

4 April 2018

Long Term Plan feedback  
Whangarei District Council  
Private Bag 9023  
Whangārei 0148

Email: [mailroom@wdc.govt.nz](mailto:mailroom@wdc.govt.nz)

### **LONG TERM PLAN 2018-2028 SUBMISSION**

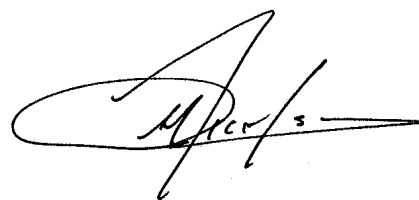
We enclose the Northland Regional Council's submission on your Long Term Plan 2018-2028 proposals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Officers would be happy to clarify any matter or provide any other assistance that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Bill Shepherd**  
Chairman



**Malcolm Nicolson**  
Chief Executive Officer

Ref: A1045472

## Submission

To: Long Term Plan feedback  
Whangarei District Council  
Private Bag 9023  
Whangārei 0148

Email: mailroom@wdc.govt.nz

By: Northland Regional Council

1. The Northland Regional Council (NRC) wishes to thank the Whangarei District Council (WDC) for the opportunity to make this submission on their draft Long Term Plan 2018-2028.
2. NRC acknowledges that this Long Term Plan represents a continuation of the path set in the 2015-2025 LTP, with the addition of two special projects.
3. The consultation document, *Have Your Say* does a good job of presenting those issues and the options to Whangārei communities. NRC supports and encourages the continued prioritisation of investment in core infrastructure assets.
4. NRC has also taken this opportunity to highlight several matters for consideration by WDC, which are not included within the consultation document.
5. NRC wishes to speak in support of this submission at the hearing on 20 April.

### *Matters raised in Consultation Document and Supporting Documents*

#### Civic Centre

NRC encourages robust analysis of the proposed Civic Centre as this is a one in a generation decision.

NRC wishes to ensure spending on projects (such as the Civic Centre) does not compromise WDC's ability to fund core potable water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure projects.

#### Transport

NRC supports the proposed road seal extensions, and requests that these are prioritised to areas worst affected by dust from unsealed roads.

NRC supports more bus shelters, and ask that you work with us when planning these. We support the proposed amenity lighting, and ask that this is also extended to all public passenger transport infrastructure for personnel security purposes.

NRC was expecting to see provision for moving the Rose Street Bus Terminus to Vine Street in WDC's 2018-2028 draft LTP. We reiterate our request for this work to progress.

NRC supports proposed walking and cycling projects. In addition to the capital costs, we highlight the importance of ensuring adequate funding is available for the delivery of the projects, and that adequate funding is set aside for maintenance of the assets.

We support WDC's continued collaboration with Northland Inc and other councils on the Draft Northland Regional Walking and Cycling Strategy, and in applications to the Provincial Growth Fund.

### Water supply

NRC applauds WDC's proactive and excellent management of water supply. We also acknowledge that town water supplies in Whangārei district are all treated.

### Wastewater

NRC supports further wastewater investment and upgrades, particularly the upgrades to the Ngunguru, Ruakākā and Waipū wastewater plants.

### Stormwater

We reiterate our comments from pre-consultation, that NRC would like to see WDC plan for improved road stormwater management, particularly on rural roads. This may include armouring or other methods to reduce bank erosion, and alternative means of managing roadside stormwater where current methods are resulting in erosion and discharge to waterways and on to private land.

We also ask that WDC plan to implement more regulatory measures to ensure on-site treatment of urban stormwater, including funding allocation for upgrades of council-owned carparks.

The proposed regional plan identifies areas where management plans are required: One Tree Point/Marsden Cove, Ruakākā, Waipū, Whangārei.

NRC is concerned about plastics entering coastal waters by way of stormwater systems. We ask that WDC consider incorporating a catchment or filter system into the stormwater network, to prevent plastic pollution of coastal waters.

