
REPORT 1A
(1215/52/IM)

2010/11 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN: SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides a summary of the consultation process and written submissions on the 2010/11 Draft Annual Plan (DAP).

This report should be read in conjunction with the following reports:

- Report of the Annual Plan Hearings Subcommittee
- Draft Climate Change Action Plan
- Draft Community Facilities Policy and Implementation Plan
- Draft Annual Plan - Key Issues and Funding Requests.

2. Executive Summary

Formal consultation on the DAP ran from 9 April until 10 May 2010. Consultation on the draft Community Facilities Policy and draft Climate Change Action Plan ran concurrently. (Reports two and three on this agenda report back on these items.)

A total of 487 written submissions were received across the three consultations and 82 submitters presented to the Annual Plan Hearings Subcommittee over three and a half days.

The vast majority of comments (70 percent) focused on the key issues (variances). This aligns with the consultation plan that aimed to highlight these.

New audiences were reached with 34 percent of submissions received from first time submitters.

All submissions have been provided to elected members and are publicly available. Each submitter will be advised of the Council's decision on the points made in their submission after the Annual Plan has been adopted.

This report provides for the formal receipt of the written submissions and presents a summary of these by key issue and by strategy area. The report includes analysis of the consultation feedback.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Strategy and Policy committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Receive the submissions that were lodged as part of the special consultative procedure for the 2010/11 Draft Annual Plan (previously distributed).*
- 3. Note that a response will be provided to all submitters on the issues raised in their submissions following adoption of the 2010/11 Annual Plan.*
- 4. Note that submissions of an operational nature have been provided to relevant business units for consideration against existing work programmes and will be actioned as appropriate.*

4. Discussion

The DAP described year two of the Long-term Council Community Plan (long-term plan) and outlined any proposed changes for 2010/11.

Consultation on the DAP followed the two stage engagement exercise that was used to develop the long-term plan.

4.1 Summary of communication and engagement tools

The consultation plan for the DAP was designed to raise awareness and ensure people had the opportunity and were encouraged to make submissions.

The following tools and techniques were used:

Documentation

Hard copies of the full publication and the summary were made available at Council libraries, service centre, recreation centres, and swimming pools. The summary was also distributed to cafes around the CBD. All documentation was also made available online.

Print media

Editorials in the 'Our Wellington' page of the DominionPost were used extensively leading up to, and throughout the consultation period to highlight key issues, public meetings and how people could have their say. This was supported with smaller advertisements in the 'Our Wellington' page, the *Wellingtonian* and *CityLife*. A formal public notice was also posted.

Other advertising

The DAP was also advertised extensively on the *Stuff* and *Metservice* websites and the following radio stations: More FM, the Rock, the Breeze, Newstalk ZB, and Classic Hits.

Public meetings

Public meetings were used as a way of raising awareness of the plan and for groups to discuss and ask questions. Fewer DAP public meetings were held this year¹ reflecting the fact that this mode of communication technique is reducing in effectiveness.

Meetings based around communities of interest continue to attract largely participation. In line with this presentations were made to the: Pacific, Ethnic, and Sport and Recreation fora, Environmental and Disability Reference groups and Youth Council).

New ways to engage also continue to be introduced. The Amazing Race – a race through the city for youth to complete set tasks – was popular, and all participants prioritised key issues outlined in the DAP according to importance for youth as one of those tasks.

The internet also provides a platform for community discussion on the DAP. This year officers have reviewed blogs and social media websites to identify themes. A summary of these is included in section 4.3.

