



TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O  
**Whanganui**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submissions Received



# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 2

Speaking

First name: **Colin**  
Last name: **Anderson**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents: yes

## 2026 ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION – C Anderson

### SARJEANT GALLERY

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Example: if the entry charge was \$15, ratepayers would give their name and address to be recorded, and a portion of their payment credited to their rates account.

### WHANGANUI EAST POOL

The pool should remain open and operate with restricted facilities.

Upgrades should be paused and the whole pool situation reviewed as to whether a new pool could be constructed on another site such as Williams Domain. The new pool does not need to be a Rolls Royce job but designed and built so that additional features could be incorporated at a later date.

The length of the new pool should be the minimum length to allow for swimmers training for international competition. That is 50 metres.

The much-hyped citizens' assembly was a total waste of time and money as the outcome reflected what citizens have previously told you in previous submissions.

### DAVIS LIBRARY

The extension should go ahead with sufficient parking – at least another 40 car spaces. The extension does not need to include a café as there is one in the adjacent Sarjeant Gallery which is currently operating at a loss. When no private person or business was interested in operating the café, it should have raised alarm bells regarding viability within Council at that time.

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### LOAN REPAYMENTS

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In fact, with Three Waters assets and debts being passed to a CCO, Council should not fund debt repayment for Three Waters this year. This would result in a \$5.2m reduction in debt repayment requirements. That is half of Council's projected debt repayment.

Enabling a significant rates reduction from last year for Whanganui residents.

Last year (an election year) Council boasted that Whanganui had the lowest rates increase of 2.2% – I now challenge Council to boast a negative rates increase for this year which if they could achieve by actioning the above.

Council does not need to borrow more money. They need to live within their means.

Keep rates lean and mean. Any additional costs to be found within organisation expenditure just as any household has to with unexpected bills.

#### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Options for the Dublin Street bridge:

- Needs to be fit for purpose for the community. That is suitable for light vehicles and light to medium weight service vehicles.
- Should not be designed to Class 1 road standards to allow for heavy truck and trailer type vehicles. These are provided for by the town and Cobham bridges
- Design work will need to include relieving of congestion at both ends through suitable roading configuration.

#### GREY STREET

Any future development on this site should be at the lease's cost, NOT the ratepayers.

This could be by the lease's direct funding or, at a minimum, included within the lease's yearly payments. Those payments must meet industry standard financial costs.

#### NORTH MOLE

I support ongoing work to stabilise the dunes at the same minimal cost as has happened in recent years.

Any further financial costs need to be put on hold given the current financial situation, and the group championing for this development be directed to source external funding for their proposals.

#### COMMUNITY SPACES

Support upgrading Whanganui East pool as per previous statement.

Opposed to Splash Centre gym upgrades given that there are already many gyms in the community providing these facilities. Does the gym make a profit each year and by how much? Where are the financials to justify the upgrade.

Power Up The Park – am happy with solar lighting for safety reasons, but not ‘free’ Wi-Fi and artwork. ‘Free’ is a misnomer for somebody else having to pay.

#### COASTAL ACTION PLAN

This is unnecessary. People who choose to live in these areas are aware of the environmental advantages and disadvantages of living in a coastal site. Caveat emptor applies.

#### SOLAR PANELS AND BATTERY BACK-UP

Given the infrequency of emergencies, this is unnecessary expenditure.

Solar panels are reliant on the sun. In a storm event there could be days without sun, so even with back-up batteries it’s an expensive pipe dream.

What happens to this capability if the facility itself is affected by the emergency?

Diesel generators are readily available at a much lower cost. They are also portable and can be taken anywhere there is a need.

Civil Defence is constantly reminding us that we should have supplies sufficient to enable households to survive three to five days minimum.

#### WASTE MANAGEMENT MINIMISATION PLAN

This is not a Council function. Council has already provided a base line for waste reduction and recycling. It is now up to private firms involved to provide any improvements that are economically viable.

Waste collection should be privately run so that individuals can make their own financial arrangements. For example, with the current recycling provision and private pay as you throw options I am paying less than \$24 a year over and above the recycling for my waste disposal. I am totally opposed to moving away from the current system.

#### AIRPORT CARPARK

Support this.

#### UNESCO CITY OF DESIGN

Would imagine most folk in Whanganui either don’t know or care about this. What is the cost of this? How is this being paid and what is the actual return for the community? This is not a core Council function.

## UNBUDGETED EXPENDITURE

Any unbudgeted expenditure needs to be taken from the relevant activity's budget not raised from additional borrowing. Recent examples that I am aware of are:

- The citizens forum regarding the Whanganui East pool – \$28,000 plus staff time.
- The physical provision of the café in the Sarjeant Gallery – \$570,000.
- Café operating costs for the first year – \$250,000.
- Additional expenditure for Fox to Fitzherbert Road link – \$1.4m.

## OTHER AREAS WHERE SAVINGS CAN BE MADE

Immediately cancel all corporate membership to organisations, trade magazines, professional bodies such as Water New Zealand, Roding, Planners, Business Secretaries, SOLGM and LGNZ. These would provide savings of at least \$100,000 per year.

Relevant staff who wish to be members can take up their own individual memberships which would still entitle them to attend conferences etc to maintain their own professional development.

Sister Cities visits – in these difficult financial times those participating in these visits should pay their own way (as has occurred previously) rather than a charge against ratepayers.

