

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



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First name	Bob
Last name	Selden
Organisation you represent	The Greasy Chain Charitable Trust
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?	No
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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?	Submission uploaded
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What (if anything) would you like to see changed?	Submission uploaded
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Are there specific activities or services we should be considering more or less of, and why?

Submissions uploaded

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

Yes

Supporting information



Submission on Palmerston North City Council Budget 2025-26

Palmerston North's Long Term Plan is to develop Palmerston North as a great place to live, work, visit, play and do business.

Our city's goals are 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

Over the last decade the Palmerston North City Council has done well in taking strides to achieve these goals, for which the community can be very proud and thankful.

We're sure that in the current cost-conscious climate with everyone tightening their belts, we believe that Councillors will be somewhat disappointed with the reduced funding from central government in helping us achieve these goals. The Greasy Chain Charitable Trust (GCCT), which is supportive of the Council's progress, shares this disappointment, and in our case, particularly so in the area of active transport, which we see as a major contributor.

At the same time, we need to maintain our planned spending, despite the lack or less provision of external funds. Certain projects may need to be altered, and the overall Council budgeted spending continued - if not in these projects, then in alternative active transport initiatives that will assist the achievement of our goals.

What we are investing in, i.e., how we spend money as a city, really shows and demonstrate our values.

1. Supply and Demand

Every change provides an opportunity. And with this change in the economy, it's a case of applying the economist's view of "supply and demand" more appropriately.

Let us explain.

With the apparent lack of external funds in the current budget to increase safe active transport for better infrastructure such as shared pathways and separated cycleways (the "supply" element), we need to increase "demand" – to have more people walking and cycling as a positive way of demonstrating that people want and need, to participate in active transport – for commuting, shopping, entertainment, exercise, for better health, and for those who are disabled. It's about making the city accessible by everyone, – not to mention of course, the need to protect the environment by using less fossil fuels. The result will be a growing cadre of people – our community, our fellow residents – using the streets on a day-to-day basis for the purposes of which they were originally designed - not only to get from A to B in the most economical and convenient way, but also as a community asset for better liveability.

In the current economic environment, how do we do this?

We do this by providing incentives (in the main, non-financial) to have people leave their cars at home for short trips such as commuting (within the city), attending entertainment functions, visiting local friends, going for coffee, and perhaps to a lesser extent, but still doable, shopping (it should be noted that the average car trip length in NZ is less than 4km). At the same time, making financially achievable improvements in safety measures for all road users, are essential.

It's about making the city accessible for everyone, especially those with limited income.

We can also help promote “demand” by applying the originally budgeted \$7m for active transport in more creative ways (more on this shortly).

2. The Way Forward

The Greasy Chain Charitable Trust, makes the following recommendations to Council (in which we are prepared to be an active partner) to increase the demand for better active transport facilities as and when further funds become more readily available, whilst keeping our Long Term Plan's aims and goals front of mind, and at the same time, pursuing application of our existing agreed and budgeted funds.

2.1 Assist people to commute by cycle. Publicise and support new cycle purchasing schemes for employers to assist employees to acquire bikes for commuting. One such scheme is [WorkRide](#) which is proving popular in other NZ cities. This would be at no cost to Council, which could also set the example by participating in the scheme for their employees and seeing more people actively commuting.

As many residents commute between Feilding and Palmerston North, we see the completion of the Palmerston North – Feilding Cycleway, a top priority.

2.2 Making it easy for families to cycle to entertainment venues. With the implementation of a Bike Valet scheme (already successful in [Auckland](#)), families could ride to an event and have their bikes parked securely. The GCCT would be happy to manage this scheme with support from the Council of less than \$10K to purchase the necessary bike security infrastructure. More people using bikes instead of cars.

2.3 Increase road markings and signage for pedestrians and cyclists to demonstrate to other road users that these are shared facilities. These can be as simple as sharrows (shared lane markings - a combination of a bicycle symbol and a chevron arrow - painted on roads to indicate that cyclists and motorists should share the same lane) to encourage other road users to be more aware of their somewhat slower compatriots.

Examples of what Christchurch has achieved with these follow . . .



Visual cues, such as those shown here in Christchurch, are great examples of what can be done.

The social science evidence clearly demonstrates that visual cues such as painted pedestrian crossings, cycle ways, sharrows and signage, over time changes all road user's behaviour. The result is that vehicular traffic becomes a little slower and far more cautious and all users are more amenable to sharing these community areas for which they are intended. In doing so, certain specific streets should be marked for vehicular through traffic with others being better displayed as shared community spaces.

As an example, in discussion of the current budget, the Council's recent decision to investigate a 'shared path' cycle and pedestrian zone and re-introduction of the left-turn lane in Featherston Street outside McDonalds and Just Zilch, are examples of thinking a little differently. Unfortunately, our experience suggests this idea will fair rather poorly in the safety analysis. However, all new ideas are worthy of consideration and demonstrate an inclination to progress the aims and goals set out in our Long Term Plan.

2.4 Maintain the planned spending of \$7m on active transport initiatives. Some of the projects for which these funds were originally to be allocated were possible because of shared external funding and therefore may need to be altered or delayed. However, with some creative thinking, these and other active transport initiatives can be achieved (similar to the examples above – further can be investigated).

Please keep in mind that, “What we are investing in, i.e., how we spend money as a city, really shows and demonstrate our values”. Whilst maintenance and upkeep of our roads is essential for motorised vehicles, If we continue to spend the majority of our funds there with very little on active transport – i.e., the budget going from \$7.14m to \$0.51m, a 93% reduction! - will we achieve our aim of becoming a more liveable city?

3. Palmerston North becoming a most liveable city

In a recent visit to Christchurch, the writer was impressed with the city’s progress in achieving a city that is now seen as one of the most liveable in New Zealand. For example, Christchurch now has 13 major cycle routes, 20kms of separated cycleways, 207kms of shared pathways, and 342kms of cycle lanes. The result? Cycling numbers in the city have increased by 40% since 2017, plus people are now enjoying the city more with shared community spaces for meeting, walking, cycling and entertainment – in a similar way to how all city streets were being used when they were originally established.

Whilst Christchurch has had the advantage (?) following the disastrous 2011 earthquake of re-planning their city, our belief is that Palmerston North, with some innovative and creative thinking from our current Council, can do likewise. Palmerston North can become one of the world’s most liveable cities.

Christchurch also had the initial advantage of funding grants following the quake (supply) and now have seen community demand grow to an extent that they’re planning to spend \$403m over the next three years on active transport – an increase from their original budgeted \$346m.

In a summary of the various surveys of the most liveable world cities, the five listed (in order) are; Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Paris and Bogotá. No surprise that two of these – Amsterdam and Utrecht – are in the Netherlands which has long been touted as the best country in the world for safe, active transport, particularly cycling, and rightly so.

The one that stands out is Copenhagen which has achieved the top ranking by moving from a ‘car centric’ to a ‘people centric’ city in just ten years of progress. We can do similarly.

4. The key to success?

– making decisions that progress the goals of our Long Term Plan

One of the key reasons for the success of these “most liveable” cities, is that they all have rigorous long-term plans with well-defined objectives for making their cities more liveable – places where mobility is easy, there are ample green spaces, and abundant community amenities that foster good quality of life. As stated at the outset, our long-term plan must be kept ‘front of mind’ in all decisions on funding, so that we can move to achieving our goals:

1. **An innovative and growing city** - thinking about the future and active transport rather than relying on cars/oil/gas. Additionally, encouraging tourists who will appreciate our amazing cycling facilities. And being on the world stage for a cool cycle touring holiday with our plans to develop a trail that's listed as one of the Great Trails of New Zealand.
2. **A creative and exciting city** – providing an opportunity for cool street art, cycling paths/maps that can be shown at the info centre for visitors to ride and explore. And better connecting with our environment, for example the highly successful Riverbank Shared Pathway.
3. **A connected and safe community** –providing infrastructure for walking, cycling and using public transport, that for example on Featherston Street has already seen an increased use by pedestrians and cyclists and a reduction in crashes in the short time it has been upgraded - thus also making it safer for our kids traveling to schools.
4. **A sustainable and resilient city** – one of the best ways of achieving this is an active transport system that not only allows, but also encourages, our residents and visitors to see Palmerston North as a great place to live, work, visit, play and do business.

5. Recommendations

We note that Councils such as Christchurch (amongst others) are increasing their budget allocation on active transport, whereas ours is diminishing. In the case of Christchurch for example, they have a proposed increase in active and public transport capital spending in the next three years from \$346m to \$403m. Palmerston North on the other hand, is decreasing ours – by 93% - for the next term from a meaningful \$7m to a very disappointing \$0.5m.

Maintaining the existing planned expenditure of \$7m, will we believe, provide sufficient funding to implement our recommendations to:

1. **Assist people to commute by cycle** - promote and encourage employers to participate in new bike purchasing schemes (no cost), and complete the Feilding to Palmerston North cycleway as a priority.
2. **Making it easy for families to cycle to entertainment venues** – by partnering with the Greasy Chain Charitable Trust to implement a Bike Valet scheme (minimum outlay).
3. **Increase road markings and signage for pedestrians and cyclists to demonstrate to other road users that these are shared facilities** – well achievable within the \$7m budgeted.
4. **Maintain the planned spending of \$7m on active transport initiatives** – allocate these funds to new active transport initiatives and/or investigate creative ways of progressing existing planned projects without the need for external funds.

6. Conclusion

We encourage Councillors to make the courageous decisions to recommend and promote such amendment changes to the budget and allocate the original \$7m to active transport initiatives, as planned.

Palmerston North was recently acclaimed as the, “Most welcoming city in New Zealand”. Let’s now also progress to the, “Most liveable city in New Zealand”, and in doing so, get Palmerston North on the list of the world’s most liveable cities.

We very much look forward to the Council and the Greasy Chain Charitable Trust continuing to work together (along with other proud ‘Palmerstonians’) to achieve our city’s goals. In the current climate, it will require some fortitude from like-hearted Councillors to make decisions to allocate further funds toward achieving the active transport recommendations mentioned here, and we’re positive this will be achieved.

Bob Selden

Chair, Greasy Chain Charitable Trust - 15th April 2025.

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From: Manawatū Tenants' Union

To: PNCC

Subject: Draft Annual Budget 2025-26

Submitted by: Dr Daniel Ryland

MTU wishes to speak to our submission

MTU Submission on PNCC Draft Annual Budget

The Manawatū Tenants' Union (MTU) is a tenant advocacy organisation operating as an Incorporated Society since 1983. Our core goal is to ensure stable housing as a human right. For Palmerston North, the last Census indicates that approximately 47% of the population is renting but living in 36% of the homes, which are dominated by the private rental sector. Renters are a considerable demographic and form the households living here, engaging in facilities, and paying rates, not the property owners living in other regions. Renter voices are necessary in discussions of Palmerston North's development and their betterment means a more equitable and richer city. Rental affordability is fundamental to improve the lives of numerous residents and make for more liveable and connected communities. Ignoring or disregarding renters undermines the city's wellbeing through negatively impacting education institutions, the local military institutions, and the significant research nexus that occurs in the city.

As we noted in the Long Term Plan submission, there is an ongoing housing crisis in Aotearoa, and Palmerston North has not escaped its impact. The perception of the current crisis has been centred on housing affordability, and solutions from Central Government have centred on housing supply. Increasing housing stock is useful and important, but the amount necessary far exceeds what can be easily built quickly, as there was an estimated shortfall of 80,000 homes in 2023 (NZIER, 2023). The decision to halt development and limit Kāinga Ora housing nationally undermines that goal as the private market has failed to deliver across much of the 20th Century (Howden-Chapman, 2015; Ryland, 2024). However, the crisis is neither novel nor new, being the most recent manifestation of a string of crises, for which reliance on the private market to build more has been the core solution despite its continued failure. The problems remain, which indicates that a generic increase in housing stock is not

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sufficient for improving welfare or reducing rents¹. It is unlikely that the current housing crisis will have a solution in the medium-term but needs to have a long-term focus to act upon it and prevent future crises, which needs PNCC as an active contributor.

MTU would like to speak to our submission in the morning or afternoon on either day.

