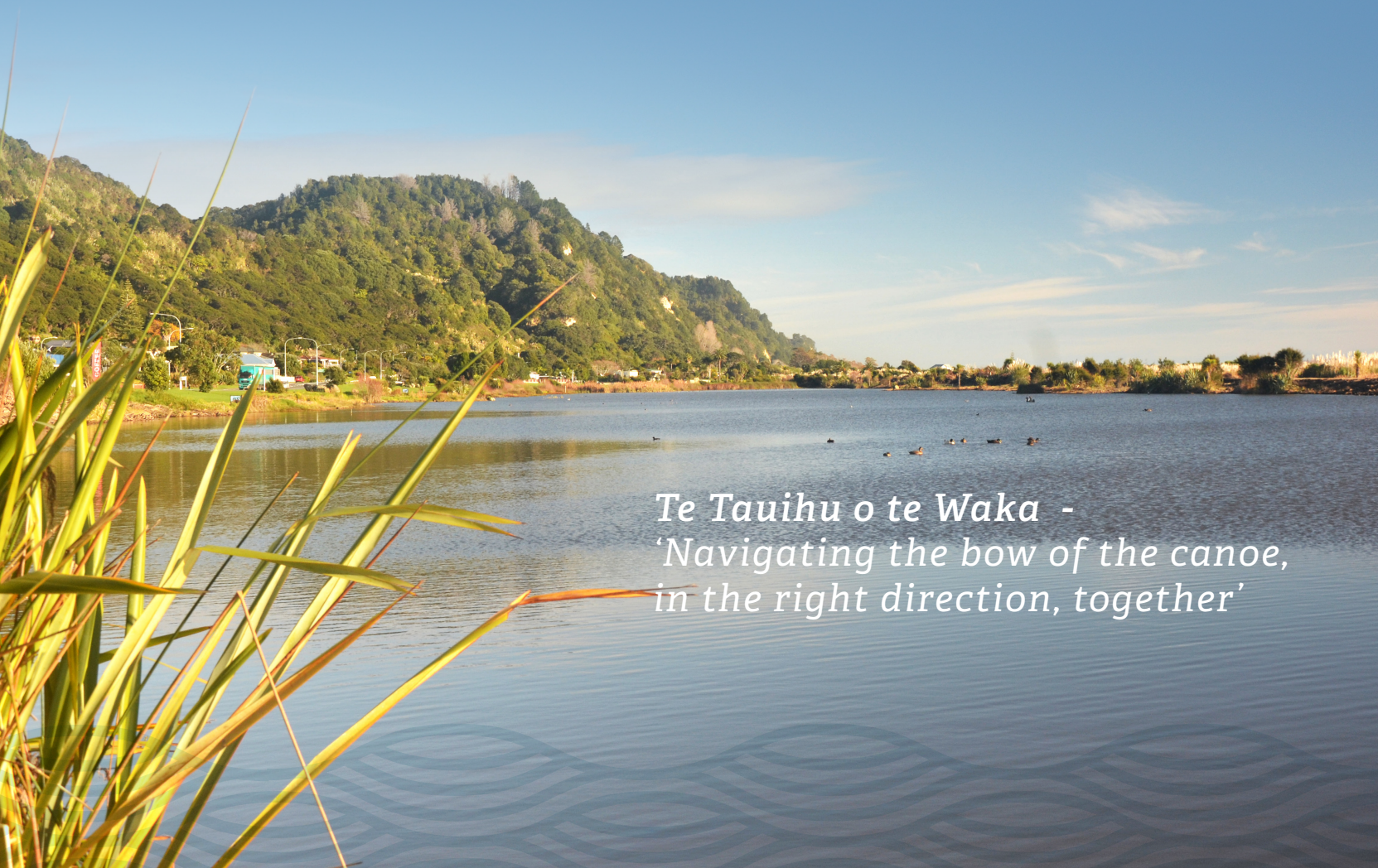
## Te Nīotanga ō Mataatua ō Te Arawa Matatā Wastewater








Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa  
*Matatā Wastewater: What's the story?*



*Te Tauihu o te Waka -  
'Navigating the bow of the canoe,  
in the right direction, together'*



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Through kaitiakitanga practises, the iwi of Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Rangitihi, and Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau have had a long-standing connection with the Tarawera Awa, their ancestral lands, wāhi tapu (sacred areas), and locations of cultural and spiritual importance.

.....

**The township of Matatā descends in the direction of Te Awa o Te Atua. The vast wetland that borders and surrounds Te Awa o te Atua has traditionally served as a habitat for many species, including inanga and tuna.**

The Waitepuru and Te Awatarariki, two perennial streams that emerge from the hills, run from the township's relatively high-water table. A rich tapestry of important culturally significant sites and wāhi tapu adorns Matatā's larger environment.

Ngāti Rangitihi, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau and Ngāti Awa, the tangata whenua of this rohe, have an obligation inherited from their tupuna to protect, maintain, and/or restore these sites of cultural importance to ensure that present and future activities, of any kind, do not negatively affect the mauri and mana of these important areas.



# Our why



**Matatā doesn't have a reticulated wastewater system, and individual properties rely on existing on-site septic tanks, which in some cases are failing.**

These failures are contributing to public health risks and degradation of the environment, particularly Te Awa o Te Atua (Matatā lagoon), which is why local iwi and hapū are working together with Council to develop a fit-for-purpose Matatā wastewater system.

# The what

While previous resource management attempts to improve the system have been unsuccessful, we now have a dedicated Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa Co-Design Group and Project Technical Team tasked with learning from the past and developing an effective solution through a genuine co-design approach.



# Co design

**Co-design entails designing with the people of Matatā, rather than for them.**

The Matatā Wastewater co-design group is made up of iwi and hapū representatives from Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Trust, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau, and Ngāti Awa through its hapū Ngai Te Rangihouhiri, Ngāti Hikakino and Te Tawera, to work collaboratively with the Council to co-design a solution.

Community engagement has occurred to date through regular updates to the resident association as well through the Matatā Matters pānui. As the project moves more into the options phase this year, wider opportunities for community feedback and discussion will be planned.

While the co-design partners offer direction, advice and recommendations on the preferred option, the final decision on that option statutorily remains with Council.

# The project

**Will have significant outcomes for the Matatā community in having an efficient wastewater system. This project will provide a safe and reliable wastewater system, but it will also contribute to other key outcomes, including:**

## Environmental and public health outcomes

We know the environment plays a big part in people's health and wellbeing. The new system will improve water quality and ecology in local rivers, drains, Te Awa o Te Atua (Matatā lagoon) and the Tarawera Awa. It will also contribute to restoring ground and surface water impacts that have occurred as a result from people's wastewater septic tanks.

Supporting tangata whenua to improve environmental outcomes for the whenua and wai and to restore the awa.

## Cultural outcomes

The restoration of the Mauri of Tarawera Awa ki Te Awa o Te Atua is at the heart of Ngāti Rangitihi's 2022 Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlement with the Crown.

The Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group, which was established as part of Ngāti Rangitihi's historical claims, is comprised of one representative from each of the four iwi with an interest in the awa (Ngāti Rangitihi, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Mākino, and Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau), and one representative from each of the three relevant local authorities, and Bay of Plenty Regional Council. They exist to support, co-ordinate and promote the integrated restoration of the mauri of the catchment. The creation and execution of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Document (the Strategy Document) is their primary focus.



## Long term growth and futureproofing

The Whakatāne District and Eastern Bay of Plenty are growing, and with an increase in residents wanting to call the district home, we must ensure we have the right infrastructure in place to support. It means Council must start laying the foundations now, but also look to the future and prepare and plan for the next 20, 50 and even 100 years, to ensure future generations have a place they're proud to call home, with appropriate infrastructure supporting them.

## Sustainable and resilient

Central to managing risks, hazards and resilience is ensuring we have the right infrastructure in place, which is safe, supports community wellbeing and can respond to emerging risks such as climate change. By making sure investment is made up front with a short-medium- and long-term view in mind means we will have an asset that supports communities for the next 20, 50 and 100 years.



# Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa

## *Matatā Wastewater*

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*Te Tauihu o te Waka -  
‘Navigating the bow of the canoe,  
in the right direction, together’*



**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)** My self

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Now is a time where money is short increase costs at this time will hurt a lot of people financially should wait till the market is back on track and just do what is needed to keep it safe

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Keep it together with rubbish un needed cost to change a system that's already in place

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Do it so that it affects peoples pockets the least

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

The rates are already to high and un affordable, people from rual areas get charged for services they don't need or use

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 2: Close the gap in the short-term (in three years) to avoid greater debt.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 1: (Status quo) – 24% UAGC – \$927.50 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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Submission ID: 443

Date: Apr 10 24 10:55:25 am

Name:

W Gardner

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Bare maintenance only

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 2: Separate foodwaste collection for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Stop the marina developement. Stop wasteful spending The Mayor and councillors should control the staff not the other way around

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Submission ID: 444

Date: Apr 10 24 10:56:33 am

Name:

Norman Izett

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 2: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 50% external funding for major development works in 2029 and 2030.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 2: Close the gap in the short-term (in three years) to avoid greater debt.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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Submission ID: 445

Date: Apr 10 24 10:57:41 am

Name:

Richard Barnett

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

The facilities are extensive enough to meet current demand and funding should be restricted to ensuring their structural safety. Scarce resources should be used to ensure the provision of essential services and infrastructure.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

The current cost of living crisis should be recognised and council should do all it can to reduce costs and provide an efficient, lean organisation to meet its obligations to the community.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

The council exists to serve the community. To meet statutory obligations and to provide residents with safe and secure infrastructure. Now is an opportune time to look closely at council functions and to trim back on the "nice to have" and give priority to the essential services. I would support a moratorium on new adding more staff. The cost of living crisis is crippling for some in our community and the council should show leadership in helping to address this issue.

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

This is not the right economic climate to do a massive upgrade. Too many households are struggling with the cost of living crisis.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

The most economical option. People won't have room for an additional bin. Most properties in Whakatane has room for their own composting facility, as most household have a garden.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 1: Close the gap quickly (in one year) so we pay less in the future.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Let's not burden future generations with the cost of money.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

The cost of living crisis is mostly felt in areas with the lower price of houses.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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Submission ID: 447

Date: Apr 10 24 11:10:57 am

Name:

Dean Nicholson

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation) Whakatane Museum Charitable Trust

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

Attached

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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# Whakatane Museum Charitable Trust Board

9 April 2024.

**Re: Long Term Plan 2024 – 2034**

Kia Ora Dr Victor Luca and Councillors,

The Whakatāne Museum Charitable Board is a support body for the Te Whare taonga o Taketake - The Whakatane Museum and Research Centre in Boon Street. Our museum holds a valuable and rich collection of items, which document the history of our region.

In view of the Whakatāne District Council's current planning for the next 10 years, we would like to add our voice to the proposed Long-Term Plan and the Art, Culture and Creativity Plan.

The Whakatāne Museum and Research Centre, te Whare Taonga o Taketake as well as our exhibition centre and library, Te Kōputu a te Whanga a Toi, and the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub are important community assets, essential to the wellbeing of our region. We hope that all these assets will continue to be supported and developed into the future.

Regarding The Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub, we support Option 2 of the Development Plan. It is important to think long-term to ensure this important multi-functional asset for sports, recreation and public events is well maintained and upgraded where needed, to attract both non-commercial as well as commercial use of these facilities. We also support the development of an Arts Hub as outlined in the Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy as well as the role of a Navigator position to facilitate the development and implementation of the arts and culture goals within our region.

Regarding Te Kōputu a Whanaga a Toi, we have a special relationship with the exhibition centre as it holds a display of our museum artefacts alongside the changing art gallery displays. In future the area used for the cultural artefacts could be reduced in favour of giving more space to the art gallery. This can only happen if a suitable space at te Whare Taonga o Taketake is developed to show a changing display of artefacts there. Currently low visitor numbers are a concern and creating a public display will re-engage the public with the museum.



At te Whare Taonga o Taketake we are aware that recent changes in the Social Studies Curriculum emphasise a focus on local history. We need to be ready to support this with our programmes and displays. A very important step to bring our artefacts into the community is to take photographs of our artefacts and to create a digital catalogue.

Research shows us that museums and art galleries bring visitors to a town or region. It is important that we provide a contemporary, informative and engaging visitor experience for our manuhiri. Ongoing upgrades and development of our cultural facilities are important for locals and visitors alike.

Finally, we like to direct you to our Strategic Plan where we have laid out our development goals in more detail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Jones', written in a cursive style.

Submission ID: 448

Date: Apr 10 24 11:19:45 am

Name:

James Johnston

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Make Hall safe for earthquake

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 3: Separate foodwaste collection for all properties.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

continue what is being done now

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Funding gap needs to be reduced

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

I think rates should be calculated on services provided

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Just do all possible to keep costs under control. No grandiose new projects

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Submission ID: 449

Date: Apr 10 24 11:26:48 am

Name:

Mary Hermanson

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 2: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 50% external funding for major development works in 2029 and 2030.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 2: 20% UAGC – \$741.31 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

1. Boat harbour - I am not in favour of this project. I think it is in the wrong place, far too costly and we will still have a bar that is difficult and often unworkable. WDC should be supporting Opotiki in the development of a marina now that they have an accessible harbour. 2. Second bridge - I wouldn't think this is high on the priority of NZTA and without their support this is going nowhere. 3. I support the development of War Memorial complex - this urgently needs redevelopment. It is old and dated and should have had investment in it 20 years ago. We need good facilities for future generations to enjoy. 4. West End Otarawairere Track needs to be fixed. We don't have many jewels in our tourism crown but this and the Nga Tapuwae o Toi track is one of them. We win the Best Beach award and you can't easily get to our hidden gem. Please don't leave it for another summer.

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

When all infrastructure that is needed is completed i.e. water etc then the Council wants could be considered for the Rex Morpeth Park. Whakatane Council seem to have a lot more wants rather the needs required for the ratepayer. We all have to live within our means so should the Council. Ratepayers are not a financial bottomless bank for the Council and most of us are finding the current financial expenditures per household extremely hard to cope with.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 3: Separate foodwaste collection for all properties.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

These options are not applicable to rural ratepayers, we have to deal with our own rubbish disposal.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Ratepayers should not be expected to cover even more debt regardless of the Council wanting to borrow for wants that can be delayed.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

Rate increases should be evenly rated out over all properties within our district regardless of the value of a property.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Hopefully the Mayor and Councillors and will listen to the ratepayers and the concerns we have. We are not against progressing our town BUT do it when we the ratepayers and the Council can afford it without going into so much debt.

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Submission ID: 451

Date: Apr 10 24 11:37:34 am

Name:

Narelle Feek

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 2: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 50% external funding for major development works in 2029 and 2030.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

If external funding is not forth-coming, then development should be put on hold until such a time as external funding becomes available. The ratepayers should not be carrying more than the stated share of this. I do not believe we need another playground in this area as there is already one near the pools. If accessibility is an issue, surely it would be cheaper to add in a few bits to an existing playground than start from scratch. I have a query on whether all the information regarding this development is all kept together. I would hate to hear about lots more consultancy fees being paid out, for a copy and paste report.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

This seems like a good idea - is the much of the increase in cost due to all the new bins required? If greenwaste/food scraps is to be collected weekly, and rubbish fortnightly, what about swapping the bins used for each?

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

This appears to be the least worse of the options provided.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 2: 20% UAGC – \$741.31 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

I hope that Councillors and Council Staff, are looking at all the income and expenditure of our Council. With such big rate increases, I hope that they realise that perception is huge. When we are being asked to pay more, we do not want to see expenditure that the average person would consider wasteful. Shaw Road - Mill Road roundabout - great. definitely needed. War Memorial Hall redevelopment - yes, but paying for it is an issue Proposed Marina - I haven't seen any mention of this. I do not agree with ratepayers committing to a new business venture of unknown cost, and potential large maintenance costs. I have rowed on the Whakatane river for many years, and it gets very shallow at times. I don't want to have to pay to have the river deepened so that boaties can get in and out of a marina. Let this cost be borne by someone else. New Bridge - this has been discussed for at least 50 years. It would be

useful to have another bridge in an emergency. Getting in and out of town during a Tsunami evacuation was nigh on impossible.