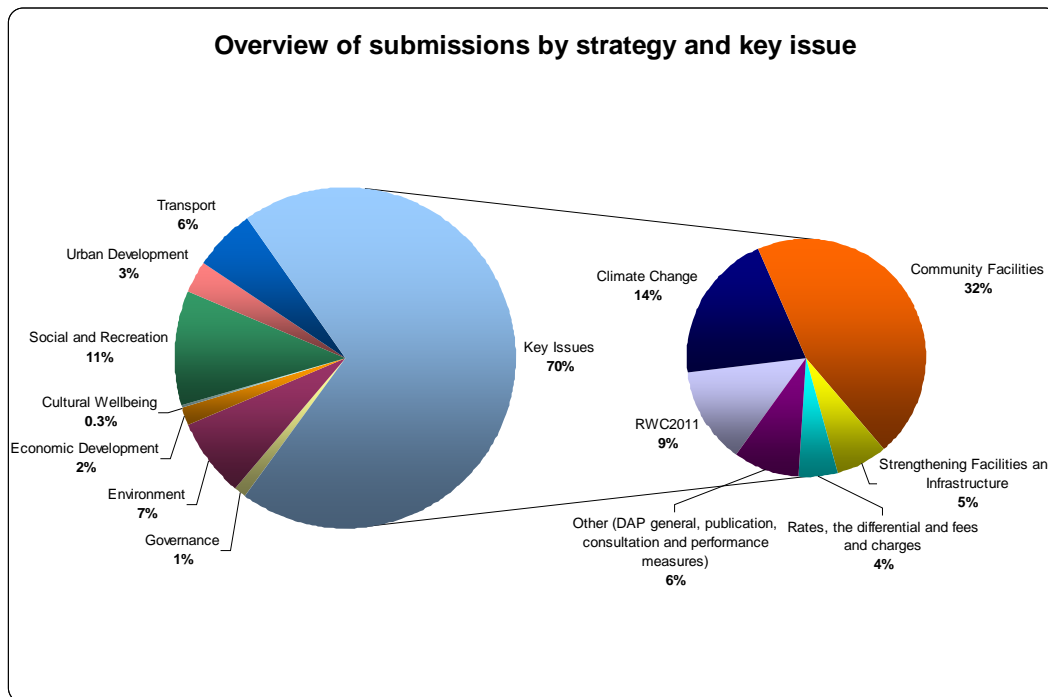
Officers will continue to review the consultation approach, including the role of public meetings for future DAP consultation exercises.

¹ Three meetings were held this year compared to nine last year.

4.2 Summary of written submissions

Officers have reviewed all submissions. Many cover more than one topic with over 2000 separate comments received across the range of Council activities.

Proposed variances received the majority of comments (70 percent) as outlined in the graph below. This is consistent with the consultation plan that sought to highlight these.



4.2.1 Summary of themes by key issue

The following is a brief summary of the themes that emerged through the submissions on these topics.

i. Rugby World Cup 2011 legacy

Rugby World Cup Sculpture

Of the RWC2011 initiatives this received the most comments (16). Views were mixed (more weighted in opposition) based on the look of the proposed sculpture, and its relative priority to other Council priorities. Others thought it was a good idea, viewed it as a legacy and a good focal point to the immediate village area.

Rugby World Cup Village

Mixed views (more weighted in support) for the Wharewaka Village and information centre. Those in favour noted it as a sensible place for the village

and that the festival will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase Wellington to the world. Those in opposition cited cost, relative priority to other Council activities and that sufficient facilities were already available (restaurants/bars) to meet the needs of fans. Nine submitters commented on this area.

CBD street cleaning

Cleaning up the CBD was seen as a positive step in preparing for the RWC2011. One of the eight submitters opposed additional expenditure, another asked that additional provision be provided to reduce street litter and that the income from fines be used to partially fund this increased level of service. One submitter stated that the benefits of a cleaner CBD fell to the inner city businesses who should pay for the increased level of service.

Newtown Park sportsfield upgrade

Six submitters commented on this proposal and all were in support of the additional funding to prepare the ground for training needs for the Rugby World Cup.

Courtenay Place toilets upgrade

The majority of submitters commenting on this area supported the upgrade of the facilities. One questioned whether the work was required and another suggested that part of the funding be allocated to upgrade toilets at the southern end of Frank Kitts Park.

Maori Heritage Trail

Unanimous support amongst the seven submitters that commented on the heritage trail. One submitter – while in support of the proposal – noted that the Harbour Trail was ‘numbingly slow’ and also needed to be progressed.

Electronic parking signs

Limited comments and a mixed response. Some positive comments in relation to it being a partnership approach for the funding, while others believed signs would only compromise Council’s sustainable transport objectives.

