

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Susan Edwards

REFERENCE: A503-03

SUBJECT: **Overview Report Covering Submissions on Draft Annual Plan and Seeking Decisions for final Annual Plan 2010/2011 – RCN10-06-16**

PURPOSE

To seek Council decisions on wording and funding changes (not covered in the previous reports on this agenda) for inclusion in the final Annual Plan 2010/2011, as a result of the consultation process on the Draft Annual Plan 2010/2011.

BACKGROUND

The Council publicly notified its Draft Annual Plan 2010/2011 on 20 March 2010. Submissions on the Draft Annual Plan closed on 26 April 2010.

The Draft Annual Plan covers the second year of Council's Ten Year Plan. The document noted where Council is planning changes to what was proposed in Year Two of the Ten Year Plan. The Draft Annual Plan included provision for a 3.97 percent increase in the General Rate (down from 5.12 percent) and an overall rates increase (covering Targeted Rates and the General Rate) of around 5 percent for most properties in Tasman District.

Around 240 submissions were received on the Draft Annual Plan. Of those 96 submitters wished to present their submissions to the Council. The Council heard submissions at Council meetings between 12 and 19 May 2010.

Council held two and a half days of workshops from 25 to 27 May to discuss all the submissions and to give staff direction on what matters to bring to the Council on 9 June for a decision on whether they are to be included in the final Annual Plan.

This report will cover the majority of the matters the Council asked staff to re-work for consideration at this meeting. However, there are separate reports on this agenda covering the following key matters for decisions on:

- The interest rate assumption to use
- The discount level to be used for early payment of rates
- What changes to make to the Tourism Targeted Rate
- Amendments to the Schedule of Charges
- Changes to the projects that make up the Community Facilities Rate, District Facilities Rate and Reserve Financial Contributions
- Proposed office accommodation
- Port Tarkohe marina proposal
- The Tata Beach Stormwater Urban Drainage Area Review.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Freedom Camping

Recent discussions within Local Government and tourism industry sector have highlighted the need to progress a variety of ways to achieve better management of the adverse effects of irresponsible freedom camping. Council has also received a number of submissions asking for Council to 'tighten up' on this issue. A separate report will be provided to the 1 July Environment & Planning Committee meeting.

In the interim, however, staff have considered whether an additional funding request should be submitted as part of the Annual Plan round to fund more contractor time for patrolling and education in the summer months, plus some additional signage.

Until there is some clarity around the ability to enforce more responsible behaviour from those who contravene Council's freedom camping policy, Council can work within existing budgets to respond to issues as they arise. Additional funding will not assist improved enforcement until the New Zealand legislation changes. Those changes will not be available until next year.

Communications budget reductions

Newspaper advertising budget

The Communications Sub-committee has previously recommended a reduction in the Council's newspaper advertising budget. The change would see more use made of advertising on Council's website and in existing publications, such as Newsline.

Council officers have reviewed the advertising needs and consider that it is possible to reduce the newspaper advertising budget by \$40,000. The funding is currently from the General Rate.

Radio advertising budget

Council officers have reviewed the radio advertising needs and consider that it is possible to reduce the budget by \$20,000. The change would see Council maximising its exposure by using radio more effectively. Changes would include no longer advertising that Newsline will be distributed to every household in Tasman, and the use of advertisements that are more focused and longer. The funding is currently from the General Rate.

Growth Strategy

In order to prepare for the next Ten Year Plan review, Council needs to update and review the Growth Model. The Growth Model underpins the Asset/Activity Management Plans (AMPs) the Council prepares, which directly feed into the financial forecasts for the Ten Year Plan. In order to meet the timelines to prepare the AMPs and Ten Year Plan, the Growth Model work will need to be undertaken during 2010/2011.

Key inputs into the Growth Model included work on population projections from Statistics New Zealand and technical analysis of the Model undertaken by MWH. Officers will need to work with renewed forecasts based on the 2006 Census data and would like to contract Statistics New Zealand to prepare the forecasts for Council. Officers consider it is important to retain the services of MWH for the technical analysis and operation of the Growth Model and to act as project manager and for peer review of the work undertaken by Council officers.