Discussion of Proposals

Rents Increase: For limiting rent increases, lower rates is a useful goal to have but given that this is lower than the original plan, we would recommend not cutting rates for the sake of doing so given that the higher rates were already accepted. In the case of renters, we have already had cases where property owners, aware of the projected increase and only able to increase rents once a year, have already passed on projected rates increases to renters. Rather than reducing funds, we feel it better to devote more funds to infrastructure and improvements to avoid significant rate increases or payments in the future.

Recycling: We strongly support continuing the development of recycling facilities for its environmental benefits and reduced costs to renters.

Future Growth: Ensuring the space for future growth is valuable. As noted in the previous submission on the Future Development Strategy, we prefer higher housing density to stretching out further. More development upwards and within avoids additional urban sprawl and retains an accessible city. Doing so is particularly important and valuable when the Central Government has restricted public transport funding options.

Roading and Public Transport Infrastructure: We acknowledge the Central Government reducing funding for planned pathway and cycling projects has prevented the development of these important utilities. Despite the preferences of the current Central Government, it is vital that we act to reduce the impact of climate change. Transport is only a small part of that, but it makes for a more accessible city. For renters, it provides important routes which may not be otherwise viable – especially with some of the new Kāinga Ora homes built without carparking options. Pathways, cycling lanes, and public transport adds to reducing costs on renters, which directly leads to consumption in the city and not investment funds travelling elsewhere. We thus support the continued prioritising safety improvements on pathways, but would recommend including further footpath, cycling, and public transport options.

¹ This is reflected in international research, such as Schill (2005) talking about the limited impact of local housing regulations or Haffner *et al.* (2008) considering rent regulation and security of tenure.

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Community Facilities: We continue to support the development and improvement of community facilities, such as the Pasifika Community Centre and MMC buildings. These support the cultural diversity of Palmerston North while providing facilities for many renters within the city as migrants and Pasifika are disproportionately reflected in renting tenures, as consistently reflected in Census data. Te Motu o Poutoa developments are also valuable for extending local uniqueness of Palmerston North and the city's relationship with iwi – the CCO thus feels appropriate.

Request for Funding

MTU has been operating in Palmerston North since before 1983 in some form and we are one of two remaining dedicated tenant advocacy organisations in Aotearoa following the closure of Tenants Protection in Christchurch due to lack of funds. Since 2009 when we started digitising data, we have supported 20,693 whānau. That number of tenancies amounts to at least 6,898 children (although this is likely very underreported), and approximately 50,000 individuals (not including children) based on the reported household size. Our success rate, measured as the percentage of renters who improve their tenancy situation and secure stable housing is ranges from 96% to 100% most years, with shortfalls often a result of not being about to support due to falling outside our expertise or the whānau no longer engaging with the service. MTU ensures that these renters have a place to go for support they would not otherwise receive and build their confidence and knowledge in tenancy.

Of whanau we have supported, 11% have been at risk of homelessness due to their tenancy being terminated, and an additional 5% have been homeless when they came to our door (this occurred primarily during the Covid lockdown years). 19% of whanau have been living in substandard housing or homes lacking important maintenance to remain warm, dry, and safe. We have supported each of these whanau to secure and maintain suitable housing, both through our networks and helping them to fight for their rights. From the feedback given, many whānau would otherwise lack the confidence to achieve these beneficial outcomes. More importantly for PNCC, the cost of homelessness far exceeds the cost of its prevention, according to Housing First research globally². MTU as an advocate for tenants' rights, is an important part of the housing support network required. A city without MTU would see an increase in tenants being exploited. There would be potentially 1,000 homes that are unsafe,

² We referenced these in the Long Term Plan submission (Basu et al., 2012; Blood et al., 2017; Bretherton & Pleace, 2015; Chalmers McLaughlin, 2011; Goering et al., 2014; Latimer et al., 2019; Lemoine et al., 2019; Martinez & Burt, 2006; Mason & Grimbeek, 2013; Perlman & Parvensky, 2006; Srebnik et al., 2013).

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cold, and damp, actively harming tenants and contributing to a cycle of whānau through the healthcare system (Chapman *et al.*, 2009), reduced educational outcomes (James & Saville-Smith, 2010), and reduced labour potential as a result. Alongside would be potentially up to 100 individuals (some with children) in the city and surrounds becoming homeless, with all its attached crowding, illness, and safety concerns.

There are other organisations that operate in the tenant advocacy space in other cities, but these do so because they must, and this detracts from their own services. In Palmerston North, we are a central referral source for tenancy issues, over the years receiving whānau from PNCC, Tenancy Services, the local courthouse and mediation services, MSD, Salvation Army, Housing Advice Centre, Shepherd's Rest/Legacy Housing, Housing New Zealand/Kāinga Ora, Community Law, CAB, and Te Tihi to name a few. Our presence allows each of these organisations to better focus on what they do best and provide a better service. We also work alongside the Te Aroha Noa, Red Cross, Ngāti Kauwhata, Housing Advice Centre, and CAB in supporting tenants and enabling other organisations to engage in tenant advocacy. We ensure that organisations can get the information and skills that they need nationally through the Tenant Advocates Network (a network that we are one of the founding members), contributions through the Tenant Advocacy Aratohu (<https://tenant.aratohu.nz/>), and our engagements with Renters United. Thus, financial support for us results in significantly more beneficial flow-on welfare impacts to other organisations.

For some examples of our services supporting renters:

The tenant was referred to us by the Palmerston North City Council. They had recently relocated to Palmerston North and started a new tenancy. However, the tenant was having problems with the new property owner in getting the bond of \$1,300 back from their old property owner based in Wellington. The tenant had taken all reasonable steps to full their obligations as a tenant, but the property owner was still claiming unreasonable costs from the bond. When the tenant come to see us, they had verbally agreed to hand over their full bond, but the property owner continued to hound them for money and repairs. We reviewed the documentation and recommended that the costs claimed were unreasonable and to put the bond in dispute. At the hearing, the adjudicator agreed that the tenant had taken all reasonable steps to repair the damage, and they were only responsible for the insurance excess of \$650 for damages that were not able to be repaired. The tenant was pleased the outcome and were able to use the remaining funds to buy additional items required for their new property.

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A tenant called us for general advice and support on issues they were having, as they could not understand why they were having to attend the Tenancy Tribunal for a matter they felt was an issue with their neighbour. It was on review of the documentation that we felt we needed to represent the tenant at the Tribunal, as part of the property owner's evidence included notices for anti-social behaviour. After an interview with the tenant, we felt that the antisocial notices should not have been issued. At the Tenancy Tribunal we provided responses to all the property owner's claims. During the Tribunal, it was revealed that the tenant had struggles around reading and writing, which was part of the reason they had not been able to comprehend their situation. This personal struggle was acknowledged by the courts who found that terminating the tenancy would not be beneficial to the tenant in this situation and acknowledged that without the arguments and support of MTU the tenant would have been facing a different outcome.

The tenant was referred to MTU from another organisation that we have provided tenancy support and education to. The tenant was in transitional housing after moving from their rental property due to the property being condemned by PNCC due to poor maintenance and health and safety issues. As a result of the time in this property, the tenant's family suffered from underlying health conditions that were exacerbated by the living conditions. Based on the evidence provided and gathered by the tenant, it was agreed that the tenant should take the property owner to Tenancy Tribunal for failing to meet the Healthy Home Standards and failure to repair and maintain the property. Due the evidence that was gathered and the condition of the property, MTU supported the tenant through a lengthy case conference and was followed by us supporting the tenant at Tribunal with a full day hearing. It took the Tribunal three months to provide their findings and resulted in the tenant being awarded costs and damages. On getting the Tribunal order for immediate payment of damages to the tenant, we supported the tenant in collecting their awarded damages as the property owner who owned multiple properties felt it was in their interest to only make payments at \$10 per week. After our intervention and explaining to both tenant and property owner their civil debt collecting options, full and immediate payment of all awarded damages was achieved. The tenant was able to support their family in replacing items lost due to the poor housing conditions.

There was a tenant eagerly anticipating the arrival of her twin babies. However, her joy was overshadowed by the threat of an unlawful termination due to her growing family exceeding the occupancy limit of her rental home. With MTU's help, she learned about her legal rights as a tenant, and MTU advocated on her behalf and communicated her rights to the property manager. The property manager apologised to the tenant, understanding the error in his actions, backing down from the threatened termination proceedings.

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A tenant with a young child came following the property owner disconnecting their power without warning. The tenant had tried to contact the property owner, but they didn't answer their calls or messages. MTU assured the tenant of their rights and helped them to challenge the issue. First, MTU contacted the property owner to request that they restore the power. However, the property owner did not want to do this as they were in the process of selling the house and needed it empty for the sale to proceed, but they had not given the notice to terminate and sought to force the issue through unlawful means. MTU helped the tenant draft a letter for the property owner explaining why they could not terminate her tenancy without proper notice. The property owner backed down, allowing the power to be turned back on and no longer trying to push out the tenant. However, the tenant no longer felt safe in the property and thus wanted to leave. So, we helped them negotiate a deal to leave sooner than the 28-day notice period without losing their bond and a payment from the property owner to cover the costs of moving.

A tenant contacted MTU when, after a heated and stressful situation with their property manager. The property manager applied to the Tribunal for immediate termination of the tenancy on the grounds of threatening to assault. MTU worked with the tenant to understand the situation and advocated for a positive resolution with the property management company, but this was unsuccessful. MTU then worked with the tenant and a family member to collect evidence from a range of sources, including identifying witnesses. On the day of the hearing, the Tenancy Tribunal application was dismissed following a review of the evidence collected. The property manager acknowledged that the proceedings was a result of a significant misunderstanding and miscommunication. After the processes were rectified, the tenant was able to and has remained secure in their tenancy.

As a continuation of an ongoing issue since mid-2021, a tenant with two children contacted MTU regarding their tenancy that involved severely substandard housing. The state of the home was impacting the whānau's physical and mental health and had been ongoing for some years. MTU worked with the tenant to develop an action plan commencing with a 14-day notice to remedy being sent by the tenants to their property owner. Unfortunately, the property owner followed with giving notice to terminate the tenancy. The tenant and MTU disputed the termination and the substandard housing through the Tenancy Tribunal. After a full day hearing, the tenants received over \$10,000 in compensation as the tribunal found the property owner had failed in their obligations. MTU then had to support the tenant in acquiring the funds from the property owner and ensuring that they did not bear the costs of debt-collection. They used these funds to get a reliable vehicle, replace their beds that had become mouldy in their previous residence, and the stability helped them to get back into regular work.

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A tenant came to MTU as their property owner was seeking to force them into a new tenancy agreement during an ongoing periodic tenancy. The difficulties that arose was that there was not an existing tenancy agreement, although bond had been lodged with Tenancy Services. The property owner sought to introduce the new tenancy agreement and increase the rent without a 60-day notice and threatened the tenant with a 90-day termination if they refused. Justification to the change was that the property was owned by a family trust and the person the tenant was paying was no longer the acting agent. MTU engaged with the agent to inform them of the rights and obligations under the RTA regarding rent increases and terminations. They disputed the validity of our claims, stating the lack of tenancy agreement and involved the family trust lawyers to continue to threaten the tenant and our organisation. After some discussion reminding them that the lack of a tenancy agreement does not mean the tenancy is not covered by the RTA, they backed down and the tenant could continue living securely in their tenancy without a rent increase.

We applied under the Strategic Priority Grant for \$65,000 for this round, \$40,000 last round, and \$30,000 the round before that. Overall, we have been receiving direct funding support since 2015 when we received \$10,000 as a first-time trial contract. However, over the course of that ten years, we have received the same amount every year, which was occasionally adjusted for inflation. During the last round, we have received \$14,000, which adjusted for inflation since 2015 amounts to \$13,149 (Inflation Calculator Reserve Bank, April 2025 – the value of \$10,000 in 2015Q2 in 2024Q4). Effectively this means that in our ten years of partnership with PNCC we have had a real increase in funding of \$850, which has still not allowed for a significant expansion of services. Over the same period, our own costs have increased from \$54,356 to \$93,448 (a 70% increase in costs). Despite this, we have continued to serve the community and develop our service. However, we can no longer do so and now must consider the possibility of closure, cutting back our services, or a substantial structural change.

