

## Seizing new opportunities

Two years ago we consulted widely on a 10-year plan to take us through to 2025. We're still on track with this long-term plan, but we want to consult you about changes to three of our programmes in the 2017/2018 financial year.

Specifically, what we're proposing is:

- An exciting and potentially game-changing trial of enhanced predator control techniques in the region, leveraging off local and national initiatives.
- A new flood control scheme for Opunake.
- Replacement of The Lodge as part of the upgrade of Pukeiti.

In all three cases, new opportunities and/or changed circumstances add up to what we believe are compelling cases for the Council to slightly alter the course originally charted in our 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan.

**Financially, the development of changes is relatively minor. With all three proposals included in the 2017/2018 Annual Plan, general rates will go up 1% as opposed to the 0.5% rise forecast for 2017/2018 in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan.**

This Consultation Document sets out the details and implications of what we're proposing in these three specific areas, and how you can tell us what you think about them before we make final decisions.

You can make a submission by letter, by email, or via our website, [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz). If you want more information, you can see the complete Draft Annual Plan 2017/2018 on our website, or at our office at 47 Cloten Road, Stratford. Or you can give us a call on 0800 736 222 and talk to one of our staff.

We look forward to hearing from you.

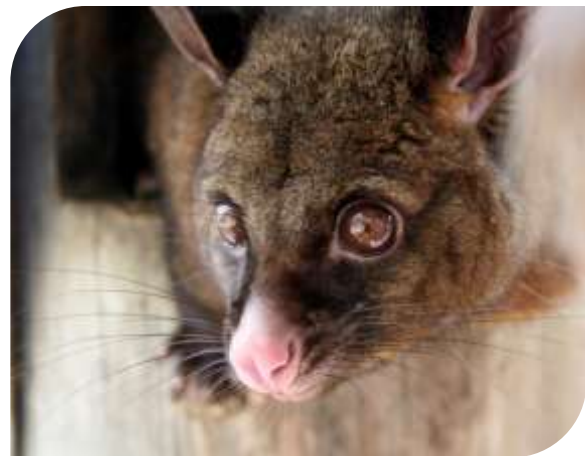


David MacLeod  
Chairman  
*Taranaki Regional Council*



Basil Chamberlain  
Chief Executive  
*Taranaki Regional Council*

Document Number: 1799922



### *Fact box:*

- The Council is preparing its 2017/2018 Annual Plan.
- This is the Consultation Document prepared in conjunction with the draft 2017/2018 Annual Plan, which can be found on the Council's website ([www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)).
- The Council is seeking your views on three proposals that either accelerate or amend existing programmes.
- Otherwise, the proposals for 2017/2018, as set out in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan, are being delivered upon.
- Consultation is open until 13 April 2017.

## What We Do



In the 2017/2018 Annual Plan, the Council intends to keep strongly focused on its core activities as established and consulted on in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan. These activities include:

- protecting our rivers, lakes and water from pollution
- managing the wise and productive use of water and soil
- protecting the quality of our air
- managing our coastal resources wisely
- controlling animal and plant pests
- providing flood protection
- protecting biodiversity
- promoting efficient and safe transport networks
- providing public transport services, especially for transport disadvantaged people
- ensuring emergency and civil defence systems respond effectively in times of need
- managing regional garden amenities and supporting the protection of heritage
- ensuring the ongoing development and maintenance of Yarrow Stadium
- owning and ensuring good governance of Port Taranaki Ltd
- advocating for and promoting the best interests of Taranaki people and the sustainable development of the region.



