

Annual Budget Submission Form



PAPAIŌEA
PALMERSTON
NORTH
CITY

120

All submissions may be made publicly available on our website, customer service centre and some of our libraries. This means you may want to be more careful about what private information you share in your submissions about your circumstances. Your contact details (but not your name) are confidential and will not be published. Elected Members receive all submissions without contact details so they can consider the views and comments expressed.

We collect your contact information so we can keep you up to date.
For more information, see our [privacy statement](#) on our website.

**Have your say by 4pm,
Thursday 17 April**

Your details

Name *Toanne Wilson*

Organisation you represent (if relevant)

Address

7(2)(a) Privacy

Phone

7(2)(a) Privacy

Email

Signature

Toanne Wilson

If you would like to make a personal presentation in support of your submission at one of our hearings to the Mayor and Councillors, please select your preferred date and time:

Wednesday 30 April

☐ Morning

☐ Afternoon

☐ Early evening

Thursday 1 May

☐ Morning

☐ Afternoon

☐ Early evening

You can get your submission to us in any of these ways

Online

pncc.govt.nz/annualbudget

Email

submission@pncc.govt.nz

Phone

06 356 8199

Freepost

Annual budget submissions
Palmerston North City Council
Freepost PX33317
Palmerston North DX Sort

Deliver to

Customer Service Centre
Civic Administration Building
Te Marae o Hine -
32 The Square
Palmerston North

or to any Council library

What are your thoughts on our proposed Annual Budget 2025/26?

While the proposed rate increase is 7.7% I think we need to be mindful that we are still in a recession. People and businesses are struggling financially. Rate of inflation is currently 2.2% (next update from the Reserve Bank is 17th April)

Cost increases occur as mentioned on page 3 of Annual Budget document. Do we have a budget for this? Are these increases incorporated into the Budget?

Debt — Revisit our net debt. Do we need to have more on fixed interest instead of floating

What, if anything, would you like to see changed?

Civic Marae + Cultural Centre: Delay this development. Cost is too much in current economic climate

Upgrade to Cliff Road — how many options have been investigated? One-way controlled by lights / establish a new loop road = single lane / two lanes with lay-bys

General Comment

Review the number of Councillors we have with the view to reduce

Other Councils operate with less

PN = 16	Wellington = 15	Whanganui = 13
Tauranga = 10	New Plymouth = 15	
Kapiti = 11		

Are there specific activities or services we should be considering more or less of, and why?

- More
- Maintenance of footpaths + Street lighting (hopeless in some streets)
 - Recycling - Introduce soft plastic recycling. Continue to educate people about recycling.
 - Arena development → definitely. Will attract more sporting events to P.N.
 - Illegal dumping of rubbish - introduce 2 or 3 days per year - free of charge - to encourage people to dispose of their rubbish properly.
 - Review the frequency of community events eg. bi-annual

Do you support our preferred option for managing Te Motu o Poutoa Civic Marae and Cultural Centre?

We're proposing a stand-alone Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) charitable entity, jointly governed by the Council and Rangitāne o Manawātū.

Find out more at pncc.govt.nz/civicmarae

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ I don't know / No opinion

Annual Budget Submission Form



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**Have your say by 4pm,
Thursday 17 April**

Your details

Name

Matthew Hubbert

Organisation you represent (if relevant)

Address

7(2)(a) Privacy

Phone

7(2)(a) Privacy

Email

Signature

Matthew Hubbert

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Wednesday 30 April

☐ Morning

☐ Afternoon

☐ Early evening

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32 The Square
Palmerston North

or to any Council library

What are your thoughts on our proposed Annual Budget 2025/26?

The council are wanting to spend far beyond the constituents capabilities to impatiently bring us into the future.

I agree, aiming for the future is a good thing but with decades of huge overspending in non-essential and desire spends over utilities & basic infrastructure we find ourselves with a non-serviceable debt accruing large interest.

We need to bring this back to basics and be patient.

We are all in times of financial hardship but council culture & ethos appears to be double down and spend hard during these times where people are finding it near impossible to afford rent, food, mortgages, bills and, of course & especially, rates.

What, if anything, would you like to see changed?

Lowering of desired/luxury spends, assist constituents with less rates hikes and debt so there is more money in our hands to cover our essentials and help local businesses who there are many starting to close doors.

Concentrate on basics and postpone huge spend ideas such as the proposed marae, Awapuni library, stadium spend etc

Are there specific activities or services we should be considering more or less of, and why?

Bring in back to essential core human need basics. Council's first role is utilities and infrastructure but seem to have become all things to everyone. But in the desire to please all and their own fanciful ideas have missed the brief and got us into massive unpayable debt and wish to grow that beyond comprehension.

We're proposing a stand-alone Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) charitable entity, jointly governed by the Council and Rangitāne o Manawatū.

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ I don't know / No opinion

I have made a seperate submission on this issue

220003

17 April 2025

TE PIRANGI DEVELOPMENTS LTD & WHAKARONGO DEVELOPMENTS LTD - SUBMISSION

Thanks for the opportunity to provide a submission to the draft annual plan budget 2025/2026.

This submission is made on behalf of Te Pirangi Developments Ltd and Whakarongo Developments Ltd and relates to the land they are developing in Turitea Road.

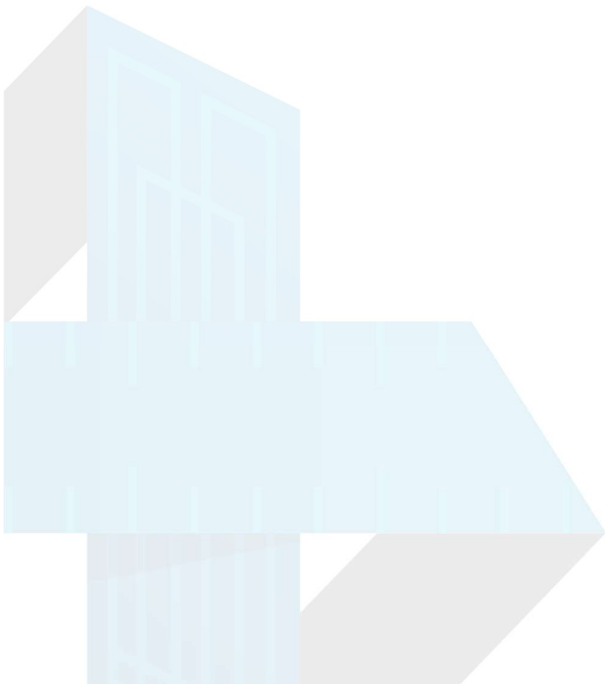
Over the last 4-5 years Te Pirangi Developments Ltd and Whakarongo Developments Ltd have been creating rural-residential sections off Turitea Road.

At this stage they have nearly created just under 20 sections and once finished, will have contributed over \$100,000 in roading development levies to Council.

These companies would like their contributions to be used to upgrade the standard of Turitea Road.

While further development is encouraged in this area, they don't want development to be stifled by roading constraints.

KB Judd
Resonant Consulting Ltd



ENM Submission to PNCC Annual Budget Consultation 2025-26

Areas of the budget supported by ENM:

ENM appreciates the continued support provided to community groups by PNCC. This is critical and has far reaching benefits, providing a well-rounded community with many opportunities for participation and connection. We note this support shows excellent alignment with your goals to see Palmerston North as:

1. An innovative and growing city
2. A creative and exciting city
3. A connected and safe community
4. A sustainable and resilient city

Reducing waste and increasing the amount of resources re-used through recycling is important and it is pleasing to see the investment in this area.

We support the aspirations of Rangitaane o Manawātū for a civic marae and cultural centre to be built at Te Motu o Poutoa. We are supportive of the plans for this centre to be developed and led in partnership with Rangitaane o Manawātū as mana whenua.

