

LTP SUMMARY FOR SUBMITTERS



A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR, KIRSTEN WISE



We are pleased to have adopted Napier City Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) 2021-31, and thank everyone who took the time to submit on our proposals.

You can find the full plan by visiting napier.govt.nz/long-term-plan

We received 710 submissions, and were joined at hearings by 64 individuals and organisations who presented their feedback in person. This input is so important for developing a plan that reflects the needs and wants of the Napier community.

You are always welcome to discuss any aspect of our work or ask a question at any time. Visit our website napier.govt.nz to find our contact details, or ring our Customer Service Centre on **06 835 7579**.

WHAT DID WE CONSULT ON?

The LTP consultation document outlined a number of key projects that we proposed to focus on over the next 10 years. These projects were based on community feedback over 2020 and 2021. As a reminder, we proposed to:

- Prioritise key water supply projects, such as a new borefields and reservoirs
- Upgrade our drinking water network to meet the new regulatory standards, with a view to adding additional steps in the future to move towards a chlorine-free supply
- Invest in a Regional Park on Lagoon Farm
- Build a new community facility in Maraenui named Te Pihinga, with construction starting in 2023
- Use loans to fund the budget shortfall for Council's housing portfolio in the short term whilst we complete a review of the portfolio
- Keep the Faraday Centre open pending decisions about its long term future
- Develop an ambassador model for street management and city safety, and
- Increase the number of traffic safety plans completed each year, from one to three.



NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri

FEEDBACK & DECISIONS

WATER SUPPLY

What the community told us:

A majority of submitters told us that addressing water issues should continue to be our priority.

There was a mix of views about chlorine, with some submitters concerned about health effects and the dirty water resulting from chlorine and manganese mixing, and others saying they didn't mind the chlorine so long as the water was safe.

We heard from a number of people who had installed household filters and would have appreciated Council support with that expense.

Some people were concerned about the demand for water from the Hawke's Bay's aquifers, particularly as we face the effects of climate change.

Decisions and the final plan

We understand the concern about having dirty water in our homes, and clean and clear water is Council's top priority. We have a programme of work set out in the LTP to improve and protect our water supply. This represents an investment of \$74M over the next 10 years.

The improvements will ensure we comply with the new drinking water standards and recent legislation changes, and prepare our network well for whatever eventuates from the Government's Three Waters reforms.

If you're keen to know more about what's planned for Napier's water supply, visit our website.

CHLORINE-FREE:

What the community told us:

Just over three quarters of submitters, 76%, agreed with our proposal to work towards a network that could be chlorine-free in the long term. Maraenui, Marewa and Pirimai residents were more likely to agree with the prospect of being chlorine-free in the long term, with Taradale, Te Awa and Jervoistown residents less likely to support the proposal.

Those submitters who agreed to the approach commented about:

- Not liking chlorine, doubting that Napier's water needed treatment, being concerned about chemical additives, or being frustrated with dirty water
- Concern about health, including skin or gut issues

- Frustration with having to pay for filter installation, and
- Suggesting alternative approaches.

We received many submissions supporting the Guardians of the Aquifer group.

Those submitters who disagreed with the approach to chlorine-free in the long term included comments about:

- The high cost involved with developing a chlorine-free network, and
- That this was 'not essential' in terms of Council priorities.

Decisions and the final plan

We have a responsibility to provide safe, compliant drinking water to the Napier community. We note that some residents were struggling with the smell, taste and clarity of the water supply. There are a number of key projects underway to address this, such as the introduction of a Controlled Water Area, new low manganese bores, and a 'pigging' programme to clean pipes.

We will continue to work with the new drinking water standards regulator, Taumata Arowai, to understand what we need to do to receive a chlorine-free exemption. We will also develop a water quality monitoring plan (that goes above and beyond national quality standards) to help us understand quality in our network. We are going to keep working through the options set out in the Council-commissioned Chlorine-Free Drinking Water Review to better understand the cost and work involved in upgrading our network.