We recognise that many organisations are experiencing financial difficulties during this period. We have lost approximately \$20,000 of reliable funding following the Central Government funding pot we had been accessing ending in 2022 and further decreases due to department wide cuts in 2024. Thus, we have been actively engaged in developing other funding pathways and developing our strategic plan to account for the shortfall. The relatively low return from the Strategic Priority Grant has necessitated the quickening of these discussions to ensure that we can adapt rather than be forced to close. However, we are

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actively seeking information and feedback from our application to determine ways to improve and better work with PNCC into the future.

To ensure that we maintain the breathing space necessary to have time to adapt, we request a one-off grant of \$30,000 for the next two years. This gives us the potential to maintain operations for another two years at the current level and enact the significant structural change necessary to remain operating in providing tenant advocacy in Palmerston North.

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Housing is a basic human right.

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	16 April 2025, 11:00AM
Receipt number	84
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	Tomas
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Last name	Burleigh Behrens
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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?	No
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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?	The cuts to cycling and active transport will leave the city worse off in the long run.
---	---

What (if anything) would you like to see changed?	Don't cut funding for cycling and active transport, instead, SPEND more on cycling and active transport. We should be a progressive leader in cycling given our flat geography, instead we are far behind the likes of Christchurch.
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**Do you support our preferred option for managing Te Motu o
Poutoa Civic Marae and Cultural Centre?**

I don't know / No opinion

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	16 Apr 2025, 4:06PM
Receipt number	86
Related form version	1

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First name	Matthew
Last name	Jeanes
Organisation you represent	PALMY BID INCORPORATED
Postal address	
Email	
Phone	

Hearing

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: 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.

75-2

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

Please see attached Submission File on Hybrid System & Proposed Rates

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

Please see attached Submission File on Hybrid System & Proposed Rates

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

Please see attached Submission File on Hybrid System & Proposed Rates

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

I don't know / No opinion

Supporting information



75-3

Palmerston North City Council

Submission to Palmerston North City Council (PNCC)
2025/2026 Draft Annual Budget
Hybrid System & Proposed Rates

From

Palmy BID Incorporated (Palmy BID)

Palmy BID Incorporated
Level1,
74 Grey Street
Palmerston North
4410

14th April 2025

Contacts: Matthew Jeanes, GM, Palmy BID Incorporated
Rob Campbell, Chairperson, Palmy BID Incorporated

Mobile:
E:mail:

7(2)(a) Privacy

Palmy BID Incorporated Committee Members Vern Wilson, Amanda Linsley,
Steve Williams, Bernice Adlam, Mark Inman, Deborah March, Greer Murrie

2025/2026 Draft Annual Budget - Hybrid System & Proposed Rates

1. Palmy BID wishes to thank PNCC for the opportunity to present a submission on this matter as we are committed to ensuring that the Palmerston North City Centre is an attractive destination to invest, develop, trade in and visit to ensure economic growth, prosperity, vibrancy and safety.
2. Palmy BID Incorporated is a 1200 Member Incorporated Society which represents the interests and livelihoods of businesses within the CBD.
3. This submission is presented to Council by the Palmy BID Incorporated Committee after canvassing and seeking feedback from our members.

Hybrid (H) - 33%CV, 67%LV rating system

4. We are opposed to the Hybrid (H) rating system shift as above in this year and up to 50/50 next year, as we believe this rating system and the annual rates increase of 7.7%:
 - I. Creates a disincentive for development, effectively penalising higher capital investments across the entire City Centre, and an example of this would be negative impacts on the Safari Group with the development of the Wyndam Tryp 4.5 Star hotel, along with the T&G Building development of 18 inner-city apartments and current refurbishment of the Copthorne Hotel, previous construction of the FMG building along with future development of The Plaza and the Grand Building
 - II. Will be a barrier to investment, development, re-development and improvements which will result in investors going to other regions that are more economically attractive, and demotivating current City Centre land and building owners to develop and improve their portfolios
 - III. This will not only be a barrier to investment and development, but will also undermine economic growth, reduce prosperity, and hinder efforts to create a vibrant city. It may also decrease safety and security potentially leading to increased crime and making the City Centre a less attractive destination. Punishing capital value improvement will result in further urban decay

Proposed Development Rates Holiday Period

5. Whilst our first preference is that Council reverse it's previous decision to move to a Capital Value rating system and revert to our previous Land Value based system, if Council choose not to, then we propose the implementation of a 5 year Rates Holiday for property owners that commit to capital development and re-development of property in the City Centre, which would :
 - I. Cover the consenting and development process and timelines, and make the City Centre an attractive destination, and an incentive to investors and developers to invest in and develop the City Centre
 - II. Will motivate current City Centre land and building owners to develop and improve their City Centre properties
 - III. Positively impact economic growth, prosperity, the development of vibrancy, increase safety and security that will decrease crime thus making the City Centre a safer an attractive destination

Palmy BID would like to speak to this submission.

Matthew Jeanes



General Manager
Palmy BID

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	16 April 2025, 4:31PM
Receipt number	85
Related form version	1

Your contact details

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First name	Rosemary
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Last name	Watson
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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?	No
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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?

I understand that the 7.7% proposed rates increase is higher than PNCC's own limit for rates affordability. Doesn't that say it all really? I wonder just how many ratepayers have had a comparable pay rise this year, or even a pay rise at all? Discretionary spending is down or non-existent in the worlds of many average ratepayers and community citizens I know, so please Council do your bit not to increase our plight, and stick to the basic necessities like we are having to do.

Apparently about 3.5% of the 7.7% noted above is for new capital spending. How much of that is really necessary NOW? How much of that is really urgent? How much could be cut right back, so that the rates rise might better reflect operational expenses (and the rate of inflation) only? "Spend money to make money" is NOT a blanket statement, especially not in the face of recent unfavourable audit reports and the future uncertainties re LWDW costs. "Spend money wisely" is far more appropriate.

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

Cut new capital spending to the minimum possible. Save the money for/spend the money on contingency plans and other work related to existing infrastructure, especially important considering the unknown costs of Nature Calls and the wider LWDW. The question "What ... would you like to see changed?" provides the answer here - some tangible/visible maintenance to or improvement of basic services/facilities that will directly benefit the community.

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

1) The Kikwhenua infrastructure (bridge/roads/drainage) for future growth.
Less / none of.
Currently have Plan change E and Plan Change I in process to provide extra housing using existing and/or recently upgraded infrastructure, more economical and appropriate at this time than new infrastructure.

2) Civic marae and cultural centre - Te Motu o Poutoa
Scale down / postpone
As per my LTP submission last year, as per my separate submission this week, and as per the question below, I agree with the desire/need to recognise the Te Motu o Poutoa site, but not with the imminent development of the civic marae / cultural centre thereon. The former is important and the latter might be a 'nice-to-have', but neither are urgent. I realise some things have moved on since my LTP submission, and the Manawatu Multicultural Centre will now be moving into part of the Council buildings, but I don't see that as precluding the provision of suitable internal space to extend our existing civic marae, Te Marae o Hine - The Square, into the Council building complex when the necessary seismic upgrades are made. Transfer some/all of the 1895/2239 budgets to bring forward this seismic strengthening project and incorporate the civic marae. Not just token symbolism if Rangitane and the Council paddle the waka/'battleship' civic administration building together...

Anyhow, in particular I am against project 2456 Cliff Road upgrade (\$3.7 m) being brought forward from 27/28 as per this consultation (or 26/27 as per LTP) into this annual budget when other roading projects are being removed. Regardless of my own personal views on the civic marae / cultural centre project, my understanding, from the LTP consultation documents and current information on the PNCC website, is that construction was not going to go ahead without the requisite external funding being secured. The assumed \$2.2M NZTA external funding for part costs of this roading upgrade has NOT been received. And neither is there any public indication that the \$3M 'external partnership' funding for the building itself has been secured (and I'm sure it would have been widely publicised if it had been). So why oh why are ratepayers picking up the ENTIRE tab (now variously \$3.7M, \$4.3M in the recent civic marae management consultation material, or \$4.1M in a PNCC social media post reply) for this roading project "in conjunction with the development of Te Motu o Poutoa" / "to better sync with the construction phases for this project"? Something does NOT seem right here. Also of course, since I'm against this project at the Council's proposed scale, I would be in favour of further reconsideration of the extent and timing of the civic marae / cultural centre project itself, possibly as already indicated. Without public evidence of the required external funding being secured, as above, why are Programmes 1895 (\$5.65M) and, to a lesser extent, 2239 (\$1.22M) still going ahead in this financial year? What is the public not being told about this?

3) More
'Finish' recent Featherston Street safety upgrade changes (left hand turning lanes Featherston to Rangitikei, phasing/synching of

Featherston/Rangitikei lights, providing dedicated Featherston school pick-up/drop-off zone(s) etc.).

Much as I do not want to see ratepayer money being used to 'fix' this project, if improvements to sort out some of the current 'niggles(?)' are to be done, they should be done as soon as possible, so that the Palmy 'world' can move on...

4) More.

Sort out / resolve as soon as possible the current brown water issues which are apparently affecting various suburbs (not mine). Whilst the water may be technically fine to drink and use, most people would not want to do so, and are repulsed by its appearance. Not good for resident morale or city reputation...

5) More.

Roading improvements to city entrances.

It's great to see that safety improvements to Kelvin Grove Road are being prioritised, but what about some of the other entrances to our city? It is disappointing to think that SAFETY improvements to Tennant Drive have been removed from the budget to apparently help 'top up' the (no NZTA funding) shortfall in an advanced 2456 Cliff Road programme. And apparently the full reconstruction of Pioneer Highway is in the Long-Term Plan for 2029/30. But surely solving the roading issues there and allocating funding to that work is more urgent than 2456 and 1895/2239? Priorities please!

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

No

Tell us why

I have already made a separate submission on this. I prefer the option of management by Te Manawa on behalf of Council. The body of my submission copied here (below).

I'm not in favour of this project going ahead any further at the present time, as I believe that though better recognition of the site is important, it is not urgent when times are tight, as now. I said as much in my submission to the LTP last year, repeated here (and will be saying again in my submission to the current annual budget public consultation):

" Do not support as is. New capital project too large. This might be a nice-to-have for the city and for Rangitane in future, but the timing right now in the cost of living crisis is completely wrong in terms of effect on city ratepayers, including Maori. I might think differently if Rangitane or externally-sourced funding were covering considerably more of the costs. The site is important, and should be respected more than it currently is, and the views of the city and further afield from there are beautiful. But the timing is just wrong for ratepayers right now. Even if the timing were right, I'd consider a scaled-back version of the plans could be more appropriate. We already have a civic marae, it's Te Marae o Hine - The Square. Does

the city really need another one? You want to enhance the vibrancy of the city centre? Perhaps then Te Marae o Hine - The Square could be better developed for civic events and to welcome dignitaries etc., though it is already used for that anyway. As it does not yet include an indoor area, perhaps one could be developed there, possibly considering the opportunity for redesign offered by the seismic work needed on the Council buildings. Likely talking right off my head and out of turn here, but with no disrespect intended, I understand that Rangitane own the old police station building, so perhaps, not knowing of any other plans for that building, there could be consideration of using part of that as an indoor area 'extension' of Te Marae o Hine - The Square. We do need to recognise 'Pork Chop Hill' more publicly both as a sacred place for Maori and as an Anzac memorial site, but we already have a major city memorial to the fallen, it's in the centre of Te Marae o Hine - The Square, and it's the perfectly adequate centre of the city's Anzac commemorations already.

It would be desirable to educate people more widely about this place, but that can be done in schools now anyway, and by other means such as brochures in the information centre or exhibitions in Te Manawa, with

perhaps some suitable explanatory signage at the site itself. A suitably located toilet block nearby would be appropriate in anticipation of extra visitors to the site that this publicity could generate. I'd go for that now, and I'd be happy for some more design work to take place in year 1 and year 2 as per your LTP blurb, but maybe for a scaled back version of the current aspirations. I wonder about the cultural need for a shop and a gallery for instance. And perhaps a coffee cart and a mobile kai concession would be possible, rather than a dedicated café? So, do some more of the basic homework this time around, and put some more details into a more realistic design proposal, then go out for more funding, and come back to the community with something more tangible and affordable when you consult for the next long term plan in 2027."