Areas of concern in the proposed budget:

The reprioritisation of transport programmes, in particular the defunding of shared pathways and cycle networks is disappointing. We recognise that the co-funding for this is largely out of PNCC's hands, but want to see that these ideas remain priorities, and that new funding sources are sought and/or rescoping of these plans to enable at least some ongoing active transport and safety improvements to occur.

The Climate Conversations held in 2023 by All Saints Green Task Force and Palmerston North Interfaith Group identified "Accelerating initiatives to decarbonise local & regional transport" as one of 10 local actions to mitigate climate change – in particular to support a shift away from school drop offs, through biking to school and walking buses.

Without further investment in safe active transport pathways, this will be difficult to achieve.

Our member group, Greasy Chain Trust have also submitted to this same consultation in some detail, and ENM supports their submission. We note they have provided excellent examples of activities that could be undertaken by council to ensure we continue to progress and improve active transport options.

In particular, we would like to see their recommendation to maintain the development of alternative transport initiatives using creating thinking and planning at the very least.

It is not clear in the documentation how much of the \$7.14m in the LTP for these projects was forecast to come from central government? If this amount was PNCC's contribution to these

projects, then ENM believes that PNCC should show leadership in this area and maintain the planned spending of \$7m on active transport expenses. These funds should be allocated to new active transport initiatives or to develop creative ways to progress the existing planned projects. Follow the example of Christchurch who continue to prioritise this by increasing their active transport spending and infrastructure and reaping the benefits of this in creating a great place to live.

A safe city to travel using active transport will reduce car use, carbon emissions as well as road maintenance costs, with less people travelling by car – all this helps to make a healthier liveable city. Be brave and keep prioritising active transport options – Investing in better facilities for people to get around by bike for everyday journeys is one of the best spending opportunities available to cities and the benefits save money in the long run.



124-1

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 11:44AM
Receipt number	97
Related form version	1

Your contact details

Privacy

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We collect your contact information so we can keep you up to date with the proposal. For more information, see our [privacy statement](#).

First name	Frank
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Last name	Koenders
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Postal address

Email

Phone

Hearing

All submissions will be acknowledged in writing and given to the Mayor and Councillors, who will consider the views and comments expressed when finalising the Annual Budget.

Would you like to make a personal presentation in support of your submission at one of our hearings to the Mayor and Councillors?	Yes
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Preferred hearing dates	Wednesday 30 April: Morning Thursday 1 May:
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Your submission

Please answer the questions below. Alternatively, you can upload your submission in the supporting information field.

Supporting information

Palmerston North City Council

Palmerston North

17 April 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am deeply distressed at the Palmerston North City Council's plans regarding the proposed rates increase for the 2025/26 financial year. In view of this, there are three concerns I would like to address in my submission.

My rates this year will increase by 38%, and 236% in the last four years.

Below is an analysis of my rates over the past four years:

	Rates	% change	% change (cumulative)
2021/22	\$2,221.86		
2022/23	\$4,263.08	91.87%	91.87%
2023/24	\$4,532.84	6.33%	104.01%
2024/25	\$5,401.99	19.17%	143.13%
2025/26 (Proposed)	\$7,463.94	38.17%	235.93%

As you can see, my rates this year are set to increase by 38%. This is much greater than the 7.7% average. What is the justification for this? I am aware the council has decided that the 'discount' that rural ratepayers are receiving needs to be reduced. Please explain why this is the case.

At current projections, my rates this year will comprise 16.48% of my net income and rates and insurance combined, 30.45%. In fact, my NZ Superannuation is only sufficient to cover these two items.

In summary, my view is that the Palmerston North City Council needs to consider:

1. Making rates based on 100% of capital value, not 50% as is currently the case, thereby removing inequities created by soaring land values in some areas, and
2. Continue to provide the previous discounts for rural properties because these properties do not use council water services, do not have footpaths or good roads.

An average 7.7% increase is well above the rate of inflation of 2.2%.

I believe the Palmerston North City Council needs to live within its means. Councils are the only organisations that can set their income based on what they determine they need to spend. Most of us need to live within what the inflation rate determines and, with some ratepayers, even less. Rate increases above the rate of inflation have been going on for years. This results in rates being much larger and an increasing proportion of income than it was in previous years.

I believe the council needs to limit rates increases to the rate of inflation, that is, this year to around 2.2%. Additional funding should come from population growth.

Palmerston North ratepayers expect to pay at least an extra \$1,000 per year for water.

Finally, PNCC has a looming crisis regarding water.

There is still considerable uncertainty as to which option will result, but I suspect government intervention is likely, as other councils will be reluctant to pay for Palmerston North's water issues.

However, whichever option is chosen, rates are sure to rise substantially. I estimate a minimum of \$1,143 per year, based on option 1 ($\$2,100 - \$957 = \$1,143$) of the PNCC's own estimates. This increase, on top of the increases we are already receiving, will put many ratepayers under considerable financial pressure.

Regards,

Frank Koenders

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 2:02PM
Receipt number	75
Related form version	1

Your contact details

Privacy

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We collect your contact information so we can keep you up to date with the proposal. For more information, see our [privacy statement](#).

First name	Mitch
Last name	Murdoch
Organisation you represent	Massey University Foundation
Postal address	
Email	
Phone	

Hearing

All submissions will be acknowledged in writing and given to the Mayor and Councillors, who will consider the views and comments expressed when finalising the Annual Budget.

Would you like to make a personal presentation in support of your submission at one of our hearings to the Mayor and Councillors?	Yes
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Preferred hearing dates	Wednesday 30 April: Morning, Afternoon Thursday 1 May:
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Your submission

Please answer the questions below. Alternatively, you can upload your submission in the supporting information field.

What are your thoughts on our proposed Annual Budget 2025/26?

It is pragmatic and sensible and supports many different areas of our community.

What (if anything) would you like to see changed?

I would like to see some support for the Te Waimana o Turitea project (see attached proposal) which supports the City's goals as it is innovative, creative and exciting, it connects the community and it supports a sustainable and resilient city (by supporting the health of the university and an important awa for our region). The Park will support the cycle network (and should form part of cycle plans) and will encourage more use of He Ara Kotahi. The development complements the Council's work to develop Te Motu o Poutoa - Anzac Park and river walkways and will attract tourism into our beautiful city as well as providing a resource for all. This is a project that supports many different areas of our City and I believe it will be very popular with many - thank you for your consideration.

Do you support our preferred option for managing Te Motu o Poutoa Civic Marae and Cultural Centre?

Yes

Tell us why

I believe this area should be open to the public and should be non-for-profit because rate payers have funded it. I would welcome joint governance that includes Council and of course, Rangitāne o Manawatū.

Supporting information

Parliament office

04 817 8835

tangi.utikere@parliament.govt.nz

Freepost PO Box 18 888

Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160

Palmerston North electorate office

06 356 5958

palmerston.north@parliament.govt.nz

53 Queen Street, Palmerston North

PO Box 1430, Palmerston North 4440

 /tangi.utikere.nz

Palmerston North City Council
Private Bag 11034
Palmerston North 4442

16 April 2025

Letter of Support | Submission in support of the PNCC Draft Annual Budget 2025-2026

Massey University Foundation have kept me updated with progress of Te Waimana o Turitea, which will be a research-led environmental and educational park built along the banks of the Turitea Stream. A first of its kind in New Zealand, Te Waimana o Turitea will provide a literal pathway for potential students into Massey and an educational park that will showcase Massey's environmental, soil, and plant sciences to the local community and to wider New Zealand.

The garden would significantly enhance our city and will complement and extend existing Council walkways.

