



TOI TE ORA PUBLIC HEALTH

Bay of Plenty + Lakes Districts

Submission to the Whakatane District Council
Proposed Long Term Plan 2018-2028



Sally Webb
Chairperson
Bay of Plenty District Health Board

23 April 2018

Introduction – Bay of Plenty District Health Board

The Bay of Plenty District Health Board (the DHB) is one of 20 District Health Boards in New Zealand and has a purpose of funding and providing personal health services, public health services and disability support services for the Bay of Plenty. The DHB covers an area of 9,666 square kilometres and serves a population of 237,000. A third of the population are under 25 and 25% identify as having Māori ethnicity. The area served stretches from Waihi Beach in the north-west to Whangaparaoa on the East Cape and inland to the Urewera, Kaimai and Mamaku ranges. These boundaries take in the major population centres of Tauranga, Katikati, Te Puke, Whakatane, Kawerau and Opotiki. Eighteen Iwi are located within the DHB area.

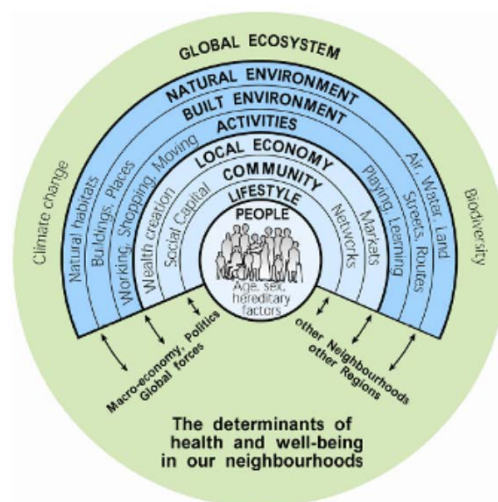
Many of the crucial underlying factors that contribute to population health and wellbeing are directly influenced by the decisions and activities of Councils. For this reason, the DHB welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to Council on its proposed long term plan for the district.

Social Determinants of Health

The DHB, with its Public Health Unit Toi Te Ora, places a great deal of emphasis on the social determinants of health, or what has been referred to as:

“...the social, economic and environmental conditions that influence the health of individuals and populations. They include the conditions of daily life and the structural influences upon them, themselves shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels. They determine the extent to which a person has the right physical, social and personal resources to achieve their goals, meet needs and deal with changes to their circumstances. There is a clear link between the social determinants of health and health inequalities...”¹

Essentially, health starts where we live, learn, work and play. Individuals often have little control over the social determinants of health, but these determinants can either constrain or support the choices we make, as well as the lifestyle we lead. The most effective illustration of this approach comes from the 1992 work of Dahlgren and Whitehead:²



¹ http://www.local.gov.uk/health/-/journal_content/56/10180/3511260/ARTICLE

² http://www.local.gov.uk/health/-/journal_content/56/10180/3511260/ARTICLE

Local government has a great deal of influence over the determinants of health, which is why it is important we work together to make a difference. The DHB encourages Whakatane District Council to take a “health in all policies” approach³ that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions in order to improve population health and health equity.





Whakatane District Council has identified drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, as well as climate change and natural hazards as priorities. These issues are excellent examples of the importance of the DHB and Whakatane District Council working together to achieve improved outcomes for our community. By working upstream we can build a community that supports health at a population level, rather than just treating people who are already unwell.

This Submission

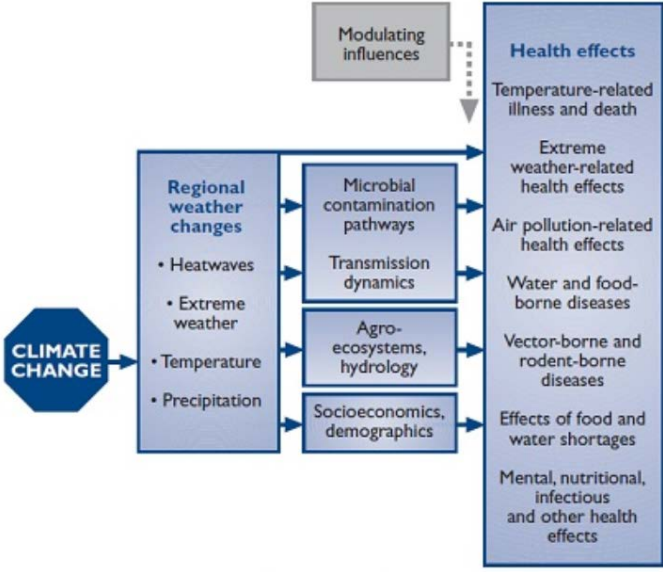
For ease of reference, the DHB’s responses in the following tables are linked to specific pages in Shaping our tomorrow – Ngā rā anamata, Whakatane District Council’s Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document (LTP)

The following symbols confirm the DHB’s position on each of the issues raised in the draft LTP:

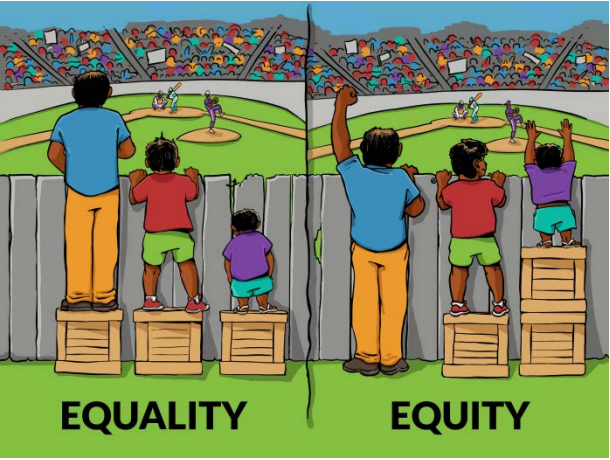



Symbol	Bay of Plenty District Health Board Position
✓	Support and endorse
*	Recommend further consideration
X	Disagree