Affordable Housing – this is not a Council function, other than being supportive with regards to building and resource consent processing, and possibly development contributions.

Uneconomical commercial ventures by Council. By these I refer to the likes of the Glass Studio, the Flight School, Gas Net, Sarjeant Gallery café, Whanganui and Partners. Unless these activities have shown a financial profit within the last three years, they need to be closed or sold. Council should not be funding these entries year on year.

## PROJECT COST OVERRUNS

This is a disturbing trend of most projects undertaken by Council. It suggests that Council officers lack the ability to adequately design and/or control any works they undertake. There is no accountability for these overruns. If it were a private business the owner's home would be at risk of forfeiture to pay for the overrun. Why is Local Government any different?

In Local Government the solution is "we'll just charge the ratepayers more". When are you going to take responsibility and stop this nonsense?

As Councillors, you need to hold the Chief Executive and his staff to account. Why should I, as a ratepayer, continually have to pay for Council staff's incompetence?

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 59

Speaking

First name: **John**  
Last name: **Anderson**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents: yes

Submission to Whanganui District Council Annual Plan 2026/27

30 April 2026

**Introduction:-**

In this consultation period the documents are simply released to the public. Submissions can be made during the consultation period but what is left is a confrontational atmosphere where Council is defending its workshopped proposal and submitters either agree with it or not. If we took the UNESCO City of Design status really seriously we might look at the process differently. Council might say, for example, that here are some things that we are concerned about, what ideas do you have towards resolving them?

**Consultation document:-**

Page 10 Context:- “The proposed annual rates increase 2026/27 is 5.8%”

Does this take into account the expected jump in inflation triggered by the US/Iran conflict? (or is it based on the historically low rate of inflation?)

The political context of last years annual plan was against the background of the looming local body elections and great care was taken by Councils around the country to minimise rate increases so as not to antagonise voters and also to align with pressure from central government. However reality is starting to bite now with not only rampant inflation about to set in but also the realisation of increasing demand for maintenance and rebuilding of infrastructure, particularly exacerbated by extreme weather events and other natural disasters. Sustainability and resilience are becoming much more serious matters but will require even further investment.

It is claimed “we’re turning over all financial ‘rocks’ to focus spending in what matters most”. That is not what the headlines are saying. The new branding exercise, flight school fiasco, hotel project, Sarjeant café losses, ballooning costs at the Port, Whanganui and Partners shortfall etc. come to mind...We might have seen costs attributed to these projects but what has been the opportunity cost of these man-made disasters? Perhaps we will never know.

There should be lessons to learn here, but have we? Are we spinning on a merry-go-round at ever increasing speed? Is this the time to look at things differently?

With no disrespect, people come and go here and matters of international significance impact on our local scene in ways that are way beyond our control. Sometimes the same questions are being asked time and again, but are there other questions we should be asking?

Fresh thinking based on bigger picture vision and new levels of creativity are possible and will provide better solutions to the problems we face now and in the future. This is only possible when ownership of the failures is taken on board and fully accepted. Delaying maintenance, reckless borrowing, reducing staff and then recruiting contractors/consultants can all look good at the time but can become a lot more expensive later.

**'Hot topics':-**

**1. Gallery door charges:-**

Refer to my submission last year.

In addition, seeing as no progress has been made, perhaps we should step back from the black and white question and consider all options, including the potential to make savings with staffing /services.

**2. Whanganui East Pool:-**

Survey the users and locals including the Whanganui East School who has been granted special use rights.

**3. Davis Library:-**

Do the roof. Anything else is a no brainer at this stage. Firstly a comprehensive plan for Queens Park including parking, access and landscaping must be confirmed.

**4. Slowing down loan repayments:-**

No. Keep up repayments

**5. Building in a buffer:-**

If possible, yes. The unexpected is bound to happen sometime.

**In conclusion:-**

We should be aspiring to work even smarter, exploring options to problems more creatively under UNESCO City of Design guidelines. My plea is for you to ensure the following items are funded in the Annual Plan.

**1. Trees:-**

Protected Trees, Street Tree Policy etc are all overdue for review. Existing policies are ineffective and in some cases counter productive.

2. Town Centre Regeneration 2016:-

Also overdue for review. Evaluate success and failures against original objectives. What improvements can be made? What's worked, what hasn't.

3. UNESCO City of Design:-

Some recognition has been made in the last few months but huge steps in understanding are yet to be undertaken. One simple action would be to extend the Heritage Officer's role to encompass the City of Design compliance requirements. (Also I would support any consideration council could give to supporting the Quartz Museum of Studio Ceramics, for the obvious reason that it epitomises the City of Design idea.)

4. Housing:-

Approval has been given to set up another body to further the housing cause, but to my knowledge no funding has been granted for any professional oversight/ scoping of the project. From the little I understand of what is proposed I fear another disaster on the horizon.

John Anderson

[Redacted signature block]

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 150

Not speaking

First name: Louise  
Last name: Anderson

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Entry to the Sarjeant Gallery - visitors should pay to help cover costs. Whanganui East Pool - take a one summer pause until it's refurbished and to help reduce costs whilst its closed. The Davis Library extension - delay the library extension given cost pressures Loan repayments – pay debt down but keep rates as affordable as possible as we are still in a cost of living crisis. How budgets are set - keep budgets tight year-to-year

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 3

Speaking

First name: **Brenda**  
Last name: **Anderson**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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Supporting documents: yes

## ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION 2026 – B ANDERSON

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As Councillors, you need to hold the Chief Executive and his staff to account. Why should I, as a ratepayer, continually have to pay for Council staff's incompetence?

