



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

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## 2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee

Tuesday 18 May 2021, 9.30am

Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council  
100 Cuba St, Te Aro, Wellington

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### Members

Cr Ponter (Chair)

Cr Blakeley

Cr Connelly

Cr Hughes

Cr Laban

Cr Lee

Cr Staples

Cr Brash

Cr Gaylor

Cr Kirk-Burnnand

Cr Lamason

Cr Nash

Cr van Lier

**Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council**

## 2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee

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Tuesday 18 May 2021, 9.30am

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### Public Business

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2.	Conflict of interest declarations		
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**2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee**  
**18 May 2021**  
**Report 21.136**



**For Decision**

**PROCESS FOR CONSIDERING SUBMISSIONS AND FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT  
2021-31 LONG TERM PLAN AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CHARGING POLICY**

**Te take mō te pūrongo**  
**Purpose**

1. To inform the 2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee (the Committee) of the process for considering submissions and feedback on the draft 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP 2021-31) and the Resource Management Charging Policy.

**He tūtohu**  
**Recommendation**

That the Committee:

- 1 **Agrees** to the hearing process as set out in this report.
- 2 **Accepts** the late submissions received on the draft 2021-31 Long Term Plan and proposed amendments to the Resource Management Charging Policy.

**Te tāhū kōrero**  
**Background**

2. At its meeting on 1 April 2021, the Council established the Committee to consider and hear submissions and feedback, and to make recommendations to the Council, on the adoption of the LTP 2021-31 and amendments to the Resource Management Charging Policy. The Committee's Terms of Reference ([Attachment 1](#)) set out the Committee's roles and responsibilities.
3. At its meeting on 1 April 2021, the Council approved the Supporting Information and Consultation Document for consultation purposes for the draft LTP 2021-31, and the proposed amendments to the Resource Management Charging Policy.

**Public consultation**

4. This hearing completes the public consultation phase of the draft LTP 2021-31. The consultation period was open from 2 April to 2 May 2021.
5. The consultation period for the Resource Management Charging Policy was open from 6 April to 6 May 2021.

### ***Principles of consultation***

6. There are six principles set out in the Local Government Act 2002. One of these principles is that views presented to a local authority should be accepted with an open mind, and should be given due consideration by the local authority in making a decision.
7. The Committee should also take into account that persons who wish to have their views on the decision or matter considered by the local authority should be provided with a reasonable opportunity to present those views to the local authority.
8. It is consistent with best practice that members should be present for the substantial duration of the hearing in order to participate in the decision-making of the Committee. Councillor Blakeley has indicated that he is unavailable for the hearing on 20 May 2021.

### **Te tātaritanga Analysis**

#### ***Submissions and feedback received***

9. Feedback from the community was obtained through the *Have Your Say* website, together with a number of written submissions received via direct mail and at events across the Region. Analysis on the feedback is detailed in Analysis of submissions and feedback on the 2021-31 Long Term Plan – Report 21.137, and Analysis of submissions and feedback on the proposed amendments to the Resource Management Charging Policy – Report 21.185.
10. The written submissions have been distributed to members of the Committee separately. It is suggested that written submissions are taken as read by the Committee and that members only discuss those submissions on which they want to make a particular comment.

#### *Long Term Plan*

11. Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) received 331 submissions; with 271 received through *Have Your Say*, 60 via email and hardcopy (letter or drop in sessions).

#### *Resource Management Charging Policy*

12. Greater Wellington received 9 submissions, with two via *Have Your Say*, four referenced in submissions made on the draft LTP 2021-31, and three via email.

#### *Late submissions*

13. Greater Wellington received six late submissions and officers recommend that these be accepted for consideration.

#### ***Oral presentation process***

14. The purpose of the hearing is to hear oral presentations in support of written submissions. At the time of writing this report 66 submitters wished to be heard. Submitters will be heard on Tuesday 18 May and Wednesday 19 May, and the morning of Thursday 20 May 2021. Deliberations will commence following the hearing of the final submitter on Thursday 20 May 2021. A hearing schedule will be provided to Committee members, with a final version available on each day of the hearing.

15. Each submitter has been allocated a total time of 10 minutes, which is divided into two equal segments – five minutes for the submitter to speak, and five minutes for the Committee to ask the submitter questions. There is no differentiation between individuals and groups in the time allocated.
16. It is proposed that deliberations commence following the hearing of oral presentations.

***Consideration of issues raised in submission and feedback***

17. The Committee must consider all written submissions, regardless of whether or not an oral presentation has been made. The Committee must also consider all of the feedback that was received on the consultation document.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**

**Next steps**

18. The Committee Chair will prepare a report to the Council meeting on 10 June 2021 setting out the Committee’s recommendations on the adoption of the LTP 2021-31 and the Resource Management Charging Policy.
19. Each person who made a submissions or provided feedback and who provided a contact address (including email), will, subsequent to Council adopting the LTP 2021-31 and the proposed amendments to the Resource Management Charging Policy, receive a response outlining Council’s decision, and any key changes.
20. A press release will be published, outlining Council’s decision and any key changes, and be made available on Greater Wellington’s website.