I note that there were 484 other submissions to the LTP opposing the civic marae, including 139 who agreed with me then that it was not a priority and/or existing facilities could be used instead. I further note many similar comments on the PNCC social media posts concerning this consultation.

So, my thoughts on the project overall, which have not changed since my LTP submission, are to proceed to recognise the site, but on a smaller scale, at least to start with, and with Te Manawa involved. Thus my preference for a management structure would be to use Te Manawa, which as I understand it is already set up as a charitable PNCC CCO. Te Manawa's 'mission statement' is

"A museum working beyond boundaries at the cultural heart of our city. Te Manawa draws art, science and heritage together to reflect our past, illuminate the present and inspire a creative and sustainable future for our people. We pride ourselves on being a place that represents and celebrates diversity, courage and curiosity – shaping the future while honouring the traditions of our past... We are the caretakers of the treasures and stories of our people... stories told, in all voices – in every sound, in every beat and in every colour. We hope you'll feel passionate and

excited about Te Manawa, the collections we care for, and the experiences we shape with you".

This already encompasses much of what is intended for greater recognition of the Te Motu o Poutoa site, and Te Manawa has many years of experience of doing this sort of thing, along with a proven track record of grant funding applications, venue management, curation and specialist skillbase etc. Why re-invent the wheel and take on the extra costs/legalities etc. of setting up a new CCO when we already have one that can step in easily and rapidly to nurture and gradually develop the Te Motu o Poutoa site under its cloak? The Te Manawa Trust Board already apparently has 2 Rangitane iwi representatives out of up to 9 total members, which would seem to fairly represent the proportion of financing proposed to be invested by Rangitane in the Council's current vision of the project. And the following is part of its inclusion policy:

"Kaitiakitanga: Te Manawa acknowledges the people of Rangitāne as mana whenua of our place in Aotearoa New Zealand. We value the trust and partnerships we have with them that provide governance, guidance and integrity to our activities."

This would totally seem to include Rangitane in Te Manawa's strategic direction and operations.

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 12:53AM
Receipt number	88
Related form version	1

Your contact details

Privacy

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First name	Tom
Last name	Santing
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: Afternoon, 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?

The past year has been incredibly difficult financially—not just for myself, but for many others in our community. As a single parent, I struggle to make ends meet, even before the ongoing increases in the cost of living.

With the current budget proposal, I respectfully ask the council to prioritise only the most necessary expenses. Essential spending—such as critical infrastructure, maintenance that cannot be delayed, and potential revenue-generating projects—should be maintained.

However, I urge the council to consider placing non-essential projects on hold for the time being. As valuable as cultural centres, educational hubs, and libraries may be, I believe we need to pause these developments for a year or two.

We are heading into uncertain times, and the money saved from deferring these projects could provide critical support to those of us who are struggling the most. It could mean relief for families, help for the vulnerable, and a more stable future for our community.

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

Until the current economic pressures ease and we have a clearer understanding of what lies ahead, I am asking the council to focus only on what is absolutely necessary for our city.

Please prioritise the essentials—keep the roads functioning, the water running, and only repair what truly needs to be fixed. Our community is under immense financial strain, and your support in maintaining the basics can help many residents, like myself, stay afloat.

I strongly urge you to defer any non-essential projects to the following years. If it can wait, it should. This approach will not only save valuable funds but also give families a chance to regain stability during these challenging times.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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

If financially viable, the council should consider selling or leasing out any real estate that is not essential.

I'm not involved in decision-making nor do I have a deep understanding of urban planning, but in some cases, it seems like the council is using valuable land inefficiently.

One example is the recycling centre on Ferguson Street.

Is this really the best use of such a central and potentially high-value location?

Couldn't this facility be relocated to an industrial area, freeing up the land for a more financially productive purpose?

A change of use like this could potentially ease even a small fraction of the council's budget, and in the current climate, every bit helps. If such changes can help reduce financial pressure, they're worth exploring—especially for people like myself who are struggling with the rising cost of living and even facing the possibility of losing our homes.

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

No

Tell us why

At this point in time, I don't see the Te Motu o Poutoa Civic Marae and Cultural Centre as an essential investment for the community.

As important as the Māori and cultural aspect is—especially considering that a large portion of families in need are Māori—it seems this project could be postponed for a year or two, until better times return.

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 1:06AM
Receipt number	89
Related form version	1

Your contact details

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First name	Kerry
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Last name	Park
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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?	No
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Your submission

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

Supporting information

PNCC 2025/2026 annual budget submission

Thank you for this opportunity.

What are your thoughts on the Annual Budget 2025/26

A 71% increase in capital spending over and above the current year is too high. Why does there have to be such a massive increase? This can't be absolutely necessary, surely.

When talking general rates increases, when talking inflation rates, the percentage differences between annual changes are nothing like the 71% increase that is being proposed for capital spending.

I see that inflation is running at just over 2%, so there is no excuse to gouge ratepayers 71% more on PNCC capital spending. Are you trying to bankrupt the city, do you want to see Palmerston North fail? The way majority council is voting, it's only a question of time. Have you factored this into your modeling? The point at which PNCC will be destitute.

Referring to last year's LTP, as an example, and credit must be given to Council for reducing the wastewater proposal some 240 odd million, at first. That's a huge reduction, although adding back in 80 mil was disappointing. However, that shows how much leeway there is to reduce capital spend to below 71%, when at the stroke of a pen, 240 odd mil and 80 mil changes can be made so effortlessly.

Compliments to Council for the reductions in last year's LTP capital spend proposals, due in part to concerns raised in the submission process. These reductions were not insignificant. Thank you for that courtesy and please reconsider and reduce spend allocations for non-urgent projects.

Council does not know exactly how much will be spent on each capital project, so why are you coming in so hard, when you don't actually have firm cost prices in front of you? Historically, costs are going to increase significantly before any capital project is realised, which means majority council is making things worse by starting so high in the first instance.

Is an increase of this magnitude in the best interests of the municipal community? No, how could it be. This increase is not compulsory, some capital projects could be revised down or deferred, (for when they are less likely to be a strain on Palmerston North ratepayers).

Is bringing forward 3.7mil from 27/28 to upgrade Cliff Rd sensible?

The Forecast Financial Statements assert that its results are not consistent with generally accepted accounting practices. Furthermore, Council's interpretation "meaning the balanced budget test is met" is questionable, and requires further scrutiny. Would generally accepted accounting practices pass the balanced budget test? And does the included capital revenue of 25.3mil have anything to do with Council's interpretation? Otherwise, why mention it? If not, the budget is not balanced.

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

A majority council that represents what is best for Palmerston North as a whole. That is the change I would like to see.

Meaning, all councillor's adhere to their oath/affirmation of office, to look after the best interests of Palmerston North, equally.

Instead of supporting party policy, self-interest/community interest groups, and/or making decisions based on what is best for smaller sectors of the community, focus on what is best, overall. Decisions that are consistent with what works best for all residents. This, I would like to see.

An example of this would be comparing 2 of the waste water proposals. 15mil to upgrade the existing facility as opposed to the 480mil proposal. From a ratepayer's point of view, that vote should have been unanimously in favour of the 15mill option, not the 32 times more expensive one. Unless of course, there's a danger to the wellbeing of Palmerston North's residents. The reasons for the expensive option, as I understand, do not agree with what is best for this city. No matter where the wastewater is discharged, similar problems to the reasons for changing discharge sites will prevail. What is going on, really, the majority council are backing 480 million dollars over 15 million. What am I missing here, does this decision truly meet with the swearing in oath/affirmation, to undertake what is in the best interests of the municipal community?

A welcome change would be for Council to acknowledge and act on the 2 adverse Audit NZ reports suggesting that those budgets were unworkable, and also, central government's request for Council spending to be focused more on need to haves, rather than nice to haves.

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

Investing in upgrading the CET arena is a good move as it is there for everyone and benefits our city's economy. Masterplan development coming in at 8.2 mil is over \$157,000 a week. When put in that light, it sounds extreme. Couldn't that amount be reviewed? Someone in the council on 157k annual salary could spend the whole year sorting that one out. Putting a team of 10 onto it would still save over 6.5mil.

Is continuing to support LGNZ what is best for Palmerston North? In view of the cost to ratepayers, and that other councils around the country are pulling out of LGNZ, it appears to be wasting ratepayer funds. What are we getting in return for our outlay? My research into LGNZ shows that membership is generating additional expense for ratepayers, with no appreciable gain. Look at the 2025 events calendar, meeting after meeting after meeting. That is false economy. Do any of these meetings produce an income, is LGNZ self-sufficient, or is it a burden imposed on ratepayers unnecessarily?

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

Considering Council's LTP preferred option of a 70/30 rating change turning into 50/50, I cannot see the relevance of this question.

I support waiting for external funding to be secured before spending ratepayer dollars on this project. (something I recollect mentioned at the LTP proceedings – for all works that require co-funding, no work will commence until the external funding has been secured, to avoid sunk costs in planning and design, etc).

This negates any need to upgrade Cliff Rd since the upgrades are in conjunction with the, yet to be co-funded Civic Marae project.

If the CCO charitable entity jointly governed with Rangitane O Manawatu goes ahead, will this generate a general rates income for Council? Would there be a financial benefit to PNCC, or is there going to be a cost to Palmerston North ratepayers?

On the subject of costs to ratepayers, is it true that the PNCC partnership with Rangitane O Manawatu attracts a \$700,000 yearly payment, in favour of Rangitane O Manawatu? If this is true, and Rangitane O Manawatu have been receiving said payments, for going on 6 years, that is more than twice what their contribution to the Civic Marae project is reported to be. I accept that this project has major cultural significance for Rangitane O Manawatu and will be an asset to Palmerston North, however, considering Rangitane O Manawatu are the main benefactors, their 2 million dollar contribution could be more generous.

My question surrounding the Civic Marae project is this. Has the external funding for this project been secured?

If so, where is the funding coming from? And, how much, dollar wise has been secured? This could possibly justify the allocation of such a high amount proposed for this nice to have, capital spend.

Who funds these sorts of things anyway, and what gain for them can be expected from this investment?

Again, the projected allocation of 6.9 mil equates to a council employee on over \$132k pa spending the whole year to arrive at an acceptable outcome, as opposed to Council's proposal to allocate over \$132k every week for a year, to come up with something. This is before any construction begins. Is there any guarantee that the 12 month investment's result will be acceptable and that another large expense for the same exercise, will not carry over into the following year's budget?

Many thanks for keeping the communication lines open and seeking residents' feedback.

Kerry Park

PNCC ratepayer

16 April 2025



Submission on PNCC's Draft 2025-26 Annual Budget

11 April 2025

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on PNCC's 2025/26 Annual Budget.

Te Pū Harakeke—Community Collective Manawatū is a collective body representing community and social service organisations in Palmerston North and the wider Manawatū region. We currently have a membership of more than one hundred for-purpose organisations and individuals working within the local community and social sector. Our vision is for a strong, vibrant, and connected community sector in the Manawatū, and our mission is to empower community groups to participate in and contribute to the wellbeing of our communities.

We are generally supportive of the proposed budget and acknowledge the challenges involved in balancing service delivery with maintaining manageable rate increases for residents and businesses. We thank the Council for its efforts to keep rates lower than originally proposed in the Long-term Plan. We are also pleased to see continued progress over the past year on essential infrastructure and community facilities that meet the needs of diverse communities and benefit all residents. Furthermore, we are grateful for the Council's ongoing support of the community sector—particularly its commitment to empowering local groups to deliver valuable projects and initiatives.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,

Te Pū Harakeke—Community Collective Manawatū

Submission to Palmerston North City Council: Addressing Parking Challenges at the Awapuni Community and Recreation Centre

Dear City Councillors,

We greatly value the support and provisions that the Council has generously provided for the Newbury St community facility. Through our cooperative efforts, the venue has been maintained at a high standard and continues to thrive as a vital hub for our diverse and growing community. We are committed to ensuring that all users have a pleasant experience and are encouraged to return—free from avoidable challenges, such as parking difficulties.