AHURIRI REGIONAL PARK

What the community told us:

Our proposal to develop a Regional Park on Lagoon Farm (off Prebensen Drive) met with approval from 60.5% of submitters.

In support, people mentioned that it would be good for biodiversity and conservation, an opportunity to improve the quality of the stormwater discharged into Te Whanganui-a-Orotū (Ahuriri Estuary), and valuable for education. Some submitters thought more public access was a great idea and suggested some ideas for features of the park, and others sought more information.

Those who didn't think it was a good idea thought it was an unnecessary expense in the current climate, that stormwater should be a bigger priority, that there wasn't enough information given, and that they were concerned about potential environmental harm from allowing people access to more of the upper estuary.

Decisions and the final plan

We have budgeted \$12.5M for this development, noting the existing partnerships with Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Mana Ahuriri, and Te Komiti Muriwai o Te Whanga. We have also asked Council staff to engage and partner with all key stakeholders when the masterplan for the Park is developed.

The primary objective of this project is about achieving positive environmental outcomes; acting as a steward of Te Whanganui a Orotū for the future.

Once we have developed a collaborative vision and master plan, we'll bring it back to the community for further consultation. The final name of the park will be settled through this process.

TE PIHINGA

What the community told us:

Overall, 73% of submitters supported the development of Te Pihinga, with 30% suggesting Council should start construction now, and 43% agreeing with the proposal to start in 2023.

Comments in support thought it would be a hugely positive asset for the city, and noted they would like to see more collaboration and partnership to make sure it met the community's needs.

Those who didn't agree with the proposal either thought it wasn't a priority, weren't sure it would meet its objectives, focused too much on one suburb, or was better funded by another entity like the Ministry for Social Development. We did note that some submitters felt this money would be better spent on housing.

Decisions and the final plan

We're completing a feasibility study for Te Pihinga and will work further with the community to develop detailed designs for the facility and to decide aspects like staffing and construction contracts. The study will look at the role of other community facilities in Maraenui to avoid duplication, and will also look into how other communities have operated such centres.

We've set aside \$11.5M for construction to begin in 2023 and will spend the next two years working up the detailed designs, operating model and associated contracts.

HOUSING

What the community told us:

A majority, 86%, of submitters agreed with our proposal to fund the budget shortfall for Council's housing portfolio using loans.

Feedback was mixed. A number of submitters suggested that rents should be increased or costs covered by profit from Council businesses, rather than passing the cost on to ratepayers. Some saw the portfolio as a valuable asset and generally supported the provision of community housing to those who needed it most. Others thought housing provision was not a role for Council and that the homes should be sold. Some submitters called for better management and maintenance of the portfolio.

Decisions and the final plan

We will loan fund the \$1.8M deficit for the housing portfolio for the 2021/22 financial year. This is a 'stop-gap' solution, until we can consider the recommendations arising out of a strategic review of our housing provision. This review is due to be completed in December of this year.

THE FARADAY CENTRE

What the community told us:

A large majority of submitters, 80%, thought that the Faraday Centre should remain open, pending a decision about a business case which was recently finished.

It was heartening to hear the positive feedback given about the Centre, which included that it is:

- A valued asset, both for education and tourism
- Great for all ages, and
- Run by a wonderful team of volunteers and staff.

We noted calls to increase the marketing for the facility.

Some people felt that keeping it open shouldn't be a priority at the moment, or thought there was an opportunity to house it with the MTG.

Decisions and the final plan

We are keeping the Faraday Centre open and providing additional funding to better support its operations until the recommendations of the detailed business case can be considered. The business case contains some exciting options for the future of the facility, and can be found on our website.

STREET MANAGEMENT

What the community told us:

Three-quarters of submitters agreed with Council's proposal to look into an ambassador model for improving city safety and reducing anti-social behaviour.

Many submitters told us about their concerns about safety out and about in Napier. Quite a number wanted to see increased Police presence or greater use of CCTV.

