

26 July 2019



Nick Saville-Wood  
BOP & Lakes District Health Board  
Toi Te Ora Public Health, PO Box 2120  
Tauranga, 3140

Dear Nick,

### **Response to your submission to Council's Consultation Document on the draft Annual Plan 2019/20**

Kia ora and thank you for your submission to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's consultation document on the Annual Plan 2019/20.

This letter outlines the decisions Council made for each of the consultation topics. Further information, including the final Annual Plan 2019/20 and associated policies, is available on our website [www.boprc.govt.nz/annualplan](http://www.boprc.govt.nz/annualplan) or by contacting us on 0800 884 880.

Council received 317 submissions and had over 600 people attend our community and Have Your Say events through the consultation period held during March and April this year. Council deliberated on the Annual Plan 2019/20 at its Council meeting in June and provided direction on the consultation questions raised in the consultation document and on other matters raised through the consultation period to enable the final Annual Plan to be prepared.

On 27 June 2019 the Annual Plan 2019/20 was adopted by Council and it came into effect on 1 July 2019.

### **Council decisions on Consultation Topics for the Annual Plan 2019/20**

#### **1 Climate change – Consultation Question One:**

##### ***What do you want Council to prioritise when it comes to our actions on climate change?***

Our Proposal: Council recognises climate change as one of the strategic issues for the region. We currently engage in climate change adaptation or reducing greenhouse gas emissions across a range of activities. However, it is clear we need to do more to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. To help understand where we should focus our efforts as part of our Climate Change Action Plan we asked the community to prioritise where we should focus our efforts across four focus areas.

Council's Decision: Council received over 230 submission responses relating to the climate change ranking question. There was support for all four focus areas, therefore,

we are planning to progress each area but will prioritise those areas favoured by the community. The results of the ranking question are ordered by community preference and are as follows:

1. Incorporating climate change considerations in our decision making.
2. The services we provide as a regional council e.g. flood protection (adaptation), more electric buses (reducing emissions).
3. Collaborating with our communities to build resilience and work on the region's response to climate change.
4. Reducing Council's own carbon footprint – getting our 'house in order' e.g. waste and energy reduction in our offices.

Consultation feedback confirmed that climate change is a strategic issue for Council and there are a range of views about what our actions should be. We have increased the budget by \$200,000 in 2019/20 to progress work in this area, including implementing specific actions identified through our Climate Change Action Plan. Council has also highlighted climate change as a priority for urgent action through the declaration of a climate emergency and is committed to working with the community on transitioning to a low carbon future and adapting to our changed climate.

## 2 **Regional Safety and Rescue Services – Consultation Question Two:**

***How should we support charities that provide regional safety and rescue services, such as Surf Lifesaving New Zealand and Coastguard, in the Bay of Plenty?***

Our Proposal: We considered whether to increase Regional Council funding to enable service providers to deliver an increased or more consistent level of service. In doing so, we proposed maintaining the status quo (Option One), or two additional options to increase support for regional safety and rescue providers:

- Option Two proposed establishing a fund that regional safety and rescue service providers could apply to if they meet particular criteria. The fund would be rated and administered by Regional Council. Local councils would continue to be an important funder of services.
- Option Three proposed the same as Option Two but would centralise funding. This would mean that the six territorial authorities in the Bay of Plenty would no longer need to collect rates for these services. The centralised model would create further efficiencies in the funding process and likely increase funding for regional safety and rescue providers.

Council's Decision: Council received 225 submissions that identified a preferred option for this topic. Of the three options provided to the community, over 80% of submitters supported increasing support and funding via Option Two and Option Three.

Council agreed staff would work with key stakeholders, in particular territorial authorities and safety and rescue service providers, with the intention of implementing centralised funding approach for regional safety and rescue funding (Option Three) though the next Annual Plan or Long Term Plan.

### 3 Transport – Commuter and Tertiary Trial – Consultation Question Three:

***Do you support an increase in rates to fund a one year trial to improve access to tertiary education across the Bay of Plenty and for people commuting to Tauranga and Rotorua?***

Our Proposal: We proposed to trial new bus services for one year from the beginning of 2020. The services would be for people living in the Bay of Plenty to get to and from tertiary education and for those starting out in the workforce to access our major employment centres and tertiary institutes. Two options were proposed – maintaining the status quo, or the introduction of new services.

Council's Decision: Council received 189 submissions on this topic. The majority (61%) of submitters favoured the introduction of new tertiary and commuter services for a one year trial.

Council agreed to fund the introduction of new tertiary and commuter services in 2020 for a one year trial. The estimated net cost to Council of \$356,000 is subject to confirmed funding from the tertiary providers of 50% of the net cost. The service is to be funded through targeted rates.

### 4 Transport – Fare-Free for Tauranga School Students – Consultation Question Four:

***Do you support an increase in rates to fund a one year trial of fare-free bus travel for Tauranga school students to help reduce congestion?***

Our Proposal: This proposal was about trialling fare-free bus travel for Tauranga school students with the intention of reducing traffic congestion at peak times in Tauranga. It has the added benefit of reducing the financial burden on families with school children. The trial will determine whether fare-free bus travel for Tauranga school students will reduce traffic congestion at peak times in Tauranga, and if it is worth extending the service beyond the one-year trial.

Council's Decision: Council received 256 submissions that identified a preferred option for this topic. Three options were provided to the community through consultation and 64% of submitters supported the option to trial fare-free bus services for Tauranga school students for one year.

Council agreed to the one year trial at an estimated cost of \$1.8 million. The trial is to be funded through targeted rates in Tauranga and is to be split across the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years with part of the cost to be met by our funding partners.

### 5 Other Matters Raised

In your submission, you raised some specific matters which we have replied to directly.

#### Climate Change:

Thank you for your support of our focus on climate change as a strategic issue for the region. We acknowledge the linkages between human health and climate change and the associated equity issues.

As noted, Bay of Plenty Regional Councillors agreed to declare a climate emergency at their meeting on 27 June, to signal the importance of this issue for the region. This

declaration is supported by the new and deliberate climate change actions laid out in our Action Plan, which was adopted by Council at its Regional Direction and Delivery Committee meeting on 25 June, along with our aim to be carbon neutral by 2050 at the latest.

This Plan includes a priority action to develop a climate change community adaptation framework as well as exploring the possibility of setting a regional target. We are committed to embedding climate change considerations into our decision making alongside working with the community on transitioning to a low carbon future and adapting to our changed climate.

We look forward to continuing to connect with your staff on climate change issues and progress these debates through networks such as Collaboration Bay of Plenty.

Yours faithfully



Fiona McTavish  
**Chief Executive**