Current Parking Challenges

1. **Overflow:** The facility's carpark is consistently at capacity, with vehicles spilling over onto Newbury St (a cul-de-sac) and nearby streets.
2. **Accessibility Issues:** A large number of users are elderly (80 years and older), young children, and a number of individuals with mobility challenges. The current parking situation creates undue strain for these groups, detracting from their enjoyment and ease of access to the facility.
3. **Safety Concerns:** Vehicles regularly block the emergency pathway, impeding access for ambulance and fire services. This is a safety issue. At particular moments, congestion also leads to visibility issues and driver frustration within the carpark and surrounding streets.
4. **Behaviour and Environmental Factors:** Limited space and difficult manoeuvring contribute to unsafe driver behaviour, noise, and environmental impacts from vehicle emissions.
5. **Future Demand:** As the suburb and facility's popularity continue to grow; and the local population increases, these issues are expected to intensify. Our Centre is becoming a popular venue of choice.

Lack of Data: We receive regular comment and complaints about the parking congestion and associated safety issues. We currently lack documented data to substantiate these claims.

Impact on the Community: The Newbury St venue hosts a wide range of permanent and casual user groups, including families, youth, elderly participants, and those with mobility disadvantages. Activities range from sports (tennis, basketball) and children's play to community gardening and various social programs. Accessibility to convenient and safe parking significantly influences the enjoyment and participation of all users. It is crucial to address these parking concerns to maintain the facility's reputation as a welcoming, inclusive space for the community.

Proposed Solutions

We respectfully request the Council to:

Conduct a Parking Investigation: Assess current and potential future parking needs, including safety hazards, accessibility challenges, and the impact of growing demand.

Support Data Collection Efforts:

Assist with the creation of a system to log parking- related complaints and observations, providing evidence for long-term planning.

We believe that these steps will not only address existing issues but also prepare the facility to support the evolving needs of our community in the future. We are grateful for the Council's ongoing collaboration and commitment to enhancing the well-being of our community.

Explore Additional Parking Access: Evaluate the feasibility of opening the two other street entrances to expand parking capacity.

Implement Traffic and Safety Improvements: Address emergency vehicle access, improve signage, and explore traffic flow solutions.

We believe that these steps will not only address existing issues but also prepare the facility to support the evolving needs of our community in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We reiterate our gratitude for the Council's ongoing collaboration and commitment to enhancing the well-being of our community. We look forward to discussing potential solutions and working together to ensure that the Awapuni Community and Recreation Centre remains a vibrant and accessible resource for all.

Kind regards,
Dan Mateer
Awapuni Community and Recreation Centre

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 8:25AM
Receipt number	77
Related form version	1

Your contact details

Privacy

All submissions may be made publicly available on our website, at our customer service centre and in some of our libraries. Your name will be published with your submission. 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 with the proposal. For more information, see our [privacy statement](#).

First name	Doug
Last name	Tietjens
Organisation you represent	Manawatu Rugby Union
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.

81-2

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

See proposal attached.

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

See proposal attached.

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

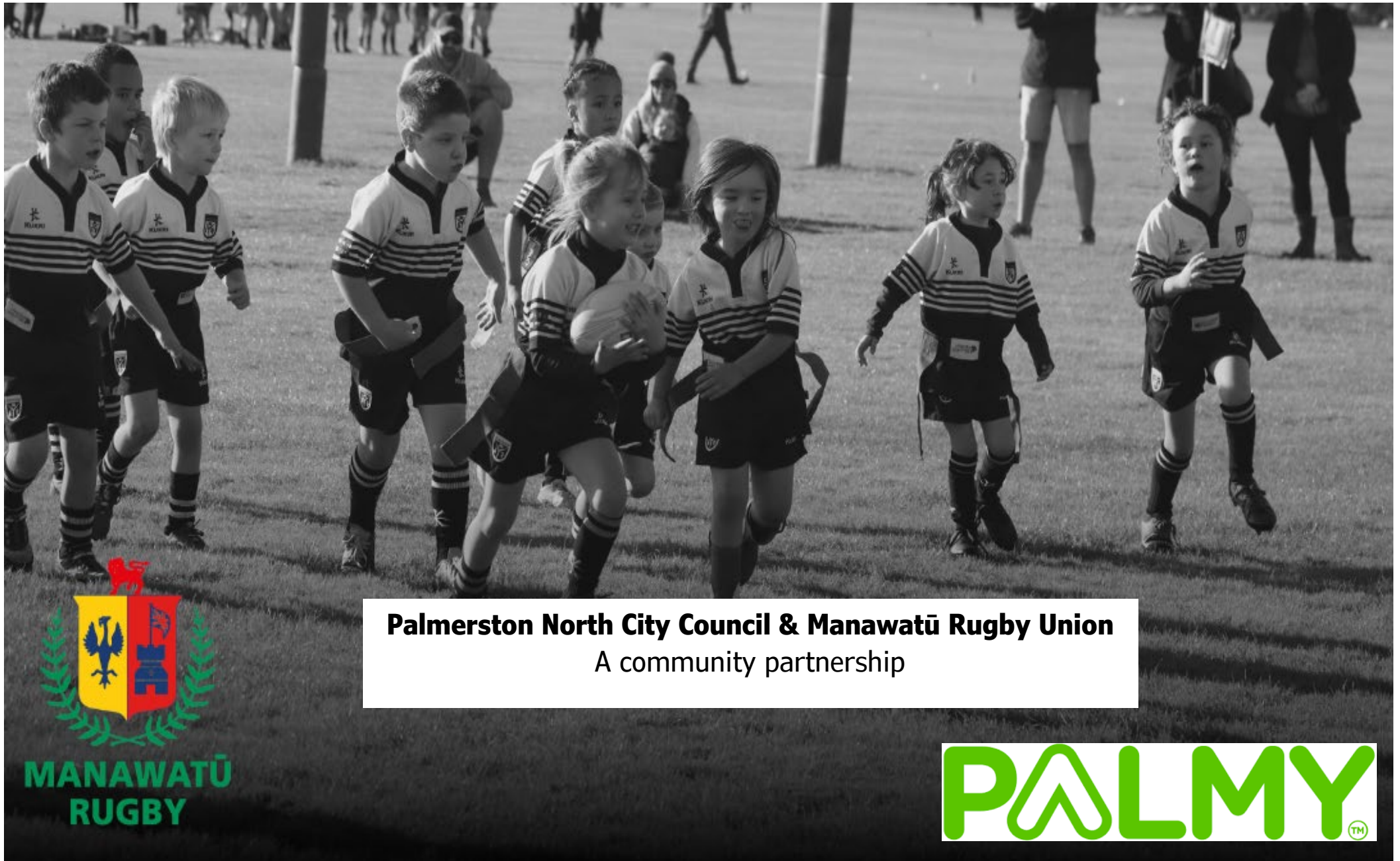
See proposal attached.

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

I don't know / No opinion

Supporting information

81-3



Palmerston North City Council & Manawātū Rugby Union
A community partnership



Manawatū

Our Name:

The name Manawatū was given to the region by Māori ancestor Hau. It is two words, Manawa meaning heart and tū meaning standing still. He named it that after seeing the size and beauty of the Manawatū River.

Our Colours:

Since 1909, our representative players have donned the traditional green and white strip. All Manawatū representative teams, including age grade teams, wear the same colours. In 2014 white sleeves were added to the Turbos' jersey. In 2019 the white sleeves were added to the Cyclones jersey as well. The white sleeves are reserved for our two elite teams.



Our Turbos:

In 2006 the Turbos were established as the brand for our men's representative team to compete in the top tier of New Zealand provincial rugby. Initially coached by Dave Rennie, the squad quickly won hearts with their attacking mindset and never-say-die attitude against significantly more resourced unions. The Turbos' finest hour came in 2014 when they went on to win the Championship Division beating Hawke's Bay 32-24 in the final.



Our Crest:

This is the logo that represents the union as a whole from the community rugby competitions at under 6 grades, through to the elite representative teams of the Turbos and Cyclones and through to the older players competing in the presidents grades. The MRU crest is based on the Palmerston North City crest, which is similar to that of that of the family of Lord Palmerston. In 2020, all the MRU logos were updated to include the macron over the 'u' in Manawatū.



Our Cyclones:

The Cyclones brand was officially adopted in 2014 to compete in the Farah Palmer Cup. Manawatū has a proud history in women's rugby. In 1980, Palmerston North played host to the first women's provincial game in New Zealand between Manawatū and Hawke's Bay. Manawatū won that match 11-0. It took another 10 years before women's rugby truly gained momentum in the province, setting the foundations for the Cyclones. From there, there were regular teams selected.



Our History



Rugby first appeared in our region in 1878 when clubs were set up in Feilding and Palmerston North. As new clubs continued to form in the region in the 1880s, the Manawātū Rugby Union was formed in 1886 to administer the game.

Manawātū's first representative fixture was played against a Wanganui XV in July 1886 with the score ending 0-0. Apart from 1900 and 1901 when the union went into recess and the World War I affected seasons of 1915 and 1916, a Manawātū team has played every year since.

Manawātū's undoubted golden period came in the mid-1970s and early 1980s. Under the coaching of Graham Hamer, they won the Ranfurly Shield in 1976 beating Auckland 12-10. They would defend the Shield 13 times before losing in controversial fashion 12-10 to North Auckland in 1978. The core of that squad went on to win the NPC Division 1 title in 1980.

In 1980, Palmerston North played host to the first women's provincial game in New Zealand between Manawātū and Hawke's Bay. Manawātū won that match 11-0. The match was the starting point of the union's women's representative programme which gathered momentum in the 1990s.

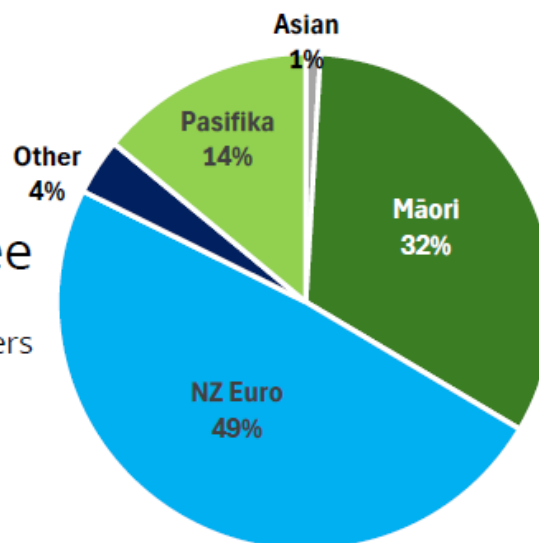
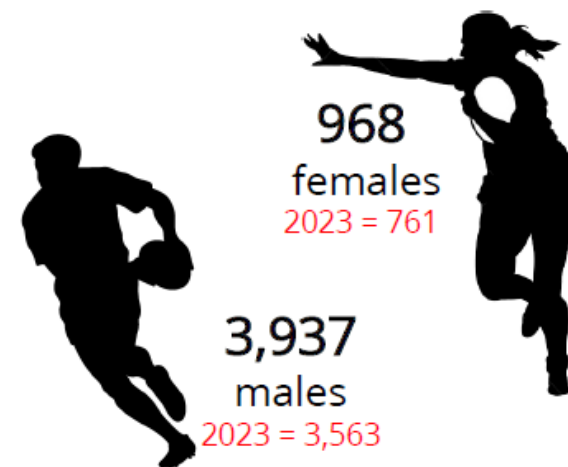
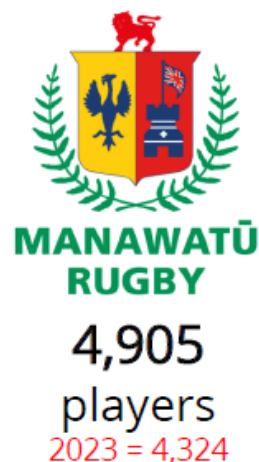
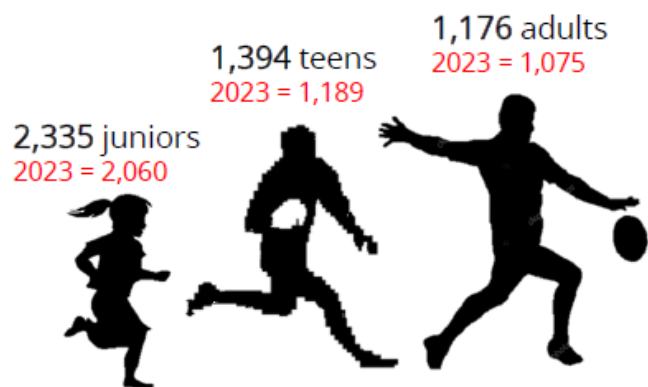
In 1996 entered a partnership with Hawke's Bay to play as the Central Vikings, but the joint venture would last just two years before the unions reverted to playing individually.

