

Library, Parks and Recreation

native revegetation

weed control of dunes

Coastal Walkway

Whangaumu Bay access track to Pa site.

Whale Tail playground (Kopipi Cres.)/model for future projects

Shoebridge Reserve/urgent drainage works

creative, cost effective and environmentally friendly methods

Matapouri playground

The Lookout

Financial Statements/\$28,000/ coastal parks and reserve developments

Shoebridge Crescent Reserve

Resource Consents and Compliance p 39)

where development will be allowed and not allowed

a cutback in storm water treatment, rehabilitation and upgrade

Council to become a world leader in storm water disposal solutions

Ngunguru Transfer Station

increased rubbish collection during the holiday periods

Litter

Ngunguru Waste Water Treatment Plant

Waiotoi Creek and Ngunguru Estuary

Green Waste

cycle/walking lanes

Shoebridge Cres./footpath construction

Safety/ healthy exercise

twenty years/URGENT!

parking upgrade

Waiotoi/Ngunguru Road

NZ Police constable/relocate a council building

WDC tree policy

structure plan processes/District Plan/ Coastal communities

discourages ribbon development/Ngunguru Sandspit

Annual Plan/submissions throughout the year

council office

Four wellbeings

Rates Review

Civil Defence

Rates paid here spent here

This is a submission from the Tutukaka Coast Residents and Ratepayers Association. We are a group with 249 Members. We request that this submission be viewed as containing the many submissions of these individuals. A considerable number of conversations and consultations have been conducted to arrive at this submission and, I am sure you will appreciate, the work of creating a submission from a whole community, ensuring that we are stating but not

overstating the case and ensuring that our individual views do not colour this submission is considerable.

As such we request that if you have a process of counting submissions (you recently quoted to us that you had already had 51 submissions in support of an allocation of funds for a multi event centre at Okara Park) that **you agree with us a number which would be fair to allocate to this submission.** I think you would agree that community consultation and consensus are important in ensuring that the right work gets done.

We have made reference to the parts of your plan we are speaking to and we are confident that, knowing your plan much better than we do, you will be able to identify our concerns and adequately consider our submissions. If you have any queries about the application of these specific comments please call Mary Britton on 0274 434323.

With reference to **Library, Parks and Recreation**

We support past WDC Coastal Protection Work on the Tutukaka Coast and request 08/09 Budget be applied to continuing **native revegetation and weed control of dunes and other sensitive coastal lands. (eg, Matapouri, Woolleys Bay and Sandy bay, also other coastal areas.)**

We support **Coastal Walkway** projects and strongly request 08/09 capital expenditure be directed specifically to **Whangaumu Bay access track to Pa site.** We have community support available to complement and amplify whatever resources Council can make available to this project. Also we need to establish permanent access (where the track enters Whangaumu Bay Lookout) for the very popular Ngunguru coastal walk.

The community was very pleased with WDC track upgrading at the Lookout in 07/08 and we need to build further on this.

We acknowledge the huge success of community working alongside WDC on the very popular **Whale Tail playground (Kopipi Cres.)** We see this as a model for future projects. (This organization attracted funding from outside sources to create this playground and worked well with a variety of community resources including the staff of the WDC. We wish to acknowledge their excellent assistance and support.)

We support further investment in **Coastal Reserves and Play Equipment in 08/09 Budget and strongly request applying this to Shoebridge Reserve which particularly needs urgent drainage works.** This Park is a key community hub with a rapidly growing Playcentre and Community Church sharing it. This group strongly supports Council in exploring **creative, cost effective and environmentally friendly methods in solving this problem.**

Matapouri playground 'kicked off' by community efforts now needs upgrading. **The Lookout** on Ngunguru Road between Ngunguru and Tutukaka has been an extremely successful tourist stop initiated by The Lions which now needs to be taken 'onboard' by WDC and maintained. **We request that WDC "adopt" this lookout**

area and add it to their list of District Amenity Assets.

Financial Statements/ Library Parks and Recreation

With reference to the figure of \$168,000 allocated to "Neighbourhood Parks" and to the figure of \$0 against Reserve community projects/**NE coastal reserves and developments** (where there was a figure of 28,000 in the previous estimates) we request that a figure of **\$28,000 be re-allocated** from Neighbourhood Parks to allow **for the planned resourcing of coastal parks and reserve developments**. (reducing your N Parks figure to \$140000).

(p.38)

TCR&R wishes to acknowledge the prompt response to our requests for consultation around issues at **Shoebridge Crescent Reserve** in Ngunguru. WDC staff have been notably helpful, informative and Co-operative.

We look forward to consultation being followed by assistance (COs 2 & 3) which will give implementation to Social, Cultural and Environmental Wellbeings for that community.

Resource Consents and Compliance p 39)

We note that "Council is responsible for implementing and administering a District Plan which provides for the sustainable management of the district's natural and physical resources".

We also note that historical problems with managing the plan have brought the Council's reputation into question around New Zealand and within the District.

