

15 July 2010

Tawa Community Board  
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Wellington City Council  
PO Box 2199  
WELLINGTON

Dear Tawa Community Board

Thank you for your submission on the 2010/11 draft Annual Plan, Community Facilities Policy and Climate Change Action Plan. We appreciate all the support the Board has shown us through your submission.

We received 487 submissions. These were all considered before the Council adopted its final plan on 25 June 2010.

The Annual Plan explains what we will do in the coming year, why we are doing it, how much we will spend and how we will fund it.

This year's plan is about delivering on four key areas of focus— responding to climate change, maximising the benefits from the Rugby World Cup, strengthening infrastructure and community facilities, and planning for the future of the city.

We are forecasting a total operating expenditure of \$352 million in 2010/11. The overall programme will see total rates rise by 3.24 percent taking into account growth in the rating base. This is substantially lower than what was forecast in the Council's long-term plan last year.

The percentage increase will vary for individual ratepayers depending on the capital value changes and the effect of the rates differential between business and households.

In relation to the points you raised in your submission:

**Draft Annual Plan**

*Rates*

Thank you for your support of the rates increase and uniform annual charges. We have worked hard to keep these increases to a minimum, as we are conscious many businesses and householders have yet to feel the effects of the improving economy.

*Rugby World Cup*

Thank you for your support of the Rugby World Cup (RWC) initiatives – the RWC Village, sculpture, CBD street cleaning, upgrade of Courtenay Place toilets, Waterloo Quay roading improvements, car park advisory signs and Newtown sportsfield upgrade. We also believe the Rugby World Cup provides a great opportunity to showcase how fantastic Wellington is to a global audience.

*Population Growth*

We note the Board's concern about significant population growth. We are focusing on population growth, specifically in the Northern suburbs, by planning for the future through our Northern Growth Management Framework. We want to ensure growth occurs in the right place, and that we have the right level of amenity to address the growth.

*Graffiti*

Thank you for supporting the work of the Graffiti Flying Squad. We agree that graffiti is another name for vandalism that negatively impacts on feelings of safety and property values. We will continue to offer support to the Flying Squad and monitor residents' perceptions of urban design/urban form safety issues (i.e. graffiti, vandalism, poorly lit public spaces).

*Walkway Development – along Porirua Stream from Takapu Rd to Kenepuru*

Thank you for your support. We will continue to work on the implementation of this walkway which will be of great benefit to Tawa for its residents and visitors.

*Transport*

A preliminary investigation into providing a safe walking and cycling path along Middleton Road has been estimated to cost approximately \$20.0M. It is unlikely that Council would receive a subsidy for this work. In recent years speeds have been reduced through road improvements and a lower speed limit to improve Middleton road for all road users including pedestrians and cyclists. There is currently no further work planned in the near future for Middleton Road.

*Parking*

Thank you for your support of free weekend street parking and the enforcement of parking times and realistic parking fees. Free weekend street parking in the CBD provides an incentive for people to travel into the city during the weekend, and any move away from it may discourage people from doing so and affect the vibrancy of the CBD.

*Pests*

Thank you for your support. We plan to continue pest control to protect our natural ecosystems.

**Climate Change Action Plan**

*Walking tracks*

Investment in walking tracks was not viewed as a key priority as part of the Climate Plan. Approximately \$5.7m is budgeted in the 2009-19 Long-Term Plan for implementing our Walking Policy. The Policy aims to increase the amount of trips made by walking and make walking more convenient and safe. The first priority is to encourage increased walking trips to and from schools by improving the walking conditions around schools (i.e. improved footpaths and signage and lower speed zones).

*Energy reduction projects*

We note the Board's concern over whether the proposed actions of the Climate Plan are sufficient to achieve our 2050 reduction targets. The Climate Plan will not achieve everything at once. The actions (e.g. Home Energy Saver Programme and eMission) that target reducing energy (and emissions) in households and businesses build on our previous work in this area. They rely on partnerships between key stakeholders and they provide the foundation for our work on reducing emissions. These projects can be scaled up if they prove to be effective in their aims.

*Water conservation measures*

The Board advocated for more funding for projects that aim to re-use grey water or capture rain water. These types of measures are being considered in our draft Water Conservation Plan. We will be consulting on a discussion document for the draft Water Conservation Plan in late July or early August and the Board is encouraged to submit on this.

## **Community Facilities Policy**

Your submission on the Community Facilities Policy raised a number of issues. The Policy was adopted with a few minor amendments and the implementation plan adopted with one major change to the funding allocated to investment in school pools. The Council debated the issue of investment in school pools at length and took into account a range of views. The final decision was to increase the level of funding for partnerships with schools from \$0.5m to \$2m over 3 years. As part of the implementation plan, the Council agreed funding for the refurbishment of the roof at Tawa pool and we would like to assure the Board that before the Tawa Pool closes for the roof refurbishment, Recreation Wellington staff will work with other local swimming pool providers to ensure that as many existing user groups are accommodated in other nearby pools.

### *Mervyn Kemp Library*

Thank you for your support of the staff at the Mervyn Kemp Library. We have not allocated funding to upgrade this library in the next 10 years; however staff from both the library and community centre will continue to work closely together to ensure the coordination of both facilities.

### *Artificial Turf*

The Board also requested we consider an artificial turf at Tawa. The installed artificial turfs have been a huge success so far. Together with sporting clubs we are supportive of their continued use and have identified Alex Moore Park and Grenada as preferred sites in the Northern suburbs.

## **We've made changes to the final plan**

The programme outlined in the final annual plan is not the same as the one outlined in the draft plan. The changes include:

- Increasing the school partnership fund to upgrade school pools where this will improve public access to learn-to swim programmes or aquatic sports, and we've brought forward work on how the Council can best meet demand for aquatic space in the future. The work will inform the 2011/12 draft annual plan.
- Making minor changes to some of the climate change initiatives to ensure they better align with the work programmes of Council's partners.
- Providing additional funding: to Wellington Zoo to ensure they can retain experienced and qualified zoo staff; for the Aro Valley Community Centre to insulate the floor; for a safety upgrade of the park on the corner of Riddiford and Constable Streets in Newtown; towards the Wharewaka fit out; to cover the costs of the legal fees that were incurred from successfully defending the Golden Mile project in the courts; and funding to implement the liquor control bylaw.

The final 2010/11 Annual Plan, Climate Change Action Plan and Community Facilities Policy will be published in July. Copies will be available in libraries and online at [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz).

Thank you again for taking the time to have your say in the city's plan.

Yours sincerely

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