Waterloo Quay roading improvements

The seven submissions on this area were largely in favour of bringing forward the funding to undertake the improvements prior to the Rugby World Cup. Two submitters opposed the proposal, one citing it was not worth the funding for seven games and another noted that the primary objective did not appear to be for improvements for pedestrians originating from passenger ships.

ii. Strengthening infrastructure and future focused work streams

Additional bus shelters

This received the most comments (10) under this grouping of key issues with the vast majority in favour. Additional comments included the need for the shelters to be weather proof and for seats to be added. Another submitter asked that shelter design and placement needed proactive and early engagement. Bus shelters were also a popular initiative among youth participating in the 'Amazing Race' during the consultation process. They rated it in their top four priorities².

Enviro-Schools

The dozen submitters who commented on this proposal were in favour of the funding. Some submitters stated that they would like to see that the funding continued in the future through a three-year grant.

Lyall Bay Surf Club

High level of support for the proposal although submitters did not always distinguish between the public toilets aspect of the proposal from the service level agreement element. The Lyall Bay Surf Club and one individual also commented in favour of additional support for the proposed new club rooms. Maranui Life Saving Club opposed funding for surf life saving services noting it was contrary to the core of surf life saving club ethos and that this service had been provided by volunteers for the last 100 years. The proposal was commented on by a dozen submitters.

Other key issues

Additional funding proposed for: fences and guardrails, the St James Trust and Basin Reserve Trust, the City to Sea Bridge, repiling of Aro Valley Community Hall, new signage for dog areas, development of a computerised model and a spatial structure plan for the Wellington 2040 project did not attract large numbers of submissions. There were no strong themes. Submissions were mostly in support.

The Aro Valley community Council did ask for additional funding to include under floor insulation when the repiling work is done and this is discussed further in report 4: Key Issues and Funding Requests.

² Key issues in order of priority for youth are: the Climate Change Action Plan; Lyall Bay Surf Lifesaving Club – additional funding; more inbound bus shelters; and Courtenay Place public convenience upgrade.

4.2.2 Summary of submissions by strategy area

Governance area

Comments related to the need for greater emphasis on engagement rather than communication. This also came through from a number of submissions in relation to changes made to the recycling process where some submitters would have liked to have been consulted before a final decision was made³. The Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust requested wording changes to the governance section of the annual plan to reflect the settlement they reached with central government. Officers will work with them to ensure any updated wording is included in the final plan.

There was also a general theme of organisations and community groups wanting to work closely with Council on areas of specific interest to them. Not in formal 'consultation' processes, but at operational or early option development stages of projects. The submissions have all been distributed to the appropriate business units to follow up and respond.

Environment area

Most activities in the environmental area received a few comments each. There was support for the development of a walkway along Porirua Stream, the eastern walkway, for public vegetable gardens, and for greater diversity of eco sourced native plants in community planting. Two submitters also sought a halt to encroachments in the Town Belt.

There was support for efforts to reduce leaks from the city's water network, support for rainwater capture and that water should remain owned by the public.

Feedback was largely positive for existing activities and programmes, and a number of operational requests were made, as well as comments that supported the rephrasing or enhancement of existing programmes such as the Otari Wilton Bush Landscape Development Plan. Officers will consider these and incorporate them into existing business-as-usual work where possible.

Note that community feedback on climate change is discussed in Report 2 on this agenda.

Economic area

There were no common themes in the feedback on this strategy area. Comments ranged across the activities and included: support of tourism promotion, opposition to funding support for Te Papa, and two submitters noted that the top of the cable car precinct was untidy – particularly the exterior of the Skyline

³ Note all recycling options - including the preferred status quo option - were consulted on as part of the draft 2009-19 LTCCP in April and May 2009.

building. There was opposition to Council involvement in direct broadband provision, while the Makara Ohariu Community Board discussed the need for finding a solution to poor broadband coverage in the Makara/Ohariu area. Officers are working with the Board on opportunities for the roll-out of the Government's rural broadband investment for Makara/Ohariu.

One submitter noted the lack of venues to attract bigger musical acts, while another noted that many economic activities did not benefit Ngaio or other Wellington suburbs and non-essential development projects should therefore be removed from the budget for rates relief.

Cultural Wellbeing area

This area of the draft plan received the least comments although all were positive. Comments highlighted support for the arts festival and for facilities and services provided by the Council in regards to the arts.

Creative NZ made a detailed submission on the arts, highlighting the review it is undertaking of the organisations it funds on a recurrent basis – seventeen of which are located in Wellington. Creative NZ noted it will discuss the findings of the review with officers in June.