We request that, through all means at its disposal and with its full attention on National directives, Coastal strategies and other important Government documents, **this Council plans for growth and development to the detail level of advising on and upholding community decisions concerning where development (specifically commercial and specifically domestic) will be allowed and not allowed.**

p 41 and ff

Financial statements (p50) notes **a cutback in storm water treatment, rehabilitation and upgrade** (707,000 cut to 228,000). Untreated storm water pollutes harbours and estuaries. Unimpeded it scours and erodes waterfronts and stream beds floods low-lying land, undermines seal etc. Various forms of pollution and damage proceed from un-managed (or poorly managed) storm water. We believe there are a number of creative, less costly and effective options available to Council in managing these problems.

We support Council in using

- **permeable hard surfaces**
 - **rain gardens (like the new aquatic centre)**
 - **restoration of wetlands (especially appropriate around Ngunguru)**
 - **household water tanks with filters for health – useful in fulfilling on Council’s goal of greater self reliance for water**
- And utilizing all of the expertise presently available and developing in the district and around the world in managing the water resource to better effect.**

We also draw Council’s attention to the possibility of setting aside a specific contribution on all new developments and on all applications for renovation or re-development to specifically create better storm water disposal solutions.

We encourage Council to consider isolating a “storm water remediation” portion of the Development Contribution based on square metres of hard surface and large enough (in \$’s) to inspire developers to install several of the above remediation to have this \$ contribution reduced or removed.

We invite Council to become a world leader in storm water disposal solutions.

We have expertise in this community to a solutions-focused approach and in access to and understanding of these sorts of systems. Please feel free to access our support, knowledge and expertise in growing your capacity building in this area.)

Solid Waste Management and Infrastructure - and the importance of funding for sewage works and monitoring.

Pages 15, 33 and 71 (monitoring)

We wish to thank the WDC for implementing the improved system to get our rubbish sorted. We appreciate Council listening to our request to continue present arrangements regarding opening times of the **Ngunguru Transfer Station**.

We ask that the Council put in place arrangements for **increased rubbish collection during the holiday periods, in particular for Matapouri** and the bays beyond. Failure to address this problem leads to illegal dumping and health hazards. We request that money be allocated to support these extra collections.

Community Engagement and Education has already shown good results (our beaches and our playground are good examples). **Litter** along our roads, however, continues to be a problem giving a negative impression to visitors and residents alike. We request that Council steps up both its education campaign in this area and also its policing of littering so that offenders may be dealt with and litter reduced.

Ngunguru Waste Water Treatment Plant has seen major upgrading during the past year. As requested previously we ask for continued robust monitoring to take place. Concerns are still being raised about possible pollution of **Waiotoi Creek and Ngunguru Estuary** from this sewerage facility.

We understand that you have considered your Rates Policy with care but request that reducing the proposed increase to rates for the coming year not be at the cost of a reduction in funding for essential infrastructure projects. This includes funding for ongoing and robust monitoring.

We support the Council's recycling efforts and support the charging scheme for remaining rubbish disposal.

We request that the WDC focus attention on the disposal of **Green Waste**. We believe that a local disposal scheme will assist Council in managing its other waste disposal decisions.

Infrastructure-Roads

We strongly support the ongoing **roading** improvements on the Tutukaka Coast for resident's safety, tourism etc.

We bring Council's attention to the increasing demand for **cycle/walking lanes to be included with road widening and request that these be both planned for and included in all future roading plans for the Tutukaka Coast**. And across other scenic parts of the District.

We strongly request **footpath construction** (first suggested 20 years ago) in **Shoebriidge Cres**. This road has become an important route to Playcentre, church and the Medical Centre. Traffic has increased.

We are confident that Council would wish to support the **safety** of the growing community of this Coast and to support **healthy exercise** around the village of Ngunguru without the risk of being knocked down due to a lack of footpaths which the District has agreed are needed for the past **twenty years**. We request that funds are allocated to solve this **serious problem as a matter of URGENCY**.

A **parking upgrade** is requested at the corner of **Waiotoi and Ngunguru Road** where the existing unsealed and pot-holed parking area is heavily used by Playcentre, church and coastal tourists. This **car park** urgently needs drainage, forming and sealing. **We request that funds are allocated as soon as possible**.

Financial Management and Business Development

TCR&R is aware that in the course of managing WDC property Council occasionally replaces small, moveable buildings with larger more substantial ones (p.27,par 4)) TCR&R requests that the next small moveable building which becomes available (p.28-29 COs 3,4 & 6) be allocated to the Tutukaka Coast and re-sited here in our community by the WDC.

Providing such a surplus building to Ngunguru would meet the Council's

stated goals in the area of community safety, civil defence and communication BECAUSE it would accommodate a **NZ Police constable** during the often rowdy summer peak population. (The Police have advised us that they could post an officer in the community at such times if there was an office space for him or her). Such a Police presence would address community safety issues raised by TCR&R in the past. Such problems, alcohol-fuelled vandalism for example, are costly for the Council. We request that the next available building be allocated to this community.