Based on the costs of the work undertaken for the last Ten Year Plan, officers estimate the budget required to be \$45,000, with \$10,000 of this coming from the Resource Policy consultants budget.

Tasman Loop of the National Cycleway

The Nelson Tasman Cycle Trails Trust has sought confirmation of Council's funding for the Tasman Loop of the National Cycleway. The Government is considering allocating \$2 million to the project. Government funding criteria requires contributions from other sources, including the Council. The proposed Council contribution over the next three years is in the order of \$940,000.

Council has already allocated funding in the Draft Annual Plan for cycleways in both the Transportation and the Park and Reserves budgets. Some of this funding could be used towards the Tasman Loop project and should be sufficient to cover the Council's contribution during the 2010/2011 financial year. Officers suggest that no further funding be allocated.

Mapua Wharf – Pontoon Repairs and Upgrade

The Mapua Wharf pontoon was damaged recently. The pontoon needs to be repaired and upgraded at a cost of around \$100,000.

The income for Mapua Wharf as shown in the Draft Annual Plan is understated by between \$20,000 and \$30,000. This income would be available to assist with the costs of replacing the pontoon replacement and servicing the loan costs.

Port Motueka Public Toilet

A public toilet has been proposed for the Port Motueka area in the vicinity of the Marina and Yacht Club. The capital cost of providing this toilet, including a pump and pipe connection to Wharf Road, is in the order of \$125,000. The project could be funded out of the Port Motueka Endowment Fund, which will have sufficient funds in it during the year as a result of proposed property sales.

Tasman Bays Heritage Trust

In the Draft Annual Plan Council signalled an increase of \$18,000 on the Museum Rate to pay the loan servicing costs for a \$250,000 loan to upgrade one of the leased storage bays. The Tasman Bays Heritage Trust has said that it wants to await the outcome of the review of the Museum's storage needs prior to deciding whether the storage bay needs upgrading and has asked the Council to take the \$18,000 out of the Museum budget and rate.

OTHER SUBMISSIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Number 43 – Requesting that the Tasman District Council include in its final 2010/2011 Plan a \$1.2 million provision to progress the design work of the Lee Dam, should it be needed.

Council officers recommend that a 1.2 million interest only loan be allowed for in the final 2010/2011 Plan subject to appropriate funding being agreed to by the Waimea Water Augmentation Committee before the loan is uplifted. The Waimea Water Augmentation Committee has passed a resolution agreeing to this but needs to consult with its membership prior to giving final approval.

Number 51 – requesting hydroslide be built at ASB Aquatic Centre. Officers recommend that this request be considered when preparing the next Ten Year Plan.

Number 86 – Keep Motueka Beautiful Committee requesting more maintenance funds as the capital funds are limited as to what they can be used for. Officers recommend that the current funding for Keep Motueka Beautiful Committee be split as follows: \$7,000.00 capital and \$4,000.00 maintenance

Number 109 – Founders Heritage Park requesting \$6,000 annual funding from Council to contribute to the costs of allowing free entry to Tasman residents. Officers recommend that the Heritage Park Committee be invited to apply to the August 2010 round of Grants from Rates in the Arts Culture and Heritage category

Number 118 – Mapua Tennis Club requesting funds for new courts/court upgrades to be included in 2010/2011 Annual Plan. Officers note that there are a number of issues to work through with the Club such as 'protected trees', the allocation of funds remain in the 2011/2012 financial year and that staff work with the Club over the next 12 months in order to resolve all outstanding issues.

Number 151 – Richmond Unlimited requesting funding for seasonal flags and other items. Officers recommend that Richmond Unlimited be invited to apply to the August 2010 round of Grants from Rates

Number 173 – The Nelson Ark request support to continue to deliver programmes. Officers recommend that The Nelson Ark be invited to apply to the August 2010 round of Grants from Rates.

