

Report No.	21-21
Decision Required	

CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FOR THE 2021-31 LONG-TERM PLAN AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR ADOPTION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek the adoption of the **Supporting Information to the Consultation Document (supporting information)** and **2021-31 Long-term Plan Consultation Document (consultation document)** for consultation with the public under Sections 93A (use of special consultative procedure in relation to the Long-term Plan) and 93B (purpose of consultation document for the Long-term Plan) of the **Local Government Act (LGA) 2002**.
- 1.2. The supporting information and consultation document will be available to Members on the hub in advance of the meeting of 23rd March and available to members of the public who attend the meeting. The final audit opinion will be available at the meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 21-21;
- b. adopts the supporting information to the 2021-2031 Long-term Plan for public consultation and;
- c. adopts the consultation document for the 2021-2031 Long-term Plan for public consultation.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. The financial impact to Council is the cost of consultation which has been allowed for in the Long-term Plan 2018-28 budgets.
- 3.2. Rate increases will not be uniform over all ratepayers. The proposed average rate increase for 2021-22, year 1, is 8.0%. Sample ratepayers are provided on page 22 of the consultation document.

4. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 4.1. There is a significant business risk to **Horizons Regional Council (Horizons)** if the consultation document is not approved to go out to the community for consultation. This process has a tight timeframe and any delays may impact our ability to complete a full democratic process.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1. Horizons has a communications plan to undertake a consultation process for the purpose of socialising and seeking submissions from Council's communities for the proposed 2021-31 Long-term Plan. In addition to public notices and media releases, Horizons will:
 - make the consultation document, supporting information, and submission form available on our website on a dedicated page – haveyoursay.horizons.govt.nz
 - make the consultation document, supporting information, and submission forms available at our service centres and Regional House
 - deliver the submission form to all letterboxes within the region

- include a LTP overview slide within river management scheme meeting presentations
- send direct emails to partners and interest groups to make them aware of the consultation process, where to find the consultation document and supporting information, as well as ways to make a submission and attend a hearing. This group includes iwi, territorial authorities, the Manawatū River Leaders' Forum, Te Āpiti – Manawatū Gorge Governance Group, industry organisations, and community groups
- face to face meetings will also provide opportunities to socialise Council's proposed LTP, including hui-ā-iwi, river management scheme meetings, and the climate action joint committee.
- run social media advertising
- invite Councillors to attend public events
- run full page newspaper advertising
- house proposed LTP video adverts on all of Council's digital channels
- run radio advertising

6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1. The Long-term Plan has been in development for the last twelve months. Councillors have worked through a programme of over twenty workshops which have examined, vision, community outcomes, infrastructure and financial strategies, policies, and activities. The consultation document and supporting information is a culmination of those activities to date.
- 6.2. The consultation document proposes an average rate increase of 8.0% for the regions' rates for the 2021-22 financial year when compared with the 2020-21 Annual Plan. Year 2 of the supporting information proposes a rates increase of 7.3% and a rise of 6.9% for year 3.
- 6.3. The supporting information details all the key activities of Council, any proposed changes and associated costs.
- 6.4. For simplicity of reading the supporting information is in five sections:
 - i) Setting the Scene
 - ii) Groups of Activities
 - iii) 30-year Infrastructure Strategy
 - iv) Financial Information
 - v) Policies
- 6.5. At its meeting of 17th February 2021 Council adopted the consultation document and supporting information to go to audit. The audit, carried out by Audit New Zealand, is complete and the audit opinion will be attached to the consultation document. The final audit opinion will be available when this item is considered by Council. Audit New Zealand will attend the meeting where this item is considered by Council.
- 6.6. There have been relatively few substantive changes as a result of the audit process. The audit has thoroughly examined the assumptions, financial modelling and activities proposed by Council. The majority of changes sought by audit have been to ensure clarity for the reader and that the purpose and implications of changes proposed are well documented. Audit has had a strong focus on asset management particularly through the infrastructure strategy.

- 6.7. As a result of recommendations arising from the audit process, the consultation document has been amended to remove the sections on insurance and the proposed changes to the Matarawa Scheme. The scale of change to insurance is considered too small to warrant specific mention and the implications of the Matarawa scheme changes too localised for a region wide consultation.
- 6.8. There have been minor adjustments to the financial information for the transport activity.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1. Consultation will be carried out as specified under Sections 93 and 93A of the Local Government Act.

8. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS

- 8.1. The consultation document will be printed and made available to the public online from Friday 26 March 2021. The submission period ends 5pm Friday 23 April 2021 and Council propose to hear submissions between 11 and 13 May 2021. The final Long-term Plan will be adopted 22 June 2021.

9. SIGNIFICANCE

- 9.1. Adoption of this Supporting Information and Consultation Document for consultation is not a significant decision as it remains a proposal document.

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