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Submission ID: 452

Date: Apr 10 24 11:41:31 am

Name:

Jennifer Cummins

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Shift it out of town eg tomJulians Berry Farm and use Paroa rugby club for games. put a retirement village at Rex Morpeth park to keep our retirees in town. The complex could be used as a community centre for the village and the residents could use the town pool.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Make our own compost in town. Sell it back to the public and council use it on the gardens I. Town.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

It's tough out there. Keep rates to a minimum, some people won't be able to afford to live here soon.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

Keep them low.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Sells bricks to build the new war memorial if shifting it out of town to help pay for it. I enjoyed the meeting last night. Think the councillors need to listen to the locals as a lot of them have good points. Eg Mr White the engineer who spoke about the figures and the person on the bacteria in the ponds. Ask the community for ideas.

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Name:

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 2: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 50% external funding for major development works in 2029 and 2030.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 2: Close the gap in the short-term (in three years) to avoid greater debt.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 2: 20% UAGC – \$741.31 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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Submission ID: 454

Date: Apr 10 24 11:56:07 am

Name:

Tasha Thompson

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 2: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 50% external funding for major development works in 2029 and 2030.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Plan Only do NECESSARY OR URGENT work each year.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Very happy with the current foodwaste collection.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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Submission ID: 456

Date: Apr 10 24 01:11:55 pm

Name:

Bevan George

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

- Do the basics to maintain the current facilities we have- what else is included in this option? as it does not line up with that proposed from last years master plan document and it is not described in the LTP document. the costs are vastly different between the two documents.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

- the food waste and green waste end up going to the same place anyway, no point in separating these out. rural properties don't receive green waste collection currently, we use our own individual methods for managing these. a sensible option which doesn't change too much. suggest leaving rubbish bins the current smaller size even with fortnightly collection, this makes people utilize the recycling the food/green waste service more. regular ie yearly? education in the form of letterbox flyers and stickers should be utilized to remind people of the requirements.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 2: Close the gap in the short-term (in three years) to avoid greater debt.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

- not a huge difference between options 2 and 3. get it done sooner as something else will be around the corner. - How is the council looking to reduce debit? According to the LTP come 2034 we are stuffed! no more external funding can be sort, we need to reduce the amount of existing debt now! it should have been happening for a long time but hasnt- a start needs to be made

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 2: 20% UAGC – \$741.31 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

- This is on top of a massive increase last year, if it keeps going up at this rate people wont be able to afford rates any more- the CV of a property does not actually determine how much it was purchased for (and hence an indication of what people could afford), some pensioners may be sitting on a property worth 2mil but brought it at \$300k back in the day. i would suggest using sales bands for the previous 15 years? or a grouped approach ie residential property 1 dwelling size up to 150m2 with land up to 700m2 land= x amount. no matter what cv a property has, you are all ready using similar generic groups in the LTP. - What are you doing about rates arrears? how many households or percentage of the rates payers are in arrears? what is this annual cost? as i would only expect it to go up. I would suggest making rates payments easy! give a small discount if rates are done by direct debit (Auckland council used to do this- unsure now), there the council gets the rates 99% garenteed, fed at a more regular period (better for paying off debit). how many households pay their entire rates in one go even with the current discount? not many i would imagine

## Supporting document

Attached

### **Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

individual Households and businesses are your ratepayers, these places have letterboxes use them to ensure information about council discussion , plans or questions/ answers get right to the people. talk between departments to ensure maximum information and efficiency of a mailbox drop.

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# LTP thoughts

- Animal control- 2x extra staff is a no brainer. Offset this with a slight increase to dog licenses. If people are intending to license a dog for a period of less than one year (have just moved to town, or have a new dog) encourage the license with a discounted rate for the period remaining until 31<sup>st</sup> June.
- Focus on maintaining Assets to a better standard rather than replacing all the time.
- Capital expenditure- what is planned for 2030/ 2031? there is something here that doubles the normal budget over these two years- Rex morpeth park would have been completed before then.
- 3 waters- this is not new! What has the council been doing for the last 100 years? hoping for the govt 3 waters to go through and to be payed out? - maintain your assets! Is it \$620 mil capital expenditure over the next 10 years or \$215mil?- the LTP states both, obviously there is a huge difference with these figures!
- Water supply- 15% of budget (not enough details provided so have used operating budget) looks to equate to around \$17,250,000 per year, what is this spent on? I pay water rates, what % of the EBOP rate payers do and what is covered by these rates over and above property rates? I thought the daily charge on the water rates was to maintain the pipework system
- Operating budget - \$34mil per year on personnel, how many people are employed by the council? It was 221 in 2018 so I would estimate around 250 now. This equates to \$136,000 per person. I am all for better wages however this figure seems quite extravagant
- Council spending- how are you looking to pay off debit? From what is shown in the LTP debit only increases until it reaches a ceiling in 2034, that is totally unsustainable.

Name:

Toshy Rapana

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)****How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?****Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

To reduce the burden placed on ratepayers, I would like to see the council pause and instead focus on reducing spending and look for other avenues to bring in extra funds needed for the upgrade. Once sufficient or a portion of the funding is achieved. Then demolish the building and build a superhub that includes the pool, gym, library and a community space. As for the sports hub, far greater consultation with clubs, the public and rate payers is needed. Again, this should be paused until the Council reduce debt.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 3: Separate foodwaste collection for all properties.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Programme and workshops would include Supermarket trips - shopping smarter and shopping on a budget How to compost, coffee ground - includes reducing the cost for consumers to purchase a compost bin Access to fresh second grade fruit and vegetables - The fruit and vege food coop Cooking workshops - using leftovers, cooking on a budget, using what's in the pantry, quick and easy meals, how to ferment and preserve food, how to make vegie stock, spruce up water using leftover fruit peels, Growing vegetables from seed - assistance to build vege gardens Eating healthy - food portions, reading food labels, food expiration, Food storage - in the pantry, the freezer, the fridge Lunchbox meals and prep

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

To ease the burden on ratepayers, taking the long term option is better. On the condition Council, cut and reduce unnecessary spending and improve consultation with the Public and Ratepayers.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

It needs to be fair and consistent for all rate payers. Not one should pay more or less, it gets tricky how you measure and justify these change in rates. Considering we are in a recession every effort needs to be made to reduce pressure on rate payers so the lesser option is best.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Submission ID: 458

Date: Apr 10 24 01:50:04 pm

Name:

Barry Keene

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 1: (Status quo) – 24% UAGC – \$927.50 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Another concern is the staffing. We appear to have too many high paid positions. The staff appear to dictate far too much too council. We need to restructure council staff. It appears the CEO is empire building and not in tune with rate payers reality.

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Submission ID: 459

Date: Apr 10 24 02:08:46 pm

Name:

Ann Fletcher

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

The economics of NZ speak of waste and overspending during the past six years, New Zealand is biting into a recession and it pains me to try and understand how our council is contemplating the same pathway. Local constituents of the Whakatane District Council are under economic duress because of central govt. economic mismanagement. Are council staff so overpaid that they can't relate to the district's pain?

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 2: Separate foodwaste collection for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

NONE OF THE ABOVE.....THE FUNDING GAP SHOULD NOT BE AN ISSUE IF THE PROPOSED SPENDING IS STOPPED AT THIS POINT IN TIME.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

THERE SHOULD NOT BE RATES INCREASES ABOVE 5% IF COUNCIL IS REALISTIC ABOUT LISTENING TO THEIR COMMUNITY

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

YES, YOU REPRESENT THE CITIZENS OF THIS DISTRICT, MANY ARE STRUGGLING - THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR SUCH EXCESSIVE SPENDING AND THE FACTS REGARDING ASBESTOS ETC HAVE NOT BEEN SUBSTANTIATED. STOP THE SPENDING AT THIS TIME, THE COUNTRY IS A MESS BECAUSE OF WASTEFUL SPENDING OF THE LAST 6 YEARS

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Lower WDC staff pay rates and cut staff restructure needed to help fund upgrades or better yet put that project on hold until debt is paid off

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 3: Separate foodwaste collection for all properties.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Lower WDC staff pay rates and cut staff numbers restructure needed to save costs and put major projects on hold till debt is low time to stop spending and passing cost to rate payers who are already struggling with cost of living

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

Lower WDC staff pay rates and cut staff numbers way to much money being spent on wages for WDC staff restructure needs to happen stop major projects until debt is lower and under control stop spending and passing the cost onto rate payers who are already struggling with cost of living.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Lower WDC staff pay rates and cut staff numbers way to much money being spent on wages for WDC staff restructure needs to happen stop major projects until debt is lower and under control stop spending and passing the cost onto rate payers who are already struggling with cost of living.