Number 212 – Golden Bay Community Board requesting a new toilet at Rototai Reserve. Officers recommend that the Golden Bay Community Board be advised that there are sufficient funds allocated for a toilet at the Rototai Reserve and that they be asked to discuss the provision and siting of a toilet with the neighbouring property owners

Number 219 – Mrs G Turley requesting \$1,000.00 for the tennis courts at Puramahoi. Officers recommend that Puramahoi Tennis Club be invited to apply to the August 2010 round of Grants from Rates

Number 240 – Tasman Regional Sports Trust requested funding for the South Island Masters Games to be held at Saxton Field during October 2011 and again in 2013. Officers recommend that “in kind” support be offered during the 2010/2011 year and that any requests for funds be considered as part of the 2011/2012 Annual Plan.

Number 167 – Nelson Cycle Trails Trust seeking funds for the administration of the Trust. Officers recommend that the Trust be advised to apply to the Council’s Grants from Rates to help with their administration costs.

Number 169 – Nelson A & P Association seeking financial assistance to convert an existing hall into two separate rooms that could be used as movie theatres. Officers recommend that before a decision is made on this request the results of the Richmond Community Facilities Needs Analysis be considered by Council.

Number 147 – Golden Bay Air sought funding for the upgrade of the cross-runway and tarmac at the Takaka Aerodrome. Officers recommend discussing the matter further with Golden Bay Air to develop a possible solution to bring back for discussion during the preparation of the 2011/2012 Draft Annual Plan.

Number 34 – I Burrowes requested that the Council investigate bringing forward the upgrade of the Eighty Eight Valley water supply. Officers recommend looking into the matters raised in the submission and reporting back to Engineering Services Committee at a later date.

Number 99 – Rachel Stokes noted concern over the Church Valley stormwater and the narrowness of Edward Street and difficulty that poses for cyclists and walkers. Officers recommend looking into the matters and bringing any action needed through to the next review of the Ten Year Plan in 2012.

Number 114 – Our Town Motueka asked for the business rate in Motueka to be increased by 3 percent. Officers recommend making wording changes to the final Annual Plan to make it clear that the business rate has been increased by 3 percent, as requested by Our Town Motueka.

Number 150 – Concern was expressed by a landowner at Jacketts Island about the erosion occurring in front of their property. Officers will respond to this issue but there is no recommendation for funding assistance from Council.

Number 172 – Concern was expressed about the supply of water to the restricted low flow customers and that they are being charged for water that they cannot receive due to the restrictions on the system. Officers recommend looking into the matter and reporting back to Council at a later date.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Tasman District Council:

Freedom Camping

1. Notes the concerns raised in submissions about the impacts of freedom camping on the environment.

2. Agrees that until there is some clarity around the ability to enforce more responsible behaviour from those who flout Council's freedom camping policy, Council can work within its existing budgets to respond to issues as they arise.
3. Council vigorously supports the Local Government New Zealand moves to initiate more effective legislation.

Tasman Bays Heritage Trust

4. Agrees to remove the \$250,000 storage bay upgrade project from the final Annual Plan and the corresponding funding from the Museum Rate.
5. Agrees to remove all reference to the storage by upgrade project from the wording in the final Annual Plan.

Communications budget

6. Agrees to the Communications budget being reduced by \$40,000 for newspaper advertising and \$20,000 for radio advertising.

Growth Model

7. Agrees to include \$45,000 in the final Annual Plan for the Growth Model work, and transfer \$10,000 for this work from the Resource Policy consultants budget.

Tasman Loop of the National Cycleway

8. Notes that funding from the existing Transportation and Parks and Reserves budgets will be allocated towards the Tasman Loop of the National Cycleway.

Mapua Wharf – Pontoon Repairs and Upgrade

9. Agrees to include \$100,000 in the final Annual Plan for the upgrade and repairs to the Mapua Wharf pontoon, with the loan servicing costs to be funded by the additional income from the Wharf area.

Port Motueka Public Toilet

10. Agrees to include the construction of a public toilet at a budgeted cost of \$125,000 at Port Motueka in the final Annual Plan to be paid for from the Port Motueka Endowment Fund.

ASB Pool Hydroslide

11. Agrees to the request for a hydroslide to be built at ASB Aquatic Centre be considered when preparing the next Ten Year Plan.

Keep Motueka Beautiful

12. Agrees to the current fund for Keep Motueka Beautiful Committee be split as follows: \$7,000.00 capital and \$4,000.00 maintenance.