More specifically, for 2017/2018 the Council's work programme is to:



### Resource Management

- Prepare, adopt and maintain a comprehensive suite of legally compliant, high-quality and publicly considered policies, plans and strategies that will deliver efficient and effective management of the Council's functions and Taranaki's natural and physical resources. The immediate focus is on completing a review of the regional coastal plan and progressing a review of the regional freshwater and soil plan.
- Process approximately 400 applications for resource consents annually; administer all current resource consents; undertake compliance monitoring of all resource consents including carrying out more than 3,300 annual inspections of agricultural and small business premises and completing over 200 annual tailored compliance monitoring programmes for major consents. The Council will also respond to all pollution incidents and, where necessary, undertake successful enforcement action.
- Monitor and investigate the state of the environment in Taranaki and the effects of the implementation of the Council's policies and plans in accordance with the Council's monitoring procedures and programmes. This will be done by applying recognised and reputable methods of data collection, analysis and reporting.
- Provide relevant research information for resource management purposes through a series of resource investigations and projects.
- Encourage and implement waste management and cleaner production initiatives in Taranaki, consistent with the Regional Waste Strategy for Taranaki.
- Promote sustainable land management and riparian management by providing property planning services, in conjunction with landowners, that identify actions for land use management on an individual property basis.



- Promote the implementation of the Taranaki Riparian Management Programme. Approximately 450,000 plants will be supplied to plan holders each year for planting.
- Maintain and enhance the indigenous biodiversity of the Taranaki region, working alongside landowners and other groups and agencies in accordance with the Council's policies and biodiversity strategy priorities. Annually, the Council will prepare 10 new biodiversity plans and monitor and report on the implementation of all biodiversity plans.
- Promote the protection of the environment through a programme of enhancement grants.



*Recreation, culture & heritage*

- Facilitate the continued development and maintenance of Yarrow Stadium and ensure that Tupare, Hollard Gardens and Pukeiti are maintained as regionally significant recreational and heritage amenities. The implementation of the asset management plans for Pukeiti will continue.
- Maintain an ongoing partnership relationship with the Puke Ariki regional museum and library, including the ongoing use of display and presentation material within an annual project(s).



## Biosecurity

- Prepare, adopt and maintain a comprehensive suite of legally compliant, high-quality and publicly considered policies, plans and strategies that will deliver to the Taranaki community, efficient and effective management of the Council's biosecurity functions.
- Control pest animals to minimize their adverse effects on biodiversity, primary production and the regional economy and environment, in accordance with the Council's approved regional pest animal management strategy. The Council's self-help possum control programme, implemented in partnership with land occupiers, will be continued to ensure that landholders maintain possum populations within acceptable limits on the 240,000 hectares of land already within the programme.
- Control and/or eradicate pest plants to minimize their adverse effects on biodiversity, primary production and the regional economy and environment in accordance with the Council's approved regional pest plant management strategy.

Annually the Council will undertake the direct control and eradication of all known infestations of senegal tea, climbing spindleberry, mignonette vine, giant reed and Darwin's barberry in the region; confine the spread of or reduce the extent of 'eradication' and 'containment' pest plants through a programme of inspections and, where necessary, enforcement on all properties; and take necessary actions on all pest plant complaints.





 **Hazard Management**

- Promote and enhance within the Taranaki community, an integrated, comprehensive civil defence emergency management system. Specifically, the Council will implement the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan for Taranaki and the Emergency Management Annual Business Plan.
- Manage and maintain the Waitara and Waiwhakaiho flood protection schemes and manage other minor river control schemes to accepted or agreed design standards to minimize and prevent damage by floods and river erosion.
- Provide accurate and timely flood warnings, flood control advice and undertake minor works and associated actions to minimise and prevent damage by floods and river erosion.





### *Representation, advocacy & investment*

- Ensure that the Council-owned port company, Port Taranaki Ltd, is efficiently managed as a successful business and that property and treasury investments owned by the Council are efficiently managed. The Council will seek to attain at least a 6% return on land and treasury investments.
- Promote community awareness and understanding of the Council's functions and activities and make quality and timely information publicly available. This area of activity will include further development of the Council's website.
- Continue its environmental education programme where the Council expects to involve approximately 5,000 school students in class visits and field trips.
- Ensure that public representation by the Council and its Committees is carried out effectively and efficiently in accordance with statutory requirements and advocate on behalf of the Taranaki community on matters of regional interest or concern.