**Ngā āpitihanga**

**Attachment**

Number	Title
1	Terms of Reference for 2021-31 LTP Hearing Subcommittee

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**

**Signatories**

Writers	Lucas Stevenson – Kaitohutohu, Democratic Services
Approvers	Alex Smith – Kaitohutohu Matua, Democratic Services Francis Ryan – Manager, Democratic Services Luke Troy – General Manager, Strategy

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga Summary of considerations</b>
<b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b> The Committee was established to consider submissions on the draft LTP 2021-31 and the proposed amendments to the Resource Management Charging Policy. This report sets out the processes for the Committee to hear and consider all submissions.
<b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b> Greater Wellington engaged specifically with its mana whenua partners on the draft LTP 2021-31. Greater Wellington also joined with Wellington City Council to hold a hui with Taranaki Whānui, with an open invitation to mātāwaka.
<b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b> The report outlines the process of the hearing and deliberations of submissions made on the draft LTP 2021-31 and the proposed changes to the Resource Management Charging Policy.
<b><i>Internal consultation</i></b> The Strategic and Corporate Planning and Environment Regulation departments were consulted.
<b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b> There are no known risks or impacts.

## Attachment 1 to Report 21.136

### 2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee

#### 1 Purpose

To hear and consider submissions made on the 2021-31 Long Term Plan and proposed changes to the Resource Management Charging Policy, and recommend to the Council any amendments.

#### 2 Powers

The 2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee has the power to:

- Consider both the written and oral submissions, and any other consultation material on the 2021-31 Long Term Plan and Resource Management Charging Policy.
- Seek clarification from Council officers on any technical matters.
- Develop recommendations on amendments to the 2021-31 Long Term Plan and Resource Management Charging Policy for consideration by the Council.

#### 3 Responsibilities

The 2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee shall ensure that:

- The hearing and consideration process is carried out in a way that is effective and timely;
- Submitters are provided with the best possible opportunity to be heard in support of their submission;
- Hearing Committee members receive submissions with an open mind and give due consideration to each submission;
- The decision making process is robust and transparent.

#### 4 Members

The members of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee are:

- Cr Roger Blakeley
- Cr Jenny Brash
- Cr Ros Connelly
- Cr Penny Gaylor
- Cr Glenda Hughes
- Cr Chris Kirk-Burnnand
- Cr Ken Laban
- Cr Prue Lamason
- Cr David Lee
- Cr Thomas Nash

## **Attachment 1 to Report 21.136**

- Cr Daran Ponter
- Cr Adrienne Staples
- Cr Josh van Lier.

### **5 Chair**

Cr Ponter is the Chair of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee.

### **6 Quorum**

Seven Committee members.

### **7 Meeting procedures**

- All members have equal speaking rights and a deliberative vote.
- The Chair has a deliberative vote; and, in the case of an equality of votes, does not have a casting vote (and therefore the act or question is defeated and the status quo is preserved).
- Members must be present for the substantial part of the hearing and deliberations in order to participate in the decision-making of the Hearing Committee.
- Submitters may speak to their submission by remote participation.

### **8 Duration of Committee**

The Committee is deemed to be dissolved at the end of the decision-making processes on the 2021-31 Long Term Plan and Resource Management Charging Policy.



**2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee**  
**18 May 2021**  
**Report 21.185**



**For Decision**

## **ANALYSIS OF SUBMISSIONS AND FEEDBACK ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CHARGING POLICY**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To advise the 2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee on the analysis of submissions and feedback on the proposed changes to the Resource Management Charging Policy.

### **He tūtohu**

#### **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

1. **Considers** the submissions on the proposed changes to the Resource Management Charging Policy, together with officer comments in determining its findings and recommendations to the 2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee.
2. **Recommends** to Council, following consideration of the submissions on the proposed changes to the Resource Management Charging Policy and officer advice, any changes to the Resource Management Charging Policy, as agreed by this Committee.

### **Te tāhū kōrero**

#### **Background**

2. The Resource Management Charging Policy 2019 (the Policy) contains the regime of fees and charges for resource management services provided by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington). The current structure of the Policy and its overall approach has been in place since 1997.
3. Reviews of the Policy have been undertaken approximately every two years. As this current review coincides with the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2021-31, it is intended that the Policy be in place for three years.
4. Council, at its meeting on 1 April 2021, approved the consultation documents for the proposed amendments to the Resource Management Charging Policy.
5. The consultation period was from 6 April to 6 May 2021.