Founders Park

13. Agrees that the Founders Heritage Park Committee be invited to apply to the August 2010 round of Grants from Rates in the Arts Culture and Heritage category to contribute to the costs of allowing free entry to Founders Park for Tasman residents.

Mapua Tennis Club

14. Agrees that staff work with the Mapua Tennis Club on the proposal for new courts/court upgrades and that the allocation of funds remain in the 2011/2012 financial year.

Richmond Unlimited

15. Agrees that Richmond Unlimited be invited to apply to the August 2010 round of Grants from Rates for funding for seasonal flags and other items.

The Nelson Ark

16. Agrees that The Nelson Ark be invited to apply to the August 2010 round of Grants from Rates for support to continue to deliver programmes.

Rototai Reserve Public Toilet

17. Agrees that the Golden Bay Community Board be advised that there are sufficient funds allocated for a toilet at the Rototai Reserve and that they be asked to discuss the provision and siting of a toilet with the neighbouring property owners.

Puramahoi Tennis Courts

18. Agrees that the Puramahoi Tennis Club be invited to apply to the August 2010 round of Grants from Rates in the Community and Economic Development Initiatives category for \$1,000 towards the tennis courts at Puramahoi.

South Island Masters Games

19. Agrees that "in kind" support be offered to Tasman Regional Sports Trust during the 2010/2011 year for the South Island Masters Games to be held at Saxton Field and that any requests for funds be considered as part of the 2011/2012 Annual Plan.

Nelson Cycle Trails Trust

20. Agrees that the Nelson Cycle Trails Trust be advised to apply to the Council's Grants from Rates to help with their administration costs.

A & P Association

21. Notes that it will reconsider the request for funding to upgrade Birch Hall to enable it to be used as movie theatres in the A & P Association submission once the Richmond Community Facilities Needs Analysis has been considered by Council.

Takaka Aerodrome Cross-runway and Tarmac Upgrade

22. Asks officers discuss the upgrade of the cross-runway and tarmac at Takaka Aerodrome further with Golden Bay Air to develop a possible solution to bring back for discussion during the preparation of the 2011/2012 Draft Annual Plan.

Eighty Eight Valley Water Supply

23. Asks officers to look into the matters raised on the Eighty Eight Valley Water Supply and report back to Engineering Services Committee at a later date.

Church Valley Stormwater and Widening of Edward Street

24. Asks officers to look into the matters of the Church Valley stormwater and widening Edward Street in Wakefield and to bring any actions through to the next review of the Ten Year Plan in 2012.

Motueka Business Rate

25. Asks officers to make wording changes to the final Annual Plan to make it clear that the Motueka business rate has been increased by 3 percent, as requested by Our Town Motueka.

Jackets Island erosion

26. Asks officers to look into the coastal erosion at Jacketts Island and reporting back to Council at a later date.

Restricted Low Flow Water Supply

27. Asks officers to look into the supply and pricing to restricted low flow water supplies and reporting back to Council at a later date.

Waimea Water Augmentation Committee Provision

28. Agrees to the inclusion of a 1.2 million interest only loan subject to appropriate funding being agreed upon by the Waimea Water Augmentation Committee.

All other submissions and requests

29. Notes that it has received and considered all the written, verbal and late submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2010/2011.
30. Acknowledges that there are some proposals raised in the submissions that are already covered in the Draft Annual Plan and no changes need to be included in the final Annual Plan to address these proposals.
31. Acknowledges that there have been a number of proposals in submissions that have not been addressed by specific decisions as a result of this report and other reports on this agenda.
32. Agrees not to make provision in the final Annual Plan for the proposals made in the submissions referred to in 31 above, in light of their funding implications, the relative priority of those matters and activities in the context of the Council's overall work programme, or that the Council is of the view that they are not in the interests of the Tasman community.
33. Agrees to officers giving effect to the resolutions above and the resolutions made in relation to the other relevant reports on this agenda, in preparing the final Annual Plan to be adopted by the Council on or prior to 30 June 2010.
34. Agrees to officers making other appropriate changes to transform the Draft Annual Plan into a final Annual Plan for adoption.

Report prepared by

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