While Massey University would benefit immensely from the garden, people of the region will also benefit from this unique new public park and research facility. It is likely that Te Waimana o Turitea will become an important destination feature for Palmerston North and the region. It will also contribute to the university and the city's goals to sequester carbon and become carbon neutral.

This progressive move from Massey University to help ensure its longevity in this city should be encouraged and I respectfully ask that Council consider this project in its planning process and provide support where it can.

I very much look forward to seeing the Te Waimana o Turitea project progressing.

Kia manuia



Tangi Utikere
MP for Palmerston North





**GREEN
CORRIDORS**
RANGE TO RIVER

April 16th 2025

RE: MASSEY UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION APPLICATION FOR SUPPORT
FROM PNCC LONG-TERM CAPITAL PLAN

To whom it may concern.

Green Corridors is a voluntary group that develops and maintains a network of reserves through the gullies of Summerhill, Aokautere, and along the Turitea Stream.

Supported by PNCC and Horizons Regional Council, Green Corridors aims to enhance areas of native bush along streams, provide a place for wildlife to thrive, improve water quality, and create open green recreational spaces from the Tararua Ranges to the Manawatu River.

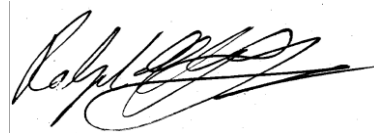
We have been delighted to learn about Massey's ambitious and admirable *Te Waimana o Turitea* plan to extend and plant walkways from the confluence of the Turitea Stream with the Manawatu River through to Old West Road. This plan complements the work of Green Corridors over the past three decades and will greatly enhance the ecology, accessibility and beauty of the Turitea Stream. thereby creating better spaces for, not just our wildlife, but also our people.

Green Corridors highly commends this project to the PNCC and asks it to consider supporting this project with whatever funding it can. Endorsement from the Council is important as it will encourage other donors to contribute and hence enable such joint efforts to restore the ecology of the Turitea stream seamlessly and in a connected approach.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Gear
Chair, Green Corridors Committee



Professor Emeritus Ralph Sims, CNZM
Member, Green Corridors Committee



125-5

Te Mauri o Rangitāne o Manawatū (Council of Elders)
Tānenuiārangi Manawatū Charitable Trust Rōpu
Part of the Rangitāne Nation

Phone: (06) 353 6385

Te Hotu Manawa o Rangitāne o Manawatū Marae
Best Care (Whakapai Hauora) Charitable Trust
Te Ao Turoa Environmental Centre
Kahuku Enterprises
Kia Ora FM 89.8

Physical Address: 140-148 Maxwells Line, Awapuni, Palmerston North 4412
Postal Address: PO Box 1341, Palmerston North Central, Palmerston North 4440

16th April 2025

Palmerston North City Council
Private Bag 11034
Palmerston North 4442

Tēnā koutou

Re: Submission in support of Massey University Foundation's application for funding for Te Waimana O Turitea

1. Rangitāne o Manawatū is actively involved in upholding the principle of kaitiaki over inter alia the Manawatū River and its tributaries as Council is aware. The river, the Turitea Stream, and the surrounding area hold immense cultural and spiritual significance for Rangitāne, and we are delighted by any attempt to improve the hauora of these awa.
2. Rangitāne commends Massey for developing this community-focused project which will not only help restore and protect the Turitea, but will also showcase Rangitāne history, art, and culture in the area. We have found it a pleasure to be involved in this project and know it will add to the mana of the Region for centuries to come attracting local, regional, national and international attention and visitors.
3. We encourage the PNCC to support this multi-dimensional project which offers much more than just teaching, research and recreational space for the Manawatu – it helps to restore and protect an awa of significance for Rangitāne and the wider community.

Heoi anō rā

D.P. Harris, O.N.Z.M, LLB, PGDipBusAdmin
Tumuaki - Chief Executive Officer



Ka kahutia i te korowai, Te Rangimarie, Te Aroha, Te Whakaiti, Ka Whakapuawai he iwi humaarie
Spread the cloak of Peace and Love, so shall blossom the people of humility



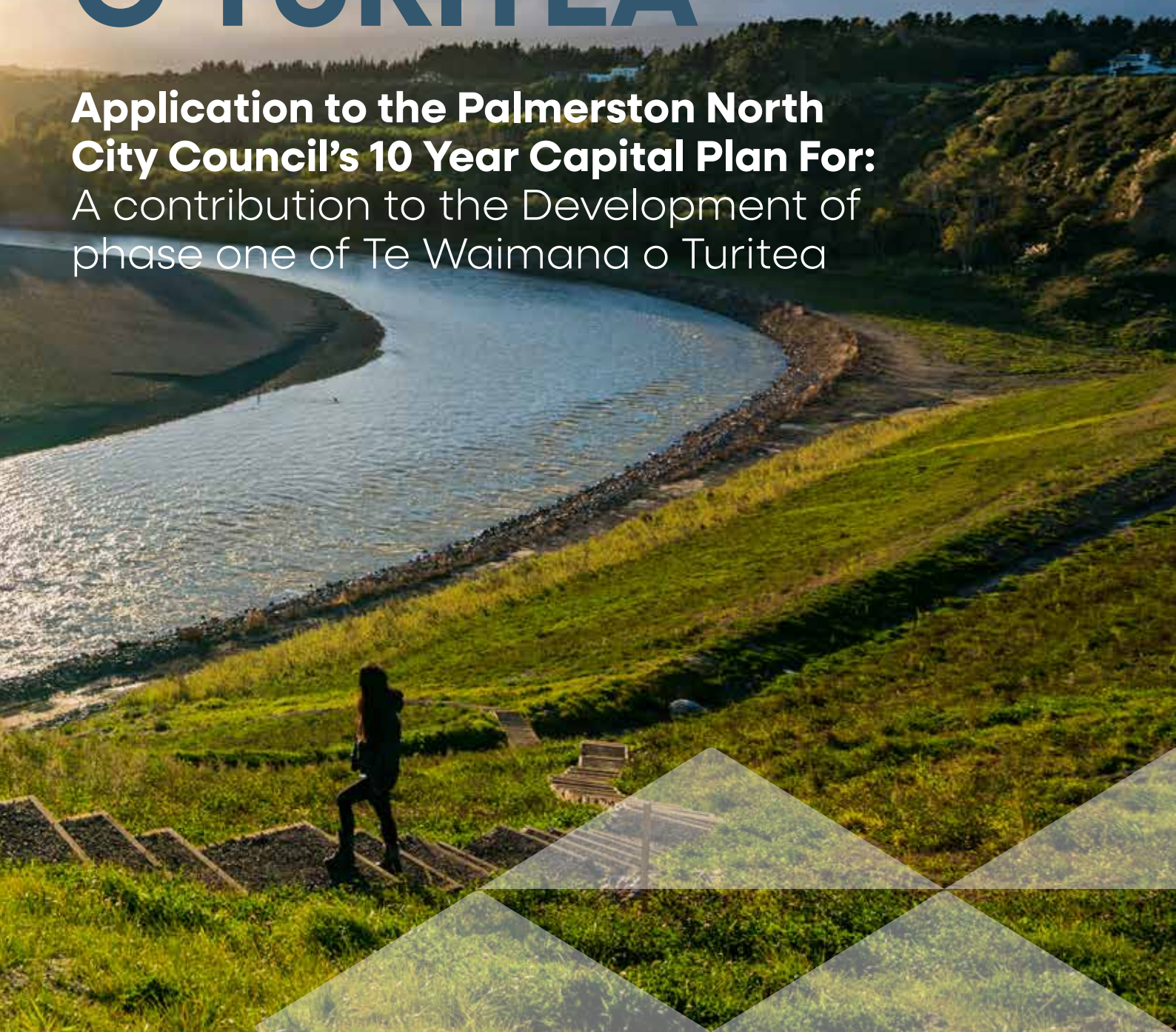
MASSEY UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION
TE KETE AROHA
Enabling Excellence



125-6

TE WAIMANA O TURITEA

**Application to the Palmerston North
City Council's 10 Year Capital Plan For:**
A contribution to the Development of
phase one of Te Waimana o Turitea



TE WAIMANA O TURITEA

A Research, Teaching, and Community Garden

The location of Massey University's Manawatū campus is unique bordering both the Manawatū River and the Turitea Stream on the outskirts of Palmerston North. The Turitea runs through the entire campus and serves as an ecological corridor. It is a cherished and meaningful entity for Rangitāne o Manawatū and a much-loved recreation area for many. The location is a privilege, providing picturesque scenery, a varied landscape and endless opportunities for research and teaching.