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 3: Separate foodwaste collection for all properties.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 2: Close the gap in the short-term (in three years) to avoid greater debt.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 2: 20% UAGC – \$741.31 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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Submission ID: 462

Date: Apr 10 24 03:06:58 pm

Name:

Graeme Watt

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation) nil

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

investment for the future

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

need to know what is to be done with the food waste

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

Attached

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Sullivan Lake Reserve see attachment

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The Mayor And Councillors Whakatane District Council

Long term plan submission re Sullivan Lake

Referring to Sullivan Lake Water Quality ,Ecology and Options for Improvement Report compiled by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has conducted extensive testing of the water and the underlying silts. Using a lead weighted line and a probe and has concluded the average depth of the silt layer to be aprox 0.4m.[page 111 condition].

Some years ago Environment BOP, whilst the lake level was lowered , came and netted goldfish to determine whether any Koi Carp were present. In the process of this exercise one of their staff sank into the silt up to his chest and just managed to extricate himself with the aid of an aprox 4.0m kayak.

On another occasion when the water level was lowered to facillitate more hard edging, a member of the contracting team stepped back a bitfar and was sucked up to his chest in the silt. They had to use the digger to reach out annd rescue him.

The point of these events is they illustrate the danger the lake presents if anybody poes into the lake. If a child should fall into the lake it would be extemely difficult and dangerous to rescue.

I urge the committee to consider desilting the lake as a health and safety issue.

Toxins in the water exacerbate this situation.

**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Current rates that you already receive.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

People to be educated about getting rid of their own organic waste. And council should provide general rubbish and recycling bins only. People that need a green bin should contract that privately.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

None of the above.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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Submission ID: 464

Date: Apr 10 24 03:38:03 pm

Name:

J Williams

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Rex morpeth is fit for purpose right now, our sports clubs and community organization are able to utilize the facilities and while it would be nice to upgrade, maintenance should be the only focus this council should be looking at. Additional costs for things that are wanted rather than needed seems an irresponsible and out of touch decision.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Maintenance! Maintenance! Maintenance! That should be the focus of this Council, we understand that times are tough, probably more so than most of you! But the way that money is being spent on nice to haves and ensuring "vibrance" in our community is both disappointing and frustrating. When will our council realize that they cannot continue to put cry hardship while putting their hand out and asking for more, from residents that are experiencing that very same hardship and are being crushed by it. You ask us to understand your financial predicament but in the same breath sweep ours under the carpet. The people of Whakatane are tired of excuses and being expected to just deal with all of these increases. Let's hope a resolution can be found that keeps WDC in business and ratepayers in homes.

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Name:

Kieran Watkins

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)****How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 2: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 50% external funding for major development works in 2029 and 2030.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

A project like this stirs up optimism within a town, up until the point where it appears unaffordable and then it it elicits bitterness. Council can see the costs, they themselves and all their staff will be experiencing the rates increases, and so they should be able to gauge what the community will put their support behind and be careful not to exceed that. If the current facility is truly unsustainable, and a full upgrade is the only future proofed option, we must also ensure that this new work carried out does not leave future generations in the same scenario. where a building becomes not only unfit for purpose, but unsalvageable. Despite the cost, it is exciting to plan and build a new facility. However we want future generations to bless us for creating buildings that are not only beautiful and functional but also realistic to clean and maintain.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:****How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 2: Close the gap in the short-term (in three years) to avoid greater debt.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Imagine a council that didn't need to borrow money. That may sound unrealistic or possibly even foolish because we're mostly conditioned to believe that borrowing money is the only solution to getting the big stuff done. This long term plan states that "Having debt isn't a bad thing – it means we can spread the cost of assets intergenerationally, meaning that people who will benefit from it in the future will also pay their share." However there is another way to spread the cost of assets intergenerationally, and that is to do the work of saving now for the benefit of future generations. Having debt forces future generations to contribute to payments, because it becomes non-negotiable, whereas putting money aside now for benefits that many in this generation won't live to see, requires a profound sense of duty to those who will come after us. Imagine future generations receiving the benefit of projects that they didn't pay for, while they themselves invest in successive projects that will benefit those even further down the track. Meanwhile, the money that is currently lost to interest payments is retained. That ship may have sailed for these current projects such as Rex Morpeth which appear set to get underway and, as the LTP states, our response must be achievable. But other cost increases and future projects such as the second bridge, boat harbour and beyond deserve to be considered now. 10 years will quickly come and go, but what would it look like if we were to look at and plan for a long term debt free future where we consistently spend less than we make? I challenge you to seriously consider whether we have bought a lie that debt is inevitable. To their detriment, many in our community accept debt as a necessity of everyday life. Do you think this belief persists within our leaders?

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 2: 20% UAGC – \$741.31 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Thank you for your careful consideration in this process. We have much to be thankful for in our district both from current and historic councillors. "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you." (James 1:5)

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Name:

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 1: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 35% external funding for major development works in 2028 and 2029.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Go for it! This facility is such a valuable asset and it definitely needs work. But so many people benefit.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

I can't be bothered reading anything. By beef with it is that we compost and worm-farm everything so it's not something we'd want/need. It would be good if was pay to use...probably not possible.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

No investment was made in our community to keep our rates down for near 30 years. Now there is a movement within our community to repeat history by not investing now for the future. Well, screw that. Do better for our future generations and our planet.

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Name:

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

No upgrades are required. Please maintain it as is.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Leave it as is at present. No separation is required.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

There is a serious lack of accountability in the affairs of the Council. Close the gap in the long term (30 years) when the present bunch have left office.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

None of the above. Whakatane rates are the highest in the country. Rate rises should be based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index) and no higher than that.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

As is, Whakatane rates are the highest in the country and I am exasperated that the Council is even considering rate increases. The Mayor and the Councillors should seriously introspect.

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Submission ID: 468

Date: Apr 10 24 05:59:13 pm

Name:

Maureen Verstegen

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)

Non Olympic Cyclists Whakatane

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Non Olympic Cyclists would like to submit to the WDC's LTP 2024-34 consultation on three key areas. We fully support the continued investment in Active Whakatane and in the development of trail network across the Rangitaiki planes and beyond. The investment seen to date has made considerable difference in improving the safety of cyclists, and other road users, however there are still considerable safety issues and other obstacles to cycling that prevent more people from taking up cycling. We continue to support investments in cycling infrastructure that enable school children, the elderly, commuters, and the mobility impaired to move around freely and safely while reducing climate emissions. We have appreciated the support of staff and financial assistance that has been set aside for the development of a Mountain Bike Park through the last LTP period. While we are disappointed an appropriate site for the park has not been identified we would like to see continued support from Council to identify a site and assist with the development of a MTB park for local recreation and which provides tourism opportunities. We have 150 member and we fully support infrastructure improvements that will make cycling safer in our district.

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Submission ID: 469

Date: Apr 10 24 06:13:33 pm

Name:

David Austin (DGH Austin) known as Harry Austin.

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

If the council can get the total upgrade paid for by donations and external funding, then go ahead but do not raise any more debt on the rate payers to pay off!!!

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 2: Separate foodwaste collection for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

It is time the local population got educated into having a compost bin for their garden! I have always composted my food waste for the last 40 years. Doing this and getting rid of food waste will save everybody money, time and logistics. Those people unable to dispose of food waste can have a food waste bin and pay separately for the service. I also don't use my Greenwaste bin for which I am being charged for, I consider myself rural and only as the land has been developed coming towards me have I become Urban! I would prefer to be Rural.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 1: Close the gap quickly (in one year) so we pay less in the future.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Overseas in the UK Cities have become Bankrupt from overspending and lack of Government support. Birmingham City Council as an example. The Whakatane District Council need to focus on reducing total debt to zero in the Longterm plan. Focus should minimize all expenditure by the Council. I have observed the installation of about 50 square bollards at the Landing Road Roundabout which I think were unnecessary, this probably cost the Rate payers between \$50-100K to have done by contractors. The Clouser of a section of Peace Street for what seems a very long time with no sight of an end to it must be costing the Ratepayers a lot of money for rental costs of cones and barriers.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

I can see pensioners and people with low incomes being forced to sell their homes as they can't pay the rates required by the WDC and being either taken to court or having the Bailiffs come in to evict them and put them on the streets as vagrants, alternatively they can't afford to feed their families properly, so their children do poorly at school. So, don't spend what you don't have! I hear that the council have 7 managers on salaries of over \$200,000 a year? So, what are we getting for the rates we pay? DEBT and who pays the Debt, we the ratepayers.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

I spoke at the meeting last night and I said that the Second Bridge out of Whakatane is important. Firstly,

for Sunami evacuation and secondly, should the Landing Road Bridge be unusable! We should also consider an alternative high-level road out of town that won't be affected by floods or earthquakes or fires or sea level rises. The money from the Harbour fund should be used for the 3 Waters requirements and applied to the areas from which the money comes from. it should also include all connecting pipe work and pumping stations connected to the area concerned. The contaminated proposed Marina looks as if it may be too costly to develop due to contamination by PCP and other chemicals. This Cost must not be put on to Ratepayers but come out of private funding, so if you want a Marina berth put your hand up and hand over \$500,000 to start with so the cleanup of the site can be done, and the earth removed is sterilized before going elsewhere as fill. Then pay any extra costs so the marina is not in Debt!