Social and Recreation area

A range of comments were received in relation to Council's social and recreation activities.

Many of the comments in this strategy area focused on sportsfields and artificial surfaces. Submitters encouraged support for the Wakefield Park redevelopment and that Council allocate resources for improving the existing football playing fields. Submitters also requested that the existing programme to roll out artificial surfaces be brought forward to meet demand and that existing grass pitches (which were too frequently closed for play due to poor condition) be improved. The artificial sportsfields programme schedule is discussed further in report 4.

A number of submitters also raised the issue of fluoridisation of the water supply stating it could have adverse health affects and that Council did not have 'informed consent' to add fluoride to the water supply. Please see report 4 on this agenda for further discussion on this issue.

Urban Development Strategy

There were no overarching themes in this strategy area. Comments received include: support for strengthening town centres, that development must occur in accordance with the Urban Design Protocol, and that Council should be vigilant in restricting urban development encroaching in the rural areas of the city.

Some submitters were directive in their requests – although providing little detail – requesting that Bond Street be improved, while another stated that many areas of the city had visual pollution – referring to cluttered, hard to read, confusing, and contradictory signage.

Two comments were made on earthquake risk mitigation, one asking for all buildings assessed to be obliged to display in a prominent place a notice carrying the results of the earthquake assessment, while another submitter requested that a programme be introduced to remove overhead power cables as these could be a fire risk in the event of an earthquake.

Comments were also received on waterfront development (mostly in opposition), the reduced heritage grant, and that heritage in key parts of the city needed to be assessed and protected.

Transport area

Comments on the transport planning area focused largely on the need for a modal shift to more environmentally friendly transport solutions such as public transport, cycling and walking.

Specific comments included support for a dedicated public transport spine, greater recognition of taxis in our planning documents, support for more progress to be made regarding school speed zones, and support for the proposed alterations to Adelaide Road. There was both support and opposition to the Westchester Drive development.

Car parking received a number of comments. There was support from some for free weekend parking, while others thought the subsidy should be used to provide free bus fares. One submitter sought to remove private parking from public streets. Two submitters believed larger SUV vehicles should incur a special tax for entering the CBD.

4.2.3 Submissions on funding

Rates

The feedback was varied on the projected rates increase. Feedback included: support for the rates increase and a statement that they received value for money for their rates; that rates should be tied to the rate of inflation; and a number of others – while considering the proposed rates increase of 2.88% in favourable terms – considered that further reductions could be made through a line-by-line review and further prioritisation of existing projects and programmes.

Rates differential

The rates differential was commented on by six submitters. The majority opposed the differential on the grounds that the business sector could pass on

its cost. One submitter noted that it was pleased that Council recognised the impact of the differential on the business sector and was sticking to its commitment of reducing the differential.

Fees and charges

There was opposition to pool and recreation facilities fees increases while others sought assurance that the increase was necessary and that increases did not create potential barriers to community participation in sport and recreation. Support for an increase to swimming pool fees if it was tied to a new pool was more prevalent in oral than written submissions. The 'administrative' charge for residential properties with water meters was also opposed while two submitters submitted in support of fees and charges noting that additional costs be borne by the users.

Performance measures

Submitters sought the inclusion of specific performance measures including greater recognition of accessibility, transport safety and efficiency, water usage and flooding. A small number of changes to performance measures are recommended in report 4.

4.3 Community feedback on blogs and social media websites

A review of comments on blogs was undertaken throughout the consultation period. Discussion occurred on a half a blogs and articles with approximately one hundred comments on monitored sites during the consultation period.

While online views can provide a useful window to complement the formal consultation process, they need to be considered in the context that postings are either spontaneous so tend to rely on the information provided in the online article or are from politically-active citizens using comments as an opportunity to advance a particular view.

Officers tracked comments on a range of websites and blogs before and during the formal consultation period. The highest participation levels appear to be on *stuff.co.nz* and *scoop.co.nz*.

Issues that generated discussion include:

- library services – concern about reduced levels of funding, the quality and access to the collection, and the future of smaller branches⁴.
- the Rugby World Cup sculpture – mixed views (more weighted in opposition) on the look of the proposed sculpture, and expenditure against other council priorities (most of this comment occurred when the design was publicly announced in March).

