
REPORT 9
(1215/12/IM)

**RATIFICATION OF TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD
SUBMISSIONS:**

- **WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL LONG TERM
COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN**
 - **GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL
PUBLIC TRANSPORT REVIEW**
-

Officers recommend that the Tawa Community Board:

1. *Receives the information.*
2. *Ratifies the Board submission to the Wellington City Council Long Term Council Community Plan and the Greater Wellington Regional Council Public Transport Review*

Attached is the Board submission to the:

- Wellington City Council Long Term Council Community Plan (Appendix 1)
- Greater Wellington Regional Council Public Transport Review (Appendix 2)

Submission Tawa Community Board - 18 May 2009

Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-19 and Draft Annual Plan

The Tawa Community Board (TCB) compliments the Wellington City Council (WCC) upon the documentation and other information provided for this year's Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). In particular the various meetings and forums across the City, the Residents Panel and the Hot Line to the Mayor and Councillors, have enabled more Wellington Residents to provide an opinion on the LTCCP.

However, it is unfortunate that so many of the Forums and Meetings (eg Urban Development /Transport Strategy, Economic Strategy and the General Overview of all strategy areas, et al) have been during the day time and City based, thereby precluding many residents from attending.

General

- Whilst the legislation provides for the preparation of a 10 year plan, the TCB believes that a longer term view, perhaps 25-50 years should be taken into consideration. This would prevent short term solutions.
- Tawa has one of the highest percentages in Wellington of residents over 60 years of age. Many of these still live in their own homes and are reliant on their investment income to pay their bills. With the decreasing returns, even a 3.58% increase in rates will have an impact upon their ability to pay. The planned increases for following years of 5.98% and 4.37% could have grave consequences.
- Uniform Annual Charges.
The TCB supported the introduction of a Uniform Annual Charge (UAC) across the City which provided equity across all users of a service and was disappointed when it was dropped last year. The TCB believes that UAC's should be revisited.

1. Governance

The key parts of the LTCCP are the Strategy Tree which outlines the key components that the Council uses for governance and those are:

- 1.1 City Governance and engagement
- 1.2 Maori and Mana whenua partnerships
- 1.3 Regional and Community Outcomes

1.1 City governance and engagement.

The TCB does not believe that the key facts as presented on page 39 of the Draft LTP 2009-19 tell the complete picture of the democratic process for the

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Wellington region. Not only do we have a mayor and 14 councillors but we also have two democratically elected community boards that are also elected to:

- represent, and to advocate for, its community.
- consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to, the community board
- maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community
- undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority

The TCB makes the following comment about Page 39 “More Inclusive”. The TCB is a significant point of access for people to raise questions or suggestions about the city and its services. The TCB is also proposing to develop a community based Advocacy Plan for Tawa.

The TCB makes the following comment on Page 43. “Over the next three years we plan to do the following key projects:” Bullet 3 is about strengthening relationships with the wider region to influence decisions that affect our community. The TCB believe that there needs to be ongoing discussions between the Council and the TCB on the delegations, roles and processes of Community Boards so that there can be better outcomes for Wellington through the work of the Community Boards.

1.2 Maori and Mana whenua partnerships.

Maori in the Tawa region have said that there needs to be more engagement with Maori as well as the engagement with Mana whenua. The TCB would support the ongoing engagement with Maori so that their views on issues affecting them are known to Council.

1.3 Regional and Community Outcomes

In view of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Auckland, and the subsequent recommendation for Community Boards, we suggest that WCC consider the establishment of further community Boards within its environs.

2. ENVIRONMENT

2.1 Gardens and beaches

We are concerned that “less will be spent on mowing, maintenance and garden beds over the next three years” could mean a drop in standards, and degradation of the Parks and Gardens within Tawa.

2.2 Green Open Spaces

Within Tawa, the Friends of the Tawa Bush Reserves, and the Friends of Willowbank Reserve, and other volunteer groups, work hard and cooperatively with WCC, to ensure the upkeep and development of Parks and walkways within Tawa. Support for these volunteer Groups needs to continue.

‘Pest animals and plants will be eliminated’.

The Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves and others have for many years provided this service. Support for these volunteer Groups needs to continue.

Key Projects.