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Submission ID: 470

Date: Apr 10 24 06:17:11 pm

Name:

Peter Rodgers

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation) Self

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Can the whole idea of any spending on an upgrade. What's wrong with the kids running around on the grass that's there, as they currently do? In my view its all about participation, not some fancy looking park. I believe it is fit for purpose as is.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Tell residents to throw their food waste into green waste. Dont reinvent the wheel.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Like a house mortgage, close the gap over 25 years. We had to.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

Even it out for everyone. We all should contribute equally; we all require the same services. Hard-working people put the hard yards in to better their living standard and then 'penalised' with higher rates

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Staffing positions: are these fit for purpose these days. Always feels there are far too many employees to 'manage' a town our size. Select employees who have consultation skills included in their skill level. Stop employing consultants on top of management jobs. Immediately can the proposed new marina complex at Keepa Road. A white elephant in the making.

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Submission ID: 471

Date: Apr 10 24 06:27:10 pm

Name:

Graham Irving

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 1: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 35% external funding for major development works in 2028 and 2029.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

This should be done over the next few years

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Keep it as it is

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 2: Close the gap in the short-term (in three years) to avoid greater debt.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

This should be done gradually

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 2: 20% UAGC – \$741.31 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

This should be done gradually. The council also needs to be aware that the renovations to the council building were unnecessarily expensive. Council wages need to be kept under control.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

We need a second bridge for the town. Upgrade the existing one further up the river. The boat harbour which is proposed should be cancelled currently.

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Name:

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 2: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 50% external funding for major development works in 2029 and 2030.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Due to challenging financial times, upgrades to Rex Morpeth should be minimal and low key. Maintenance and only necessary upgrades should be considered so as to not impact on rate payers at this time.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 2: Separate foodwaste collection for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Food waste collection is overdue and should be started as soon as possible.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Manage funds carefully always considering the impact on rate payers.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

Look within the organisation on how to cut costs, then consider the obvious. We all have to pull our belt in, that includes the council as well.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

More programs and facilities for the tamariki in Whakatane Pool complex needs to be opened up, physically, it is not a healthy, comfortable environment or whanau friendly. Stop cementing areas and keep things green and natural.

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Submission ID: 473

Date: Apr 10 24 07:45:02 pm

Name:

Annabel Caudwell

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation) Whakatane High School student

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 2: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 50% external funding for major development works in 2029 and 2030.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

I'm excited to see the Rex-Morpeth hub upgraded, especially the little theatre as it is an important community space for many people. I personally have danced shows, been to plays and events in the little theatre and it is really great that it being upgraded as the air conditioning is not great and some parts are going into disrepair with water damage and mold. On Saturdays when my brother plays football, parking is a hassle and it would be really nice to see that improved but I really like the war memorial in front of the hall and hope that it will remain or be re-built.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

I feel that if we can avoid having another bin for anything that'd be good but I am aware that this option could lead to problems with contamination (ie. plastic scraps going along with food waste) but I think that if we (as a community) can make this work then this would be an excellent choice.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

I've been hearing lots about finance issues for a few years and the community is struggling so I feel it'd be best to close the funding gap long-term to ease the burden.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

I can't really comment on this as I personally don't pay rates but lots of people are having financial troubles and haven't recovered so I'd go for the option where targeted rates are raised to properties that are worth more so the general rate stays low.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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Submission ID: 474

Date: Apr 10 24 07:51:39 pm

Name:

Maureen Morgan

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Only maintenance required for reasons of health and safety to be carried out over a period of 6 years. It is obvious that there is no money available for grandiose plans. Unfortunately projects on the Council wishlist over recent times have not benefited many Whakatane residents.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 2: Separate foodwaste collection for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Combining greenwaste and foodwaste results in a final unpleasant product before treatment which will cost more.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

We are in a recession many people are losing their jobs and their homes and will struggle to pay rates if they are property owners. As the rates collected by the Council are a major source of income it is inevitable that rates will increase adding to the difficulties many will experience.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

A difficult question to answer as a high property value does not necessarily mean the owners have a high income.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Unfortunately many people distrust a lot of the Councillors and Managers who appear to make decisions based on their own situations. For instance the ongoing farce of the tidal pool and the cost as all it needs is someone to admit it has been a mistake and get rid of it. Sullivan Lake where over the years money has been spent on a small amount of dredging then discontinued, a comprehensive report commissioned with recommendations for solutions and as yet no comment from the Council whether any effort will be made to return the Lake to the beautiful and safe area it was intended to be. The expensive upgrade of the Council offices to quake proof which we understand was not required. Just a few of the reasons but enough to put a dent in trust.

**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)** N/A

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Only when we REALLY can afford to

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 3: Separate foodwaste collection for all properties.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

maybe separate cost per bin for food waste

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

spread over as long as possible

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Forget the grandiose ideas for Rex Morpeth park and look at the water situation that will help everyone  
We need to encourage new homes to have some sort of roof collection of water at least for garden use  
New homes could also have this in the plans for toilet and possibly shower and laundry use

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**Name:****Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)** nil**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Redevelopment is a great idea, especially for our youth and we need to plan ahead. However I dont think people will be better able to afford to pay higher rates in 2028/29. Could this become a major fundraising project over the next few years so we don't have to borrow money for this project.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 2: Separate foodwaste collection for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

A great idea but would need to educate people in using it properly which will take time. Also encourage people to use compost bins and worm farms where possible. It has to be better than taking it to the dump.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 2: Close the gap in the short-term (in three years) to avoid greater debt.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Definitely avoid borrowing any more money where possible. Rates should firstly be used towards having clean water, environment and flood protection.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 2: 20% UAGC – \$741.31 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:****Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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Submission ID: 477

Date: Apr 10 24 08:07:25 pm

Name:

Brian Phipps

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Due to the current national cost of living stresses that everyone is facing the nice to have should be abandoned at this time ie the Options 1 and 2. Option 3 needs to be proceeded with as maintenance of the existing asset is urgent. Funding by way of borrowing as necessary.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Keep food waste out of landfill and adding to green waste for composting is preferred and is most cost effective.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

The projected 17.1% average rates increase is preferred although given other across the board cost of living rises this remains high but acceptable.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 1: (Status quo) – 24% UAGC – \$927.50 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

Retain the status quo. It is assumed that a significant number of lower value properties are owned by property investors.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Until NZ moves out of recession do not borrow for or spend money on anything but the provision and maintenance of critical and essential infrastructure.

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Name:

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 2: Close the gap in the short-term (in three years) to avoid greater debt.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 2: 20% UAGC – \$741.31 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Until NZ moves out of recession do not borrow for or spent money on anything but the provision and maintenance of critical and essential infrastructure.

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**Name:****Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)****How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

The Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub needs to be deprioritised - cosmetic and bathroom facility upgrades at the most in the current financial environment. We are still paying off the Fourteen Million Dollar upgrade of the council buildings we didn't ask for - and there are more important aspects of maintaining the district: wastewater, mitigating rate hikes, the bridge into town that need to be addressed more critically than the vanity project that is the RMRH.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Dedicated food bins are a waste of tax payer money - they are not well thought out, and the council infrastructure does not support their use. Continued mixed food and greenwaste is a more logical, cost effective, and sustainable method of foodwaste collection.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

If you want to close the funding gap, DON'T SPEND 106 000 000 on a vanity project. You have pensioners and low-socio-economic households who are struggling with the weekly rate rises now, and you wish to continue to punish them with projects nobody wants but for the council. Look to your own salaries and council nice-to-haves before punishing those who cannot afford what you want from them.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

There have been some very arbitrary reviews of property valuations which have made rates for many properties unequal to their actual value. Some remedial work needs to be done in this space in order to correct the assumptions.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

We don't need any more vanity projects. We need to keep things affordable during these tough times. You say this several times in the LTP, but the words and your actions don't add up. Read the room and listen to your constituents, you're not serving the community you swore you would. Fix this.

