

TAMAHERE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE SUBMISSION TO THE LTCCP 2009-2019 AND THE WDC GROWTH STRATEGY

1. STRUCTURE/COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEWS

While Community Plans are usually scheduled for review every 6 years, the Tamahere Community Plan which was developed in 2004 has not been scheduled for review at all, but more importantly the vital Tamahere Structure Plan, which has been accepted as needing a review, is not scheduled for such until the 2011/12 financial year. Your own LTCCP recognises the high growth of our area under its forecasting assumptions therefore it is crucial that the review of the Tamahere Community Plan is not left any longer than 6 years, and this should be reviewed alongside the Tamahere Structure Plan in the 2009/10 financial year.

This has even more relevance when you take into account your own summary document (Page 5, Key Projects, Tamahere/Matangi) where the second bullet point shows substantial spending in 2010/11, which in volume 1 page 180 is given as \$1,747,942 for Transportation Services, \$275,310 for Walkways and \$244,764 for Stormwater, not to mention spending of \$295,226 for Stormwater in the 2009/10 financial year.

WDC have advised this committee that the review of the structure plan would be approximately \$150,000 so it seems utterly ridiculous to be spending such huge sums of money on the above vital infrastructure that the council accepts needs to be done in 2010, without first having the review of both the Community and Structure plans. This being especially relevant when the cost of these reviews is minuscule against the planned spending.

ACTION:

We therefore request that the money for the structure plan be made available for the 2009/10 financial year and that no spending takes place until this much needed and accepted review happens so we can ensure that council is spending ratepayers money wisely.

2. PARKS AND RESERVES

Currently you have allocated \$1.5m to purchase land for the ongoing development of walkways in the Tamahere over the next 10 years, and we see that \$625,906 is budgeted to be spent before the vital and accepted Structure Plan review in 2011/12. This once again highlights that the Structure Plan Review should be bought forward as a matter of urgency before other major spending is made.

The Structure Plan Review and the draft FutureProof Strategy is accepted by both the Tamahere Community Committee and the WDC. Council in its Draft Parks and Reserves Strategy has policies and explanations covering partnerships with public agencies, private

organisations and user groups and developing a network of reserves and facilities at strategic sites throughout the district.

The purchase of land next to rural schools is noted as one way in which these policies have been implemented. In particular council notes that it will seek to purchase land ahead of demand to ensure optimum sites are obtained.

ACTION:

Council land holdings around Tamahere Model County School and Community Centre should be retained for future demand and not be sold until the full Structure Plan review has been completed.

3. EQUITY

Tamahere Community Committee has received considerable community concern over two issues concerning the equitable treatment of Tamahere Ratepayers within the total Waikato District Rate Structure. This involves the calculation of the general rate and the treatment of reserve and development levies.

The Tamahere ward has approximately 7% of the roading network of the Waikato District. However 45.3% of the general rate is spent on roading and associated roading matters. This calculation shows that the Tamahere Ward contributes a major subsidy to the overall roading budget of the district. This position has existed for many years and continues for the period for the LTCCP. This is highly inequitable and requires redress by the WDC.

The Tamahere Ward is a high growth area with many new subdivisions planned for in the Tamahere Structure Plan area. This growth combined with the development that has already occurred over the past decade will provide substantial reserve and development levies for the WDC. Currently these funds are not accounted for by individual ward but are lumped into one account within the council financial system. We note that council is not legally required to account separately for these amounts but submit that currently there is no measure to ensure that intergenerational equity is maintained to ensure that funds are spent from their source.

ACTION:

Council needs to ensure that equity amongst the various wards in both revenue raising and expenditure is fair. The current major anomaly with respect to roading needs to be corrected or alternative spending found to redress the issues, i.e., the bringing forward of the Tamahere Structure Plan to 2009/10.

4. WATER/STORMWATER

Under page 31 you mention that infrastructure is developed to keep pace with growth and demand, yet no one is thinking about environmentally friendly ways to achieve this. Council talks about educating people about sustainable and efficient water use, yet is not promoting the use of rainwater nor making it a requirement for every new rural or rural/residential lot. Should this happen it would negate the need to spend \$9,000,000

over the next 10 years on the Southern Districts Water Supply in the form of reservoirs and new treatment plants.

You also mention the managing stormwater is one of the big challenges for council in growth areas within the district and that council plans to spend \$1,422,000 over the next ten years on upgrading stormwater infrastructure in Tamahere alone. We believe if the appropriate planning took place, and each new development was not looked at in isolation but as part of the wider structure plan, then at the time of consent as long as property owners had specific conditions on which to abide by and these were checked during the consent process, much of this challenge would be negated.

ACTION:

Each new rural residential lot is required to cater for their own water and stormwater requirements and each existing lot is required to have undertaken this within a 10 year period. This would release the demand and costs associated with our reliance on the Hamilton City Council and negate the need for WDC to further negotiate with HCC for any additional water, thus saving substantial amounts of money and resources. It would also save the \$5.2m currently budgeted for additional storage reservoirs at various locations. In fact it would save the council considerable time, resources and money, and the current planning seems a total illogical path to take when factored against the easier option of simply changing the rules so we are all responsible for our own water and then ensuring that the appropriate overall planning has taken place.

5. TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Tamahere is shown in the LTCCP as a projected high growth area. There currently is no availability of public transport in the ward, even given our close proximity to Hamilton City.

ACTION:

The Tamahere Structure Plan review needs to include detailed work on population growth and transport requirements to ensure that the transport strategy in the LTCCP caters for growth, public demand and sustainability.