The TCB strongly fully supports the development of a walkway along the Porirua Stream from Takapu Rd to Kenepuru. We believe that such an amenity would be widely used for both access and recreation of residents and visitors who make regular use of walking routes on both sides of the valley. We would like to encourage council to continue to plan and implement the sections which are able to be easily completed.

2.3 Water

The TCB strongly supports 'the leak detection programme' to reduce the high percentage of water that leaks through the network, together with fixing those leaks.

The TCB strongly supports the 'renewals to the reticulation network on Tawa's water main and adding a bypass to the Tawa reservoir.'

2.5 Waste Reduction and Energy Conservation

The TCB believes that education of waste reduction is imperative, and that the aim supports the contribution to raise awareness.

3. Economic Development

The TCB has no comments regarding the Economic Development section of the LTCCP.

4. Cultural Wellbeing

The key parts of the LTCCP are the Strategy Tree which outlines the key components that the Council uses for cultural wellbeing are:

- 4.1 Galleries and museums
- 4.2 Heritage
- 4.3 Community Arts and cultural support
- 4.4 Arts partnership

The TCB is not going to make a submission of 4.1 and 4.2

4.3 Community Arts and Cultural support.

The TCB makes the following comment about Page 109 "Why it's important". The TCB believes that community festivals are in integral part of the community sharing and develop a sense of belonging. We acknowledge and appreciate the Council's support for the following events:

- Tawa schools and community festival
- June tunes
- Mana Tiaki Kapahaka festival

TCB also acknowledges the ongoing support from the WCC grants committee to cultural grants to organisation within the Tawa region.

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4.4 Arts Partnership

The TCB has funding being held under the Art Partnership for the completion of the Kereru statue on Main Road Tawa. While the funding is currently not enough to complete the statue TCB would request that the funding allocation be available until such a time that the remaining funding required to complete the statue is found.

Tawa Community Grants

Each year through the Tawa community Grants scheme \$15,000 is allocated to support community initiatives. Through this scheme a significant number of educational, cultural, recreational, sporting and community events have been supported each year. Without this funding a number of worthy events would not be possible.

5. Social and Recreation

5.1 Libraries

The TCB supports the council change of plan to continue the current opening hours of libraries and not to cut out the late nights thereby making them available to many who may have work commitments during normal daytime hours.

We do however have concerns on the reduction of spending upon security – particularly with Tawa library and continual safety and security problems on its roof re vandalism.

5.2 Recreation

We have concerns that the planned expenditure on the “learn to swim programmes “are to remain static and not grow in the coming years. Many schools no longer have their own pools or sufficient programmes to ensure our children are taught to swim and some families have problems with the cost associated with this. We would like to see more funding set aside for this important function of our pools to ensure that as many children as possible are given the opportunity to learn to swim.

5.3 Recreation Services

There is still concern that the Cobham park site will cause considerable traffic problems particularly as it is a main link to the airport .We have concerns also that residents from Tawa and Northern suburbs will have difficulty in accessing this facility, due to both the infrequency of public transport to this area and the requirement for residents to use both bus and train services. The alternative of private vehicles would put under strain an area of road network already over used. We would like to see plans the council have considered in relation to this project and the inevitable traffic delays it will cause.

We believe that an indoor sports facility is well overdue for both the city and region and encourage local government across the region to work together to develop such a facility that the region can be proud of and which is free from transport problems.

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Sports fields

There is concern of residents on the availability of grounds for Junior/women's games over winter. Many fields are closed for the junior/women's games but appear available for senior games. It would appear the senior games get priority and some balance needs to be introduced such that the grounds are fairly utilized by all participants and that the seniors should not always get first use.

We accept that all weather grounds are initially expensive to develop but there would appear to be some advantage in being more proactive especially with Wellington City Council and Ministry of Education developing schools fields such that they could be more fully utilized – either with all weather surfaces or lights for night time and school holidays use – areas within Tawa for example could include Linden West park or a joint venture with Tawa College.

The TCB suggests that with new artificial Sports fields, like Nairnville Park, there needs to be a higher proportion of costs recovered from users.

Community Centres

Currently these centres are council funded by 98%/ 2% user pays. The council should consider that some of the organizations that rent space within the centres may be commercial ventures and should pay a market rental for the use of the space. Priority should be given to charity/non profit local community clubs wherever possible but if space permits then any available spaces could be rented to business organizations so long as a proper market rental is fixed – this would then alter the 98/2 % balance.