## Te tātaritanga Analysis

### Summary of submissions

6. A total of 9 submissions were received during the consultation period. The breakdown of submissions received is as follows:

Submission group	No. of submissions
<i>Group 1</i> - Specific submission on Charging Policy	3
<i>Group 2</i> - Submission on Charging Policy referenced in LTP submission	4
<i>Group 3</i> - Have Your Say webpage submission	2

7. A summary of comments and feedback received in submissions is as follows:

Submitter	Summary of comments and feedback
Masterton District Council (MDC) <i>Group 1</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of the Environment (SOE) cost will increase 27 percent from \$85,000 to \$108,000</li> <li>• MDC already incurs significant cost to collected environmental monitoring information as required by their resource consents</li> <li>• This will place extra burden on ratepayers</li> <li>• Believes there could be duplication between consent holder monitoring and Greater Wellington SOE monitoring. Better efficiencies could be identified to reduce duplication and therefore associated SOE costs</li> <li>• As MDC collect data believes greater benefit is to smaller consent holder who may not collect data</li> <li>• MDC requests the Greater Wellington review its SOE programme to avoid duplication</li> </ul>
Wairarapa Water Users Society (WWUS) <i>Group 1</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WWUS is a collective voice for rural water users in the Wairarapa and its membership encompasses approximately 80 percent of all water allocated to rural users</li> <li>• Opposes increasingly disproportionate financial impact on farmers in the region. Believes that small increase in large bills disproportionately impact their members and other commercial rural water users</li> <li>• Appears to be no account take of telemetry users who pay up to \$7500 for telemetry installation and \$750 per annum to supply water use information to Greater Wellington</li> <li>• WWUS recommends that the review of the Charging Policy be undertaking as part of the Revenue &amp; Financing Policy in the coming year</li> </ul>

Submitter	Summary of comments and feedback
Gavin Wall (Gavin and Amanda Wall Family Trust) <i>Group 1</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opposes the changes as Greater Wellington has not provided substantive justification for the disproportionate share of the cost to deliver a public good. More specifically               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The charge out rate is not justified</li> <li>- The annual customer service charge increasing by 75 percent warrants further justification</li> <li>- The SOE proportion increasing from 12.5 percent to 15 percent provides no details on the considerations made to do so. If there were no consent holders Greater Wellington would most likely still incur the same SOE monitoring costs which would be borne by the public good</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Greater Wellington does not appear to be focussed on productivity gains</li> </ul>
Federated Farmers of NZ (FFNZ) <i>Group 2</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FFNZ recommends that the proposed ongoing ad hoc increases to the Charging Policy be deferred to a time when Greater Wellington reviews its Revenue and Financing Policy</li> </ul>
Dan Riddiford <i>Group 2</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports submission of FFNZ and asks that no further increases be made to any Resource Management Act charges</li> </ul>
Iain & Jane Cameron <i>Group 2</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports submission made by FFNZ and Dan Riddiford and believes increases are unjustified</li> </ul>
Matt & Bec Nicholson <i>Group 2</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports submission made by FFNZ and Dan Riddiford and believes increases are unjustified</li> </ul>
Danielle Barrett <i>Group 3</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increases seem appropriate given costs are rising.</li> <li>• Seems fair that the user pays, rather than the wider ratepaying base</li> </ul>
Taumata Island Dairy Ltd <i>Group 3</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognises that farming and the environment is facing increasing focus and potentially associated cost</li> <li>• Important to note that farmer incomes are not increasing at the same rate of proposed charges which places pressure on operating margins</li> </ul>

A full copy of submissions has been provided to councillors previously.

8. In addition to submissions received, there was informal engagement and comments received. This included meeting with a couple of submitters and responding to some enquiries from consent holders.

### ***Initial response to submissions***

9. The three key themes put forward by submitters opposing the proposed changes are:
  - a Lack of justification for the proposed changes
  - b Requesting the deferral of any proposed changes until a review of the Revenue and Financing Policy is completed
  - c Concerns regarding the proportion and scale of SOE monitoring charges and that consent holders already provide helpful environmental monitoring data to Greater Wellington.

#### *Lack of justification for the proposed changes*

10. The consultation package and full proposed Charging Policy explained the reasoning for the proposed increased charges.
11. **Officer advice:** No change suggested.

#### *Deferral of any proposed changes*

12. Greater Wellington has increased costs for providing various resource management services. The majority of proposed changes simply keep pace with these costs, hence it is not considered appropriate to delay changes until a review of the Revenue and Financing Policy is complete.
13. **Officer advice:** No change suggested.

#### *State of the Environment monitoring charges*

14. MDC and WWUS have expressed that they supply considerable environmental monitoring data (e.g. telemetered water use data and water quality data) that assists the Greater Wellington's SOE monitoring programme. The data supplied can support SOE monitoring in a small way, however the main reason and benefit for the supply of data is to ensure compliance with resource consent conditions and national Regulations. As there is some flexibility in the amount recovered from consent holders for SOE monitoring (see paragraph 14 below) options for reconsidered SOE monitoring charges in instances where consent holders provide helpful supporting environmental monitoring data will be investigated prior to LTP hearing and presented by officers during the hearing and/or deliberations.
15. **Officer advice:** Minor changes will be investigated and presented to the Committee, for deliberations on Thursday 20 May 2021.
16. As the time period between the close of submissions and drafting of this report was short, a further response may be presented by officers at the hearing and/or deliberations.

### **Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications**

17. Proposed increases to the charge out rate and customer service charge are factored into LTP financial planning. Hence not increasing this component of the proposed changes would have implications. There is more flexibility with the SOE monitoring

charges as the LTP financial planning was based on recovering 12.5 percent from consent holders rather than 15 percent as proposed.

