



# TOI TE ORA PUBLIC HEALTH

*Bay of Plenty + Lakes Districts*

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



Sally Webb  
**Chair**  
**Bay of Plenty District Health Board**

25 May 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.

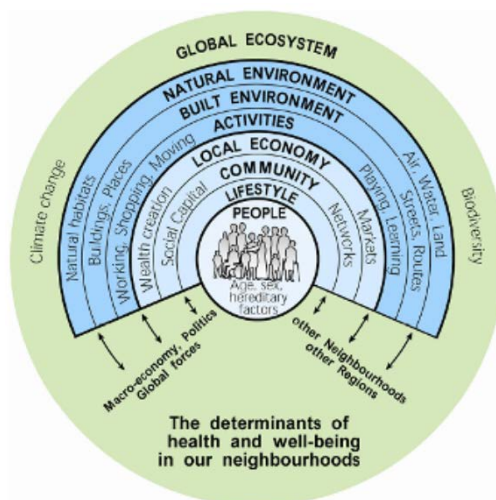
Many of the crucial underlying factors that contribute to population health and wellbeing are directly influenced by the decisions and activities of councils. For this reason, the DHB welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to Opotiki District Council (the Council) on its draft long term plan.

## Social Determinants of Health

The DHB, with its public health unit Toi Te Ora Public Health, 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...”<sup>1</sup>*

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:<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> [http://www.local.gov.uk/health/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/3511260/ARTICLE](http://www.local.gov.uk/health/-/journal_content/56/10180/3511260/ARTICLE)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.local.gov.uk/health/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/3511260/ARTICLE](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 the Council to take a “health in all policies” approach<sup>3</sup> that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions in order to improve population health and health equity.


Opotiki District Council has identified the harbour development, community infrastructure projects, waste water, storm water, waste management, and climate change as priorities. These issues are excellent examples of the importance of the DHB and the 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><b>Issue 1 – Wastewater</b><br/>           Ideally the proposed extension of the sewer network to include Woodlands-Hikutaia would start immediately as per Option 3. However, the DHB understands, and supports, Council’s reasoning for favouring Option 1.</p> <p>The provision of sanitary services is a long term investment in the health of a community. Extending the existing wastewater network to Woodlands-Hikutaia at the same time as renewing existing water reticulation is a practical compromise. The DHB notes that this could occur before 2026 if significant growth occurs earlier. In the meantime the DHB suggests that Council considers working with Bay of Plenty Regional Council to monitor and ensure the safe functioning of existing on-site systems in Woodlands-Hikutaia.</p> | 3-4      |  |

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.who.int/social\\_determinants/hiap\\_statement\\_who\\_sa\\_final.pdf](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/hiap_statement_who_sa_final.pdf)

| Topic and Details  | Page Ref | Key   |
|--|----------|---|
| <p><b>Issue 2a – Waste Management, Recycling Options</b><br/> The DHB supports Council’s ongoing commitment to a zero waste approach. Good waste management practices safeguard the health of existing and future populations. One way to achieve this is by carrying out waste minimisation practices in a manner which reduces the generation of waste, as well as minimising the amount of waste that is produced which ends up in landfill.</p> <p>The DHB does not support Option 1 and acknowledges Council’s foresight to find an alternative to using supermarket bags.</p> <p>The DHB supports either Option 2 or 3. The DHB has no preference for bins or bags to collect kerbside recyclables provided the receptacle minimises the likelihood of the recyclables posing a health risk or a nuisance to the public.</p> | 5–6      |    |
| <p><b>Issue 2b - Waste Management, Refuse Options</b><br/> The DHB supports Option 2. Option 2 addresses the problem of animal strike and therefore promotes waste collection in a way that safeguards health while continuing to encourage waste minimisation.</p>  | 7 - 8    |    |
| <p><b>Issue 3 – Stormwater</b><br/> The DHB supports Option 3 which means Council will deliver on the critical infrastructure projects and thereafter maintain a level of service designed to keep up with the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The DHB recognises there is an ever-present risk of flooding, especially for Opotiki township. However, when considering the possible impacts of climate change, Council should take an all hazards approach. A greater frequency of significant rainfall events is just one forecast impact of climate change, along with droughts, and extreme heat events.</p>   | 9 - 10   | <br><br> |
| <p><b>Issue 4 – Tourism Facilities</b><br/> The DHB supports Council’s preferred option, Option 2.</p> <p>Ensuring the community has access to sanitary facilities, potable drinking water and appropriate waste disposal in Council reserves is fundamental to good health and wellbeing.</p>   | 11       |    |
| <p><b>Issue 5 – Motu Trails</b><br/> The DHB supports Council’s preferred option, Option 2.</p> <p>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. Council should also improve cycling infrastructure within Opotiki township in order to encourage cycling as a practical everyday means of transport.</p>  | 12       |    |