The campus has long been renowned for its beauty, park-like grounds, collections of rare and exotic plants, and abundant orchards. The university is also home to leading experts in plant science, with foci that include ecology, restoration biology, genetics, horticulture production, and agronomy.

None of this is surprising considering that the university was first established as an Agriculture College in 1927. The first principle, Sir Geoffrey Peren, had grand plans for the grounds and laid out the first gardens in keeping with those of

contemporaneous 'ivy league' universities. As early as 1943 he proposed that the grounds be designated a botanic garden but when Peren retired in 1958, his plans for a botanic garden had not been realised and fell into abeyance.

Despite this, for nearly 100 years Massey's strength and expertise in agriculture, horticulture, and plant science continued to grow and develop, as have its grounds. In addition to the many native, rare and exotic specimens planted in the gardens, the grounds now include an arboretum, the Dame Ella Campbell Herbarium, and the New Zealand Indigenous Flora Seed Bank. The campus also houses university sports fields and several historic and special interest sites including Wharerata, The Refectory and the Te Araroa Trail.

The university understands the potential of its campus to provide outstanding teaching, research and recreation space to not just its students and staff but to people of the region and New Zealand. While the university might wish to develop its gardens



for the good of the community, and restore the ecological corridor and waters of the Turitea, it is simply not in the financial position to spend money on such an undertaking. It has therefore embarked on plans to develop a philanthropically funded one-of-a-kind resource: a research and teaching garden open to the university, schools and the public.

Supported by an initial funding grant from PNCC, and using its own charity, the Te Kete Aroha, Massey University Foundation, the university engaged with tangata whenua, Rangitāne o Manawatū, to gain its support and input on the concept. With Rangitāne's help the Foundation has development concept plans for gardens and has included input from the university's alumni and staff as well as Horizons, PNCC and Green Corridors.

Named Te Waimana o Turitea, the garden will restore and link a 4.5km riparian corridor along the banks of the Turitea Stream to the Manawatū River. Underpinned by research, the garden would provide opportunities to study regeneration of native forest as well as the complex interactions between water quality, plants, animals, and people. The garden would differ from other botanic gardens through its attachment to the university and its focus on reflecting modern Aotearoa in its plantings, its relationship with local communities and Iwi, and a concentrated effort on restoration of the catchment of the Turitea as it passes through Massey's land.

The gardens would seek to find solutions to 21st century issues such as flooding, pollution of waterways, erosion, and farming in harmony with

local ecology and native bush. It is envisioned that a heartline path will meander from the far end of the garden (where the Turitea meets Old West Road) through to the confluence of the stream with the Manawatū river. A mixture of different gardens will radiate off this central path.

The gardens will have a research and teaching focus and will include essential elements that will be used for teaching – this would include a systematics garden. Systematics gardens are often associated with botanic gardens and universities and are planted in beds according to a taxonomic system of classification.

The university will work closely with Rangitāne o Manawatū, to embed in the garden stories that are important to tangata whenua and our region. There are opportunities to teach Rangitāne history, to showcase Māori art and culture, investigate the healing power of traditional Māori plants, and most important, to teach Kaitiaki of the land to rangatahi.

It is imagined that schools in the region will use the garden extensively for teaching purposes and that in time, this will not only educate our youth but will likely provide a pipeline of agriculture, horticulture, and plant science students to Massey. While Agriculture and Horticulture are flourishing in New Zealand, there remains a lack of interest from school leavers in the subjects and there is a subsequent shortage of graduates in this space. For the same reason there is an increasing reliance on overseas expertise to manage agricultural businesses.



A steady stream of students engaged in the plant sciences at Massey will benefit the university's reputation and help to meet critical industry needs.

It is proposed that Massey's Dairy Farm 1 (part of the MPI/Massey Whenua Haumanu collaboration) should be incorporated into the garden. Viewing platforms could be added to allow the public to view the farm with explanation of the various research projects currently underway.

The garden complements the conservation activities of the university's Wildbase Hospital and the conjoint Wildbase Rehabilitation facility in the Victoria Esplanade. It will also contribute to the university and the city's goals of sequestering carbon and achieving carbon neutrality.

While Massey stands to benefit from the development of the garden, it is anticipated that the benefits will reach far wider than Massey, and the garden will serve as a beacon for conservationists, animal-lovers, gardeners, schools, and those seeking recreational and educational spaces. Te Waimana o Turitea will become an important destination feature for Palmerston North and the surrounding region.

In summary, once developed, the newly formed Te Waimana o Turitea will:

- Provide a one-of-a-kind, dynamic recreation space for residents of the Manawatū and beyond
- Be a nationally significant garden and attract tourists to the region
- Reduce pollution into our awa, and increase biodiversity
- Showcase Rangitāne stories, knowledge, history and art
- Showcase Massey science and help find solutions to nationally and globally significant problems
- Provide a pathway for school leavers to study ag/hort/plant science/ecology
- Help cement the Manawatū's credentials as a quality place to live with many parks and a burgeoning reputation as a conservation and environmental hub
- Integrate seamlessly with existing river walkways and PNCC's Bledisloe Park
- Contribute to biodiversity/green corridors
- Sequester carbon and contribute to Massey's and region's goal to become carbon neutral



Development of the gardens

The garden has deliberately been designed as seven distinct zones radiating from a central heartline path that meanders through the garden. This design allows a staged approach to the development of the park. As much as possible, the design incorporates existing infrastructure, roading and parking to keep costs lower. The first proposed zones are the heartline path, the filtration garden, Te Ara Ranginui and the arboretum.

Zone 1: The Filtration Garden

The filtration zone has a high research and teaching impact and can be entered from several access points. It will form the first 'loop' walkway extending from He Ara Kotahi to the urban eels platform, along Poultry Farm Road and back to He Ara Kotahi. This area has already been cleared of willow and will use large floodplans to serve as both a large water filter and research site. Adding an approximate 1.6km pathway and boardwalk over restored wetland areas will allow the public to access the area which will be planted in natives and will have research gardens built along the path. The zone will have a strong educational focus and will contain teaching platforms and spaces to allow groups of students to gather alongside the stream. The filtration garden will cost approximately \$10 million to build and a further \$2.4 million will need to be endowed to maintain the area in perpetuity to give a total budget of \$12.4 million.



Image: Artists impression of Filtration Zone



Zone 2: Te Ara Ranginui

Te Ara Ranginui is the proposed second zone that the university would like to progress. This garden joins the filtration zone and is a treetop walkway which ascends 30 metres from a platform outside the historic Craiglockhart building through a stand of (approximately) one hundred-year old Kahikatea down into Te Mara Papatānūka; a protected, walled garden which will display different treasured native plants from diverse habitats from all around the motu. The walkway could be experienced on different levels: it will give students and visitors access to the different canopy layers in the Kahikatea, it will tell the story of Rangi and Papa, it can be experienced purely as a high-level walkway, or it can be enjoyed as an architectural structure and artwork.