### **Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi Consideration of climate change**

18. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in Greater Wellington's Climate Change Consideration Guide 2020.
19. The proposed matters neither contributes to nor is at odds with Council's and Greater Wellington's policies and commitments relating to climate change.
20. The proposed matters will not impact on greenhouse gas emissions positively or negatively to any significant degree.
21. The proposed matters have no significant implications for greenhouse gas emissions over its lifetime and therefore does not require an approach to reduce them.
22. Climate change impacts will not have any direct effect upon the proposed matters over its lifetime.

### **Ngā tikanga whakatau Decision-making process**

23. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002. Greater Wellington consulted the public using the Special Consultative Procedure, as set out by section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **Te hiranga Significance**

24. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of these matters, taking into account Council's *Significance and Engagement Policy* and Greater Wellington's *Decision-making Guidelines*. Officers recommend that the matters of medium significance. This is because the matters are updating an existing Policy within current principles outlined in that Policy, the matters have some community interest, and the matters do not impact on Council's capability and capacity.

### **Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement**

25. Over 800 consent holders were directly advised of the proposed changes. Interest and the number of submissions received on the proposed changes were at a similar (albeit low) level as to previous consultations undertaken in 2015 and 2019.

### **Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**

#### **Next steps**

26. The Committee will report on the submissions and recommended changes (if any) Council at its meeting on 10 June 2021.
27. The final Resource Management Charging Policy will be submitted to Council for adoption at its meeting on 29 June 2021.

### **Ngā kaiwaitohu**

#### **Signatories**

Writer	Stephen Thawley – Project Leader, Environment Regulation
Approvers	Shaun Andrewartha – Manager, Environment Regulation Al Cross – General Manager, Environment Management

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga</b> <b>Summary of considerations</b>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>Council is accountable for the development and review of policies under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), and consultation with the regional community under the LGA.</p> <p>The proposed changes to the Policy are made under section 36 of the RMA, section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002, and section 243 of the Building Act 2004.</p> <p>This report supports the Hearing Committee in making their decisions in the deliberations following hearing the submitters in a formal process.</p>
<p><b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b></p> <p>There are no known implications for Māori relating to the content or recommendations of this report, however, officers note that Māori have a vested interest in natural resources.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>The proposed amendments are intended to be in effect for a three year period to coincide the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2021-2031. Financial considerations of the Policy are consistent with LTP financial planning.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>The Finance, Democratic Services, and Strategic and Corporate Planning departments were consulted.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>There are no identified risks relating to the content or recommendations of this report.</p>

**2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee**  
**18 May 2021**  
**Report 21.170**



**For Decision**

## **ANALYSIS OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2021-31 LONG TERM PLAN**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To provide the 2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee (the Committee) with an overview of the written submissions received during the 2021-31 Long Term Plan consultation, together with initial officer advice on key topics raised in the submissions.

### **He tūtohu**

#### **Recommendation**

That the 2021-31 Long Term Plan Hearing Committee:

- 1 **Considers** the submissions on the 2021-31 Long Term Plan together with the proposed key responses to submissions (Attachment 2)
- 2 **Recommends** to Council, following consideration of the submissions, proposed key responses and officer advice, any changes to the 2021-31 Long Term Plan, as agreed by this Committee.

### **Te horopaki**

#### **Context**

2. The Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires the Council to develop a plan of not less than 10 years, and update this plan every three years. This incorporates the annual plan for the first year.
3. On 1 April 2021, Council approved the 2021-31 Long Term Plan (LTP) Supporting Information document and the Consultation Document for public consultation (Report 21.74). At this same meeting, Council established the 2021-31 LTP Hearing Committee (also Report 21.74) to consider and hear submissions on the 2021-31 LTP.
4. The public consultation period ran from 1 April to 2 May 2021. Details of the public consultation marketing campaign and public engagement activities are covered in paragraphs 63-66 later in this report.
5. An overview of the public consultation can be viewed in [Attachment 1](#) – 2021-31 LTP Public Consultation Dashboard.



## **Te tātaritanga Analysis**

6. Greater Wellington led a successful digital forward campaign supported by face to face engagements in order to capture a wider audience with specific attention to the traditionally hard-to-reach communities. Refer to paragraphs 63-66 for more engagement information.

### ***Submissions received***

7. A total of 331 submissions were received either by individuals or on behalf of a group or organisation. Eighty-four percent of submissions were received through 'Have your say', 15 percent through email and the remainder were received as hardcopies. Submissions have been circulated to councillors separately.
8. Submitters were asked to identify where in the region they resided, of those who responded:
  - 50 percent reside in Wellington
  - 14 percent reside in Porirua
  - 13 percent reside in Lower Hutt
  - 9 percent reside in Kāpiti
  - 7 percent reside in Upper Hutt
  - 7 percent reside in Wairarapa
  - Less than 1 percent from outside the region