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 123

Not speaking

First name: D  
Last name: B

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Amenities like the Sargent Gallery should be user pays. Keeping it free to keep visitor numbers up is not a true reflection of its popularity and simply seems like the council is trying to justify the amount spent on it. Non vital infrastructure should be delayed and that money focused into lowering debt rather than constantly rising rates, the cost of everything is going up, our wages are not and the average member of the public simply cannot afford more rises in tax and rates.

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 41

Not speaking

First name: **Tina**  
Last name: **Baldwin**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?** Listen to what the majority say.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 67

Not speaking

First name: **Megan**  
Last name: **Baldwin-Holly**  
Organisation: **Whanganui Cancer Society Health Promoter**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27? Yes

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Supporting documents: yes

## **Submission: Feedback on Annual Plan 2026/27**

**To:** Whanganui District Council

**From:** Megan Baldwin-Holly

Health Promoter

Cancer Society Whanganui Centre

**Ph:** 06 348 7402

**Email:** [megan.baldwin-holly@cancercd.org.nz](mailto:megan.baldwin-holly@cancercd.org.nz)

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### **Re: Feedback on Annual Plan 2026/27**

Kia ora koutou

The Cancer Society Whanganui Centre is a charitable organisation that provides a range of services, including Health Promotion, which involves working collaboratively with communities to reduce the incidence of cancer. We advocate for cancer prevention environments, raise awareness, and provide education on the matter.

On behalf of the Whanganui Cancer Society, I would like to use these submissions as an opportunity to advocate and encourage the implementation of UV harm reduction to have greater prominence throughout the Annual Plan 2026/27

We are appreciative of the opportunity to provide feedback on the Annual Plan 2026/27. We would like to begin by acknowledging the Council for recognising the vital role that it plays in the overall health and well-being of our community and applaud the work that has gone into developing this Draft Annual Plan 2026/27. I support and recognise that it meets and perhaps exceeds the mark on many issues that are vital to the well-being of our community.

Councils play a crucial role in helping communities to be SunSmart (1,2). Minimising exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation should be part of all council workplace health and safety policies (1,2). To ensure all open space area are design to support regular use recreation, including shade to reduce harmful UV exposure. Particularly within parks and playground where family and children frequently use. Quality shade in outdoor areas can reduce UV radiation exposure by up to 75% when used with the other four SunSmart steps, Slip, Slop, Slap and Wrap (1).

**In regrades to the Whanganui East Pool refurbished. (No shade for pool. Shade sails for spectators).**



With Whanganui East Pools being an outdoors pool space and a popular space for family too enjoy during the hot summer months, this is a great time to take the opportunity to prioritising shade to reduce harmful UV exposure.

In New Zealand ultraviolet radiation (UV) levels can be extremely high. Aotearoa and along with Australia have the highest rates of melanoma skin cancer in the world (3) with over 90% of skin cancer is caused by too much exposure to UV rays from the sun (4). Almost all skin cancers can be prevented with good protection against UV radiation by prioritising shade to reduce harmful UV exposure and incorporating shade in all public spaces is a key measure to support skin cancer prevention. Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) is the major modifiable risk factor for skin cancer (5).

A recent nationally representative survey found 87% of New Zealanders support to increasing shade in outdoor spaces, and 90% specifically backing shade in schools. These findings demonstrate a clear public need for strong action and investment in sun safety measures (5).

Open spaces and physical activity are essential for the health and wellbeing of the community. A well designed and positioned shade can physically reduce UVR (6,7) by as much as 90 percent (8). A combination of natural and built shade offers the best protection (7,8).