The walkway offers potential to be 'lit' during Puanga to celebrate this significant story. It also serves as a platform to view Ranginui and the rising Puanga star. The area is likely to be a major attraction for schools and groups from the local area but is likely to attract environmental tourism and day trippers from as far north as Taupo, West to Taranaki and East to Wairarapa and Hawkes Bay to see the spectacle which will be Te Ara Ranginui.

Image: Artists impression of Te Ara Ranginui

Zone 3: The Biodome Zone

Opposite the main entry into Masey, a new car park has been proposed to provide access to the Biodome Zone. In this zone visitors will encounter a series of thematic gardens. These gardens will be laid out around the 'biodome' – a contemporary greenhouse adapted to host collections of plants from exotic climate zones. Biodome zone gardens are located closest to the 'urban' part of Te Waimana along Tennant Drive and will focus on contemporary environmental issues in built landscapes. Rain garden strips will become 'sponges' for storm water run-off from the Tennant Drive expressway with other gardens spotlighting issues such as urban heat islands, climate change, resilience and blue and green infrastructure. The New Zealand Indigenous Flora Seed Bank and the Dame Ella Campbell Herbarium could be relocated to this zone and be made accessible to school groups and the public.

Zone 4: International Gardens

Built around the existing cherry blossom and plane tree avenue, the International Garden will add an attractive element to the campus entrance. This area will be an important part of connecting Te Waimana o Turitea to the wider community and, it is proposed, that it will include, but not be limited to, Chinese and Japanese gardens.

Image: Artists impression of Arboretum



Zone 5: The arboretum

The existing arboretum will be transformed with several amphitheatres of varying sizes that can be used as teaching platforms or as stages for plays, music festivals, weddings and other local functions. An old pond/oxbow will be reinstated to assist with drainage and the 'diggings' from the pond will be used to build up the stop-banks of the stream, which will be sculpted and used for seating around the main amphitheatre. The mature trees of the arboretum will be used for teaching students, but also provide a mature park-like space for visitors.

Zone 6: Exotic garden

This zone will include a Systematics Garden, displaying plants in a way that represents their evolutionary relationships. This zone is a natural extension of the arboretum providing additional educational space as well as a visually attractive recreational landscape with footpaths and seating areas.

Zone 7: Indigenous garden

The indigenous plants and community garden will occupy the southernmost part of the site. It has been proposed that the Te Araroa Trail will be realigned slightly to run through the park and just as the trail runs through Aotearoa, the garden will take visitors on a journey around New Zealand's varied ecosystems. Located adjacent to the university's sporting facilities, the design of this zone will also be focused on recreational access to the stream providing the opportunity to be not just close, but also in the water.

Funding for Te Waimana o Turitea

Massey University has set the land aside for the development of Te Waimana o Turitea but does not have funds to landscape, plant and operate a park of this scale. The university is therefore fundraising to establish Te Waimana o Turitea. It has suggested a pragmatic and staged approach to developing each zone, and a commensurate amount of funding will need to be endowed within the Massey University Foundation (a charitable trust) to maintain each garden in perpetuity.

As part of its 100th anniversary celebrations, the university is seeking support and partnership from local bodies, alumni, philanthropists and funding agencies to work with it to establish the first zone of Te Waimana O Turitea.

Massey University has worked closely with PNCC in the past, and it looks forward to continuing this close association as it develops this outstanding garden, teaching space and recreation area which will add much to the city and the region and will also help to secure the university's future in the town by attracting students into higher education.

The Massey University Foundation would like to thank the PNCC for its previous support of this significant project and it is now asking the Council to commit \$300,000 to support the building of the filtration zone. The PNCC's support will be important to other major donors that will want confirmation that the City is supportive of the initiative.

The Massey University Foundation would like to thank the Council for its consideration of this proposal.

125-13



**MASSEY UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION**
TE KETE AROHA
Enabling Excellence



MASSEY UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
The Refectory - PN124
Refectory Drive, Massey University
Private Bag 11222, Palmerston North 4442, New Zealand
T +64 (0)6 951 6599
M +64 (0)21 423 668
E m.a.murdoch@massey.ac.nz
www.massey.ac.nz/forabetterworld

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 3:41PM
Receipt number	109
Related form version	1

Your contact details

Privacy

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First name	Sheridan
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Last name	Hickey
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Postal address	
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Email	
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Phone	
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Hearing

All submissions will be acknowledged in writing and given to the Mayor and Councillors, who will consider the views and comments expressed when finalising the Annual Budget.

Would you like to make a personal presentation in support of your submission at one of our hearings to the Mayor and Councillors?	Yes
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Preferred hearing dates	Wednesday 30 April: Morning Thursday 1 May:
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Your submission

Please answer the questions below. Alternatively, you can upload your submission in the supporting information field.

Do you support our preferred option for managing Te Motu o Poutoa Civic Marae and Cultural Centre?	Yes
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Support for Centrepoint Theatre

This submission is in support of Centrepoint's inclusion in the draft long term plan.

Although including financial support for Centrepoint may be deemed to be 'trivial and unimportant' to members of Council, that though could not be further from the truth.

Supporting Centrepoint would be a most worthwhile investment in the city. Apart from the on stage theatre programmes seen at Centrepoint, it's reach extends way beyond the performances on stage. It's programmes continue to engage with various sectors in the community .

Since Centrepoint began in 1974, it has consistently been involved as a participant contributing to developing the vibrancy and wellbeing of our Palmerston North community. While personnel may come and go, the constancy of Centrepoint's presence cannot be overlooked. Centrepoint staff (actors and others) have actively engaged in and added to the vibrancy of various community events over the years. One example has been participation in the annual Christmas parade, either creating a float or having 'characters' march in the parade.

The combined impact of Massey recently axing Summer Shakespeare simultaneously with slashing all Creative Processes and Performance courses in the university's curriculum has left a cavernous void in our community. Having creatives active in our community contributes enormously to enhancing the well being and vibrancy of our city. Therefore support for Centrepoint, the only professional theatre beyond the major centres, is a must.

Because Centrepoint Theatre has played a vital role in our community now for more than fifty years, it has been able to respond to the needs of the community and provide opportunities to engage with various community groups.

Palmerston North city should realise just how extremely fortunate we are to have such an asset, thanks to those visionaries who, more than fifty years ago, who chose to establish a most reputable professional theatre right here.

Since then we have been blessed with having had some outstanding Artistic Directors who have also been financially frugal in their long term planning, ensuring sound planning for future development while also operating an ongoing professional theatre while abiding by all health and safety standards.

Centrepoint continues to run its Theatresports (an improvisation programme for secondary school students) with great success, ending with a competitive jousting of teams onstage at Centrepoint.

Drama is the Greek word for doing. By learning the skills of drama, a performance can be created. Developing a performance or series of performances can become theatre.

It must be remembered that not all in our community are the same age, nor is everyone able bodied. Drama and theatre extend way beyond performances seen on stage. It should be inclusive of every person in every sector in our community and Centrepoint is very aware of this. All Centrepoint's Outreach programmes for attendees encapsulate to some degree the learning of life skills through the discipline of working as part of a team, being reliable, turning up on time, developing greater empathy for and understanding of others, all while gaining individual confidence.

Centrepoint continues to run its Basement programme for adolescents, not only providing the young one with the opportunity to extend their talents and theatre skills. More recently the Attic programme for those 65 and over has created opportunities for that age group to experience new things while doing movement, extending mind and body. For a number of years, Centrepoint has been developing an Outreach programme called *Improv for Everyone* which engages those with disabilities and those who may not feel comfortable entering the theatre. Other programmes include working with upcoming script writers and with Pasifika

In the words of Oscar Wilde . . . *theatre is the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.* What is the most important thing in the world? It is people. Centrepoint certainly encapsulates this premise.