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

This is not a 'must-have' project but as someone who has been involved in Music Whakatane for nearly 40 years there is certainly a need for refurbishment of the Little Theatre in particular.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Foodwaste collection should really be at a minimum and households encouraged to make compost to use on their own gardens. If the council were to provide black bins for urban properties to make their own compost, worm farms for both urban and rural or even DIY materials for households to make their own compost to use on gardens. Education regarding this is invaluable and should be provided for everyone to reduce waste of all kinds.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 1: Close the gap quickly (in one year) so we pay less in the future.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

It is important for residents to see fiscal management being used by the District Council as so many people are on limited incomes and struggle with daily provision of just their basic needs. It would seem that the majority see the need for a second bridge above all else and this is something that we all had experience of three years ago during a tsunami warning that affected the whole town. Our coastline is now a red warning area and if disaster strikes any time there is going to be the possibility of severe loss of life as people struggle to get to safety.

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Name:

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Do Not Upgrade Rex Morpeth Park just maintain and repair as required. It is unaffordable at this point in time and I do not support any upgrades in this economic climate - this can be deferred for now

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 2: Separate foodwaste collection for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

If changing the status quo incurs any additional cost to maintaining the status quo then leave it as it is or change if for the most affordable option

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Option 3 is ONLY selected as there is no other option that I find near appropriate at this point, we certainly should not be borrowing to excess and increasing Rate Payer burden. Minimise all unnecessary nice to have per projects like upgrading Rex Morpeth and putting any more money into the proposed Marina. The funding gap must be realistic and should not put us at any greater risk through the Council borrowing. Do not embark on any major projects that are not necessary for our district in this current economic climate. we need to plan to upgrade out Water and Waste Management as a priority moving forward. The funding gap should be managed according to the current economic climate without large borrowing particularly against any properties or increased burden to rate payers.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 1: (Status quo) – 24% UAGC – \$927.50 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

The assumption that people with higher value properties are better able to pay their rates is incorrect. Why should those people, some who work three jobs to survive be punished. We as a family work extremely hard and long hours and under the current economic climate we and many others are all struggling just to live a basic life and pay for utilities. It is inequitable to single out what you consider more able to pay "households" based on the fallacy of property value = wealth - everybody should be treated the same. It would be extremely unpalatable to have special provisions implemented based on who you, as an elected body and public servants deem worthy. At the very least if change is to be made in this area and discriminatory decisions made let us all vote on the matter. Status Quo as a minimum, everybody pays their share across the board. No exceptions based on assumptions. Council already has the ability to inflate or deflate capital values at will.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

It is important that Council actually starts to listen and seek further feedback from the region, we are shocked at the public statements made by council representatives regarding feedback being given. Is this a way discouraging democratic processes as not everybody who has a view is anti the Council, in fact most of us who vote and speak are very supportive. We are being honest and taking time to share our concerns at the proposed unnecessary spends and other matters in the plan. We feel that Council struggles to maintain basic services currently eg state of some parks and reserves and alleyways are well below an acceptable standard. There are large areas in the region that have inadequate or no street lighting despite high rates being paid and this is not acceptable or safe eg Bunyan Road. if you cannot manage the basics and if you have no affordable plan for Water and Waste Management it is unacceptable to want to spend Rate Payers money on unnecessary expensive projects eg Rex Morpeth, a Marina - we cannot afford this and many of the citizens of our region DO NOT want this AT this time. Thank You.

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Free compost and worm farms should be offered to Urban properties too. As more urban properties are growing their own vegetable gardens now a days.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

I'm usually the type to paying any debt off sooner than later. But with only a difference of \$1.92 with Opt 2 and opt 3 over the 10 years. Makes sense to go with Opt 3.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

My husband and I are new homeowners and new to learning where and how our rates are distributed. I do see that upgrades and improvements are important. But does that mean there would be an increase on entry fees etc. Maybe for the residents of the Whakatane District receive discount's?!

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Name:

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 1: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 35% external funding for major development works in 2028 and 2029.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Making decisions to invest significant amounts of ratepayer money on projects is hard, but it is these opportunities that define our community and provide opportunities for generations of people. There is never a 'good time', Council has been talking about this project for so long. Our community needs these upgraded facilities and the cost per ratepayer seems very reasonable. However, please don't scrimp on costs, build something we can all be proud of and will withstand the test of time for generations. Do it once do it right. Build green, with reduced maintenance costs- install solar panels, use low energy lighting and heating/cooling. Consider the whole of life costs for the community. You'll be taking on debt for future generations, but don't also create huge operating costs. Be brave on this one Council, your grandchildren and their kids will thank you for it!

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Whatever option ensures the best outcome- most food waste diverted and produces a product that can be efficiently processed. Ideally locally and with reduced emissions.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 2: Close the gap in the short-term (in three years) to avoid greater debt.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Having costs from yesterday imposed on future ratepayers means we haven't been paying our fair share of what we've used. Whilst affordability is a concern, spreading the cost further into the future doesn't seem equitable. I appreciate there have been unexpected inflated costs, but can council really look yourself in the mirror and say we've had appropriate control and checks on spending? Could more have been done to limit this funding gap? Long forward, what processes can be put in place to prevent this reoccurring?

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

Whilst we might have officially had a recession, I think for most people in this district, there are costs they could reduce in their lives if things are really that tight. Cut back on coffees, takeaways, wasting petrol driving as much. People don't want to cut back on these 'nice to haves', but instead complain that they don't want to pay for what is their share of the cost of running our district. However! There are people for whom paying extra on rates will actually mean that they have to go without, food, new school shoes, drs appointments. Whilst the UAGC isn't perfect, it is one tool that you can use to help those who

are more likely to be negatively impacted. Of course it's not perfect, but it's one of the best tools you have, so use it.

### **Supporting document**

N/A

### **Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

It's hard, but try not to be swayed by the vocal minority. We're seeing it more and more, all over the world, division, misinformation, hatred and agenda fuelled propaganda. But know that most people won't submit because they honestly think you'll make the right decision, based on the factual information and advice. With all of your work, do it once, do it right. Don't cut corners or put off costs for future generations.

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Name:

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

No to this - unnecessary money spent at a time when no one has money

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

None of the above, but if this was the case I would suggest educating people. I remember when there was a composting scheme which we all took advantage of and we still compost to this day. Maybe better educating for those in more populated areas OR suggest everyone buy their own green waste bins which will be cheaper than proposed options

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Now, with the current situation of our economy people are already struggling so much to meet daily needs. Having a roof over our heads should be a given so putting more cost on top of everything else is no go

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

How about we also try and look at other ways to drop cost like eg. Impose cost cuts on yourselves

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

No to the Rex Morpeth Recreational Hall upgrades - We just can't. afford any more cost rise when every dollar we earn is already allocated for No to Food Waste options - find a better way No to Second bridge. Another unnecessary cost we cannot afford at this time No to Intergrating design into infrastructure of flood wall works. Staffing alone cost \$34 million a year, which is very excessive for a small provincial town. There is no where that I saw that you were imposing your own cost cutting which you are over staffed and over paid in some cases. The need for 2 more dog rangers is a cost of eat \$200,000 a year. How about finding another solution? Offering desexing perhaps. Now to focus back on where I live Murupara transfer station - A habit that hasn't changed you say? Introducing cost to the transfer station will only increase the dumping of rubbish in our natural resources!!! What would be the solution to that WHEN it does happen? How will you deal with that? Not only that would the money be redirected back into our local transfer station? No to the cost but how about a better solution? some Ideas: Free dumping for locals on certain days also offering unlimited green waste dumping, bulk verge collection every 3 months. Works well in some of our smaller surrounding communities Rate increases .... Impose

cost on yourselves Am I happy with the long term plan, No. What I see in this long term plan is still nothing for our community. As a long time rate payer it is very disheartening knowing the amount of rates we are charged and what little comes from it.