## Transport

- Promote an integrated, safe, responsive and sustainable land transport system for Taranaki, promote the provision of community passenger transport in Taranaki and assist the special transport needs of the transport disadvantaged.
- Promote safe navigation for all users of the waters of Port Taranaki.
- Operate and improve passenger transport services in New Plymouth urban areas and regional Taranaki and the Total Mobility subsidy assistance programme, subject to funding approval processes.
- Provide harbourmaster and harbour warden services for Port Taranaki to implement relevant harbour bylaws and regulations.



# Predator control



## *Making aspiration a reality*

Introduced predators are a major threat to our native plants and wildlife, and to our economic well-being. However, Taranaki is better placed than most regions to investigate opportunities that may lead to a predator free Taranaki by 2050, thanks to strong and enduring partnerships and a track record of innovation and successful results.

The adoption of the national predator-free 2050 goal opens up new opportunities for extra support and funding.

For 2017/2018, the Council is proposing an extra investment in a trial programme to test large-scale predator suppression and eradication techniques across an entire catchment – the Waiwhakaiho, which encompasses alpine rainforest, farmland and built-up urban areas. The area has multiple biodiversity values and many biodiversity protection initiatives currently occurring.

The trial will target possums, mustelids (weasels, ferrets and stoats), feral cats and rats. It will test a range of techniques including one of the new technologies seen as essential to achieving predator-free status – monitoring devices that allow traps to be checked remotely and wirelessly, reducing costs and increasing efficiency.

It will be coordinated under the 'Wild for Taranaki' banner, through which the Taranaki Biodiversity Trust channels the efforts of its wide range of member organisations, including the Council. It will also build on the Council's own long-running Self-Help Possum Control Programme and more recent Urban Possum Control Programme.

The trial will not proceed if external funding partnerships are not successfully negotiated.



***The adoption of the national predator-free 2050 goal opens up new opportunities for extra support and funding***

**What it means for ratepayers**

The trial will cost \$1.7m for 2017/2018, of which the Council is proposing to fund capital expenditure of \$700,000. Operationally, the only additional costs that will need to be funded from general funds (general rates and investment funds) are depreciation (\$70,000 pa). The rest of the funding is proposed to come from the Government and, possibly, from philanthropic organisations. The trial will not proceed if external funding partnerships are not successfully negotiated for a significant portion of the project.



**OPTIONS:**

1. Do nothing, that is carry on with the current predator control programmes as outlined in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan.
2. Undertake the proposed trial programme at a capital cost of \$700,000. This is the Council's preferred option.
3. Undertake an extended trial programme at a higher cost over a wider area.



# Opunake flood diversion

## Preventing a repeat of August 2015

Options for controlling floods at Opunake have been investigated since August 2015 when the Hihiwera Stream and a smaller tributary burst their banks and inundated a number of properties.



The Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) and the South Taranaki District Council (STDC) have come up with a plan that's already won support at a community meeting, and detailed survey and design work has been carried out, but is still to be fully completed.

It's in two parts: A rural component to divert floodwaters away from the township, and an urban component to upgrade culverts and channels within the township. The urban part will be designed and implemented by the STDC, with the rural component being handled by the TRC. The scheme is designed to protect Opunake from a one-in-100-year (1% probability) flooding event.



Above: *Gisborne Terrace, Opunake, inundated by rain.* [Image courtesy of South Taranaki District Council.]

Right: *Hihiwera Stream overflowing through a residential property.*

**Partial flooding  
closed SH45  
between Opunake  
and Pihama**



### What it means for ratepayers

The rural component will cost an estimated \$600,000. The proposal is that \$257,500 is paid for by the STDC as a capital contribution with the remainder being paid for by a targeted rate over the South Taranaki constituency.

The TRC proposes to wrap the funding of this scheme and its two other South Taranaki flood protection schemes at Waitotara

and Okato into one targeted South Taranaki rate of approximately \$51,000 a year. This equates to approximately 58¢ per \$100,000 of the capital value of a property. A South Taranaki property with a \$500,000 capital value will pay approximately \$2.90 for flood protection. This would be in line with how the Council's North Taranaki (Waitara and Waiwhakaiho rivers) flood protection schemes are funded.