For this and other reasons listed above, I endorse the need for maintaining Centrepoint's presence in the long term plan.

Shirley Hickman

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 3:44PM
Receipt number	110
Related form version	1

Your contact details

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First name	Denise Raewyn
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Last name	Gray
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Postal address	
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Email	
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Phone	
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Hearing

All submissions will be acknowledged in writing and given to the Mayor and Councillors, who will consider the views and comments expressed when finalising the Annual Budget.

Would you like to make a personal presentation in support of your submission at one of our hearings to the Mayor and Councillors?	Yes
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Preferred hearing dates	Wednesday 30 April: Afternoon Thursday 1 May:
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Your submission

Please answer the questions below. Alternatively, you can upload your submission in the supporting information field.

What are your thoughts on our proposed Annual Budget 2025/26?	Thank for this opportunity. Its disappointing there has to be any rate increase when most people's properties have come down in value by approximately 20% Page 8 of Have your say draft Annual Budget booklet
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"We know times are tough... average household income estimated \$126,583" my average household income is \$20-23,000 per year & I have a mortgage.

Where's the money?

Page 9 I'm not sure why a small hardly used road is being up-graded in Cliff Road when other roads throughout the city need up-grades? I thought Te Motu O Poutoa was put on hold? Why are we bringing 2027/2028 forward when we have a huge debt and now Water Done Well will be a huge debt on many ratepayers. Some rate payers will have to sell their homes

What (if anything) would you like to see changed?

I'm not sure why wants are being put ahead of needs? I don't want any new buildings built. Does the council have a building they could sell and put towards paying off our debt.

Are there specific activities or services we should be considering more or less of, and why?

I'm very grateful for the rates rebate system.
I would like ALL councilors to be fiscally responsible.
to bring people to Palmy and promote our businesses.
The Arena for sports & music.
Please remember its all of our money and I would prefer it spent on reducing our debt & towards water

Do you support our preferred option for managing Te Motu o Poutoa Civic Marae and Cultural Centre?

No

Tell us why

No money for new buildings. This is not a No forever.

128-1

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 3:48PM
Receipt number	111
Related form version	1

Your contact details

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First name	Glenn
Last name	Young
Organisation you represent	Resonant Consultants on behalf of Kikiwhenua
Postal address	
Email	
Phone	

Hearing

All submissions will be acknowledged in writing and given to the Mayor and Councillors, who will consider the views and comments expressed when finalising the Annual Budget.

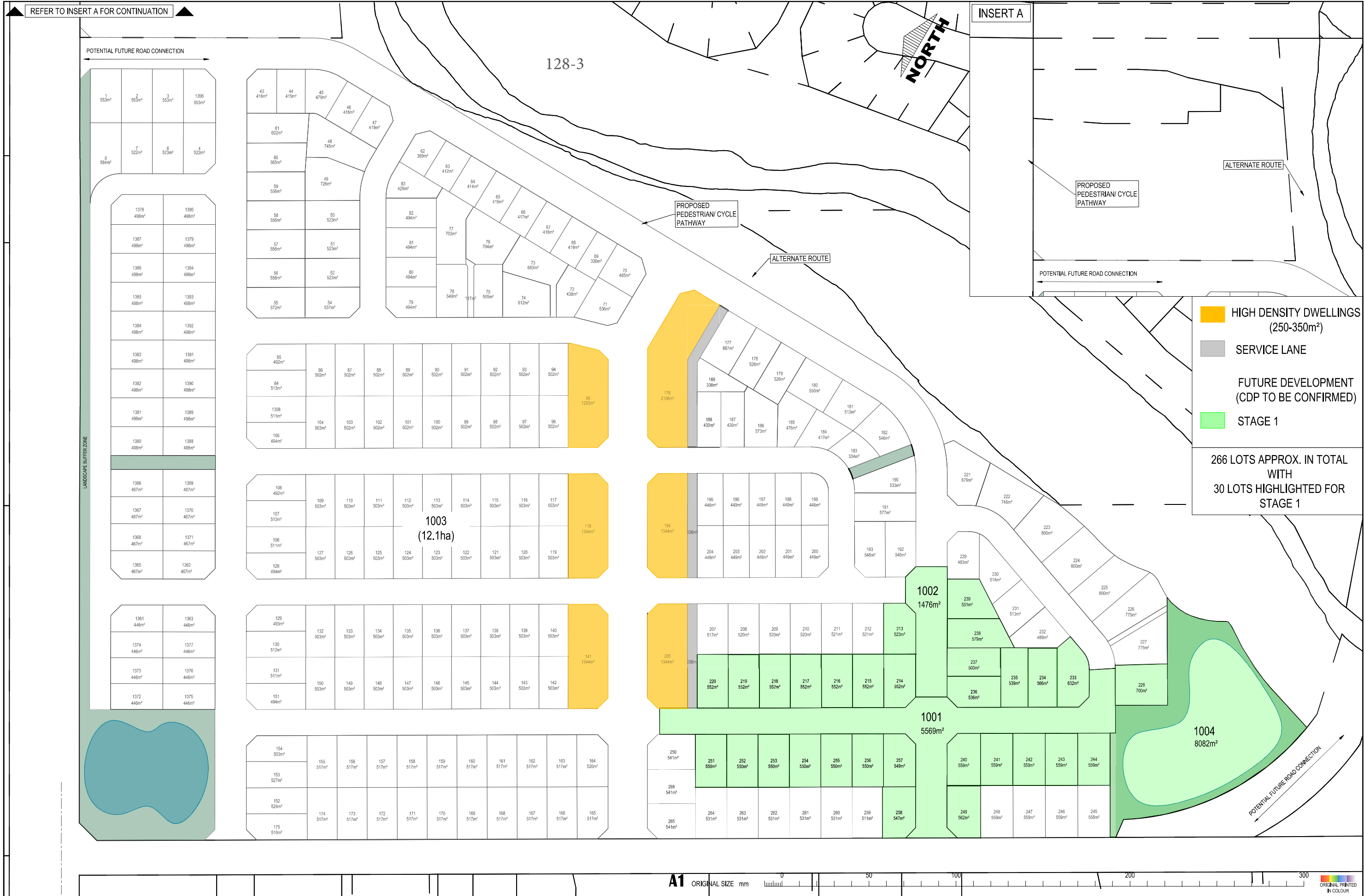
Would you like to make a personal presentation in support of your submission at one of our hearings to the Mayor and Councillors?	Yes
Preferred hearing dates	Wednesday 30 April: Morning, Afternoon Thursday 1 May: Morning

Your submission

Please answer the questions below. Alternatively, you can upload your submission in the supporting information field.