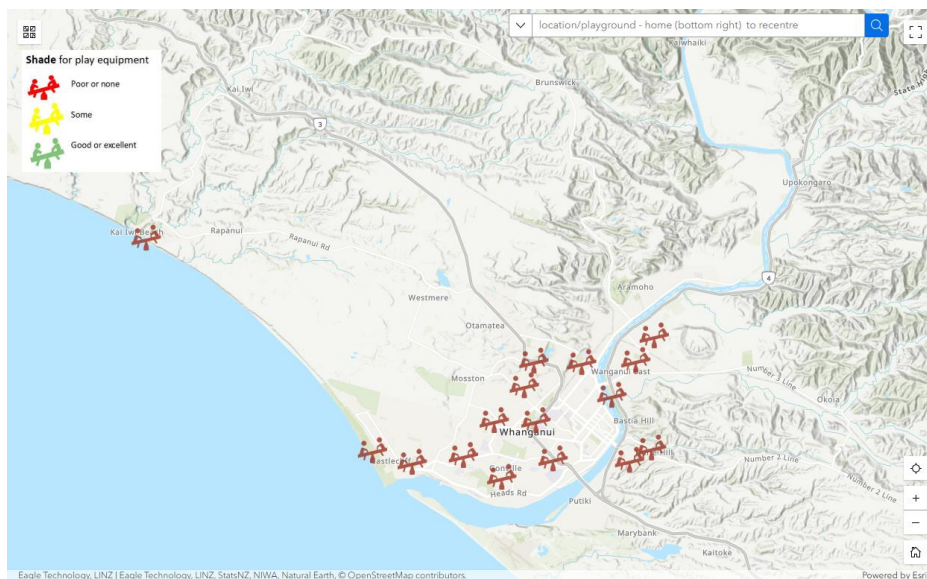
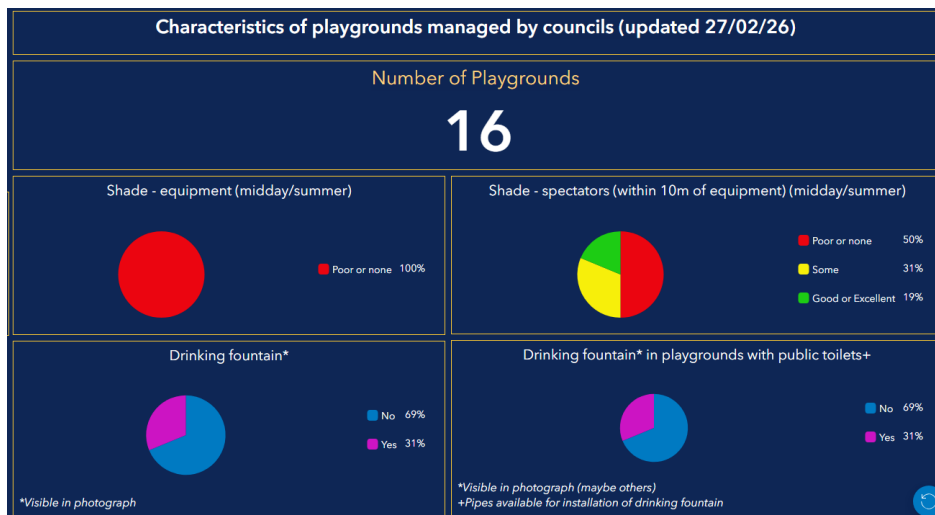
The Cancer Society recommends focusing on areas used by families and children, especially those in our lower socio-economic status communities where families may struggle to afford personal sun protection items such as sun hats & sunscreen. In these areas, the presence of adequate shade is critical. Shade solutions (natural and/or built) provide good protection from harmful UVR exposure and can reduce a person exposure to UVR if shade is available as a choice for individuals. Contributing to the health and safety of the community, the increased comfort levels are likely to increase community satisfaction and will result in increased economic benefits to our community. Therefore, we encourage prioritising shade over the pool to reduce harmful UVR exposure, while enhancing the play area's aesthetics.

### **Shade In Whanganui Parks**

I also would like to use this submission as an opportunity to encourage the implementation funding for shade to be included in the Long-Term Plan/annual plan/budget, with priority given to parks and playgrounds in high deprivation communities.

Whanganui has a total of 16 playgrounds. I would like to highlight a recent Playground Mapping led Dr Bronwen McNoe at the University of Otago (9). The project looked at the shade available within playgrounds across New Zealand with a focus on shade above play equipment and spectator during midday in summer 2024. The finding showed out of 16 playgrounds in Whanganui, 100% of them show poor shade over play equipment and 50% poor for shade for

spectators (9). It was also mentioned that some of the playgrounds have established trees and some built shade structures in the surrounding area that may provide shade for spectators but not for the equipment where children play (9). Therefore, we encourage planting native trees and other natural shade sources, which can be a cost-effective alternative to large shade structures to cover playground equipment and protect families from UVR exposure.



Furthermore, we recommend the council to look into investing in sun safety signage in public playground throughout Whanganui, particularly those in high use. Sun safety signage is a key component to help raise awareness about the risk of excessive sun exposure and prompt sun protection.

### Smokefree

The Whanganui District Council’s Smokefree and Vapefree Outdoor Areas Policy play an important role in supporting people to be healthy and well.

Tobacco is still the leading cause of cancer death in New Zealand. We recommend including clear Smokefree-Vapefree signs at all playgrounds and where appropriate in reserves.

The Cancer Society recommends an investment in Smokefree-Vapefree signs at all playgrounds, especially newly developed areas. There is no 'safe level' of second-hand smoke exposure outdoors (10). There is potential for harm to health over five metres from people smoking. Significant tobacco smoke effects can occur from more than ten metres away from a group of people smoking, and at least nine metres from a burning cigarette in light winds.

Council can do more to support people trying to stop smoking and make young people less likely to start smoking. Having clear Smokefree-Vapefree signs in all playgrounds, picnic areas and on cycle and walkways can help achieve this.

The Council plays a leading role in promoting community wellbeing, striving to make the Whanganui region a safe and healthy place, and fostering environments that support this vision. To reduce the rates and impact of cancers linked to UV exposure and smoking—and to ensure our community can thrive in safe, healthy environments where people live, work, and play—we must prioritise the health and wellbeing of our people, especially our most vulnerable: our children and future generations.