Those who didn't support the ambassador model were often concerned about how effective it would be, or viewed it as an unnecessary cost.

Decisions and the final plan

We're going to work with key stakeholders as we develop a model, to be implemented from 1 July 2022.

In the meantime, we're working to replace and modernise the city's CCTV network (we already set aside \$500,000 for this project in 2020). The ambassador programme and the CCTV network will complement each other.

TRAFFIC SAFETY PLANS

What the community told us:

Overall, 57% of submitters agreed with the proposal to increase the number of traffic safety plans we undertake each year, from one to three.

We received a considerable number of requests to focus on certain streets and areas. These were noted and provided to Council's Transportation Team. More generally, submitters commented on the need for:

- more safety measures and roading improvements
- better footpaths
- better and safer infrastructure for cycling.

Some submitters commented about changes to Tom Parker Avenue, West Quay and Marine Parade.

Decisions and the final plan

We will increase the number of traffic safety plans completed per year from one to three. We're also planning to hold a public workshop to help the community understand how we prioritise areas for these plans, and what the plans involve.



OTHER INITIATIVES:

The opportunity to hear directly from members of the public certainly got us thinking about other opportunities we could include in the plan.

We resolved to:

- Contribute \$1m to the development of the Regional Sports Park (off Evenden Rd)
- Increase funding contributions for the Pettigrew Green Arena which is expanding its indoor court space
- Grant \$500k to Central Football to assist in the build of a new artificial football turf at Park Island
- Strengthen and refurbish the Memorial Square Community Rooms (Women's Rest in Clive Square), in conjunction with interested community groups, after completing a feasibility study that will identify options for its use
- Prioritise our partnerships with mana whenua
- Review our Parking Strategy (with focus on accessible parking)
- Work with schools in Taradale to improve road safety for rangatahi
- Develop a Climate Change Strategy
- Review our Dog Control Bylaw, and
- Review concerns, including freedom camping in Westshore.

NAPIER LIBRARY

A number of submitters asked us about plans for the Napier Library. In 2020, after assessing a range of options, we confirmed that the Napier Library would return to its original site, although not necessarily to its original building. We have also been looking into returning our Elected Members and staff to a central office.

We have brought these two projects together and have started developing a spatial plan for the entire site and will consult with the community in the coming months. Dealing with the project as one means that we can avoid duplication in the facilities themselves and save money overall. We have set aside \$55 million for the whole development with a goal to start construction in 2024/25.

NATIONAL AQUARIUM OF NEW ZEALAND

We had a plan to significantly upgrade and refocus our National Aquarium, taking it to a new level of experience – a marine centre of excellence. Project Shapeshifter (our aquarium redevelopment project), was highly dependent on receiving substantial external funding which has not eventuated. We signalled last year that without central government funding, Project Shapeshifter would not be able to be progressed in the near future. Therefore we have removed the funding contribution tagged for the project while we investigate options for its future.

These options could include a refurbishment of the current facility, using the building for something else, or eventual closure of the facility. When we have reviewed the options, we will consult with the community about the facility's future. In the meantime, we have approximately \$9 million of funding set aside for repairs and basic renewals to keep the building operational over the lifetime of the Long Term Plan

NAPIER AQUATIC CENTRE

Even with the reinstatement of the Greendale Pool (owned by the Ministry of Education), we know we are outgrowing our current aquatic facilities.

We had a plan to develop a new facility at Prebensen Drive because of potential issues with the Onekawa site, including its previous use as a refuse facility. But we put the development on hold last year, in order to further investigate the Onekawa site and to confirm whether a redevelopment of the current facility is possible.

The contamination investigation is complete and the report is expected to be available to Council shortly. Once the report is in, we will take another look at our situation before seeking feedback from the community. Because this will take some time, we have removed the funding allocated for the development from our Long Term Plan. In the meantime, we have funding set aside for repair and basic renewals to keep the building operational. Our options will be clearer when we review our plan in 2023.