⁴ Postings were made by Councillors to correct the information.

- Rugby World Cup Village base around the Wharewaka – mixed views (more weighted in opposition) about need for the additional expenditure to support the RWC. This is in contrast to written submissions that were mostly positive.
- the rates differential – concern about total rates increase compared to the average residential rates increase in Council communications.

Comments on many other annual plan related issues reported online were too small in number to discern a general trend. These included Zealandia (cost of entry), Courtenay Place toilets, electric vehicles pilot, and the school pool partnership programme.

5. Conclusion

The consultation process, including meetings, hearings, and submissions ensured that individuals and groups had the opportunity to participate effectively in the DAP process. This report provides for the formal receipt of the submissions received during the DAP consultation period.

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

The report contributes to the governance strategy.

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

The report has no financial impacts.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications.

4) Decision-Making

This process provides feedback on a special consultative procedure.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

This report provides feedback on a broad consultation process.

b) Consultation with Maori

Mana whenua were consulted as part of the long-term plan process, and the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust submitted on the 2010/11 Draft Annual Plan.

6) Legal Implications

The report provides for the formal receipt of submissions that were made as part of the special consultative procedure.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with the Council's engagement policy

Summary of engagement exercise

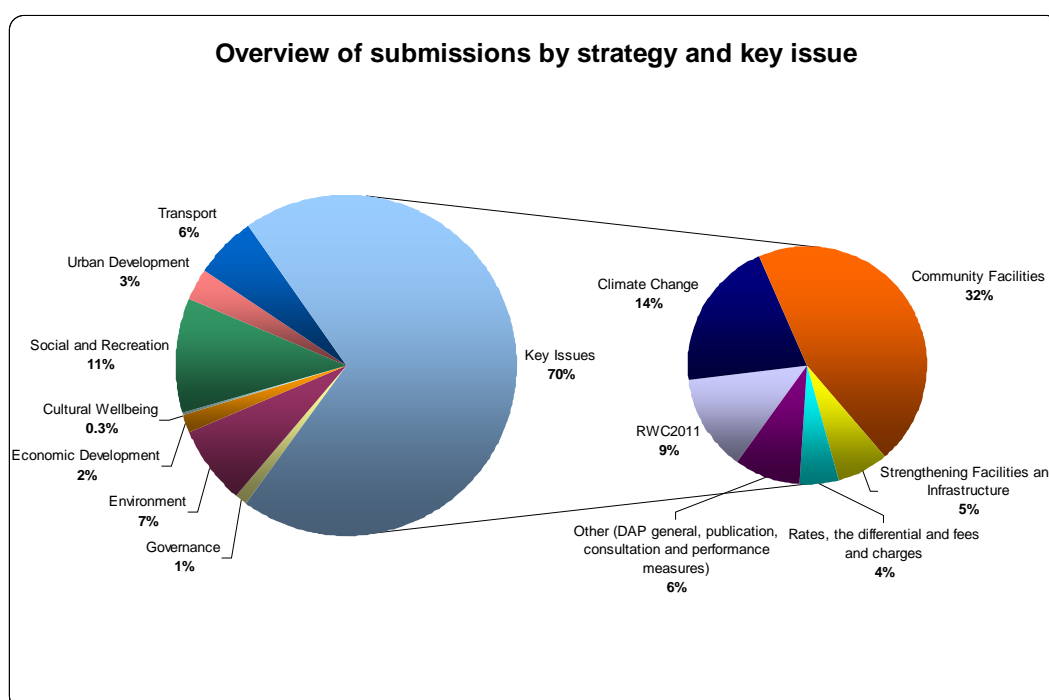
The DAP received 487 submissions. The number of submissions received each year is largely driven by the nature of the key issues being proposed and whether there are any organised form-letter campaigns.

The following table details the number of submissions received since 2002.

DAP 2002	LTCCP 2003	DAP 2004	DAP 2005	LTCCP 2006	DAP 2007	DAP 2008	LTCCP 2009	DAP ⁵ 2010
279	578	479	817	1,368	987	438	503	487

The submissions covered a wide range of Council activities. The majority focused on the proposed draft Community Facilities Policy, the draft Climate Change Action Plan and the key issues outlined in the DAP. A number of new funding bids were also received.⁶

The graph below outlines the areas of comment across the consultations.