Ngā mihi nui | Kind regards

Megan Baldwin-Holly

Health Promoter/Health Educator | Toitū Te Whenua

Cancer Society Whanganui

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2. Whanganui District Council. Solar Protection Policy 2005. [Online] Available from: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/policies/solarprotectionpolicy.pdf](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/policies/solarprotectionpolicy.pdf) [Accessed: 30 April 2026]
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10. Smokefree Website. Second-hand Smoke. [Online] Available from: [www.sunsmart.org.nz/sunsmart-communities/sunsmart-councils/](http://www.sunsmart.org.nz/sunsmart-communities/sunsmart-councils/) [Accessed: 30 April 2026]

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 44

Speaking

First name: **Jason**  
Last name: **Bardell**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents: yes

## Submission on Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 – Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery (Cost Reduction and Fairness)

*Focus: reducing operating costs and introducing a primary door charge for out-of-town visitors (with a voluntary contribution model only as a fallback) to help keep rates as low as possible.*

### 1. Purpose of this submission

I support Council's stated priority of keeping rate rises as low as possible and I am seeking practical, immediate changes to reduce the ongoing cost burden associated with Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery, while maintaining a high-quality visitor experience.

### 2. Summary of requests

- Introduce a door charge for out-of-town visitors (primary request), with appropriate exemptions (for example: Whanganui District residents/ratepayers, school groups, and community access programmes). If Council will not adopt a door charge, implement a clearly signposted voluntary contribution model with active prompts at point of entry (fallback).
- Reduce the Sarjeant Gallery operating budget by at least \$1.0m per annum from 2026/27, with a defined pathway to bring the total activity cost below \$5.0m as soon as practicable.
- Review contracts and cost drivers (including Council-funded support arrangements) to ensure value for money, transparent oversight, and measurable performance outcomes.

### 3. Door charges for out-of-town visitors

The Sarjeant Gallery is positioned as a premier regional gallery and a key community asset. However, the current model means Whanganui ratepayers carry the ongoing operating costs while out-of-town visitors can access the facility at no direct cost. This is inequitable given the current affordability pressures on households and rates.

I recommend Council adopts an out-of-town visitor entry charge (for example, \$15 per adult), supported by clear signage and an uncomplicated payment process. A door charge is preferable to a voluntary contribution model because it provides more predictable revenue and is more likely to deliver a meaningful reduction in the net cost to ratepayers. If Council is not prepared to implement an entry charge at this time, then (as a fallback) a clearly signposted voluntary contribution model should be actively requested at point of entry. Either approach would help offset operating costs and reduce reliance on rates, without undermining the visitor experience.

### 4. Sarjeant Gallery operating costs and ratepayer burden

Based on the figures publicly discussed in Council information, the scale of Sarjeant's annual operating costs appears materially higher than comparable cultural services with similar public opening hours. As a ratepayer, I am concerned the current level of

expenditure is out of proportion to the service outcomes being delivered and is contributing unnecessarily to rates pressure.

For example, it appears the museum operates on a materially lower budget (around \$1.4m) while caring for a substantially larger collection (around 30,000 items), compared with Sarjeant's total activity cost (noted as \$7.687m) for around 9,000 artworks. While galleries and museums have different operating requirements, this gap warrants a robust review of staffing, overheads, and contracted services.

Given Sarjeant also has on-site revenue opportunities (such as a café and retail), Council should ensure commercial arrangements are structured to reduce net operating costs to ratepayers, and that any Council-funded support is demonstrably necessary and competitively priced.

I propose Council reduce the Sarjeant Gallery operating budget by at least \$1.0m per year from 2026/27 and adopt a defined target to bring total activity costs below \$5.0m as soon as practicable, with further reductions considered once the new operating model is bedded in.

## 5. Oversight, accountability and implementation

- Complete an independent review of Sarjeant's operating model and cost drivers (staffing levels, contractors, maintenance, utilities, programming and overhead allocation), with findings reported to Council and the community.
- Set clear performance measures that balance access and quality with affordability (for example: net cost to ratepayers, revenue per visitor, and delivery within budget).
- Require quarterly reporting against budget and the cost-reduction pathway, with corrective actions identified when targets are not met.
- Ensure any visitor charging policy is communicated clearly, implemented consistently, and reviewed after 6–12 months for effectiveness and community impact.

I encourage Council to take immediate steps in the 2026/27 Annual Plan to reduce Sarjeant's net operating cost to ratepayers, while retaining the gallery as a valued cultural asset. Introducing a fair contribution from out-of-town visitors and tightening operating costs are practical measures that align with affordability and value-for-money expectations.

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 55

Speaking

First name: **James**  
Last name: **Barron**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Yes. 1. Wish to support Power Up the Park funding and contest there being no inflation adjustment. (Council is vocal about the significant infrastructure cost escalations it has experienced but seems to think the Power Up the Park costs (based on a 4yo quote) will not have changed? 2. Opportunity to improve services in Te Kaihau-o-Kupe (Castlecliff), tentatively titled "Please spend LESS in Castlecliff" I'm waiting on information and will provide pptx and handout prior to speaking.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 35

Speaking

First name: **Keith**  
Last name: **Beautrais**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

During the election campaign at the citizens' meeting all subsequently elected councillors\* raised their hands when I asked if they would support some WDC contribution to natural heritage considering the millions spent on cultural heritage. The question was framed around long term plans, so given this annual plan again avoids the issue, am I to assume that we can work together on the LTP process to give effect to this reasonable request. • Councillors Brown and Fallen were absent but also expressed support for considering this issue in the LTP in personal communications.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 154

Speaking

First name: **Russell**  
Last name: **Bell**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?  Yes

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Supporting documents:

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 143

Not speaking

First name: **Glen**  
Last name: **Blythe**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27? Expensive