Manawātū has contributed 41 All Blacks including New Zealand's most capped halfback, Aaron Smith along with fellow recent All Blacks Aaron Cruden, Ngani Laumape and Jackson Hemopo. Perhaps the province's most famous All Black is fullback Christian Cullen. During the height of Manawātū's golden years, 17 players graduated to the black jersey, including the likes of legends Sam Strahan, Gary Knight, Doug Rollerson, Ken Granger, Mark Donaldson, Mark Shaw and Frank Oliver.

There have been 11 Black Ferns from the region including legendary Black Ferns skipper Farah Palmer, tryscoring star Selica Winiata and long-time New Zealand Sevens captain Sarah Hirini.

2024 Participation Numbers

81-6



Discussion



Manawatū Rugby Union's 2024 – 2028 strategic plan - [MRU Strategic Plan](#) has been set last year with the vision of “Bringing our community together through rugby” by the following four strategic priority areas, Community Rugby, Performance Rugby, Commercial and Advocacy. As we strive towards our goals in 2028 we are seeking support from the PNCC to help us achieve our 2028 goals of having a highly engaged rugby community, having more than 7000 registered participants and achieving sustained performance. Currently, there are over 5,000 participants involved in the game, including players, coaches, referees, and administrators (see – 2024 Participation Numbers). This does not include spectators, fans, and commercial partners, which could increase the total to over 10,000, representing over 10% of the population (92,500).

Manawatū Rugby Union are seeking support towards venue costs for their events held at CET Arena for three years from 2025 to 2027 seasons and field hire for community rugby.

During the 2025 Farah Palmer Cup (FPC), and National Provincial Championship (NPC) competitions MRU will host 8 confirmed matches at CET Arena, not including potential quarter/semi finals and finals. Also included is two double headers fixtures on Sunday 24th August and Saturday 6th September. The games being hosted this year are:

Manawatū Turbos v North Harbour	Friday 1 August, 7.05pm
Manawatū Cyclones v Hawke's Bay	Sunday 24 August, 2.05pm
Manawatū Turbos v Wellington	Sunday 24 August, 4.35pm
Manawatū Cyclones v Auckland	Saturday 30 August, 2.05pm
Manawatū Turbos v Waikato	Saturday 6 September, 2.05pm
Manawatū Cyclones v Counties Manukau	Saturday 6 September, 4.35pm
Manawatū Turbos v Bay of Plenty	Sunday 21 September, 4.35pm
Manawatū Turbos v Hawke's Bay	Saturday 4 October, 7.05pm

An estimated cost to Manawatū Rugby Union to host these matches is shown in the table below:

Expenditure Type	Amount (\$)
Venue Hire (Turbos Games)	\$5,800 +GST per game x 5 = \$29,000 +GST
Security	\$6,000 +GST per game x 5 = \$30,000 +GST
Cleaning	\$1,000 +GST per game x 5 = \$5,000 +GST
Ticketing	\$1,000 +GST per game x 5 = \$5,000 +GST
Big screen	\$1,250 +GST per game x 5 = \$6,250 +GST
Venue Hire (Cyclones Games)	\$250 + GST per game x 1 = \$250 +GST

81-9

Total	\$75,500 +GST

These costs, do not include any hospitality related services for our corporate sponsors and dignatories. This is an area beyond our control and is a significant cost to us, and is a necessary cost to ensure ongoing positive relationships and partnerships with our sponsors as per our commercial objective in our strategic plan of establishing and nurturing trusting mutually beneficial partnerships. MRU is currently open to discussing a business model, as the contract with CET Arena has not yet been finalised.

As outlined in the section above, Manawātū Rugby has a proud history in the region, and has been particularly associated with CET Arena. The games that are played at CET Arena showcase the venue to a large audience, those that come along to the game in person, and those that watch via Sky.

Each of our visiting teams generally stay a minimum of two nights. That stay alone will contribute approximately \$160,000 to the local economy not accounting for transport or incidental spending. Tourism to Palmerston North in the winter season is traditionally a low visitor period

At a community level the MRU team contribute considerably to the wellbeing and connectedness of a healthy city, with the provision of school and club competitions, pathways for young people to advance in the game, development of coaches and referees, and a commitment to be fully inclusive and lead the way demonstrating diversity and inclusion within the game. Our men's and women's players are out and about in the community sharing knowledge and participating in community events.

MRU were encouraged to apply for funding based on the value rugby provides for its community and how the community see value MRU as an organisation supporting social connectedness and wellbeing.

81-10

Proposal

Manawātū Rugby Union seeks support from Palmerston North City Council for a minimum of \$141,500 per year for the next three years, towards the venue and operational costs of delivering eight National Provincial Championship and Farah Palmer Cup games in 2025, and for field hire and operational costs contributing to the 5,000 participants involved in the community rugby game. This sum covers the venue hire, big screen, security, field hire, line marking, marketing, cleaning costs and ticketing.

The cost to Manawātū Rugby Union to host these matches and deliver rugby is shown in the table below and there is an option for the council to provide in-kind services of \$98,500 as highlighted below in the table:

Expenditure Type	Amount (\$)	Cash or In Kind
Venue Hire	\$5,800 +GST per game x 5= \$29,000 +GST	Cash or In-kind option
Security	\$6,000 +GST per game x 5 = \$30,000 +GST	Cash
Cleaning	\$1,000 +GST per game x 5= \$5,000 +GST	Cash or In-kind option
Ticketing	\$1,000 +GST per game x 5= \$5,000 +GST	Cash or In-kind option
Big screen	\$1,250 +GST per game x 5= \$6,250 +GST	Cash or In-kind option
Field Hire (Community Rugby)	\$23,000 +GST per year	Cash or In-kind option
Line marking	\$13,000 +GST per year	Cash
Venue Hire (Cyclones Games)	\$250 + GST per game x 1 = \$250 +GST	Cash or In-kind option
Marketing – Turbos and Cyclones fixtures	\$30,000 +GST per year	In-kind option
Total	\$141,500 +GST	

Outcomes for PNCC in return for the support would be:

- Acknowledgement in match day programmes and signage
- Continued economic benefit through visiting teams
- Top level players and rugby administrators participating in community engagement opportunities, coaching, and programme delivery
- Active and connected Palmerston North residents with programming focused on target communities, alongside the “mateship” and belonging that rugby provides through every level of the game.

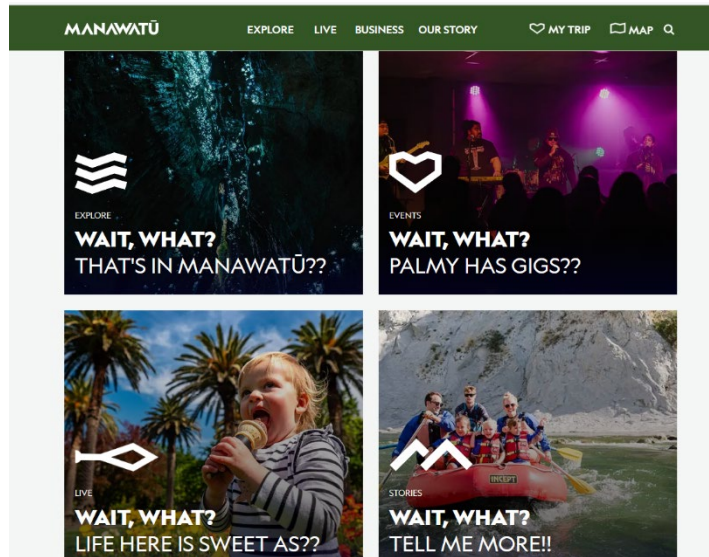
81-11

- Aligns with PNCC “Support and fund for-purpose organisations and community partners.” and “Opportunities for sport and recreation are available throughout the city”
- A Connected and Safe Community
- An opportunity to support the Manawatu Marketing Campaign of PNCC – image 1 and image 2

Image 1:



Image 2:



Your support would help us to provide opportunities to keep Palmerston North residents active and connected. Your support of our Turbos and Cyclones games will allow us to commit more resource into our community programmes which focus on providing opportunities to engage in sport for all ages and include programmes for children, families in low decile communities, and females.

The Turbos and Cyclones offer pathways for young aspiring athletes to reach the highest levels of the sport. This is demonstrated by our players' representation in prestigious teams such as the Black Ferns, Super Rugby, Super Rugby Aupiki, NZ U20s, All Blacks Sevens, and Black Ferns Sevens. Here are some players who have achieved higher honours:

- Kaipo Olsen-Baker
- Layla Sae
- Tk Howden
- Brayden Iose
- Brett Cameron
- Sam Coles
- Jordi Viljoen

81-13

- Jai Tamati
- Vernon Bason
- Mosese Bason
- Taufua Bason
- Feliti Sae-Ta'ufo'ou
- Raymond Tuputupu
- Maia Davis
- Sarah Hirini
- Jayden Keelan

We also request that as our budgets are confirmed and adopted by the Board for a 1 January – 31st December financial year, prices relating to the CET Arena, its hire, and associated costs, are provided to us by 30th November each year so we can appropriately budget these costs, and are not left vulnerable to price increases at the last minute.

Your support would help us to provide opportunities to keep Palmerston North residents active and connected. Your support of Manawātū Rugby Union will allow us to commit more resource into our community programmes which focus on providing opportunities to engage in sport for all ages and help us work towards our 2028 goals.

Thank you for considering our proposal, and we look forward to an ongoing working relationship where each organisation's contribution to our community is fairly recognised.

OUR 2028 GOALS

- HIGHLY ENGAGED RUGBY COMMUNITY
- INCREASED RUGBY GAME FORMATS
- HAVE MORE THAN 7000 REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS
- ACHIEVED SUSTAINED FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
- HAVE INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
- HAVE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING TEAMS



Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 9:23AM
Receipt number	91
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	Annette
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Last name	Nixon
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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?	No
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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?

<p>1127 - City Reserves- Victoria Esplanade Shade House including BONSAI DISPLAY</p> <p>I am delighted to see this project brought forward and, after around 20 years since PNCC received this BONSAI bequest, that finally the plants will be on public display.</p> <p>Our Victoria Esplanade rose, camellia and perennial gardens, bush walks, conservatory and lathe house are horticultural gems enhanced by</p>

the Wild Base native plantings. To have the BONSAI collection viewable is another feature attraction to bring tourists and BONSAI enthusiasts to the area.

Many thanks to all those volunteers and staff who have maintained the BONSAI collection over the years. They deserve to have their valuable work appreciated.

Community Hubs - Community Facilities

I support all programmes that upgrade, improve and add community facilities to our city. The demand for spaces to meet for recreation, interests, local and social events, community connection and well-being is creating overload and pressure on existing facilities and the staff and volunteers involved with each.

Awapuni Library and Community Hub

Rather than the expensive grandiose building plan placed before the public last year, a well thought out Library with at least one meeting room on the St Mark's Awapuni site is desperately required. Please consider bringing this project forward in a way that additional future development can be added as funding allows.

Awapuni is a huge growing suburb. Current facilities are inadequate for the demands made by the community for places to meet, to be and to maintain the community spirit that leads to well-being and connectedness.

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

Yes

Tell us why

Sufficient independence and co-operation for all involved on behalf of city.



Draft Annual Budget 2025/26

Submitted on	17 April 2025, 9:31AM
Receipt number	90
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	Kevin
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Last name	Dalzell
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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?	No
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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?	Extremely excessive and very inconsistent.
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Do you support our preferred option for managing Te Motu o Poutoa Civic Marae and Cultural Centre?	I don't know / No opinion
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Subject: Request for Justification of Significant Rates Increase

Palmerston North City Council

I am writing to express my concern and seek clarification regarding the proposed rates increase on our property, which appears to be nearly 40%, or close to \$1,000 per year. Up from \$2467.84 to \$3408.46.

