



TOI TE ORA PUBLIC HEALTH

Bay of Plenty + Lakes Districts

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



Sally Webb
Chair
Bay of Plenty District Health Board

30 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.

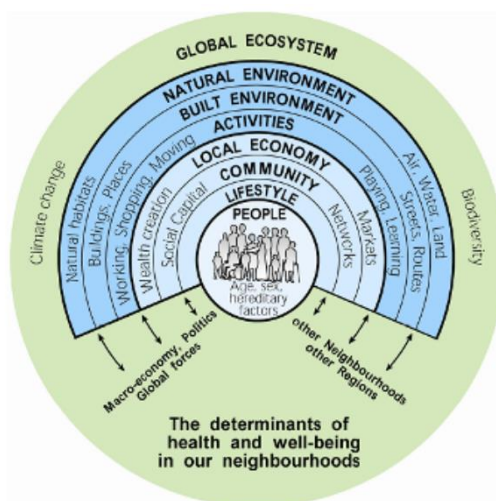
Many of the crucial underlying factors that contribute to population health and wellbeing are directly influenced by the decisions and activities of councils. For this reason, the DHB welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to Council on its proposed long term plan for the district.

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 Kawerau 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.

The DHB is concerned about the full range of social issues affecting our communities. Unfortunately, family violence, along with drug and alcohol use, continue to be major problems. The DHB doesn't have any immediate recommendations or solutions, but would like to engage with Council to address these together to create healthier communities.


Kawerau District Council has identified residential development, tourism growth, town centre development, as well as climate change as priorities. These issues are excellent examples of the importance of the DHB and Kawerau 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 Council's Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document (LTP).

A symbol has been used to confirm the DHB's position on each of the issues to which it has responded, as defined in the following key:

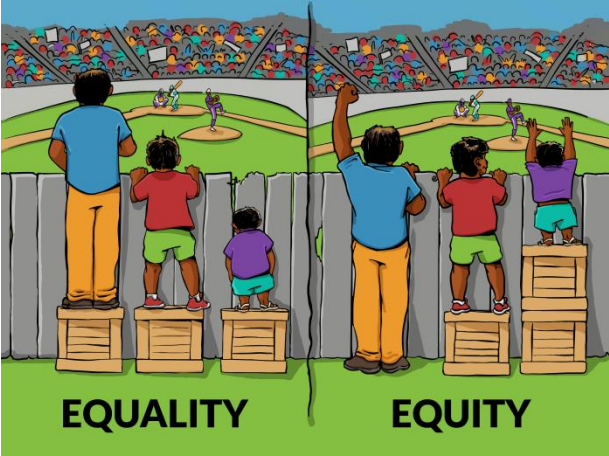




Symbol	Bay of Plenty District Health Board Position
✓	Support and endorse
*	Recommend further consideration
X	Disagree

Topic and Details	Page Ref	Key
<p>Residential Development</p> <p>The DHB is supportive of the proposed residential development to address the housing shortage, and meet the need for retirement accommodation for the ageing population.</p> <p>From a public health perspective the DHB suggests that the development of any future sites be based on the following design principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infill and intensification of housing to increase urban density. This will maintain a compact, walkable and bike-able town, provide a range of housing options for all members of the community, limit sprawl and decrease development costs • Connectivity with surrounding areas and amenities to enhance active living options such as the connections to pedestrian, cycling and public transport networks • Appropriate use of green space to incorporate natural features, active 	7	

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

Topic and Details	Page Ref	Key
<p>recreation opportunities, a range of amenities, edible gardens and to facilitate social connections between people of all ages and abilities including people with disabilities, to create a more cohesive, resilient and active community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved real and perceived personal safety to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, promoting health and wellbeing. <p>These integrated principles contribute to an environment which supports the population to be more physically active, resulting in improved health outcomes and a more vibrant, connected and healthy community.</p> <p>The DHB encourages Council to utilise the built environment best practice principles outlined in the Healthy Spaces and Places design guide⁴. This guide ensures infill developments or renewal projects are undertaken in a co-ordinated and integrated way to maximise community benefit.</p>		
<p>Tarawera River Trail</p> <p>The DHB is supportive of the proposed Tarawera River Trail. Providing safe and attractive recreational spaces has many benefits for the health and wellbeing of the community. Being more physically active also improves mental wellbeing, increases social interaction and allows for connection with nature and culture.</p>	7	
<p>Community Town Centre Strategy</p> <p>A well-planned town centre will facilitate the health and wellbeing of the whole community. A sustainable, connected and vibrant social hub is a necessary component of any healthy, thriving community. The DHB supports the development of a Community Town Centre Strategy that reflects the needs and wants of the community. The DHB suggests the design should reflect the built environment best practice principles outlined in the Healthy Spaces and Places design guide⁵.</p> <p>The DHB supports increasing the number of drinking fountains and appropriately placed sunshade in the improved town centre. The DHB also recommends that whatever form the town centre takes, that Council ensures it is declared a smokefree public space in support of its Smokefree Public Spaces 2017 Policy and the national target of 2025 Smokefree Aotearoa.</p>	8	
<p>Cemetery Development</p> <p>The DHB acknowledges Council's cemetery development planning.</p> <p>Ensuring there is adequate burial space for the needs of the community, including provision for different religious denominations, is a core public health requirement for councils. Council should consult directly with the Medical Officer of Health on the detail of the preferred or any alternative option.</p>	8	
<p>Change to Rates</p> <p>The difference between equality and equity is at the heart of this discussion. Equality is about treating everyone the same. Equity is about fairness, and about equivalent outcomes rather than equal inputs. As individuals start from different</p>	9 & 10	

⁴ <http://healthyplaces.org.au/site/design.php>

Topic and Details	Page Ref	Key
<p>baselines different inputs are needed to achieve equivalent outcomes. The following graphic explains the difference.</p> <p>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>To implement the levels of service proposed to support healthy communities, the DHB recommends Council take an equitable approach to rating and suggests that Council undertake a comprehensive review of its rating policy.</p>		
<p>Chlorination of Water Supply The DHB commends Council on its decision to chlorinate the district’s water supply and will continue to work with Council to ensure safe drinking water is provided to everyone in the district.</p>	12	
<p>Infrastructure strategy - footpath renewals The DHB supports Council’s proposal to increase the footpath renewal budget. This will improve accessibility especially for the district’s older and disabled residents.</p>	17	
<p>Infrastructure strategy - stormwater, water supply and wastewater The DHB supports Council’s approach to upgrade and maintain these critical assets for the protection of public health.</p>	17	
<p>Climate Change The DHB supports Council’s intention to manage the impacts of climate change on stormwater and water supply, and suggests that managing the impacts on waste water be added to that work.</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 pathways⁵ by which climate change affects human health are depicted below:</p>	17 & 18	

⁵ <http://www.who.int/globalchange/summary/en/index12.html>

Topic and Details	Page Ref	Key
<p>As well as managing the effects of climate change (ie adaptation), the DHB encourages Council to take steps to mitigate the magnitude of climate change. Many of the actions, policies and decisions of Council have the potential to reduce 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>		

Further Information and Oral Submissions

If Kawerau 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 thanks Kawerau District Council for the opportunity to provide feedback on its proposed long term plan, and confirms it wishes to present at 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