### ***Summary of submissions and key themes raised during the consultation***

9. During the consultation we asked the public about three key topics and a few key supporting questions, the level of support from the public is as follows:
  - a. Which option do you think Greater Wellington should go for? Electric all the way (Preferred Option) OR Keep some diesel burning
    - 141 submitters chose to answer this question
    - **85 percent** indicated in favour of the preferred option
  - b. Which option do you think Greater Wellington should go for? Sow the seeds now (Preferred Option) OR Beat about the bush
    - 135 submitters chose to answer this question
    - **86 percent** indicated in favour of the preferred option
  - c. Which option do you think Greater Wellington should go for? Serious support (Preferred Option) OR So-so support
    - 106 submitters chose to answer this question
    - **85 percent** indicated in favour of the preferred option
  - d. Do you support the general direction of this plan?
    - 248 submitters chose to answer this question
    - **84 percent** indicated 'YES'

- e. Have we got the balance right between level of rates/charges and the services we provide?
  - 234 submitters choose to answer this question
  - **71 percent** indicated 'YES'
10. Submitters were also encouraged to provide more commentary on their views. Many of the submissions provided further insight into the topics consulted on and others also shared their thoughts on other issues that were important to them.
11. A summary of key submission themes is outlined below. Greater Wellington officers have prepared draft responses to the key issues and question raised during the consultation which will be tabled at the hearings to help inform councillors (see **Attachment 2**).

### ***Electrification of Transport***

12. Submitters supported speeding up the electrification of public transport and decreasing carbon emissions as well as noise pollution. Electrifying the public transport network will be much faster than the speed it will take for the public to transition to electric cars.
13. The focus for having electrified public transport that moves high volumes of people goes beyond Wellington City and should be about connecting the Wellington Region (the Wairarapa towns were specifically mentioned as being under serviced), and connecting the Wellington Region to the rest of the country. Services that run efficiently, are punctual and reliable will also remain a priority.
14. Submitters supported Greater Wellington demonstrating leadership in reducing reliance on fossil fuels is crucial, as not doing it now will cost ratepayers a lot more in the future. The negative impacts of using diesel is not considered justifiable for continued use.
15. The use of 'other' electric methods should be considered by Greater Wellington, such as hydrogen power or even solar. This is an opportunity for Greater Wellington to be innovative and/or make use of modern technologies.
16. As Greater Wellington and others increasingly move to electric or renewable sources of energy, consideration for where this energy is coming from needs to be carefully considered. Relying on energy companies to simply install wind turbines is not safeguarding public transport resilience. NIMBYs ('not in my back yard' – people who object to services or infrastructure close to their homes) will always want more but will fight Council's on allowing it to happen.
17. The view that having a small fleet of backup diesel vehicles or trains was emphasised as it would be sensible for emergency situations and long power outages might occur.
18. Improvements to the rail network, including upgrades to infrastructure and electrification of the network is encouraged. As a nation we need to create a more useable rail network to move more people with few emissions.
19. Accessibility is still an issue for many. Introducing small electric vehicle (EV) buses onto service routes or areas that are further from bus stops would help as people who need to walk more than 15 minutes to a bus stop find it to drive.

20. Getting the public out of cars and making more use of the public transport services also needs to be a priority. Removing cars is a better option for combating climate change and reducing emissions. Greater Wellington also needs to support active transport links like cycling and walking.
21. Public transport use is still unaffordable for many (or at least perceived as more expensive than using the car), while off-peak services are under-utilised. There are ways that Greater Wellington could increase off-peak use, such as allowing a monthly train pass holder or snapper card users to take children on for no additional cost in the off peak.
22. Buses are not easily used by people with large bags, children in pushchairs, etc. Every bus needs a space with no seats for those users

### ***Park Restoration***

23. Submitters considered park restoration is a great step forward in improving our environmental situation and positively contributing to combating the effects of climate change. Using the parks to sequester carbon and increase biodiversity is regarded as a high priority.
24. Trees take time to grow, and it takes time for ecosystems to develop and become self-sustaining. Getting the planting done sooner rather than later will really help us all see benefits in our lifetime.
25. Planting in parks, such as in Belmont and Queen Elizabeth Parks will make them much more attractive to visitors, encouraging more people to get out and explore while doing exercise. The health and wellbeing benefits for people are high.
26. Getting the community and schools involved with the replanting will be really important for helping to educate the public about biodiversity, climate and the way people interact or manage land. Greater Wellington has a great opportunity to demonstrate leadership and promote education.
27. Parks are viewed as underfunded especially with regards to the volume of work planned over the next 10 years. More staff will be required to manage it with public, stakeholders and volunteers.
28. The communities in the Wairarapa area have no regional parks but have forests managed by Greater Wellington that they would like utilised for recreation and more conservation so the communities there can also get the same health and wellbeing benefits as others in the Region.
29. There is sentiment regional parks shouldn't be 100 percent replanted/reforested with native plants. There are lots of people who value some exotic species. Also, planting trees that have food values, such as fruit trees, nut trees etc. can be valuable for public education, food security and reducing food miles (emissions).
30. Greater Wellington should phase out exotic plantation forestry in favour of continuous cover indigenous forestry. Indigenous forestry can offer huge dividends to communities through naturally durable timber with high cultural value. Continuous cover forestry supports high levels of carbon sequestration as well as amenity and scenic values.