Topic and Details	Page Ref	Key
<p>Replacing our water-related consents The DHB looks forward to working closely with Council on the renewal of resource consents for its water supplies, wastewater and stormwater systems.</p>	7	
<p>Accommodating growth and development The DHB supports Council’s intention to expand core sanitary services and to produce a Development Strategy to cater for anticipated growth.</p>	8	
<p>Making sure our drinking water is safe The DHB supports Council’s intention to continue to work closely with Toi Te Ora drinking water assessors to ensure a sufficient and continuous supply of safe drinking water is available for its communities.</p>	7	
<p>Finding an alternative water supply for Whakatane and Ohope The DHB supports Council’s intention to investigate alternative water sources to provide greater confidence that the quality of the source water will be of treatable quality.</p>	7	
<p>Responding to climate change The DHB agrees that resilience is an important and urgent issue given the impacts of climate change and other environmental hazards on</p>	7	

³ http://www.who.int/social_determinants/hiap_statement_who_sa_final.pdf

Topic and Details	Page Ref	Key
<p>health. The DHB supports Council's intention to develop a Climate Change Action Plan and to consider climate change in the District Plan and Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>Climate change affects the fundamental requirements for health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food, and secure shelter caused by the effects of extreme weather events - storms, floods, heatwaves and droughts. The pathways⁴ by which climate change affects human health are depicted below:</p>  <p>As well as responding to, and managing the effects of climate change, the DHB encourages Council to include in the Climate Change Action Plan the steps to mitigate climate change. Many of the actions, policies and decisions of Council have the potential to reduce or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and at the same time deliver co-benefits for public health. Examples include increasing the use of public transport, walking and cycling, greater use of renewable energy, the composting of organic waste, waste minimisation and recycling, and improving energy efficiency through street lighting design.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*</p>
<p>Equalisation proposed for Murupara</p> <p>Social equity is a determinant of health equity. Equity is about fairness and about equivalent outcomes rather than equal inputs. As people start from different baselines, different inputs are needed to achieve equivalent outcomes.</p> <p>The following graphic explains the difference between equality and equity.</p>	9	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>

⁴ <http://www.who.int/globalchange/summary/en/index12.html>

Topic and Details	Page Ref	Key
 <p>The DHB supports Option 3: Equalise Murupara Water and Wastewater over a number of years. This option avoids a significant increase in the immediate cost to the Murupara community by smoothing out the cost increase over a number of years. This may therefore be more acceptable to the community as a starting point.</p>		
<p>Second bridge into Whakatane</p> <p>The DHB recommends that when Council investigates the need for a second bridge across the Whakatane River that the option of building a pedestrian bridge between Coastlands and the town centre is considered. This would assist with accessibility for the growing Coastlands community, reduce localised traffic congestion on the existing bridge and support a multimodal transport system.</p> <p>Multimodal transport systems that feature high levels of active and public transport are associated with multiple health benefits including, but not limited to, reduced congestion, air pollution and carbon emissions, reduced road traffic crashes and associated injuries, increased physical activity and healthy weight, improved social connection and mental wellbeing, and improved mobility and health equity.</p>	12	
<p>Whakatane Ki Mua coordination and funding for community-led initiatives.</p> <p>The DHB has been involved in the Whakatane Ki Mua project from the outset and values the project's aim of working with the community to enhance the District and ensure it continues to be a place with lots of opportunities and a great quality of life.</p> <p>The DHB commends Council for reflecting the key themes from the 18,000 community comments and ideas generated through the Ki Mua projects. This will help ensure what is being delivered is what the community wants and needs.</p>	12	
<p>Managing the Awatarariki Debris Flow Risk</p> <p>The DHB acknowledges Council efforts to find funding to address the potential harm posed to residents from the debris flow. The DHB will</p>	14	

Topic and Details	Page Ref	Key
<p>continue to work with Council to find a wastewater solution for Matata. Both projects are fundamental to improving health and therefore increasing resilience of the Matata community.</p>		
<p>Proposed changes to the rating system and Revenue and Financing Policy The DHB is disappointed that the way in which the proposed rates increase is to be applied will have a greater proportionate impact on owners of property with a lower capital value. This could be avoided if Council was to reshape its rating approach by reducing the uniform annual general charge.</p> <p>The DHB recommends Council take an equitable approach to rating and suggests that Council undertake a comprehensive review of its rating policy.</p>	<p>20, 21 and 23</p>	
<p>Significance and engagement policy The DHB supports the proposal for a greater focus on community engagement during any decision making process, including earlier engagement, as well as a more flexible and meaningful approach to engagement.</p>	<p>22</p>	

Further Information and Oral Submissions

If Whakatane District Council requires any further information on this submission, please contact Robyn Woods, Management Support Officer, Toi Te Ora Public Health who will direct any enquiry to the most appropriate person. Robyn's contact details are as follows:

Email: Robyn.Woods@bopdhb.govt.nz
Ph: 07 577 3769

The DHB and Toi Te Ora thank Whakatane District Council for the opportunity to provide feedback on its proposed long term plan, and confirm it wishes to present by way of oral submission during the hearings later in 2018. We would appreciate being allocated an appropriate amount of time to cover the range of public health issues raised.

Sally Webb.

Sally Webb
Chair
Bay of Plenty DHB