Such a community building could also accommodate the WDC Safer Communities Adviser(p.26 CO 3) when he/she was in Ngunguru, provide a central hub for Civil Defence (p.30 par last & p.33 CO 3) and facilitate “. . . a high level of communication between WDC and members of the community” (p.24 CO 6).

We would also wish to see the building used to support the provision of suitable activities for the youth of the coast who have nowhere “alcohol free” to go within present resources and no support for their “voice being heard”, another key concern of Council.

Environmental Planning (p. 43)

Key Points (p.16 Changes To Year 3 of the LTCCP) mentions the need to postpone or cancel work as a result of the costly “restoration work following the extreme weather events of 2007.”

Much of the restoration was to roads to redress damage caused by falling trees. Some of those **fallen trees** and many others about to fall are wilding pines of such great size they have been mistakenly protected by the **WDC tree policy**—or a narrow interpretation of it.

The pending review and update of WDC’s tree policy needs to be raised to the highest priority and given prompt attention. We support the prioritizing of this review. We trust that it can return to a more pragmatic approach and can include pro-active removal of threatening trees before weather events turn them into leafy vandals.

Structure Plans (page 17)

We welcome the WDC’s impending visits to the Tutukaka Coast to consult on Structure plans. We support the **resourcing of structure plan processes** so that individual communities and groups can see the submissions which they have made and agreed upon **incorporated into the District Plan**. This group supports the Whangarei District Council in finding by all means at their disposal a **sound method for planning ahead both for development and for the provision of resources to support planned growth**.

We support the **original Structure plan**, ratified by this community, which **discourages ribbon development** along our coastline and encourages the designation of the **Ngunuguru Sandspit** as "Public Open Space".

We applaud Council's commitment to ensuring that these carefully considered Structure plans be incorporated into the District Plan.

Governance and Leadership (p 24)

Referring to your communication and your commitment to "high level two-way communication with residents and ratepayers" we applaud your commitment.

We further request that you consider a best practice model for your consultative processes. We believe that this Council has made considerable progress with this paradigm in the past five years and we request that even more improvement be made.

For example the process of **submitting** on the draft **Annual Plan** is daunting for many ratepayers. And the timeframes are often **short**, especially for those without access to the internet. We request that Council consider a programme which would allow all input on Council policies, decisions and methodologies made **THROUGHOUT THE YEAR** to be **incorporated into the Annual Planning process**. This would put the onus with Council to pay attention throughout the year to what is being said, to note these comments and requests in their records and to incorporate them into the annual planning process.

Information Services (p 35)

As a group we agree that your information services have improved to an exceptional degree during the past five years. We support their continued improvement.

The residents and ratepayers of the Tutukaka coast would appreciate a **council office** right here on our coast. We request that any suitable council building becoming available for relocation be allocated to this community.

The Four Wellbeings

We applaud the inclusion of the **Four Wellbeings** in all of the WDC's thinking and planning and decision making.

We request that, despite individual Councilors views on any of these being more of a priority than any of the others, the WDC upholds the requirements of the Local government Act (2002) and seriously considers all Four Wellbeings in each decision that they make.

And further that should Council require further resources to allow this legislation to be upheld in this district that Council strike a sufficient Rate to ensure that these important matters are properly considered and incorporated into decision making.

Civil Defence

This group acknowledges the great education programme and resources created by the WDC in the past few years. We also wish to acknowledge Antoinette Mitchell and her group for the work which they are doing in creating the possibility of calm response, rescue and recovery in the event of a Disaster.

This community wishes to be "first off the blocks" in partnering Council to create firm plans for our communities along this coast following the successful pilot at Pataua.

Upcoming Rates Review

This group notes with interest Council's intention to (P15) place the proposed Rates review "on hold" until there is "sufficient information from Central Government" to pursue this matter.

We wish Council to be aware that as a community with **high land values** and a "**lower than across-district average**" **provision of services**, we welcome **a review of the rating system** and encourage Council in bringing this matter forward with urgency as soon as Government provides suitable information.

We also wish to indicate that we will make strong submissions at the time of such Rates Review on behalf of landowners who believe their only choices are to **leave the land or subdivide** in the face of heavy rates demands.

And that we are continuing to consult with **our community** very many of whom wish to see **rates collected** from residents and ratepayers of this coast **spent on this coast**. As the home of one of the Top Ten Diving Destinations on the planet and as the chosen summer playground of many New Zealanders we believe that this community **deserves better facilities and better resourcing** (of such things as footpaths which have been needed for twenty years) from this Council to support us in continuing as one of the economic engines (through our many visitors and tourists) of this District.

This group questions the inclusion in the Draft Annual Planning document 9 pages of "**Statements of Accounting Policies**". 9

pages out of 72 is a very high percentage considering that Council's accounts (to which these statements pertain) are not available in this document.

For many people these pages do not add value and may even contribute to the sense of "don't know how to submit on these plans" which pervades the District.

This group applauds Council's commitment to "**supporting events and festivals**". We request that this community is supported in obtaining support (monetary and expertise) in organizing at least one community event this year on our Coast.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our thoughts and views into your planning process. We would like to speak to our submissions. The best day for us is Monday the 19th May.