31. Equestrian riders/groups have expressed their desire for multiple agencies including Greater Wellington to work collaboratively to help make ride and stay destination for horse riders at various parks. Greater Wellington should work with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) on a river crossing on the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway (PP20) and other road access issues, and also parking facilities that include room for floats.
32. It is important that Greater Wellington remember that the recreational population of Wellington Region are not just walkers/runners, dog walkers and cyclists. There is a large population of horse owners in the Greater Wellington Region and these riders feel they are being squeezed out of areas they have enjoyed riding in. Horse riders can share trails with other users and recreational trails should be considered as multi-use where practical.
33. Some expressed that there is only a difference of 200 hectares between the two options, which does not seem to be a major enough difference to be a deciding factor.

#### ***Joint Committee***

34. Submitters' support for our preferred option (Serious Support) is high, however it is apparent that the trust in whether this will work or not is low. The reputation from other working groups and their constant failures or inability to deliver real benefits for the people have left people stressing the need for things to be done differently, using real advice, focusing on solving problems and being transparent.
35. The Joint Committee must have a climate and environment focus. 'Think big' projects with high environmental impacts are not what this Region needs. It is important that the committee achieves results and publicises the results and outcomes in a transparent manner.
36. All members of this committee, especially mana whenua must be equally compensated and supported by Greater Wellington and the member councils.

#### ***Climate change***

37. The majority of submissions have expressed approval of our climate change response, and some have expressed that we still aren't doing enough. The 2021-31 LTP pre-engagement survey in July/August 2020 and the public consultation in April 2021 both showed an over whelming support for doing more to reduce emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change.

#### ***Flood management***

38. Some submitters expressed opposition to the Upper Hutt Growth Area in the Wellington Regional Growth Framework. The submitters reported that the flood modelling is incorrect and could cause future flood risk. They also state that the development would destroy green space, native flora and fauna.
39. The Save our Hills community group have requested an accurate baseline flood model for Pinehaven Stream catchment be undertaken, and for flood protection for Pinehaven and have expressed their opposition to the Upper Hutt Growth Area in the Wellington Regional Growth Framework.

***Porirua harbour/ Pāuatahanui inlet***

40. Residents and stakeholders are increasingly concerned with the sedimentation rates from the high volume of earthworks and developments in the surrounding suburbs. If no action is taken in the inlet, it will soon be unusable for many recreational water users.
41. The concerning issues at present are:
  - a. Build-up of sediment
  - b. Reducing water quality
  - c. Impacts on habitat and sea life.
42. It was reported that during heavy rainfall, the influx of sediment (and a black sludge) runs into the harbour (particularly into the northern arm of the Onepoto) causing the stingrays to swim along the surface of the water, presumably because the sediment is suffocating them on the harbour bed.
43. Submitters have expressed disappointed that there was no reference in the Consultation Document to implementing the non-statutory recommendations of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Implementation Programme nor is there any reference to the accompanying Statement from Ngāti Toa Rangitira.

***Mana whenua***

44. Greater Wellington received feedback from three mana whenua partners and they expressed support for the proposed funding model for providing resourcing to all mana whenua partners.
45. Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust (the Trust), supports the removal of livestock from grazing within regional parks (particularly Queen Elizabeth Park) as there are many associated negative environmental impacts that arise from this practice.
46. Rangitāne O Wairarapa Inc proposed a set of principles for Greater Wellington to avoid harm to, or the diminishing of, Rangitāne O Wairarapa Inc values related to all significant sites such as Wairarapa Moana reserves and marginal strips.

***Water Supply***

47. The Wellington Lifelines Group (WeLG), comprising the lifeline utilities in the Wellington Region, congratulated Greater Wellington on the inclusion of water renewals and upgrade projects proposed in the 2021-31 LTP, acknowledging that the water projects included not only make the region more resilient, they make economic sense too.
48. WeLG encourage Greater Wellington to consider including the following projects in the final 2021-31 LTP: Porirua Branch Replacement, a new pipeline from Waterloo to Haywards and a new pipeline from Carmichael to Johnsonville.

***Freshwater***

49. Wellington Fish and Game suggested Greater Wellington uses the principles of Te Mana o Te Wai and then applies this to implementation at a catchment level, and incorporates outcome focused approaches to fish habitat and biodiversity into flood protection programmes.

### ***Rural farm rates***

50. The expression of high rates and high rate increases projected have been repeatedly noted as unjust and well overdue for a reform. The rates to services provided are well out of balance and the rural land owners and residents are significantly disadvantaged compared to other residents who utilise the services.
51. Federated Farmers, and supporters, have expressed that Greater Wellington's services should be financed with specific levies and rates. Where there are no benefits received or justified, specific levies should cease to be charged to those who are disadvantaged.

