

Taupō District Council

Notes of Council Workshop

Group	Council
Date	Tuesday 18 April 2.00pm – 2.56pm
Venue	Council Chamber
Topic	Submission to the Waikato Regional Council Long-term Plan 2024-34
Facilitated by	Policy Advisor (A Wilson)
Elected Members present	Mayor David Trewavas (in the Chair until 2.38pm), Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor (in the Chair from 2.38pm), Cr Duncan Campbell, Cr Sandra Greenslade (from 2.08pm via MS Teams), Cr Anna Park (until 2.13pm), Cr Rachel Shepherd, Cr Yvonne Westerman (until 2.36pm), Cr John Williamson
Officers present	Chief Executive (J Gardyne), Acting General Manager Operations and Delivery (T Hale), General Manager People and Partnerships (L O'Brien), General Manager (W Zander), Policy Manager (N Carroll), Team Leader Corporate Planning (A Smith), Senior Policy Advisor (K Goode), Policy Advisor (A Wilson), Legal and Governance Coordinator (D Periam)
Public / media present	No public or media present
Documents either pre-circulated or tabled	Draft Taupō District Council Submission on Waikato Regional Council Long Term Plan 2024-34 (A3540319) – pre-circulated to Elected Members via Diligent on 16 April 2024 Submission to the Waikato Regional Council Long-term Plan 2024-34 PowerPoint (A3540321)
Public or closed¹	Public

¹ Workshops are public (and are always advertised whether public or closed), unless there is a good reason(s) for information to be withheld and there is no overriding public interest in holding the workshop in public. Withholding grounds set out in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) are a guide. If closed, cite relevant LGOIMA section.

Taupō District Council

Notes²

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss Taupō District Council's (TDC) submission to the Waikato Regional Council's (WRC) Long-term Plan 2024-34 (LTP). The draft submission was presented to elected members and it was explained that the final submission would be brought to Council on Tuesday 30 April 2024.

The draft submission points were:

- Regional Transport Rate
- Spill Protection for Lake Taupō
- Erosion Management and Control
- Emergency Management Funding
- Te Waka

Spill Protection for Lake Taupō

Elected members wanted a stronger focus in the submission regarding spill protection for Lake Taupō. Officers explained that there was a range of locally based equipment that WRC relies upon. However, most of that equipment was privately owned which made it challenging to access in an emergency. It was also explained that there is a reliance on the harbour master and his staff to deploy the equipment in an emergency and this posed challenges. Elected member felt that the spill protection kits were a responsibility of WRC to provide, and this responsibility needed to be met. Local iwi partners had requested to be more involved in this space, so TDC were offering to facilitate conversations between WRC and local iwi partners.

Erosion Management and Control

Council and WRC jointly fund erosion protection work around the margins of Lake Taupō. Officers noted that the WRC draft LTP does not include substantial funding to match the TDC work programme. TDC officers had spoken with WRC staff who did not want to put a large amount of money in the LTP because TDC had not delivered previous programmes of work. The TDC submission is recommending a more realistic programme of work and seeking WRC financial support to deliver it. In answer to a question, it was clarified that the delivery of works falls with us however WRC provide 45% of the total costs.

Te Waka

Elected members expressed that they wanted to show support for the Waikato Regional Councillors regarding accountability for the fund.

Regional Transport Rate

The two rating options were shown but it was explained that Councillors did not have to pick an option. It was explained that currently TDC rates people in the district for public transport and then passes this money to WRC who administer the services. Under the proposed changes WRC would rate directly, however there was not expected to be a change in the overall amount of money collected from Taupō district ratepayers. There was concern that smaller communities would not be heard at regional level if the regional rate was introduced and all decision making rested with WRC. Members expressed that the Tūrangi to Taupō bus was well used, and they wanted to see an increase in this service however picking one of these options did not mean this would happen.

Elected members thanked the policy team for the work done on this draft submission.

The workshop closed at 2.56pm.

² Workshops are not decision-making forums, therefore this document contains notes of key points discussed only, not decisions.