



TOI TE ORA PUBLIC HEALTH

Bay of Plenty + Lakes Districts

Submission to the Western Bay of Plenty District Council
Proposed Long Term Plan 2018-2028



Sally Webb
Chairperson
Bay of Plenty District Health Board

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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.

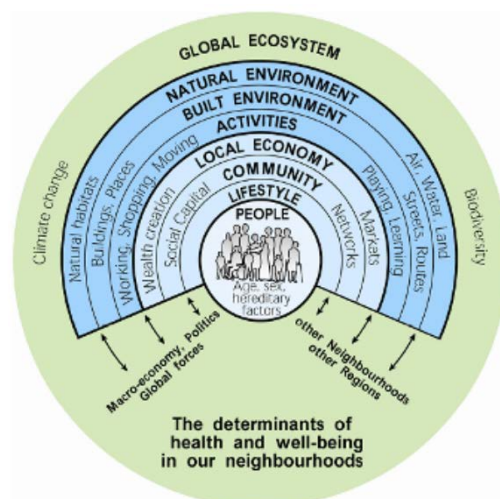
Many of the crucial underlying factors that contribute to population health and wellbeing are directly influenced by the decisions and activities of councils. For this reason, the DHB welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to Council on its proposed long term plan for the district.

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 Western Bay of Plenty 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.

Feedback on the Western Bay of Plenty District Council Long Term Plan 2018-2028

Theme	DHB response
<p>The Pace of Change (Future Focus)</p>	<p>The diagram in the appendix illustrates the many synergies between planning and health. It is on this basis that the DHB joined the Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty Collaborative Planning and Implementation Memorandum of Understanding between Tauranga City Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Ministry of Education, and the New Zealand Transport Authority. The DHB values this opportunity to have early input and looks forward to working with Western Bay of Plenty District Council on the urban growth projects identified in this Long Term Plan (LTP), the Housing Action Plan and new infrastructure proposals.</p> <p>A key theme of this plan is for Council to focus on the future by continuing to work on the growth planning schedule for Omokoroa, Katikati, Te Puke and Waihi Beach. While managing growth is important, it is equally important to commit to improving the existing built environment. Everyone’s quality of life is important no matter where they live, work or play in the district. Balancing future growth with improving the existing built environment will raise the bar for everyone and help to reduce health disparities across the district.</p> <p>The DHB commends Council for its commitment to develop a housing action plan and would like to be involved in producing the plan.</p>
<p>Getting Around (Key Proposal)</p>	<p>The DHB supports Council’s preferred option 2 due to the urgency of matters such as climate change, rising chronic diseases and the unsustainable costs of healthcare. An integrated transport network needs to cater for all citizens, not just people who are physically and financially able to travel by car. Improving infrastructure for walking and cycling is essential if we are to get the population more physically active and to reduce our use of fossil fuels. More people walking and riding bikes also adds vibrancy to communities, and gives people more transport choices, especially for children and older citizens. The needs of people with disabilities also need to be taken into account when designing active transport infrastructure; for example those who are sight-impaired and people who use mobility scooters or walking frames.</p> <p>The DHB emphasises that maximum health and wellbeing benefits will come from building local walking and cycling connections <u>within</u> communities. Facilitating walking and cycling as everyday means of transport delivers significant benefits by increasing physical activity and social connections at a population level, reducing traffic congestion and hence lowering vehicle emissions as well as improving road safety. Building infrastructure for active</p>

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

Theme	DHB response
	<p>transport is important in pre-existing urban areas as well as in greenfield developments.</p> <p>The DHB would value the opportunity to be involved in any efforts to develop local walking and cycling networks.</p>
<p>Protecting our environment and resources (Future Focus)</p>	<p><i>Continuing investment in water, wastewater and stormwater management</i> The DHB supports Council's continuing investment in the three waters. These assets are fundamental to good health and should be improved and extended wherever possible to provide the best protection to the maximum number of people.</p> <p><i>Investigating alternative recycling and rubbish collection models</i> The Medical Officer of Health provided input into Council's Waste Assessment and commented on its Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.</p> <p>The Medical Officer of Health would like to continue to work with Council on alternative models for recycling and rubbish collection, how these services will be provided to growth areas and how they will be funded.</p> <p><i>The next 10 years and beyond</i></p> <p><u>Public health infrastructure</u> The DHB commends Council for its work to address the housing needs of the district and has emphasised elsewhere in this submission the importance of improving the existing built environment.</p> <p>The DHB encourages Council to prioritise public health infrastructure for existing areas known to have unsafe drinking-water, failing sewage systems and substandard housing.</p> <p><u>Responding to climate change</u> The DHB notes that Council plans to adapt to, and reduce, the impacts of climate change. For instance Council intends addressing coastal erosion from sea level rise, and to build communities which are more resilient to natural hazard events through the location of critical infrastructure.</p> <p>This approach will help the district <i>adapt</i> to climate change by reducing vulnerability to its effects. The DHB also encourages Council to plan steps to <i>mitigate</i> 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>The DHB recommends Council develop a comprehensive climate change strategy including mitigation steps.</p>
<p>Building communities (Key proposal)</p>	<p>The DHB does not have a view on the funding of the Western Bay Museum or for arts and culture across the district.</p>

Theme	DHB response
Managing our finances (Key proposal)	The DHB does not have a view on how Council manages its finances other than to support the equitable approach to rating whereby any rate increase is proportionately greater for higher value properties and core sanitary services such as water, waste and refuse being funded less through user pay systems and more through the general rate.

Further Information

If Western Bay of Plenty 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:

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The DHB and Toi Te Ora wish to thank Western Bay of Plenty District Council for the opportunity to provide feedback on its proposed long term plan.



Sally Webb

Chair

Bay of Plenty DHB