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Supporting documents:

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 81

Not speaking

First name: **Finn**  
Last name: **Boyle**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

I think its time to raise rates significantly to reflect the realities of our present and future risks. Artificially low rates do not serve us.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 37

Speaking

First name: **Jack**  
 Last name: **Bullock**  
 Organisation: **Whanganui Rural Community Board Role -**

Chairman

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Submission to WDC Annual Plan; Sarjeant Gallery Door Charge The Board acknowledges the significant cultural and economic value this facility provides to our district. However, we recommend that the operational budget be reviewed with a view to reduction. In the current financial environment, all organisations are being asked to exercise greater fiscal restraint. We believe it is reasonable for this facility to adopt the same approach, ensuring that expenditure is carefully managed and aligned with community expectations. We encourage a focus on improving operational efficiency while maintaining an appropriate and sustainable level of service. Delaying the Davis Library Extension In the current financial climate, deferring the Davis Library extension would be a prudent and reasonable decision. We believe the community will understand this approach, recognising that while the extension is desirable, it is not an immediate necessity. That said, the Board acknowledges the importance of progressing this project within the next few years to enhance usability and provide a modern, fit-for-purpose space for the community. Whanganui East Pool The Board supports investment in this facility to ensure it remains attractive, engaging, and fit for purpose for the community. Upgrading the pool has the potential to increase usage by creating a more appealing destination that aligns with what users expect from modern aquatic facilities. However, we emphasise that any proposed upgrades should be supported by a sound and logical business case. This should demonstrate clear community benefit, financial prudence, and robust, evidence-based decision-making as the project progresses. Slowing Down Loan Repayments The Board supports slowing the pace of loan repayments as a practical measure to help keep rates low and affordable for the community. In the current economic environment, easing the immediate financial burden on ratepayers should be a priority. A more gradual repayment approach provides relief

while still maintaining responsible long-term financial management. Keeping Budgets Lean / Building in a Buffer We support maintaining lean budgets, with careful consideration given to the use of contingency or buffer funding. This approach aligns with the priority of keeping rates as low and affordable as possible, thereby reducing financial pressure on ratepayers. We encourage disciplined budgeting that focuses on essential services and value for money, ensuring any allowances for contingencies are appropriate, justified, and do not place unnecessary strain on the community.

Coastal Erosion Protection – Kai Iwi / Mowhanau Area The Board strongly supports increased investment in coastal erosion protection for the Kai Iwi / Mowhanau area, recognising the ongoing and escalating risks to land, infrastructure, and community assets. We recommend that annual funding for this work be progressively increased to ensure effective long-term mitigation and continued maintenance of existing protections. It is also important that Council remains actively involved in the implementation of the Coastal Action Plan, with a clear focus on managing infrastructure risk and building resilience for the future.

Fordell Village Infrastructure The Board acknowledges and appreciates the recent work undertaken to ensure safe drinking water for the Fordell community. This investment is valued and has delivered important benefits to local residents. However, further investment is required within the Fordell village, particularly in the Budge Street area and around Fordell School. Key concerns include drainage capacity, road width, and the provision of safe footpaths. With increasing rainfall events, the existing drainage infrastructure is no longer adequate to efficiently manage stormwater in this area. In addition, Budge Street is notably narrow, and the design and angle of roadside drains present safety risks for both motorists and pedestrians, particularly school children. As Fordell School continues to grow, these risks will only increase. The Board therefore recommends that these issues be prioritised, with a focus on improving safety, resilience, and suitability for current and future demand.

Mowhanau Wastewater Pipeline Project The Board supports the Mowhanau wastewater pipeline project, recognising the long-term environmental and public health benefits it will deliver. Over time, this project should significantly reduce, and ultimately eliminate, faecal contamination where the stream meets the sea beyond Archer's Bridge. Removing this contamination will address an important health risk for both residents and visitors. The Board considers this investment essential for improving water quality, protecting the coastal

environment, and safeguarding community wellbeing

**Rapanui Cycle Trail** The Board supports the Rapanui Cycle Trail Project and considers it a valuable initiative that will enhancing recreational opportunities, and tourism potential. The Board endorses its inclusion in the Whanganui District Council Plans and encourages the Council to continue its support for this project, and to continue its current engagement as an advisory support in the memorandum of understanding.

**Civil Defence efforts** The Board supports the strengthening of working partnerships with Civil Defence and emergency management agencies. It recognises the importance of close coordination to improve community preparedness, resilience, and response capability in the event of natural disasters or emergency situations. The Board encourages ongoing collaboration, shared planning, and effective communication to ensure resources and knowledge are aligned in support of public safety outcomes. The Board acknowledges and thanks the Council for its increased support of the Rural Community Board. This support is valued and has contributed to strengthening the Board's ability to represent and advocate for rural communities effectively. The Board appreciates the Council's continued commitment to engaging with rural perspectives and looks forward to maintaining a constructive and collaborative relationship going forward.

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**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 155

Speaking

First name: **Molly**  
Last name: **Burke**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

The Waimarie is in desperate need of some major improvements. Considering that she features prominently in most of our tourism advertising, not having her up and running in fine form for a cost of far less than \$1,000,000 is breathtakingly short sighted. The Waimarie is a huge draw for Whanganui, and underfunding her while spending on fripperies like new logos (it sucks, BTW) and such seems like very poor fiscal management. Why is WDC not financially supporting this important and iconic attraction? It is synonymous with Whanganui, and being neglected financially by WDC is not a good look for council. Fix the Waimarie!