### ***Serving people with disabilities***

52. Disabled Persons Assembly NZ strongly recommends that any associated change in bus and train designs conform with the Government's recently updated Rural and Urban Bus (RUB) Standards and also ensure that passenger rail services are made fully accessible and inclusive of all users, including disabled people, according to universal design principles.
53. A better understanding and planning for people with disabilities should be clearly outlined by Greater Wellington in the activities and/or projects outlined for the next 10 years.
54. Disabled Persons Assembly NZ also expressed that all information and communication distributed from Council should be provided in a range of accessible formats including New Zealand Sign Language, Easy Read, Braille, large print, audio and captioned formats to ensure that everyone can access information about policies, services and activities.

### ***Wellington Regional Stadium Trust***

55. The Wellington Regional Stadium Trust (Sky Stadium) seek support from Greater Wellington for Sky Stadium's resilience programme over the next four years. They have been able to remain financially autonomous and largely continue to self-fund its capex and maintenance. That has now changed due to events such as earthquakes, insurance premiums, COVID-19 and some infrastructure lifespans reached and now needing replacement.

### **Ngā hua ahumoni Financial implications**

56. Any decisions made in relation to the public feedback has the potential to impact the 2021-31 Long Term Plan budget. The full extent of the financial impacts will be determined following the LTP Hearings Committee deliberations and will be reported to Council at the 10 June 2021 Council Meeting.

### **Ngā tikanga whakatau Decision-making process**

57. The matters requiring decision in this report were considered by officers against the decision-making requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

## **Te hiranga Significance**

58. Officers considered the significance (as defined by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002) of these matters, taking into account Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and Greater Wellington's Decision-making Guidelines. Officers recommend that these matters are of high significance, as the 2021-31 LTP Submissions and Hearings process meets our statutory obligation to provide a fair opportunity for the public to have their say on the issues.

## **Te whakatūtakitaki Engagement**

### ***Iwi engagement***

59. Greater Wellington has engaged with mana whenua partners to develop a framework for improving outcomes for mana whenua and Māori, which is one of Council's overarching strategic priorities outlined in the 2021-31 LTP Strategic Framework.
60. A series of hui with each of our mana whenua partners have been held over the past nine months, involving Councillors, General Managers and iwi representatives, to discuss our partnership arrangements and how mana whenua can be properly resourced to support this partnership over the next 10 years.
61. During our public consultation, Greater Wellington joined Wellington City Council to host two engagement events with Taranaki Whānui with an open invitation to mātāwaka. This was the first time we have run an LTP engagement event in conjunction with another Council in the region and is something we will consider doing again in the future.
62. Some mana whenua partners have also made formal submissions expressing their support for the preferred options and their expectations for working together going forward.

### ***Public engagement***

63. Greater Wellington's marketing campaign for our public consultation was digitally-led and included a range of activity to deliver to broad awareness raising objectives, coupled with targeted, response-focussed placements. This digital approach resulted in more than 2.3 million impressions.
64. Outdoor advertising (street posters, dairy posters, digital and physical billboards) ran across the region in Ōtaki, Paraparaumu, Masterton, Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt, Porirua and around Wellington City. Social media activity (paid ads, organic posts and Facebook Live) resulted in 648,000 impressions with a further 1.3 million impressions through Google display ads. The digital layer was supported by radio advertising across a range of stations including Māori media, as well as posters across the rail network and newspaper ads in a number of community publications including the Dominion Post and the Wairarapa Times Age.

65. Public engagement activities during the consultation included face to face events, such as stakeholder meetings, resident association group meetings/presentations, weekend markets, and Facebook Live events.
66. As a result of all this marketing and engagement activity our *Have Your Say* platform saw 2,600 visits from 1,800 unique visitors. The online conversion rate of 14 percent of visitors to the *Have Your Say* page completing a submission was higher than we have previously seen from comparable consultations (an average 10 percent conversion rate for the Parks Network Plan, Regional Land Transport Plan, Regional Public Transport Plan consultations).

### **Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**

#### **Next steps**

67. The 2021-31 LTP Hearings Committee will:
  - a. deliberate on the submissions received and heard, and agree on the recommendations for any changes to the draft 2021-31 LTP on 20 May 2021; and
  - b. provide a report to Council on 10 June 2021 with their recommendations to Council for approval.
68. The final 2021-31 Long Term Plan will be prepared by officers and adopted by Council on 29 June 2021.

### **Ngā āpitihanga**

#### **Attachments**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Public Consultation Dashboard
2	Proposed key responses to submissions ( <i>to come</i> )

### **Ngā kaiwaitohu**

#### **Signatories**

Writer	Kyn Drake – Advisor Planning and Reporting (2021-31 LTP Project Manager) Zofia Miliszewska – Team Leader Corporate Planning and Reporting
Approver	Tracy Plane – Manager Strategic and Corporate Planning Luke Troy – General Manager Strategy Samantha Gain – General Manager Corporate Services