| Topic and Details   | Page Ref | Key   |
|---|----------|---|
| <p><b>Wharf and Wider Harbour Opportunities</b></p> <p>A sustainable, connected and vibrant social hub is a necessary component of any healthy, thriving community. The DHB supports the development of a wharf area that reflects the needs and wants of the community.</p> <p>The DHB encourages the Council to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The entire precinct is declared a smokefree public space in support of Council's <a href="#">Smokefree Outdoor Spaces 2007 Policy</a> and the national target of Smokefree Aotearoa 2025.</li> <li>• The wharf and harbour area is well connected with the town centre by enhancing pedestrian and cycle infrastructure. This will reduce the number of carparks needed on site and naturally link the business area with the wharf and harbour. Making the whole area more people friendly will also add a level of vibrancy.</li> <li>• Pedestrians and cyclists are catered for with amenities such as shower facilities, bicycle lockup cages and a cycle path to town.</li> <li>• Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles<sup>4</sup> are used in the wharf and wider harbour concept plans.</li> <li>• Appropriate shade cover is provided.</li> <li>• Drinking fountains are installed to ensure safe drinking water is available.</li> <li>• Appropriate waste management facilities are provided, including recycling bins to divert waste from landfill.</li> </ul> | 13       |    |
| <p><b>Council Services to Coast Communities</b></p> <p>The DHB commends Council on seeking feedback on how to become more accessible to the community. This contributes to the Community Outcomes developed by Council with the community. In particular it supports the action, <i>Provide facilities and services that meet current and future needs and are accessible to all</i> under Goal 2.</p>  | 14       |  |
| <p><b>Road Seal Extension</b></p> <p>The DHB recognises Council's ability to fund road seal extensions is limited and notes Council's call for communities to fund 60% of the road sealing cost.</p> <p>Particulates in dust from unsealed roads can result in breaches of national air quality standards. This can be a significant issue for the health of local residents, for instance during harvesting of forests. The DHB understands Council's funding dilemma but suggests Council also seek appropriate financial contribution from industries that use the road.</p> <p>The DHB also recommends Council consider more fully funding some seal extensions from the district wide general rate as some communities</p>   | 14       |  |

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/towns-and-cities/national-guidelines-crime-prevention-through-environmental-design-new>

| Topic and Details   | Page Ref | Key   |
|---|----------|---|
| <p>may struggle to afford the 60% portion suggested by Council.</p>   |          |   |
| <p><b>Rose Garden Concept Plan</b><br/> The DHB supports the draft concept plan for the Rose Garden and commends Council for adding shade areas and drinking fountains.</p> <p>The DHB encourages and supports Council to use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles during the concept planning process.</p>   | 15       |    |
| <p><b>Infrastructure Strategy</b><br/> The DHB supports the strategy purpose and Council's focus to manage water, wastewater treatment and disposal, stormwater and roads and footpaths.</p> <p>The DHB notes Council's assumption that growth and extension of existing services will occur following completion of the harbour development project.</p> <p>The DHB supports Council's approach to provide services to growth areas where and when needed.</p> <p>The infrastructure strategy appears to only apply to Council owned infrastructure. The DHB recommends Council review existing water and sanitary services across the district, including such services which are not currently owned or provided by Council. Council has a responsibility to meet the current and future needs of all of its population for good-quality local infrastructure.</p> | 17 – 18  |    |
| <p><b>Rating Structures</b><br/> The DHB commends Council on the proposal to reduce the Uniform Annual General Charge. As eluded to in the draft LTP this will improve equity.</p>  | 20 - 21  |  |

## Further Information and Oral Submission

If Opotiki 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](mailto:Robyn.Woods@bopdhb.govt.nz)  
**Ph:** 07 577 3769

The DHB thanks Opotiki 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.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Webb."

**SALLY WEBB**  
Board Chair  
Bay of Plenty DHB