



## **ĀTIAWA KI WHAKARONGOTAI CHARITABLE TRUST**

SUBMISSION ON THE 2021-31 LONG TERM PLAN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**TO** GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL  
**FROM** ĀTIAWA KI WHAKARONGOTAI CHARITABLE TRUST  
**DATE** 4 MAY 2021

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# 1 Introduction

1. Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai (**Ātiawa**) are mana whenua and kaitiaki of all that is between Kūkūtauāki and the Whareroa, with overlapping interests with Ngāti Toarangatira to Paripari. As kaitiaki, Ātiawa have a responsibility to protect the environment within their rohe. The Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai Charitable Trust (the **Trust**) is the mandated iwi authority that represents the interests of Ātiawa.
2. This submission (the **Submission**) provides the Trust's submission on Greater Wellington Regional Council's (**Council**) *2021-31 Long Term Plan Consultation Document* (the **Consultation Document**). This Submission assesses the Consultation Document against Ātiawa kaupapa or values as articulated through *Whakarongotai o te moana, Whakarongotai o te wā: Kaitiakitanga Plan for Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai* (the **Kaitiakitanga Plan**) and provides guidance as to how Council's Long Term Plan (**LTP**) **can** best support and provide for Ātiawa values and aspirations.
3. This Submission has been prepared by Madie Davy and reviewed by Te Rangimārie Williams of Te Kōnae Ltd, Environmental Consultants to the Trust.

# 2 Council Priorities for the LTP

4. The LTP is the overarching financial plan for what Council will deliver for the greater Wellington region over a 10-year period from 2021 to 2031. The LTP is produced every three years to keep up to date with the ever-changing environment, and mana whenua and community priorities. The Consultation Document has been prepared by Council looking at the future needs, challenges, and the outcomes that they want to achieve.
5. The Consultation Document focuses on four strategic priorities as follows:
  - a. Responding to the climate emergency.
    - i. Council have identified that urgent action is needed now, they have set a target to be carbon neutral by 2030 and climate positive by 2035.
  - b. Improving outcomes for mana whenua and Māori.
    - i. Council are aiming to improve mana whenua relations and outcomes and as a result have made it a priority to kōrero with mana whenua and Māori in all

the decisions that need to be made, incorporating Te Ao Māori and Mātauranga Māori protocols. They have created a Māori Outcomes Framework that is intended to show how they will work with mana whenua so people and environment are at the centre of everything they do.

- c. Adapting and responding to the impacts of COVID-19.
    - i. Council plan to lead the way in supporting the wider region through the COVID-19 recovery, transitioning along the way to a more sustainable and low carbon economy.
  - d. Aligning with Government direction.
    - i. The Government has set some big environmental goals. With many still evolving, and several that align with what Council are doing already. Council plans to be in the best position to respond well to these goals.
6. The LTP focusses on three specific questions that Council is asking for feedback on which the Trust will explore further in this memorandum. These are listed below:
- a. Pushing the go button on electrifying our bus and rail network.
  - b. Ramping up our restoration of regional parks to fight climate change.
  - c. Taking joint action to super charge our region.

### **3 Ātiawa Response to Council Priorities**

7. The Trust makes the following comments on Council priorities:
- a. *Responding to the climate emergency:* The Trust is supportive of prioritising climate emergency. Ātiawa recognises the threat of climate change to the environment as is evidenced by our emphasis on planning for climate change in our Kaitiakitanga Plan. Ātiawa must be involved as a Treaty Partner, in the planning for climate change emergency.
  - b. *Improving outcomes for mana whenua and Māori:* The Trust is supportive of prioritising improving outcomes for mana whenua and Māori. The Trust notes that only Māori can design how outcomes can be improved for Māori. As such, this mahi must be led for and by Māori. The Trust notes that we did not have input into the Māori Outcomes Framework. This is concerning to the Trust as

until Council recognises that these processes must be designed by mana whenua and Māori we will not achieve real change. The Trust notes that it is currently in conversations with Council governance over how mana whenua can be involved in Council governance and operation, as a Treaty Partner, to ensure better outcomes for mana whenua and Māori. Ensuring effective mana whenua participation as a Treaty is critical to the success of improving outcomes for mana whenua and Māori.

- c. *Adapting and responding to impacts of Covid-19:* The Trust recognises the importance of adapting and responding to the impacts of Covid-19 to support our communities.
- d. *Aligning with central government direction:* the Trust is supportive of aligning with central government direction where that direction aligns with mana whenua directions.