What are your thoughts on our proposed Annual Budget 2025/26?	This submission is specifically focused on supporting and giving effect to the services extensions required for roading & 3-waters to facilitate the proposed 300 lot development called Kikiwhenua at Te Wanaka/Pioneer highway.
What (if anything) would you like to see changed?	Program 1681 -Transport: Carry forward the \$3,000k from 2024/25 to 2025/26 Program 1857 -Reserves: Bring forward the \$991k to 2025/26 Program 2445 - reserves: Bring forward the\$1,269k to 2026/27 Program 2512-Water: forecast \$1,500k in 2025/26 Program 2511 -Wastewater: bring forward \$3,158k to 2025/26
Are there specific activities or services we should be considering more or less of, and why?	Focus on essential services as a priority being 3 waters and Roothing. These are the areas the community cannot do itself and is fully reliant on Council to provide. Less priority being on the nice to have projects and community support initiatives.
Supporting information	

J:\200\220\220325 Kikihenua TE WANAKA RD.PN_SUBDIVISION_KB.J05 Surveying\Drawings\220325 - Overall CDP.dwg 10/9/2024 11:58 AM



1			ISSUED FOR APPROVAL			MVD			11/23		
Rev			Details			Drawn			Date		

The Contractor shall check all dimensions on site.			71 Pitt Street, PO Box 600 Palmerston North 06 356 7000 info@resonant.co.nz www.resonant.co.nz			Resonant Consulting Ltd copyright: Under no circumstances shall this drawing be reproduced, without prior permission given in writing. The adequacy of the design as indicated on the drawings shall be read in conjunction with and subject to the relative specifications and design assumptions in the calculations and reports for this project.		
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PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT TE WANAKA ROAD PALMERSTON NORTH OVERALL LAYOUT PLAN (CDP)			KIKIWHENUA		
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Initials			Date		
Surveyed			-		
Designed			-		
Drawn			MVD		
Checked			GRY		
Approved			11/23		

DO NOT SCALE, If in doubt ask for dimensions		
Scales A1		Scales A3
1:1000		1:2000
Job No.		220325
CAD Path/File		220325 - Overall CDP
Sheet		of
1		6
Sheets		Rev.
1		1

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 3:56PM
Receipt number	116
Related form version	1

Your contact details

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We collect your contact information so we can keep you up to date with the proposal. For more information, see our [privacy statement](#).

First name	Daniel
Last name	Barr
Organisation you represent	Resonant Consulting Limited
Postal address	
Email	
Phone	

Hearing

All submissions will be acknowledged in writing and given to the Mayor and Councillors, who will consider the views and comments expressed when finalising the Annual Budget.

Would you like to make a personal presentation in support of your submission at one of our hearings to the Mayor and Councillors?	Yes
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Preferred hearing dates	Wednesday 30 April: Afternoon Thursday 1 May:
-------------------------	--

Your submission

Please answer the questions below. Alternatively, you can upload your submission in the supporting information field.

Do you support our preferred option for managing Te Motu o
Poutoa Civic Marae and Cultural Centre? No

Supporting information

Submission to the Palmerston North City Council Annual Budget**Subject: Request for Reallocation of Funding to Aokautere Intersections Upgrade**

To the Palmerston North City Council,

I am writing on behalf of my client, Terra Civil Limited, to formally request that the council consider reallocating a portion of the annual budget to fund the urgent upgrade of the Aokautere intersections. This infrastructure improvement is crucial to facilitate the sustainable residential growth in the Aokautere area and ensure the continued development of our city in line with projected population growth.

1. Importance of the Aokautere Area for Residential Development

The Aokautere area represents a significant opportunity for the expansion of Palmerston North as recognised by Palmerston North City through the recent Plan Change G. As the city continues to grow, residential development in Aokautere will play a vital role in alleviating housing pressure and accommodating future populations. However, this growth is heavily contingent on the ability to ensure that local infrastructure, particularly road networks, can accommodate increased traffic and provide safe access to and from residential developments.

2. Current Challenges at Aokautere Intersections

The existing intersections in the Aokautere area, particularly at the junctions of Aokautere Drive, State Highway 57, are currently inadequate to handle the volume of traffic expected from both existing residents and new developments. The current road layout and intersection design have led to safety concerns, traffic congestion, and delays that significantly impact the efficiency and accessibility of the area. This is not only a barrier to residential growth but also poses risks to road users. A traffic report submitted by Harriet Fraser (on behalf of PNCC) as part of Plan Change G specifically outlines the need for the State Highway 57/Aokautere Road and the Ruapehu Drive/Summerhill Drive intersection to be upgraded prior to consent being granted for any future development under the plan change.

3. The Case for Reallocation of Funding

To address these issues, a comprehensive upgrade to the Aokautere intersections is required. This upgrade would include improvements such as:

- Expansion of lanes to ease congestion
- Modernised traffic signalling to improve flow
- Enhanced safety measures for both motorists and non-motorized users

Such an upgrade would directly support residential growth by improving connectivity and accessibility, making the area more attractive to developers and potential homeowners. Terra

Civil have indicated to PNCC a desire to develop a significant number of residential lots in the coming 5-10 years (300+). This investment should give PNCC the incentive to invest in infrastructure that will allow for further development in the area. At present, a consent application has been submitted to PNCC on behalf of Terra Civil to develop 46 residential Lots at the end of Abby Road. The application is one of the first to be submitted under the new plan change with the roading upgrades to the highway intersection being a significant block to all future development in the Aokautere area. Early indication from PNCC's traffic advisors has indicated the proposed investment in the road network will see in excess of 500 residential lots becoming unlocked for future residential growth.

While the Council's annual budget likely already includes various projects across the city, I believe that prioritising the Aokautere intersections upgrade is essential for both the short-term and long-term growth of Palmerston North. Without such infrastructure improvements, residential development in the area will be hindered, ultimately delaying progress in meeting housing demands.

4. Conclusion

I urge the Palmerston North City Council to allocate the necessary funds to upgrade the Aokautere intersections. By investing in this essential infrastructure, the Council will enable sustainable residential growth, improve road safety, and contribute to the overall development and prosperity of our city.

Thank you for considering this important issue. I look forward to your favorable response and to seeing this project become a reality in the near future.

Yours faithfully,
Daniel Barr
Resonant Consulting Limited
71 Pitt Street

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 4:20PM
Receipt number	118
Related form version	1

Your contact details

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We collect your contact information so we can keep you up to date with the proposal. For more information, see our [privacy statement](#).

First name	Ian
Last name	Staples
Postal address	
Email	
Phone	

Hearing

All submissions will be acknowledged in writing and given to the Mayor and Councillors, who will consider the views and comments expressed when finalising the Annual Budget.

Would you like to make a personal presentation in support of your submission at one of our hearings to the Mayor and Councillors?	Yes
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Preferred hearing dates	Wednesday 30 April: Afternoon Thursday 1 May:
-------------------------	--

Your submission

Please answer the questions below. Alternatively, you can upload your submission in the supporting information field.

What are your thoughts on our proposed Annual Budget 2025/26?	Firstly due to time constraints this is preliminary and I will add to a bit later. Quite frankly a 7.7% rise in rates in over the top.
---	---

The nice to have projects need be culled or financed by those who want them. Not by ratepayers e.g. the Anzac Park edifice, the Arena new building and the Community hubs. The Pacifica Hub was enlarged just a few years ago.

Roading;

The disappeared white-lines need o be reappeared,

A number of projects stretched out: either Stoney Creek or Kelvin Grove road, not both.

I am happy with the 3 water projects. These are the core projects!

I reckon that the social housing should be sold because the subsidy costs.

The transport loops have no NZTA funding and should wait for that to return.

The cycle networks are a disaster and should be stopped.

What (if anything) would you like to see changed?

See above

Are there specific activities or services we should be considering more or less of, and why?

See above

Do you support our preferred option for managing Te Motu o Poutoa Civic Marae and Cultural Centre?

No

Tell us why

As above, unless this is funded by those who want it, it not a runner¹

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 11:29AM
Receipt number	94
Related form version	1

Your contact details

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We collect your contact information so we can keep you up to date with the proposal. For more information, see our [privacy statement](#).

First name	Aaron
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Last name	Fox
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Postal address

Email

Phone

Hearing

All submissions will be acknowledged in writing and given to the Mayor and Councillors, who will consider the views and comments expressed when finalising the Annual Budget.

Would you like to make a personal presentation in support of your submission at one of our hearings to the Mayor and Councillors?	Yes
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Preferred hearing dates	Wednesday 30 April: Early evening Thursday 1 May: Early evening
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Your submission

Please answer the questions below. Alternatively, you can upload your submission in the supporting information field.