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Submission ID: 485

Date: Apr 11 24 08:09:27 am

Name:

Greg Davidson

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Spend the least possible amount

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 2: Separate foodwaste collection for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

I think education about how to minimise food waste is better than the expense of collection

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 1: Close the gap quickly (in one year) so we pay less in the future.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

There needs to be some belt tightening here especially if council is considering hiring new staff. The future is not looking bright so I would recommend no extra spending

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

These should be distributed evenly across all ratepayers

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

I believe we should hold off on any further development of Rex Morpeth Park and the Marina Project and consider how we can ease congestion in our town. The question of rates is also at the front of mind we need to keep these from getting higher unnecessarily

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

While the economy of the country is such a bad state the repairs should be only to keep the facility operating and once we are back on track then it can be reviewed.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Combining it makes it a compost and usable to be on sold.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Again this should be reviewed as the country recovers .

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

This will help those struggling to afford it in the interium.

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

As a Coastlands resident I would like to see the Keepa Road walking/cycling track improved, especially to suit those in mobility scooters. Also street lighting down Bunyan road. Our foot paths are in need in of maintenance as well the edges are not kept up to date.

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Submission ID: 487

Date: Apr 11 24 08:23:31 am

Name:

James F. Young

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 2: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 50% external funding for major development works in 2029 and 2030.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 2: Separate foodwaste collection for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

One of the best ways to close the funding gap is to tax people according to their ability to pay. This includes a capital gains tax, which I much prefer to a wealth tax.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 2: 20% UAGC – \$741.31 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

A government's job is to provide essential services to all citizens. Historic attempts to privatize essential services has resulted in fewer and poorer services. as well as lower wages and poorer working conditions to those providing those services.

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Submission ID: 488

Date: Apr 11 24 09:10:44 am

Name:

N Smith

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation) Sullivan Lake Care Group

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 2: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 50% external funding for major development works in 2029 and 2030.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 1: Close the gap quickly (in one year) so we pay less in the future.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

Attached

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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Sullivan Lake Care Group

*I would like to express my concern and commitment over the preservation and improvement of Sullivan Lake's water quality. Sullivan Lake is important to be because as a descendant of [REDACTED] I am aware of the assurance that my great grandfather and Mr Martin were given that the lake would not become stagnant and freshwater be available to the lake at all times when the area was subdivided. This was to keep the health of the lake at optimum levels for the enjoyment of the public. I have resided at Martin Place for the last 16 years and have noticed that the quality of the water has degraded significantly, this has resulted in foul smelling water and is now a threat to the public and bio diversity of the lake.*

*I support the efforts of the Lake Care Group in advocating for the welfare of Sullivan Lake, and urge the Council to listen to their voice and consider their insights as valuable contributions to the decision-making process. The "Sullivan Lake Water Quality, Ecology and Options for Improvement" report provides a comprehensive understanding of the current state of the lake and offers a range of recommendations and potential solutions for improvement. I strongly urge the Council to prioritise and implement the recommendations outlined in the report. These measures are crucial for the sustainable management of Sullivan Lake and the long-term well-being of our community.*

*The ultimate goal should be to achieve and maintain improved water quality in Sullivan Lake. I implore the Council to make this a priority in the upcoming long-term plan.*

**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)** Gibsonmenagerie@gmail.com

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

I am against a separate bin mainly because on a personal level I do not have enough food waste to cover the bottom of one of thos bins

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Firstly stick to the basics first I.e sewage, storm water , waste water etc and generally parks maintenance, before spending on the "nice to have" this can be done if money left after the basics

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

It has to be fair and take into consideration what each district's needs are in relation to water , sewage etched

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

The councillors might be interested to know I did not vote for them I only voted for mayor and deputy and you are both doing your best to keep rates down again councillors who only want nice to haves

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

seek community grants via Lotto/Gaming options

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Proposed Marina development I suggest a ceiling level of say \$300,000 for contaminated soil checking etc to be paid from Harbour Fund monies along with other party contributions. Then abandon the project if it is shown that these costs are going to spiral. Has any estimate been carried out if Marina project was to go ahead regarding ongoing dredging works in the river and who is going to fund/pay for this? The proposed marina development is really for an elite group of larger boat owners and I do not believe it will generate the hundreds of jobs that has been predicted. It is also I believe in the wrong place and too far up river to be practical

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

We should only do essential work, to keep rex morpeth available for all associated groups , as with interest rates and recession alot of rate payers cannot afford rates increases

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Keep as is , we currently recycle food waste with worm farms etc

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Would like to fund by only spending on nessasary work , l.e water treatment, waste water and required maintenance. With payment by most economical outcome

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

The level of rates is already at a level where most cannot afford as we have rates regional rates and water rates , My raes are already over \$105 per week if they rise many will look at relocating out of the district .

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

I am in a house valued higher than others in the community , therefore pay alot more in rates . Why should I pay more ? , when I receive the same services as every one else . I actually receive less as we own our street , so we pay our own roading maintenance etc , no street lighting etc and our wheelie bins are not collected from our street. Maybe our rates should be less

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Name:

Emma Mckeown

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)****How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?****Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

None of the above, I want to make this clear that there is not enough accurate and clear information to make an informed decision to your options. I request an extension of time to investigate accurate "numbers" as stated in the LTP, the numbers given are not estimates? So are they just numbers pulled from thin air? How were these calculated by the QS? Who was the QS involved? How much money has been spent on consulting, wages within council and QS etc so far? I suggest an extension to the end submission date to no less than 12th May 2024. If no extension to time is done, I want to make it clear, I do not agree to my contribution of rates to be spent in way of any of the 3 options above. Thank you.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?****Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

None of the above, I want to make this clear that there is not enough accurate and clear information to make an informed decision to your options. I request an extension of time to investigate accurate "numbers" as stated in the LTP, the numbers given are not estimates? So are they just numbers pulled from thin air? How were these calculated by the QS? Who was the QS involved? How much money has been spent on consulting, wages within council and QS etc so far?

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?****Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

None of the above, I want to make this clear that there is not enough accurate and clear information to make an informed decision to your options. I request an extension of time to investigate accurate "numbers" as stated in the LTP, the numbers given are not estimates? So are they just numbers pulled from thin air? How were these calculated by the QS? Who was the QS involved? How much money has been spent on consulting, wages within council and QS etc so far?

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?****Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

None of the above, I want to make this clear that there is not enough accurate and clear information to make an informed decision to your options. I request an extension of time to investigate accurate "numbers" as stated in the LTP, the numbers given are not estimates? So are they just numbers pulled from thin air? How were these calculated by the QS? Who was the QS involved? How much money has been spent on consulting, wages within council and QS etc so far?

**Supporting document**

N/A



**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

None of the above, I want to make this clear that there is not enough accurate and clear information to make an informed decision to your options. I request an extension of time to investigate accurate "numbers" as stated in the LTP, the numbers given are not estimates? So are they just numbers pulled from thin air? How were these calculated by the QS? Who was the QS involved? How much money has been spent on consulting, wages within council and QS etc so far?

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Name:

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 2: Separate foodwaste collection for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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Name:

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 1: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 35% external funding for major development works in 2028 and 2029.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Consider selling part of the park to a developer for housing or rest home village and use the money to develop a modern sports ground out of town.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 2: Close the gap in the short-term (in three years) to avoid greater debt.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 2: 20% UAGC – \$741.31 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

It seems that because rates have been kept artificially low for many years, the lack of maintenance of infrastructure and development has caught up with us. It is time for the community to bite the bullet and face up to the reality that if Whakatane wants good facilities it has to pay up. The Council should consider selling some properties and agree with developers to fast track building consents so that it becomes a more attractive proposition to invest in our town and district.

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

external funding with no hikes to rate payers to cover this cost

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

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Name:

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 2: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 50% external funding for major development works in 2029 and 2030.

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 2: 20% UAGC – \$741.31 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Thanks to all involved in producing such a well-presented and comprehensive Consultation Document and this feedback form. Well done! We have travelled a lot and moved here 6 years ago after living in Tauranga for 45 years. We love the area. Whakatane impresses because it reflects the surrounding area with a compact and distinctive town centre that is attractive and well maintained. The Strand has a lovely village feel with excellent access to parking on the river side. We hope the town centre will retain its character by ensuring that any future buildings maintain the low-rise feel, don't block out light, maintain the small and varied shop feel and continue to provide verandahs over the footpaths. We don't see any need to connect to the river as it is close and provides an easily accessible, attractive, commercial-free and contrasting environment for relaxation and exercise. The last thing Whakatane needs is to emulate Tauranga, which was once a similar town but has become a monster.