This substantial rise is difficult to understand given the limited services directly provided to our property. At present, the only consistent service we receive is recycling and rubbish collection. There have been no new services or improvements that would justify such a sharp increase in cost.

We have no footpaths or street lighting, we supply our own water and septic systems, we deal with our own water and waste management.

In particular, I would like to understand how the increase in the capital value-based portion of our rates has been determined. Why has this component risen so steeply when the level of service required and received at our property remains unchanged?

How does the capital value of our property alter any of the limited service we do receive.

Why does the value of our property have any bearing on the rates we pay when a property of lower value receives exactly the same service.

Given the variations in valuations of property in own street why is there such inconsistency in proposed increases in rates when the services remain unchanged.

Some properties compared, vary in increases from 25-44% !

I respectfully request a detailed explanation for this increase and how the additional revenue will be used to benefit ratepayers like us. I would also appreciate any documentation or information that clarifies how the council is ensuring fairness and value for money in its rating decisions.

Sincerely,
Kevin Dalzell

7(2)(a) Privacy

17th April 2025

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 10:49AM
Receipt number	92
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	Jena
Last name	Ivamy
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?	No
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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 utterly unacceptable; there is far too much wasteful spending in every direction. There must be cuts made to the many areas of non-essential expenditure.

You're breaching your own policy regarding affordability, your capital budget is not achievable, you've removed the rural discount - forcing an excessive and outlandish increase to your rural community members (for

no additional value), and your plan has received a 'rare' adverse opinion from the audit office. WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

The budget is a disgrace; but furthermore, council are a disgrace. It is truly mind-boggling how one-tracked council are in their excessive and unnecessary spending of their community's money, particularly when there continues to be such an outcry about it. Council continuously fails to take on board feedback from their community; they are failing their responsibilities and their people.

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

Make meaningful cuts to all excessive, non-essential expenditure; reinstate rural rates discount.

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

Make meaningful cuts to all excessive, non-essential expenditure.

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

No

Tell us why

We simply cannot afford this unnecessary expenditure.

Draft Annual Budget 2025/26



Submitted on	17 April 2025, 10:51AM
Receipt number	46
Related form version	1

Your contact details

Privacy

All submissions may be made publicly available on our website, at our customer service centre and in some of our libraries. Your name will be published with your submission. 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 with the proposal. For more information, see our [privacy statement](#).

First name	Tim
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Last name	Parkinson
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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?	No
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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?

As we have come to expect, the council has set a Rates increase that is above the rate of inflation. Thus, the only thing that the proposed increase has to commend it is that it is not at the double-figure level that has characterised the past few years.

Not only that, but all of the other fees that the council charges (which are supposed to be cost recovery) are increased well about the rate of inflation. Planning fees are notorious as a revenue-generating (rather

than cost recovery) exercise.

The Council bemoans its need to pay for its own costs such as vehicles power (etc). Which, whilst undeniable, also afflicts every other dweller in the city. Trouble is, we cannot just pass on our costs to taxpayers.

For those of us on fixed income, the government has awarded us the princely sum of a 3% increase this year. PNCC wants to charge 7.7% increase in rates. Where does the council envisage that we will get the balance of 4.7% from? Cutting back on food? Using less power? After nearly a decade of supra-inflation rates increases, the barrel of what we can afford has been scraped to the bottom. The Council must learn to live within its means, which, for the benighted citizens of our town, means that it cannot continue with profligate spending and expect those citizens to be able to fund it.

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

Keep rates increases at, or below, the rate of inflation.

Cut out the fat from council administration

Cut out unnecessary and prestige projects until the recession is well-and-truly over

Make a clear plan for householders how we are to fund the difference between the council's 7.7% demand, and our 3% reality

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

In recession, austerity should take precedence over unnecessary expenditure. Need a Trump- or Luxon-style purge of wasteful and unnecessary expenditure

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

No

Tell us why

We can't afford this at the moment. Wait until there is lots of money in the system... the city can survive a few more years without this Marae, but the citizens of PN cannot continue to survive with profligate council expenditure.

16 April 2025

ROA 01 03
ES

Waid Crockett
Chief Executive
Palmerston North City Council
Private Bag 11034
Manawatū Mail Centre
PALMERSTON NORTH 4412

By email only: submission@pncc.govt.nz

Dear Waid,

ANNUAL BUDGET 2025/26 – HORIZONS' SUBMISSION

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Palmerston North City Council's (PNCC) 2025/26 proposed budget. Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) values the strong relationships between our two organisations and the other local authorities in the region. With regard to your proposal, our submission relates to public transport planning.

Firstly, we thank the PNCC for their valuable contribution and partnership along with the NZ Transport Agency and Horizons to implement a new bus network for the city and Ashhurst. The successful implementation of this new urban network has resulted in a 45% increase of patronage and better-connected local communities.

While disappointed to see cuts to many Transport programmes, we understand this is largely due to a change in Central Government transport priorities that has resulted in reduced NZTA funding in some activity classes. However, we do not support the total removal of funding directed to public transport network improvements and would like this decision reconsidered. There is still work to be done to improve the new network.

Local and Central Government have recently invested significant resource to improve the public transport network. For these projects to be discontinued will be economically wasteful of prior investment, as well as compromise the full and intended outcomes of the projects. We request Council continues to invest in installing bus infrastructure, particularly shelters in support of the network. We understand there are shelters in storage that are able to be used on the network and believe this is a responsible and resourceful approach to utilise available resources. We're happy to work with PNCC officers to continue to identify the best locations for this ongoing work and investment.

Further on public transport matters, we seek that Council considers in their infrastructure planning to prioritise buses at traffic signals and explore bus only lanes. We also request Council parking policy and fees are considered as a lever to use for supporting bus usage.

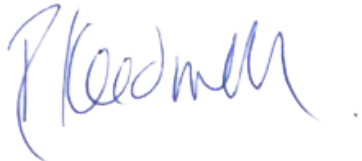
We appreciate the alignment and co-operation that already exists between Councils and look forward to taking the opportunity to enhance the bus network for the benefit of our

communities and the environment. We support continuing to improve public transport infrastructure and accessibility through regular and open lines of communication between Councils.

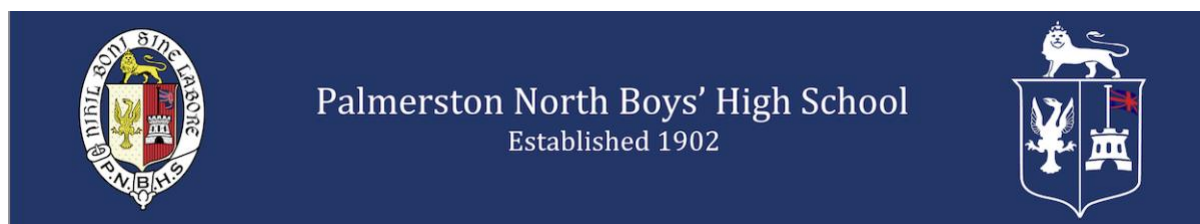
Regarding changes to active transport and safety related programmes; we note PNCC has two of four goals which aim for connected and safe communities, and a sustainable and resilient city. Transport improvements to shared pathways and cycling networks play a significant role in achieving these goals as do safety improvements to key transport corridors. The need for these transport programmes does not go away or diminish in the future and we urge Council to plan for reinstating funding for these programmes in coming years.

Horizons **would like to speak** to the submission at the annual plan hearings.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Keedwell PhD
CHAIR, HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL



Submission to Annual Plan: Request for \$150,000 Funding for PNBHS Hockey Turf over three years.

The Palmerston North Old Boys Association in conjunction with Palmerston North Boys High School has undertaken an initiative to build and provide for the school a new sports pavilion and a new hockey turf. It is the intention that the Old Boys will fund the building of the pavilion and hockey turf, however we are seeking funds from the Palmerston North City Council to help towards the construction of the hockey turf as the Ministry of Education will not contribute to either project due to their budget constraints focused on school maintenance requirements.

We are writing to request funding support of \$150,000 over three years for the development of the PNBHS Hockey Turf which will be a part of the new Sports Hub project. This project is a significant initiative aimed at enhancing the sporting facilities at Palmerston North Boys' High School and providing exceptional opportunities for our young men.

The Sports Hub will feature an Old Boys Pavilion and a full-size hockey turf, both critical for the school's sports programs. At present, our changing facilities are

inadequate, and the new pavilion will provide a much-needed space for teams and spectators. The hockey turf will be a game-changer for our 1st XI hockey team, allowing them to play on school grounds and providing an all-weather teaching space.

We believe that the hockey turf will not only benefit our students but also the wider community by servicing as a venue for local sports events and activities. We are committed to creating a facility that promotes physical activity, teamwork, and community engagement.

We maintain an excellent relationship with Hockey Manawatu and view this project as an opportunity to further strengthen community ties. An additional turf will increase capacity for tournaments and competitions alleviating the pressure on the existing twin turfs which run operate at full capacity from morning to night. We have also received support from Hockey NZ for this project with letters of endorsement from both organisations which are included in this submission.

The total cost of the project is \$7.2 million, and we have already secured building consent. However, due to its focus on school maintenance requirements the Ministry of Education will not contribute to this project. Therefore, we are seeking support from our community and local organizations. A contribution from the PNCC would enable us to proceed with the construction of the hockey turf and demonstrate to other potential donors that the project is viable and supported by the community.

We plan to begin construction of the Old Boys Pavilion this year and aim to complete the entire project completed by 2027 aligning with the PNBHS 125th Centennial Celebration. This timeline ensures that we can deliver a high-quality facility that meets the needs of our students and the broader community.

Budget Breakdown:

- **Old Boys Pavilion:** \$4,800,000.00
- **Hockey Turf:** \$2,000,000.00
- **Plans and consents** \$ 400000.00

Other Funding Sources:

We have already secured funding from several sources, including:

- **The PNBHS Old Boys Association**
- **PNBHS Parent Teacher Association**
- **The PNBHS Education Foundation Trust**
- **Various prominent Old Boys and the Old Boys community**

The Sports Hub will provide numerous benefits to the community, including:

- **Enhanced Sporting Facilities:** The new facilities will offer a modern and safe space for both our students and the community to engage in various sports activities.
- **Increased Community Engagement:** The Sports Hub will serve as a venue for local sports events, fostering a sense of community and encouraging participation in physical activities.
- **Economic Impact:** Hosting sports events will attract visitors to the area, boosting local businesses and contributing to the local economy.
- **Health and Well-being:** Access to high-quality sports facilities will promote physical activity and well-being among students and community members.
- **Educational Opportunities:** The hockey turf will provide a space for educational programs and workshops related to sports and physical education. The school is desperately short of teaching spaces at school to use when it is wet underfoot, the hockey turf would be an essential teaching space far more valuable than scheduling classes indoors in a classroom and missing out on an exercise period.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss and address the PNCC about this project further and explore how PNCC can support the development of the PNBHS hockey turf.

Warm Regards,

David Bovey
Rector
Palmerston North Boys' High School

Rachel Wenham
Public Relations Officer
Palmerston North Boys' High School

7(2)(a) Privacy

7(2)(a) Privacy



We're building the PNBHS Sports Hub



Sport has played a vital role in the lives of generations of young men at PNBHS. We ask you to partner with us so this legacy can continue for future generations.

Sport develops character. It provides opportunities for young men to be challenged, to experience success and failure, to build resilience and relationships and learn about commitment.

As a school we continue to 'buck the trend' and we are seeing record numbers of young men involved in our many school sports codes. However, while our participation rates are exceptional, our facilities are not.

We want to provide our young men and our teams with the best sporting amenities possible, and with your contribution and support, we can.



We're building a 21st century sports facility

The Sports Hub will be crucial to our ability to continue to support student involvement and achievement in sporting activities. It will replace the existing Jubilee Room, a wooden structure completed in 1977 for the school's 75th Jubilee. This facility has been well-utilised by generations of students, but after nearly 50 years is no longer fit for purpose. The new pavilion will be constructed near the site of the Jubilee Room.

With your support the PNBHS Sports Hub will see the development of:

- Changing facilities for our cricket, football, hockey and rugby teams
- A sports turf for interschool and community hockey fixtures as well as providing a reliable all-weather venue for Physical Education classes and a training venue for a range of sporting codes
- Enhanced facilities for the many parents and friends of PNBHS who support our young men as spectators at sporting fixtures
- The construction of a pavilion to support school and Old Boys events.