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 132

Not speaking

First name: **Rob**  
Last name: **Carr**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Overall it seems sensible, the rates increase is quite moderate

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 93

Not speaking

First name: **Maree**  
Last name: **Carter**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Agree with entry to the Sarjeant Gallery being \$0 for now. Believe a one-year pause is the best option for the Whanganui East pools. Agree with revisiting Davis Library plans in light of long term annual plan. Agree to debt repayments going back to standard payment this year. Households are already suffering with increased costs in every day life.

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 108

Not speaking

First name: Leah  
Last name: Chadfield

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27? Yes

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Supporting documents:

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 70

Not speaking

First name: **Tanya**  
Last name: **Chaplow**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Sarjeant Gallery a gold coin donation for all visiting and or additional for visitors. Wanganui East Pool - take a break. The Davis library extension - delay Loan repayments please keep as affordable as possible under the present conditions.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 94

Not speaking

First name: **Robert**  
Last name: **Cochrane**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?  Yes

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Supporting documents:

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 77

Not speaking

First name: **Rob**  
Last name: **Conder**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Stick to basics. Support and repair what we already have. There needs to be a charge for the Art Gallery. If it is that good people don't mind paying. Close the pool until repairs back to what it use to be can be done Leave the library Rates need to be more affordable. Is the council getting bang for bucks. Review budgets looking at what is essential for Whanganui.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 152

Not speaking

First name: Lyn  
Last name: Couper

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

I believe only residents of Whanganui should go to the Gallery for free. Whanganui East should be refurbished over the coming months ready to open for 2026 2027 season the plans and refurbishment should have already commenced. Davis Library refurbishment should be deferred. Debt payments should be spread over a long period. Council should sell old buildings in its portfolio that are empty generating no income. The velodrome should be closed permanently because of lack of patronage

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 39

Speaking

First name: **Helen**  
Last name: **Craig**  
Organisation: **Tramways Whanganui Trust**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

No, but we do have a submission on a separate matter as attached.

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**Supporting documents:**

yes

## Submission for funding from Tramways Whanganui Trust

As the elected Chair and a Council appointee of the Tramways Whanganui Trust, I wish to update you on Tram related matters and request additional annual funding for insurance to ensure compliance with our obligations between Council and the Trust.

### **Executive Summary:**

The Tram assets must be fully insured as per the Deed of Ground lease with the Council. A review of insured values and risks showed material underinsurance. The **additional** cost of insurance is circa \$5,000 per annum. The Trust operations only make a small trading surplus each year of circa \$5,000 which is accumulated to make improvements to the assets. We request Council increase their annual budget line item by \$4,000 to assist in covering this annually recurring additional cost.

### **Our Trustees have been in place just over a year:**

- Marion Johnston – Chair Whanganui Riverboat Restoration and Navigation Trust.
- Anthonie Tonnon – Manager Durie Hill Elevator Contract
- Cr Rob Vinsen – Council appointee
- Helen Craig – Chair – also Co-Chair of the Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust
- Ann Paynter – Treasurer who is also closely linked with the Tram operating committee.

### **History in Brief:**

Mabel the Tram and the tram shed were a restoration project arising from a huge community initiative, resulting in the full restoration of the Mable the Tram and rebuilding of the tram shed and current operations in Taupo Quay. The Council appoints two members in recognition of their ongoing commitment to the project.

### **Operations:**

The day-to-day functions on the site are managed by a Tram operations committee who are all volunteers and separate from the Trustees. The Trustees meeting regularly to support the amazing efforts of the volunteers.

The Tram operates every Sunday from 1-3pm, is usually on display every Saturday morning during the Market and available for special events.

### **Finances:**

Council supports the Tram financially with \$10,000 budget line item which goes to rates and ground rent. Council was also paying for storage costs for the No 8 Tram offsite which has just been relocated to a new owner.

The Trust has income from fares, donations and occasionally grants for specific projects. Expenses are paid from that income. Our last set of accounts are **attached**. All operations are provided by volunteers – no one is paid.

## **NZTA Requirements**

Regular maintenance on the tram and site is required plus compliance with NZTA regarding the operation of the Tram with rail network rules which are highly regulated. We are grateful to Allan Neilson of Wellington Tramways who provides the rail safety technical expertise in this area without charge.

### **The past year activities:**

Over the last year we have concentrated on understanding the tram legal responsibilities and operations and consolidating the assets to ensure we have an effective and affordable tourist offering. Most notably:

1. Removal of all trams in storage –After thorough investigations we all agreed the tram parts/shells including No 8 Tram in storage were not related to Whanganui and not practical for the future operations of the tram. This will save Council quite a bit in storage costs which they have paid directly up to this point and we have no knowledge of the cost involved.
2. We will also shortly sell the “King Kong” tram – this is the static old tram located in the tram shed. This will make way for a better use of the space for display, working and events. This Tram does not function and has no value to the operations.
3. Painting of the Tram Shed Roof – this matter was urgent and we raised \$17,000 to fund this.
4. The operations committee assisted Neville Gorrie in selling items from the Castle – which he donated to the Trust totalling \$22,000. This is incredibly generous of Neville, who also continues to support the Tram with his red London bus passenger trips most Sunday’s.
5. Reviewing the Deed of Ground Lease (**attached**) between the Trust and WDC revealed the Trust is required to insure all Improvements to full insurable value. (P8&9). We also believe the public would expect us to fully insure all assets to a reasonable level. Our review of values established we are underinsured and some assets and risks are not insured at all.
6. We are now concentrating on creating marketing material including a website, and promotion by increasing social media activity and continuing to explore even more opportunities with the Waimarie and Elevator heritage tourism offers.
7. The Tram was successfully lifted out of harm’s way by Emmett Cranes during the recent flood risk at no cost. This was undertaken under the Trust’s Flood Response Plan. Thank you to Emmett Cranes for their generous support.