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Just carry out repairs and maintenance only. This is not the time for vanity projects. Get the basics right first.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

I believe food waste needs to be combined with the green waste. I don't believe we need another separate bin which will be another added cost for ratepayers. Also, another bin would be a nuisance to put out.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Re Sullivan Lake. I am urging the council to adopt the recommendations in the River Lake Ltd (Keith Hamill) report as a high priority. Sullivan Lake has been neglected for far too long and the state of it is contrary to the conditions that were agreed when Council accepted the donation of the lake and reserve from the developers of City South as it was called when being developed. I believe the condition of the lake is disrespectful to the memory of Sir William Sullivan and certainly far from what I am sure he envisaged when the donation was made. I have lived in Whakatane most of my life and can remember when the area was farmland, with wetlands and crystal clear water. In the 1980's Whakatane children, including Sir Williams grandchildren, could safely use the lake for recreational pursuits e.g.– Yachting, kayaking, swimming, catching tadpoles. There is no possibility that any of their children can presently do the same. With population growth and higher density housing, Green Spaces such as Sullivan Reserve and Lake assume a greater importance and as such need to be safe for families to use.

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**Name:**

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Necessary upgrades only. Minimal disruption to community use of the facilities. This is a wonderful facility as is, and it is important to maintain it to healthy and functional standards, per option 3.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

I am unable to submit on this issue due to the figures not aligning as raised in the town meeting on 9 April. Please delay this decision until the auditing is complete and total pricing is confirmed.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 3: Close the gap in the medium-term (in six years) to ease the burden now.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

The money is just not there to get from ratepayers during a recession and high cost of living. Public are very clear on this and it seems unusual to persist against such strong public opinion. If you insist on forcing ratepayers to pay higher rate rises in this particular period, you will in fact lose people from the district who can no longer afford our comparatively high rates, and as such reduce your rate payer pool.

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 3: 16% UAGC – \$559.13 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

You will be aware that public are becoming more aware and interested in accountability of councils. I am concerned primarily with recent examples of failure to follow process. Trust in WDC is at an all time low, and you are losing support from previously supportive ratepayers. It would be a great shame if the focus of your ratepayers turns to holding you accountable and pursuing reviews of your decision making and processes, rather than working together for our town. Your public are trying to tell you that they are not comfortable with the current level of consideration given to public opinion. I remain hopeful there will be humility and change in your response. Thank you.

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Submission ID: 499

Date: Apr 11 24 10:22:29 am

Name:

Edward Hardie

Organisation (if on behalf of organisation) on behalf of myself

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Do what is necessary to ensure safe and workable now. Review in 2028 as to long term plan when funds and better understanding of 3-waters budgets and requirements along with roading and other infrastructure better known. I do not believe it is exceptionally critical for the full blown upgrade right now. Further, I fully support the Council in ensuring that the Morpeth Park remains as such and not subdivided for some some housing. It is important i feel that we keep sports, recreation and other social / community facilities as close as we can to the center of town. This i believe for several reasons including easy access including during the day for town workers to enjoy, for children participation before / after school and eas of pick up / drop near to where bulk of peolpe working, safety, and importantly to help create the "central hub" of activity within the town. We are seeing the desire of some larger cities wanting and achieving this where they can eg. Christchurch and Auckland would like too as well. Well into the future it is important to maintain this special open area and recreation & community place close to the town center.

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Continue to use the existing larger green bin pick up. Include for all organic material.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 2: Close the gap in the short-term (in three years) to avoid greater debt.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 1: (Status quo) – 24% UAGC – \$927.50 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

1. Please ensure that you continue to focus on the critical infrastructure requirements around flood protection, waste water (sanitary sewer treatment), stormwater and potable water. Where necessary road improvements. We need these to function above all else. Potable water, sanitary sewer effective treatment and stormwater control are basics of Council activities that must be done and executed efficiently and well. 2. Please review and ensure that Whakatane township is made more resilient, as you are doing with flood banks. There has already been hundreds of millions of dollars spent within Whakatane town over the years with facilities, homes, schools, infrastructure, etc. I think council should



help ensure that this community and private assets are more resiliently protected. My wife comes from a village in the Netherlands that is over 800 years old and is 6m below sea level. The town is fine and has been for hundreds of years, the issue of land height is just managed well to avoid inundation. The notion that we should move Whakatane to Awakeri, away from what makes Whakatane so special (history, river, sea coast, facilities, etc) is crazy talk and would be an unacceptable waste of money and loss. Make sure the town is more resilient so that it can be built up and out. Secure / encourage more adjacent land to be made available for housing and community, allow greater use and diversity of what we already have. Create and make the centre of town that; the focus point of town. Whakatane is vibrant, enough of the doom about inundation and sea level rise. We are not being eroded away from relentless sea action rather concern is I understand around flooding. Work out what is required, plan and install the required protection and get on with continuing to make Whakatane great and the center of the Whakatane District. 3. Encourage our town centre to be more vibrant for teens and younger adults. The town is dead for younger ones on the Friday & Saturday nights.. they all seem to head off to Tauranga/Papamoa. We don't want that. Apart from the safety concerns of having them drive there and back we are missing out on creating a space that youth and younger adults can socialize and be a part of. There needs to be a plan and actions to create the centre of town as a place for all to meet & greet, socialise, shop, enjoy each others company etc. We need our younger people to stay and want to be a part of the new Whakatane as we grow and develop to be the best place in New Zealand to grow up and live. 4. Continue to only spend the harbour endowment fund monies on what the purpose of the fund is for. Do not allow the money to be transferred into the general the fund. The opportunity is to use the money for flood protection, and improvements on harbour land. Help plan and use the money for that purpose to enliven and improve our resilience and to create special places along the harbour. We have an amazing river & harbour to view upon and enjoy. Look at ways and put in place actions to help turn the river side of the main street to focus also to the river. Our best views in the town centre are taken up by carparks and a road (Kakahoroa Drive). Provide for carparking on edge of centre, pedestrianise and create places for community, cafes, restaurants, etc with private partners to achieve the goals with shop owner access for deliveries & disabled parking over cobbled areas etc like many other successful towns.

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Submission ID: 500

Date: Apr 11 24 10:25:34 am

Name:

Dianne Wood

**Organisation (if on behalf of organisation)**

**How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?**

Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

**Your thoughts on how should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub:**

Save consultants fees, unnecessary expenditure within council head office and provide more facilities to the residents

**How should we manage foodwaste collection?**

Option 1: Mixed foodwaste and greenwaste for urban properties only.

**Your thoughts on how we should manage foodwaste collection:**

Foodwaste bins have not worked in any city or country that we have lived in. Needs to go in with green waste.

**How quickly should we close our funding gap?**

Option 1: Close the gap quickly (in one year) so we pay less in the future.

**Your thoughts on closing our funding gap:**

Stop burdening the future - if we need it we should pay for it now

**How should we distribute rates increases across the properties in our district?**

Option 1: (Status quo) – 24% UAGC – \$927.50 (GST exclusive) in year 1.

**Your thoughts on how we should distribute rates increases across the properties in our district:**

Once again - if we need to we need to pay and not defer and let the future pay, But get your costs under control!

**Supporting document**

N/A

**Do you have any other feedback for your Mayor and Councillors?**

Sullivan Lake Clear the lillies, create a water flow, add some filters, and the water quality will improve over time! Sullivan Lake was once described by Council as the 'jewel in Whakatāne's crown', but sadly it cannot currently hold this title. I urge the Council to take decisive action to look after the lake by adopting all the recommendations listed as highest priority in the Report 'Sullivan Lake Water Quality, Ecology and Options for Improvement' by K. Hamill, which Council commissioned in the last Long Term Plan of 2021. It is crucial for the Council to remember that Sullivan Lake was gifted to the Whakatāne community by Sullivan and Martin, and its care was entrusted to Council under the condition that it would be looked after, including it having a flow of freshwater through the lake at all times (pg 4 of the Sullivan Lake Reserve Management Plan 2015). We implore the Council to honour this commitment by taking immediate and decisive action to address the degradation of Sullivan Lake. In conclusion, we ask the Council to urgently take action for the well-being of Sullivan Lake and its surrounding ecosystem by implementing the recommendations of the Hamill report without delay.