Commercial and Residential Rating Differential

Consideration might be given by the council to soften the rates rise to residential rate payers by slowing down and extending the modifier for the upcoming 2009/2010 years of 3.45:1

BMX Bike Track Tawa

This area has remained unfinished for some time and may require council officers to take charge or oversee the completion of the track, as the way it currently stands it may be hazardous.

5.6 Community Participation and Support

Funds Allocation

The TCB wishes to strongly support the continuation of the Tawa community grants system currently in use as it has allowed the board to support a large number of local organizations with funding.

Also we support the continuation of the Tawa Community Awards to recognize some of the people and clubs who give freely of their time and expertise for local residents.

6. Urban Development

6.1 Resource Management Act

The TCB supports any changes to the RMA which will reduce the bureaucracy and costs applicable to the RMA.

6.5 Public Spaces Development

The TCB supports the 'Anti Graffiti Squad', and believes that it should be extended.

7. Transport

Park and Ride

The TCB notes that Wellington City provides Park and Ride areas. There is a need for an expansion of these in Tawa. Too many cars are being parked in residential areas and creating congestion.

The TCB notes that the developers of Takapu Island are required, and are prepared to provide, an area for park and ride at Takapu Road. WCC needs to reserve funding, for the provision of park and ride facilities on this site, in the LTCCP.

Tawa Driveways Rate

At present Tawa has a targeted rate for a self sufficient fund to provide maintenance to shared driveways. The TCB strongly supports the continuation of this targeted rate provided that:

- The residents who are involved wish for it to continue, and
- It is self funded.

The TCB accepts that some years it will exceed its funding and in other years funding will exceed expenditure. A long term view needs to be taken when setting the contribution.

7.2 Transport Networks

Middleton Road

As provided in other submissions, the TCB wishes to see an urgent upgrade of Middleton Road.

- this is the only route for cyclists (and pedestrians) who wish to travel south of Tawa or north of Johnsonville.
- at present cyclists (and pedestrians) risk being hit by vehicles on a narrow, winding road that has undergone no improvements since it was the main road out of Wellington in the 1950's.
- the grade separation is clearly not acceptable.

WCC needs to reserve funding, for the provision of safe passage of cyclists and pedestrian on this route, in the LTCCP.

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Main Pedestrian Crossing on Main Road Tawa

The current pedestrian crossing is badly positioned. Parking each side of the crossing is creating conflict and danger to pedestrians.

WCC needs to reserve funds to move the entire crossing 2 metres further south. This will require minor alterations to the footpath.

The Board would appreciate the opportunity to make an oral submission and respond to any questions councillors may have. Please note that this would be dependent upon the timing, as all members of the TCB are also employed 'normal' working hours.

Tawa Community Board

Robert Tredger
Graeme Hansen
David Darroch
Chris Reading
Graham Sutton
Dennis Sharman

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6 August 2009

Wellington Public Transport Review
Greater Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646
Wellington

I attach a form completed, on behalf of the Tawa Community Board, with my family information.

The Board is concerned that:

- trains are frequently delayed. Not only does this inconvenience passenger, it reduces the number of people prepared to use public transport. We believe that the infrastructure should have been the priority rather than the rolling stock. Most recent delays have been a failure of infrastructure.
- in peak hours every second train through Tawa is an express train. While this is great for Porirua it is noteworthy that they are far from full. Tawa is under-serviced despite it having a large number of users.
- while NZ Rail is not responsible for the current state of the infrastructure or rolling stock, its attitude to customers when there are failures is unsatisfactory. Poor, if any information is provided. They need to be reminded that they are service provider and that when the service fails that they need to inform and not shrug off questions from disgruntled patrons.
- passengers are still asked to pay when they have been delayed by 20 or more minutes. It is possible that the charging of passengers for seriously delayed services breaches the provisions of the Consumer Guarantees Act.
- there is no integrated ticketing system planned for the near future.
- there is insufficient cohesion between services meaning it is difficult, if not impossible, to arrive at Wellington Station and board a bus, or train, to another destination without unsatisfactory delays.

regards

Graeme Hansen
Deputy Chair Tawa Community Board

David Darroch, Chris Reading, Robert Tredger, Graeme Hansen, Dennis Sharman, Graeme Sutton