## **4 Ātiawa Response to Specific Council Consultation Questions**

### **4.1 Pushing the go button on electrifying our bus and rail network**

- 8. The Trust supports Option 1: Electric all the way.
- 9. The Trust supports this option as it will have the biggest impact on carbon emissions and therefore reduce the public transport contribution to climate change. The Trust is supportive of reaching carbon neutrality as fast as possible as it will have many flow on effects to many of our taonga native species. Reaching carbon neutrality quicker will decrease the impacts of global mean temperature rise which will cause more major weather events such as flooding and droughts. Flooding and droughts both have the potential have negative impacts on our mahinga kai due to the stress that this puts on our native species. This in turn is negative for mana whenua as we will be restricted in practicing kaitiakitanga including through practicing mahinga kai.
- 10. By acting on climate change impacts quickly the Trust understands that this will create a more sustainable environment for future generations.

11. The Trust supports the introduction of more bus services to provide more public transport, especially in Kāpiti. The Kāpiti Coast area would benefit from more buses and greater routes within isolated areas in the district to allow for greater utilisation of public transport. This would alleviate the demand on private transport modes and in turn lead to less CO2 emissions into the atmosphere. By electrifying and providing more buses the Trust believes the Council is taking a step forward for climate action.
12. The Trust requests that council honours our Treaty Partnership, by involving the Trust in the electrification of the public transport system within our rohe. The Trust takes an active approach in implementing strategies and projects that will lessen our CO2 emissions so that our future generations can thrive within te taiao as we have.

## **4.2 Ramping up our restoration of regional parks to fight climate change**

13. The Trust supports Option 1: Sow the seeds now.
14. The Trust supports the removal of livestock from grazing within regional parks as there are many associated negative environmental impacts that arise from this practice. This includes:
  - a. Nutrient deposition of the soil from animal excrements can throw the soil nutrient levels off and create a soil profile that is not able to grow native plants.
  - b. Nutrients from these animals can get into waterways, having degrading effects on water quality and the mauri of the water.
  - c. Trampling and eating surrounding native species of plants.
15. The Trust supports restoring these parks back to their original native forested state which in turn will also combat our emissions due to an increase in plants taking up CO2.
16. The Trust requests that, as Treaty Partners, we are involved in the subsequent projects that arise from this option that are located within our rohe. The Trust takes an active approach in being a part of initiative to revegetate the land and restore areas back to their native wetland and forested states.

### 4.3 Taking joint action to supercharge our region

17. The Trust supports Option 1: Serious support.
18. The region is facing several challenges including housing and urban development, economic development, transport and resilience. Many of which cross local council boundaries. As such, Council along with the territorial authorities in the region, Horowhenua District Council, mana whenua and central government have agreed to establish the Wellington Regional Leadership Joint Committee (**Joint Committee**). This Joint Committee will set direction and monitor activities across regional plans that support the Wellington Regional Growth Framework and help regional economic development and recovery.
19. Council seeks to fund a secretariat for this Joint Committee who will give support and advice. They will bring together all the relevant information, administer projects, manage the work programme and progress projects.
20. The Trust is supportive of providing serious support to fund the secretariat of the Joint Committee. The Trust seeks confirmation that a Trust appointed personnel(s) will be appointed to the Joint Committee and the secretariat to represent Ātiawa.

## 5 General Council Questions

21. In addition to the above questions, Council has also asked the following general questions which we address as follows.

### 5.1 Has Council got the general direction of the LTP right?

22. The Trust requires further involvement in the development of the LTP as a Treaty Partner before they can finalise a position on the direction of the LTP. The Trust requests a kōrero with Council as to how they can be involved in the development of the LTP going forward.

### 5.2 Has Council got the balance right between level of rates/ charges and the services Council provides?

23. The Trust requires further involvement in the development of the LTP as a Treaty Partner before they can finalise a position on the level of rates / charges and services

Council provides. The Trust requests a kōrero with Council as to how they can be involved in the development of the LTP going forward.

### **5.3 Further comments on the Consultation Document or supporting information**

24. The Trust requests that we are positioned as Treaty Partner alongside Council in the review and consideration of submissions on the Consultation Document. This includes being provided the opportunity to review all submissions, being invited to the subsequent hearings to listen to submissions and being given the opportunity to comment on these as a partner.
25. The Trust should also be provided an opportunity to be involved in finalising the LTP and seeks kōrero with Council as to how this involvement would look.

## **6 Conclusion**

26. The Trust does not object to this Submission being publicly available and requests that this Submission used to guide the development of the LTP.
27. This Submission outlines the Trust's comments on the Consultation Document. The Trust would be pleased to present this Submission to the Council in person. Please direct any future communications to Dr Mahina-a-rangi Baker (taiao@teatiawakikapiti.co.nz).