



10 May 2024

Wellington City Council Long Term Plan 2024 - 34

This submission is made by Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust (PHACCT). The Trust works to promote the sustainable management of the Porirua Harbour and its catchments

The trust has a strategic and long-term interest in the Wellington City Council's responsibilities and stewardship of the environment, especially harbours and their contributing water bodies.

The harbours and catchments are community commons and PHACCT is a catalyst for the community and public involvement in the long-term management of the streams of the northern suburbs of Wellington City and their receiving waters: Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour.

Priority Objectives:

Given the Trust's mission we welcome the Environmental wellbeing outcome and its accompanying focus priorities of fixing water infrastructure and improving the health of waterways and transforming the waste system to create a circular economy.

We also wholeheartedly endorse the statement on page 24 of the Consultation document which says: "A significant investment for water services, resilience and to uphold Te Mana o Te Wai for the next decade should be the most important ambition our council has."

Planned funding for three waters infrastructure

The Trust understands the many competing priorities the Council is facing and the dire financial pressures it is under. We note the reasons advanced for proposed funding of three waters infrastructure that is less than that presented by Wellington Water. We urge the Council to treat its preferred option as a minimum and to undertake regular reviews during the life of the long term plan with a view to further investment in fixing infrastructure. In this regard, we note recent moves by central government towards new arrangements for Greater Wellington.

Waterways such as the Porirua Stream carry a E rating for e-coli and the harbour are in the D attribute state for enterococci. E-coli contamination is contributed to through a variety of wastewater system leaks and overflows from Council and private pipes.

Similarly, in many cases the stormwater system is not fit for purpose and contributes to build ups of sediment and heavy metals in our waterways. Realistically, improving the health and quality of

natural water bodies by 2040, as envisaged by the Te Awarua and Te Whanganui-a-tara whitua and the proposed Plan Change 1 of the Greater Wellington Region Natural Resources Plan, will require significant contributions and attention by WCC.

Waste minimisation

We support the Council's thinking that reducing the city's waste is critical to achieving a more sustainable future and will help us to reduce emissions. Efficient and effective waste collection and recycling are also key elements of ensuring litter does not detrimentally degrade waterways and impact on the health of bird and fish life.

Wellington City residents and businesses are significant users of the Spicer Valley landfill in Porirua. The landfill has a limited lifespan given the current rate of infill. We are heartened, therefore, with WCC's focus and intentions on improving waste management including collaboration with Hutt City Council and Porirua City Council on options for a regional solution to share costs and get the best value for money for our communities.

Support for catchment groups

Finally, we acknowledge the support that Wellington City Council gives to a number of groups active in stream care and plantings. This has included support for active participation by school pupils in nature. We urge that support both financial and in-kind continue rather than be sacrificed for short term book keeping. Nurturing the spirit of voluntary work by citizens is vital to ensure communities thrive.

We wish to be heard on this submission

Michael Player

Chair

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchments Community Trust

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