We're building a community

Whether it's preparing young men to achieve at the highest level nationally and internationally or simply building lifelong habits of physical activity and enjoyment, sport plays an integral role in the lives of our young men. Through your support of the PNBHS Sports Hub project you can contribute to extending this legacy for future generations. All donations will be gratefully received by our young men.

How can you help?

The Sports Hub campaign team together with the Old Boys Association and the PNBHS Education Foundation Trust invites you to join us in making a generous gift to help us bring this project to life.

Members of these community groups:

- are committed to and strongly believe in the importance of this project
- have made a gift to the project
- value this opportunity to explain the project and invite you to participate in it

The total cost for this project is \$7.2 million - We have received gifts to date of \$1.3 million we need to raise \$5.9 million to bring this vision to reality. To ensure the project proceeds without delay, we are asking you to please make a gift now or pledge a gift over the next three years.



Stuart Leighton PNBHS 1965-69, School Prefect, 1st Cricket XI 1966-69, Captain 1969, Club Captain Phoenix Club 1968-69, 1st XV.

"This project will be the pinnacle of my association with PNBHS, please get behind us in helping to make this project a reality."

Stuart was a member of the teaching staff at PNBHS from 1980-2016. During this time he taught Physical Education, Social Studies, English, Transition from School to Work, Careers Advisor, School Counsellor, 6th Form Dean, Year 8 Dean and was Master in Charge of Kia Ora Club. He coached the 1st Cricket XI 1980-87, and many other cricket, rugby, hockey, football and squash teams. With wife, Jane, they managed College House from 2005-08.

Following retirement from the teaching staff Stuart has been employed on a part-time basis in an Old Boys/School Liaison role. When not at School he can be found at either Bowls Palmerston North in Linton Street or at the Manawatu Golf Club.



Palmerston North Boys' High School

Established 1902

The Rector

Palmerston North Boys High School

Palmerston North

16th April 2025

Dear Mr. Bovey,

Letter of Support – Palmerston North Boys' High School Hockey Turf

This letter is to formally express Hockey Manawatu's support for Palmerston North Boys' High School's (PNBHS) proposal to build a new hockey turf.

We believe this initiative aligns perfectly with Hockey Manawatu's strategic goals to expand hockey participation and enhance our region's capacity to host significant tournaments. The increasing popularity of hockey in the Manawatu region over the last three years necessitates the development of additional playing surfaces. A new turf at PNBHS will not only benefit your students but also contribute significantly to the wider hockey community.

The construction of this turf is particularly timely given Hockey Manawatu's ambition to attract and host larger tournaments, including the New Zealand Hockey Masters Tournament, which necessitates four turfs in close proximity. Your school's new facility would be a valuable addition to the existing infrastructure, enhancing our region's competitiveness in securing these prestigious events.

Hockey Manawatu is committed to collaborating with PNBHS to ensure the success of this project. We are confident that this new turf will be a tremendous asset to the school and the wider Manawatu hockey community (and wider region), fostering growth and providing exceptional playing opportunities for years to come.

We wish you all the best in your endeavours and look forward to working with you on this exciting project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dilan Raj".

Dilan Raj

General Manager, Hockey Manawatu

7(2)(a) Privacy

To whom it may concern

A letter in support of Palmerston North Boys' High School (PNBHS) fund raising project
for a Hockey Turf.

1976 was a watershed year for both Hockey New Zealand and World Hockey. For World Hockey, the Montreal Olympics was the occasion for the first major international competition to be played on an artificial grass surface and it was on that surface that the New Zealand men's team won the hockey gold medal at the Montreal Olympics.

For some years after that event, hockey was either described as grass hockey or turf hockey. Today, hockey is only played on artificial surfaces and that distinction no longer exists.

Palmerston North Boys' High School has a wonderful record in hockey. Previously, it has won the National Secondary Schools' competition, the Rankin Cup, and this year was ranked 6th in New Zealand. Many of its students have become national age-group players with several former students becoming full Black Sticks. Students from PNBHS have always formed the backbone of Manawatu hockey teams from age group to the highest senior level. Additionally, many students and staff have contributed to coaching and administering hockey in Palmerston North.

To engage boys at all levels across the eight teams PNBHS currently has, as well as maintain their record of top performance, PNBHS needs to have a playing surface that caters for this development and mirrors the surface on which all hockey is now played.

Hockey New Zealand (HNZ) fully supports schools in procuring such playing surfaces. It realizes that such artificial surfaces encourage more people to play the game, and that the skills and tactics developed on them, contribute significantly to the top performances HNZ strives for with its international teams.

Hockey New Zealand fully endorses this development by PNBHS and as President of Hockey New Zealand, I unreservedly give my full support to the fund-raising programme that will result in a playing surface reflective of PNBHS's status as a premier nursery of hockey both in the Manawatu region and New Zealand.

Signed



Dennis Slade PhD

President New Zealand Hockey

City To Sea Rail Trail – Manawatū.

Queen famously sang: “I want to ride my bicycle; I want to ride my bike. I want to ride my bicycle; I want to ride where I like.”

PNCC's first two goals speak of a business environment that encourages investment, builds resilience while seeking vibrancy and connecting people. Hence, we ask that the PNCC continue to include cycle tourism in the LTP because of its massive economic value to the wider region's economy. Economic potential that is reliant on both PN and Manawatu councils' support.

Continued support, consistent commitment will give the council the ability to positively respond to economic growth from cycle tourism within the wider Manawatu region as it evolves. Because cycle tourism is the key that could drive Manawatu's economic growth to new heights.

Presently where can a tourist ride their bike off-road in the Manawatu region?

Councillor will be aware of the economic growth other provinces are enjoying because of their planning and development of off-road cycle trails. Taupo, Otago, Hawkes Bay, and Christchurch are strong examples of the economic value and growth gained from long term planning around active transport and cycling tourism.

On maps, the Manawatu region is an open space with minimal on-road trails. On-road trails are for only 25% of the cycle tourism market.

However, as a region we are on the brink of an opportunity. We have the opportunity right now to work collaboratively to drive the opportunities that exist within the wider region. The adhoc development that is happening isn't presently connecting with Feilding or Palmerton North.

How would cycle tourism look in this region? What economic benefits would the region gain from such development?

Richard Cushing said: “Always plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark!”

Bike Taupo had a vision for off-road cycling. This plan started in 2002 with the aim of building 88 km of trail. Today Bike Taupo has 30 trails covering 300 kilometres.

This planning has included Council, volunteers, business, the community and Government. These trails are widely valued by the community who were involved in the planning process. Indeed 88% of stakeholders agree that their local Great Ride is valued by their community. [pg 6. 2021. Evaluation of Nga Haerenga – Great Rides of NZ. Jan 2022]

The development of the Central Otago's Rail Trail started in 1980's and their targets for its tourism potential were out stripped very quickly. This stimulated further planning and the subsequent development of further interlinking trails. Otago's tourism is 2nd only to its rural GDP.

Consistent forward planning has allowed other regions to proactively development beyond their initial goals and aspirations.

City To Sea Rail Trail – Manawatū.

People come to the Manawatu for a arrange of events or family visits. How can we encourage visitors to stay longer using off-road cycling to engage in the region's diverse experiences.

e.g. Friday – cycle to Feilding to enjoy the market and stock sales guided tour.

e.g. Sunday – the family bike to Ashhurst to have lunch at the Herb Farm.

The cycle options of Manawatu region lend themselves to Cycle HUB concept. From which the 75% of cyclists who enjoy half [1-4 hours] or full day riding [4+ hours] can enjoy all that the region has on offer.

CEDA's visitor segmentation research insights snap-shop [2022] indicates there are experiences that reflect the unique value of our wider region. With the greatest return for the region being achieved by targeting 3 specific valuable visitor types. These are people who want to explore riversides, beaches, nature, villages, markets, rural NZ, experience local food & beverages, shopping or off-the-beaten track experiences. All the regions cycle trails can meet this increasing demand for leisure and recreation activities while looking to provide add on experiences which boost visitation, spending and the length of stay.

e.g.: Flora, sculpture, QR codes and information boards will convey the lower Manawatu's history as visitors enjoy the easy grade 1 ride from Longburn to Himatangi or Foxton via the City to Sea Rail Trail.

This region is ideally placed due to our central locality.

- 1.1 million people live within a 3-hour drive of us.
- En Route for cyclists heading north, west, and south to do trails.
- A lot of this region's off-road trails will be Grade 1 & 2 making riding easy and enjoyable.
- Fills a gap between Hawkes Bay & Kapiti & Rangitikei

Cycle HUB visitors POTENTIALLY could cycle

Existing / completed	In development	potentially
Te Ahu a Turanga - Woodville	City to Sea Rail Trail – Manawatū	SH 1 Levin – Sanson. [North – South]
PN – Linton	PN – Feilding	Coast to Coast - Napier to Himatangi.
PN – Massey - Sommerset	PN to Ashhurst.	Sanson - Palmerston North [SH 3]
[on-road]	Feilding – Colton - Ashhurst	Waugh's Road – Newbury Line
Apiti loop ride		
Ashhurst - Mangaweka		

88-3

City To Sea Rail Trail – Manawatū.

		Rongotea Rd, Rongotea, Glen Oroua, Rangiotu loop ride. Feilding – Halcombe loop ride Fitzherbert East Road - Massey loop
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MBIE estimates visitors to the Great Rides spend around \$1 billion a year, which includes 3.6 million bed nights. New Zealand has invested heavily in making life fun for cyclists. NZ has a growing network of well-maintained trails providing economic gains to its surrounding communities.

Will regional Manawatu interconnect with this opportunity?

The estimated direct economic contribution from off-road recreational cycling in the Taupo district in 2022 was \$20m.

- 55,000 visitors
- 50,000 nights
- Majority of riders 40+ age group with more males than females.
- 32% tour over in Taupo is attributed to the trails.

For every 100 cyclist 75% only want to ride for 1 day or a half day [1 – 4 hours]. Which shows the benefit of shorter rides or rides with accommodation along the trail. Like those being developed in this region.

Otago rail trail

- 12,756 people journeyed along the trail year ended June 2023
- 87.7% 'full trail users'
- Otago Rail Trail visitor stay over twice as long and spend double per day compared with typical travellers
- Current Annual Spend by Otago Central Rail Trail Visitors = \$25.9 million
- Projected annual spend with Taieri Extension = \$32.8 - \$37.3 million

Our region is currently not seeing any of this potential cycle tourism or economic benefit.

Let's get connected!!

There are 23 great rides [off-road] and multiple other trails across NZ. Economically cycling & cycling tourism stack up in both directly and indirectly for the supporting communities and their businesses. Other benefits of cycling flow into health, well-being, sustainability, and increased productivity.

Will the Manawatu region choose to benefit from cycling tourism? With vision, with planning, with collaboration across the Manawatu region our tourism potential via cycling can be realised.

There is huge potential for the collective “US” to think outside the box for cycling & cycling tourism. Creating a collective vision for economic growth via Manawatu’s interconnecting cycle trails and the concept of HUB’s.

The first step is Council committing in their LTP to a vision for cycle tourism for a minimum of 10 years, with no funds attached presently.

Presently council can commit to facilitating

- Planning.
- Staff time, people, and expertise.
- CEDA staff time.
- Facilitating stake holder cooperation, engagement, endorsement.
- Facilitating the building of relationships with businesses & philanthropic partners.
- Mayoral support and commitment leading to RLTP positioning with NZTA.
- Development of a cohesive plan across all the region’s councils – Horowhenua, Manawatu, Rangitikei, PN & Horizons.
- Assisting in the establish of a charitable trust to spear heading an interconnecting regionally significant cycle trail network.

Alice Williamson

Chair / secretary

City to Sea Rail Trail – Manawatū

7(2)(a) Privacy



REF: Ngā Ara Tūhono charitable trust secured funding to complete the Mt. to Sea Ngā Ara Tūhono Great Ride. Which aims to link the central north Island with the Tasman Sea at Whanganui.

REF: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/nz-news/360647787/great-ride-iwi-mayors-tourism-partners-team-finish-cycle-trail>