### Flood protection

We support more investment in the blue/green network. Following on from our comments during the pre-consultation, NRC would like to work more collaboratively with WDC on the development of a long-term strategy for alignment of flood mitigation and the blue/green network strategy, and to ensure this work happens. NRC considers this critical for future climate change resilience.

We strongly encourage WDC to improve its environmental focus in the Hikurangi swamp. NRC considers improvement of Hikurangi swamp to be an environmental priority, particularly due to the current number of fish and eel deaths. As such, we have major concerns with WDC's proposal to maintain (not replace) its assets with respect to improving the environmental performance of these assets.

NRC supports WDC's ongoing collaboration in the Four Waters group.

## Sporting facilities

In the Whangārei district, Pohe Island Sports Hub and Northland Football Hub (Tikipunga) have been identified as potentially suitable for support from funds collected through NRC's Regional Sporting Facilities Rate. Only sports facilities identified in the Northland Sports Facilities Plan will be considered for funding with this rate.

## Climate change

NRC supports WDC's inclusion of climate change factors in its LTP. We encourage WDC to work together with NRC to fine tune this work, particularly including adaptive planning for infrastructure and communities that are vulnerable to its climate change effects (coastal, flood plains, and those with water scarcity issues etc.). We encourage WDC to ensure sufficient staff resource is available to engage in this process.

NRC suggests that WDC gives serious consideration as to whether the proposed new sea walls are the most appropriate management option into the future. We note that both the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and the Regional Policy Statement for Northland discourage hard protection structures and, in the first instance, promote the use of alternative to them. We note that any future liability from seawalls may fall upon WDC (and therefore local ratepayers), as owner of the consents.

## *Other matters for consideration*

### Economic development

NRC encourages a collaborative approach to economic development across Northland.

NRC wishes to again highlight that there are significant advantages for the Whāngareī district, and the wider region, of progressing a new delivery model where the regions respective council's economic development activities are provided through a jointly owned Council Controlled Organisation (CCO). In the interim, NRC encourages WDC to engage with and financially support Northland Inc.

### Biosecurity

We ask that WDC supports NRC's marine biosecurity standards. We do not expect WDC or its subsidiaries to engage NRC in legal action when we need Northland to have a thriving coastal environment that is not impacted by introduced marine pests.

NRC is proposing an increase in pest management activity to move toward an aspirational vision of a 'pest free Northland', and asks that WDC supports NRC in this, including to ensure biosecurity hygiene standards are maintained, and provision is put in place to protect Kauri on public land.

We reiterate our points from the pre-consultation, that we would like WDC to plan to be an active partner and supporter of long term pest management goals, including actively managing WDC land to control introduced pests, and to work toward pest-free urban spaces in Whangareī city, in collaboration with other stakeholders.

NRC would also like WDC to consider in their LTP supporting the establishment of an 'Environment Hub' for environmentally focused community groups and local

organisations to use as a central base, facilitating cross-group and cross-organisational support.

### Public Health and Water Quality

Cyanobacteria and algal blooms are expected to become more frequent. These affect public water supply and recreational use of water, and some blooms will have negative health impacts. Sufficient resource has not always been available to advise the public when these blooms occur (e.g. prompt installation of signage). NRC asks that WDC address this in its public health and safety role.

### One Billion Trees programme

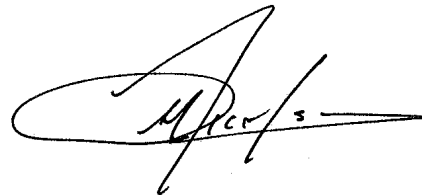
NRC encourages WDC to identify areas that may be suitable for tree planting, and to work with NRC to make an application to the Provincial Growth Fund for these plantings.

### Northland | Forward Together

NRC recognises Northland | Forward Together and the benefits of investigating joint services across the region. We encourage WDC to support this inter-council initiative and the specific projects and opportunities that are being progressed through it.



**Bill Shepherd**  
Chairman



**Malcolm Nicolson**  
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 4 April 2018

On behalf of Northland Regional Council  
Private Bag 9021  
Whangārei 0148