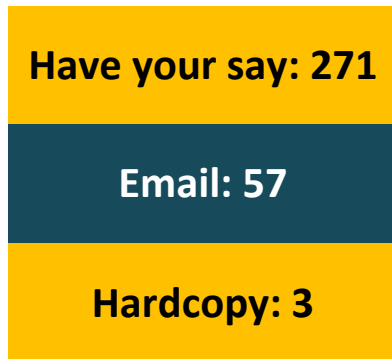


<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga</b> <b>Summary of considerations</b>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>The Council is responsible, under section 93 of the LGA for the preparation of a Long Term Plan once every three years, and must use the special consultative procedure in adopting a Long Term Plan.</p> <p>This report provides the analysis of the public submissions to support the information the 2021-31 LTP Hearing Committee will hear through the hearings.</p>
<p><b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b></p> <p>The proposed LTP budget includes increased funding for our mana whenua partners. Councillors and Council officers have been engaging with each of our mana whenua partners throughout the development of the LTP to understand priorities and agree on the way we will work together going forward, which is reflected in the draft 2021-31 LTP.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>The consultation contributed 331 submissions that help inform the 2021-31 LTP Hearing Committee as they make decisions that will determine the final 2021-31 LTP.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>The Finance, Strategic and Corporate Planning, Democratic Services, and Communications and Engagement departments were consulted in the preparation of this report.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>There are no identified risks relating to the content or recommendations of this report.</p>

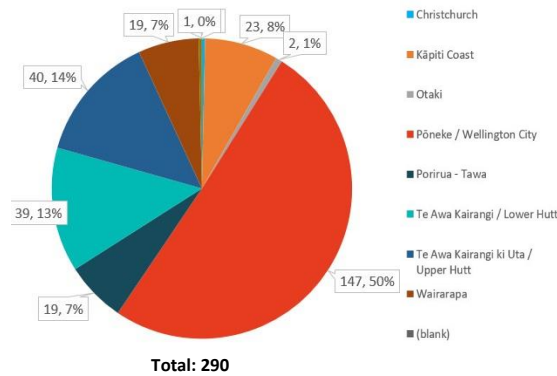
## 2021-31 Long Term Plan Consultation Dashboard

Date: <b>6/5/21</b>	Total Submissions: <b>331</b>	# Consultation days: <b>32</b>	Have your Say <b>2,600 visits</b> <b>14% Conversion rate</b>	Online reach: <b>2,340,198 Impressions</b> <small>(includes digital radio)</small>	Offline reach: <b>1,032,500</b>
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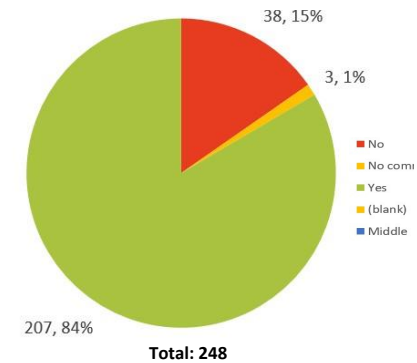
Where submissions have come from



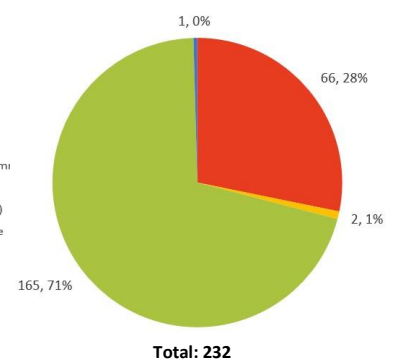
Where submitters reside



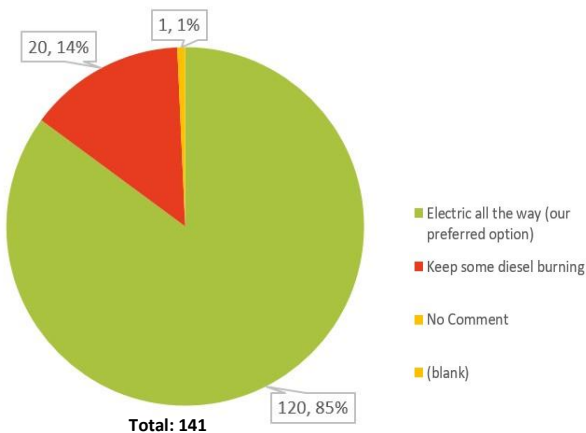
Q4 - Do you support the general direction of this plan?



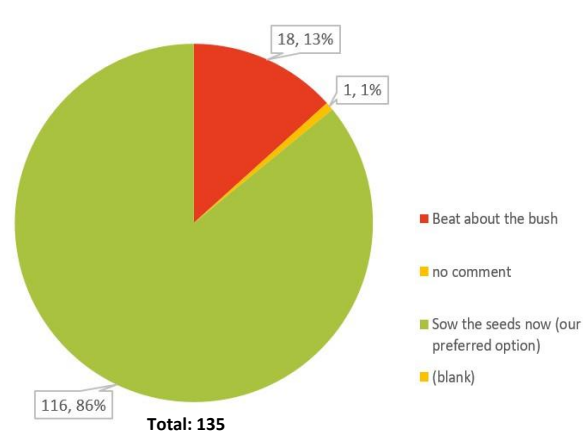
Q5 - Have we got the balance right?



Q1 - Pushing the go button on electrifying our bus and rail



Q2 - Ramping up our restoration of regional parks to fight



Q3 - Taking joint action to super charge our region