#### OPTIONS:

1. Provide one-in-100 year flood protection to the Opunake community. This is the Council's preferred option.
2. Leave the current flood protection standards in place.

## The Lodge at Pukeiti

### *Keeping heritage values alive*

A major redevelopment project at Pukeiti is now entering its final stages, bringing the iconic and unique property into a new phase in the wake of its transfer into public ownership in 2010.

Refurbishment of The Lodge, the 62-year-old building that was the cultural hub for the development of Pukeiti in its early and middle years, was always part of the original plan. Unfortunately, detailed inspection revealed the poorly insulated and damp building to be in poor condition with a number of significant structural issues. Refurbishing it would be both costly and risky.

The Council and the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust have both agreed that a completely new building is a better option. A number of architects were invited to submit design proposals evoking the heritage values of the old building while meeting the current and future needs of Pukeiti's users – the public of Taranaki and their visitors.

The preferred architect is Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner, a local firm with a strong track record. It has prepared a design concept. The old building has been dismantled to allow salvageable material to be stockpiled for the new Lodge, and so that geotechnical analysis of the site can be carried out.

***A major redevelopment project at Pukeiti is now entering its final stages, bringing the iconic and unique property into a new phase...***





### What it means for ratepayers

The total cost estimate for the new Lodge is \$1.2 million. Along with a likely \$100,000 contribution from the Trust, an additional capital budget allocation of \$700,000 would be required. This would be met from accumulated funds with depreciation the only rating implication in the longer-term. This funding is in-line with all other garden developments at Pukeiti, Tupare and Hollard Gardens.

#### OPTIONS:

1. Increase the budget for the construction of an appropriate Lodge replacement by \$700,000. This is the Council's preferred option.
2. Retain the existing budget allocation and replace the old Lodge with a more modest replacement
3. Increase the budget further for the construction of a higher specification Lodge.



## *Tell us what you think*

You can have your say online, by email or through the post. And if you want to, you can come along and explain your views personally to Councillors.

All submissions will be carefully considered before final decisions are made.

If you want more information, see the Draft Annual Plan at [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz), or you can inspect a copy at the Council office at 47 Cloten Road Stratford, or at District Council service centres or libraries. You can also call us on 0800 736 222.

## *Making a submission*

Submissions must be received by **4pm on Thursday 13 April 2017**.

Online: [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz)

Email: [info@trc.govt.nz](mailto:info@trc.govt.nz) ('Annual Plan submission' in subject field)

Post: Annual Plan Submission  
Chief Executive  
Taranaki Regional Council  
Private Bag 713  
STRATFORD 4352

(The attached submission form can be used for postal submissions.)

## *What happens next?*

Submissions open: 13 March 2017.

Submissions close: 13 April 2017.

Hearing of and deliberation on submissions: 8 May 2017.

Adoption of 2017/2018 Annual Plan: 16 May 2017.

2017/2018 Annual Plan becomes operative: 1 July 2017.



## Submission form

### Submitter

**Title** *(please circle)*

Dr Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other *(please specify)* \_\_\_\_\_

**First name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Surname** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organisation/group** *(if applicable)* \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal address** *(Please provide full postal address, including rural delivery and postcode)*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** *(daytime)* \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to present my submission personally at a hearing scheduled for 8 May **Yes**  **No**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

### Your submission

*Note that your submission and any information you supply as part of it is considered public information and will be available in reports and documents relating to this process and will be published on our website, [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz).*

### Predator control

Do you think the Council should go ahead with the proposed trial predator control programme, to be partially-funded with \$700,000 from accumulated funds? **Yes**  **No**

**Comment** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## *Opunake flood diversion*

Do you support the Council going ahead with the rural component of the Opunake flood diversion scheme and the creation of a targeted rate in the South Taranaki constituency?

Yes       No

**Comment** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## *The Lodge at Pukeiti*

Do you support the Council going ahead with construction of a new Lodge at Pukeiti, with an extra capital injection of \$700,000 from accumulated funds (not rates)?

Yes       No

**Comment** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Additional comments**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lined writing area consisting of 30 horizontal blue lines.