What are your thoughts on our proposed Annual Budget 2025/26?	That it is too ambitious, given the adverse report from the auditors on the Long Term Plan upon which this budget is based. Much has changed
---	--

since the LTP was debated last year, and the budget needs to reflect the pressing infrastructure needs within the city, as well as the even greater financial pressures on households. The key is what can the city afford to do, and not to do, and how much funding can the council realistically expect from ratepayers.

On this basis, I submit the budget needs to be revised, radically and downwards. Less is more, and I for one would rather see money kept with families for their immediate needs than taken in rates for projects of dubious value or return. Keep the costs down. Postpone or abandon non-essential projects. Make life as easy, enjoyable and cost-effective as you can for Palmerston North residents.

I am also mindful that this is an election year. Avoid decisions which will need to be revisited and revised by the incoming council. Provide the next council with a legacy not a liability. Focus on what really matters for the city today and tomorrow. Next year will have to take care of itself.

Most of all, never forget that any rates increase will cause pain - financial pain for ratepayers - especially those of us in semi-rural areas, pain for those sectors of the community who may not receive the funding or facilities which they want, pain for motorists and cyclists along roads which the council claims to have made safe, and those roads which remain lethal, pain for businesses which may be struggling in these turbulent economic times.

Above all, be accountable. Account for every dollar you plan to rate from us, and for every dollar which you plan to expend. Account for the cost and benefit of every project mentioned in this budget. Account for the successes and mistakes which the council makes under the current LTP. And if you cannot account for a rates increase, for a proposed project, for a council activity, then don't. It clearly does not belong in this budget.

What (if anything) would you like to see changed?

First of all, change the assumptions upon which the budget is based. Stop thinking economic growth comes from pandering to the transport industry. Moving goods around is not a means of developing the local economy. There will not be 2000 new jobs at a KiwiRail intermodal freight hub - at least not in my lifetime. There is no longer a rail freight connection with Napier. Logging exports from the Manawatu cannot support a logging hub at Marton. Look instead on how better to support local small to medium businesses. Consider the potential benefits to the city from increased defence spending, given that Palmerston North is located between Ohakea and Linton.

Secondly, separate the necessities of city life from the nice to have options. Ratepayers should not be expected to fund the construction of facilities for specific sectors of the community. Elsewhere in New Zealand such community facilities are paid for by charitable grants, donations, sponsorship and fundraising. I was not alone in opposing this section of the LTP last year, and I contend that such facilities are now luxuries as the domestic and international economic situation becomes ever more fraught. There are many things that our households need to afford right now. Increased rates for marae, Central Energy Trust Area and the Pasifika Community Centre are not necessities.

Concentrate on vital infrastructure. You propose increased rates for essential infrastructure such as water and waste water. Here in Bunnythorpe the water from our taps is not always fit to drink, and the perennial problems of the sewerage system are slowly being addressed. Until the basic services are done well, don't even think of splashing out on non-essential projects.

Our local roads are in dire need of repair and redesign. Motorists continue to die on the roads around Bunnythorpe. The roading assets appear to have been sweated on the basis that NZTA funding for freight roads will solve all problems. Now that Government funding for the much-vaunted freight ring road is unlikely, we are faced with how to address years of neglect - intersections, corners, potholes, and narrow rural

roads which continue to be used by fast and heavy trucks. Where people die must be the council's roading priority. Temporary speed zones are no longer a temporary solution. And stop thinking that a Ring Road Optimisation is either necessary or desirable. Sort out the routes suitable for heavy transport around the city, keep the trucks out of residential areas and off small rural roads, and ensure that these routes are maintained and policed.

Increasing rates for rural properties, especially rural and semi-serviced lifestyle-like blocks of between 0.2 hectares and 5ha in size by 30% or more is outrageous. As I submitted last year on the LTP, the rural rate reflects the lower level of council services offered outside of the city itself. Ongoing work in Bunnythorpe reflects a deficit in asset maintenance which was inherited from the Manawatu District Council in 2012. We are all playing catch-up. But to justify an increase of hundreds of dollars in our annual rates, with no promise of better footpaths, increased street lighting, more local amenities, roading re-design to route heavy transport away from our urban village area? No. We deserve a rural discount as we tolerate reduced services. If you persist with this action, then either raise the levels of service offered to your rural ratepayers, or actively reduce those services offered within the city to match those available in rural areas. It's only fair.

When it comes to roads, I oppose further developments on Featherston Street. The 2024 upgrades have not improved safety or traffic flow. Bicycle lanes are in the wrong place - the wrong streets - to provide enhanced safety for Palmerston North Boys' High School students. Bus stops in the middle of the road are insane. Eliminating dedicated left and right turning lanes for traffic at the Featherston Street-Rangitikei Street intersection in preference for cycle lanes creates bottlenecks. Eliminating the centre traffic islands on Featherston Street west of Rangitikei Street makes turning right from the side roads from Bourke Street east to Rangitikei Street almost impossible with the slower and concentrated east-west traffic flow. I am damned if I want to pay more in rates for wasteful and pointless initiatives such as this.

Consider the budget from the ratepayer's perspective. Better still, think of it as a household budget. What can your ratepayers realistically afford? How much of a burden should rates be? What is the council actually attempting to achieve in 2025-26? And what should the council let go - what treats will not be available for the children this pay fortnight? Households are making hard financial decisions all of the time. It is only right that the council should take a similarly hard and realistic approach to money. Do the basics well, and postpone the luxuries until the city can afford them again. It's what families have to do every day - prioritise, economise, compromise.

I'll put it another way: don't penalise people for living in Palmerston North, or for wanting to live in a city which is not described in this plan - a city with safe roads, drinkable water, effective waste water treatment and disposal, with affordable rates and building codes, landlords and infrastructure which support our local businesses.

Are there specific activities or services we should be considering more or less of, and why?

I have submitted in this before now. Reconsider the council's support for agencies such as CEDA and something called Accelerate 25 (which is now past its use by date), which have consistently advised the council to follow the path of economic development through freight movement. What is needed is some accurate and insightful advice on the current and future economic activity in the lower North Island. I submit that the council would be far better served in sourcing informed and up to date advice from a professional consultancy such as Infometrics.

I support the development of a community plan for Bunnythorpe, but only as the first step in increased participatory democracy within the city. Consider similar community plans for other parts of the city (especially the rural communities), and for specific sectors within our community. The issue of community boards within the city remains unresolved, and awaits fresh council leadership to consider how best to represent and

interact with our communities. Plans such as the LTP, this current annual budget, or last year's Future Development Strategy and the abortive proposal to industrialise the highly-productive land around Bunnythorpe should be initiated, discussed and prepared in partnership with the local community. The Bunnythorpe Community Plan offers some small redress for years of excluding Bunnythorpe from council negotiations with KiwiRail and NZTA to irrevocably alter our community. That mention of the Bunnythorpe Community Plan on the council website is made still in connection with plans for a regional freight hub and a regional freight ring road does not inspire me with confidence in the council's commitment to putting communities before freight. To give effect to the collective voice of our community there has to be a guarantee from the council to provide Bunnythorpe with a voice at the council table to ensure that the plan becomes a reality - that the plan influences and delineates rather than informs future growth.

Do you support our preferred option for managing Te Motu o Poutoa Civic Marae and Cultural Centre?

No

Tell us why

I support, instead, a stand-alone marae operation on council land. The council can support the project - provide the site, offer the necessary consents and inspections at a subsidised rate, provide infrastructure as appropriate, and assist a stand-alone marae committee to seek funding. The marae itself should be self-funded from the outset. If the proposal for a CCO does proceed, then the development must be delayed until such time as the council can afford to support it.