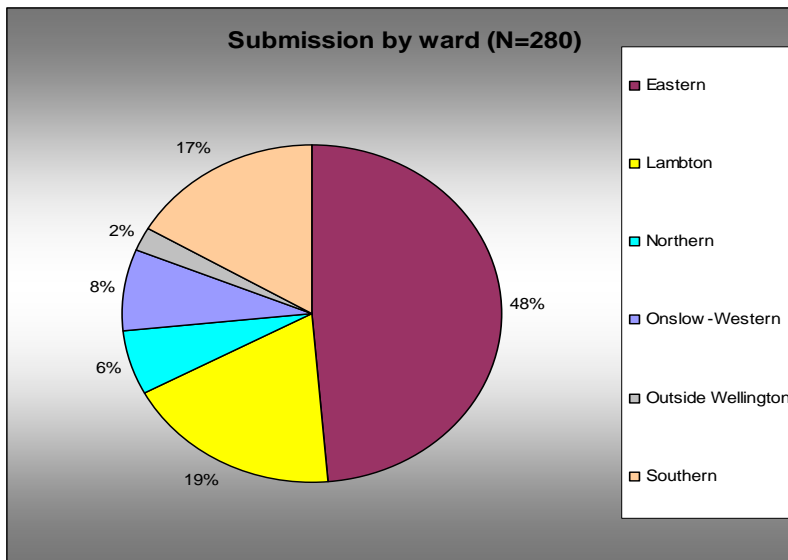


⁵ This is made up of: DAP: 314, draft Climate Change Action Plan: 82 and draft Community Facilities Policy: 91

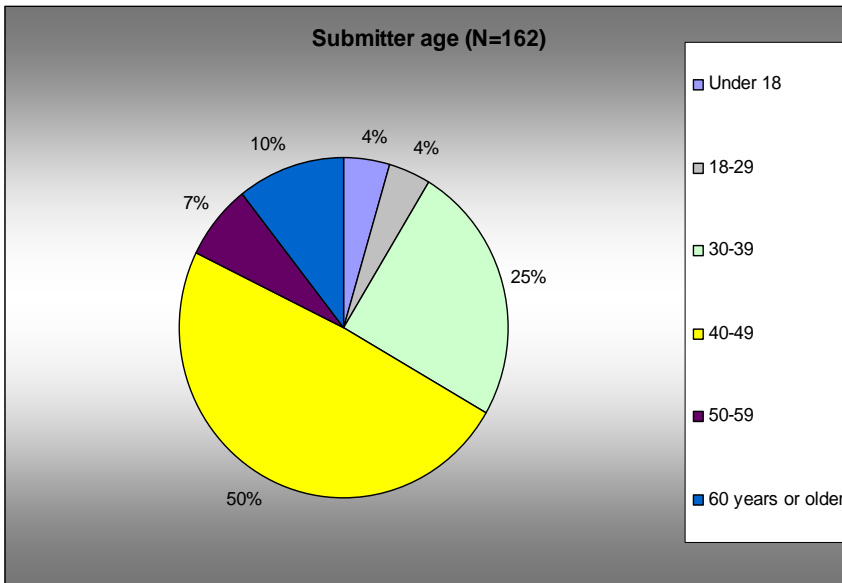
⁶ See report 2: on the Climate Change Action Plan, and report 4 on the draft Community Facilities Policy, and report 4 on key issues and funding requests

Other indicators of the reach of the process include:

- **New audiences:** these continue to be reached with 34% of submissions received from first time submitters.
- The numbers wishing to be heard, while down from last year, remains comparable to previous annual plan years. All submitters who lodged a submission prior to the closing date were given the opportunity to speak at the hearings and 82 took up this opportunity.
- Submissions were received from all five wards and from outside Wellington. The greatest proportion were received from the Eastern Ward reflecting the number of submissions relating to the Wellington Region Aquatic Centre (note: 280 submitters noted ward in their submission form (some were email only)).



- Submissions were received from a wide range of age groups. Many schools also submitted on partnering with Council for the upgrade of school pools thereby representing the interest of youth (note: 162 submitters noted age in their submission form).



Electronic submissions (online and email) continues to be the preferred way of making submissions with 57% of submissions received this way. The hardcopy freepost submission form contained with the draft plans were also popular.

