



Dear Resident

Please fill in and tear off the form below and drop it in to the WDC office (Library) by Wednesday 9 May. The only parts which need completing are your name and address and whether you want to speak, or have us do it for you. You may also want to number the boxes according to what you think their importance is. If you don't agree with some points, cross them out or change them. If you've other issues to raise, put them on the back of the form.

With your help we can get Raglan's voice heard on the massive rate increases, the overcrowded bus and other issues.

Thank you, Raglan Residents & Ratepayers Association - 825 8041.

Submission on Waikato District Council Draft Long Term Plan 2012 – 2022

From – name address
phone email

I would like to speak to my submission / I would like Raglan Residents & Ratepayers to speak to my submission

My submission is set out in the order of questions on the WDC submission form. I have numbered them to indicate which I think most important, starting with '1'.

Do you think the council should facilitate economic growth to help attract industry to the district?

No. WDC should learn from Kaipara and Far North Councils and not gamble on growth to repay debts.

Do you support a community board targeted rate? No. The towns are targeted with yet another rate, though their income is below average. 44.6% of general rate is to be spent on roading, which predominantly benefits rural areas. It is not fair for towns to pay for their own services, plus such a large 'roading' rate. These figures show the comparison between Raglan's flat rate charges at the first LTP and those proposed in this. The increase has been 38% in a period when inflation (CPI) went up 22%.

Flat rate charges	2012	2005		
sewage	576.30	420		
UAGC	403	310		
water	399.84	165		
stormwater	194	100		
refuse/recycling	86.52	38		
community board	18.20	-		
community facilities	15	15		
total	1692.86	1048	+644.86	38.1%

Do you support general rates being used for partial funding of new wastewater schemes? Yes, where existing residents would otherwise face large bills.

Do you support a joint library service with Hamilton city? Yes.

Do you support the one-off rates remission policy to help out property owners whose rates are affected by the revaluations, Franklin/Waikato amalgamation and rates review? Yes.

Should we extend the range of what's recycled? Yes.

The following points are not in the WDC submission form -

The Raglan bus urgently needs more services. Last year only 1.6% of the roading budget went to buses, though 5% of Waikato residents don't have a car and many more would prefer to use their cars less.

Raglan's targeted rates should not rise 12%, which is way above inflation and more than any other towns.

The only major targeted rate not made uniform across all towns in that for sewage. Raglan's rate is set at \$576.30, rather than \$438.44. The Raglan rate should be reduced in line with the other towns.

Raglan should not be 2 to 4 years ahead of other towns in getting water metering. The average cost of water in Raglan should not rise from \$357 now to over \$600 (68% rise) pa in 2013.

Water metering should not penalise permanent residents over those with summer only baches. All currently pay the same for water. The main costs are due to the summer peak. Those costs should be targeted at the summer peak, with winter charges covering only the variable costs of pumping, chlorine, etc.

Oporuru Bridge will need replacing at some time. Residents should be surveyed on their preferences.

Money allocated to a walkway beside the road to Manu Bay has not been spent. Many locals and visitors walk and cycle along this narrow winding road and urgently need a safe route. It is not clear what \$350,000 is to be spent on for Wainui Reserve capital projects over the period of the plan.

The community facilities targeted rate is set to remain at \$15 and support for for Surf Lifesaving at \$29,000 and Coastguard at \$6,500 for 10 years. These should be adjusted for inflation. Whaingaroa Harbour Care has nation-wide recognition for its valuable work, but no longer WDC support.

WDC's media release says, "While this is a council plan, it's really about the community and what they want . . . The full plan document . . . has been designed to make the information easy to read, with clear explanations of what is proposed and why, as well as providing the detailed budgets." Detail such as a new \$3,000 printer (page 74) is shown, yet issues such as buses and water rates are not set out. Why?