## Insurance Situation at a glance:

	Past	Feb 2026:	Est required:
Buildings: (RV):	\$130,000	\$400,000	\$400,000* <sup>2</sup>
Plant & equipment RV:	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Mable Tram RV:	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$700,000* <sup>3</sup>
Tracks and infrastructure	-	-	\$250,000
Public Liability	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Statutory Liability	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Natural disaster included* <sup>1</sup>	No	Yes	Yes
Premium:	\$2,817	\$6,088	\$8,000

\*1 Earthquake, tsunamis, hydrothermal activity, landslides and limited land cover. The Tram assets are on reclaimed land, vulnerable to these risks should an event occur.

\*2 An insurance valuation has been ordered.

\*3 The insurer requires validation of the estimated value, which we are currently investigating. In the event of a total loss from fire for example, we would likely source a restored tram from another organisation – that estimated cost would establish an RV.

The Trusts expects to make a trading surplus after all income and expenses of circa \$5,000 per year. It is not prudent to expend all this surplus on annual recurring insurance bills. Surpluses are accumulated to support improvements to assets and for regular maintenance and painting. This is a key tourist location, and standards must be maintained over the entire site which effectively spans the tram shed, forecourt and yard, plus the little brick shed, to the end of the tracks at the Waimarie.

As well as our contractual obligation to Council, the Trust has an obligation to the public who would expect reinstatement of the assets following a fire or natural disaster. Prudent decision-making must weigh up these factors, especially considering so much community time and effort was donated to restore the building and tram and create this incredible asset.

Council finance staff advised us to make this application or alternatively an application to the annual Community Grants Fund. Due to the ongoing annual cost of insurance, making an annual application, that could be rejected, is not a sustainable financial approach.

Our ability to increase income is considered limited due to the current reliance on volunteers. Paying staff would not be sustainable at all.

**TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST**  
**MANAGEMENT REPORTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

## TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST

## COMPILATION REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

**Report to the Trustees of the Tramways Whanganui Trust****Reporting Scope**

On the basis of information you provided we have compiled, in accordance with Service Engagement Standard Number Two: Compilation of Financial Information, the management report of Tramways Whanganui Trust for the year ended 30 June 2025. The management report has been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies as approved by the Trustees as detailed in the statement of accounting policies to enable the Trustees to meet their responsibilities.

These are management reports and as such are intended for internal use only and should not be relied upon for any other purpose.

**Responsibilities**

You are solely responsible for the information contained in the management report and have determined that the accounting policies approved by the Trustees are appropriate to meet your needs and for the purpose that the management report is prepared.

The management report is prepared solely for your benefit. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the management report.

**Disclaimer of Liability**

We have compiled the management report of Tramways Whanganui Trust for the year ended 30 June 2025 in accordance with the limited procedures agreed in our letter of engagement.

Our procedures use accounting expertise to undertake the compilation of the management report from information you provided. The compilation is limited primarily to collecting, classifying and summarising the financial information supplied by the client. Our procedures do not involve verification or validation procedures. No audit or review has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed. We have not attempted to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information and therefore neither the firm nor any of its employees accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information from which the management report has been prepared.

The management report has been prepared at your request of and for your purposes only and neither the firm nor any of its employees accept any responsibility on any ground whatsoever, including liability in negligence, to any other person.

*Stephen Lace & Associates Ltd*

Stephen Lace & Associates Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
Cnr. Wicksteed & Ingestre Streets  
Whanganui

20th August 2025

**TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST**  
**DIRECTORY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

**TRUSTEES:**

Helen Craig  
Anthonie Tonnon  
Andrew Tripe  
Marion Johnston  
Ann Paynter

**CHARITIES REGISTRATION:**

CC23680

**DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT**

May 2008

**ADDRESS:**

tramwayswhanganuitrust@gmail.com  
Whanganui

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**ACCOUNTANT:**

Stephen Lace & Associates Limited  
PO Box 880  
Whanganui  
Telephone: (06) 348-7444  
Fax: (06) 348-7048  
E-Mail: admin@slca.co.nz

**BANKERS:**

Westpac Bank  
116 Victoria Avenue  
Whanganui  
Telephone: (06) 348 0206

**TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST**  
**ENTITY INFORMATION**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

**LEGAL NAME OF ENTITY:**

Tramways Whanganui Trust

**TYPE OF LEGAL ENTITY AND LEGAL BASIS:**

Tramways Whanganui Trust was established by a Trust Deed dated 28th February 2005.

**Our Purpose:**

To provide a unique heritage tram-transport experience in Whanganui.

**Entity Structure:**

The entity is a registered Charitable Trust, with a board of Trustees currently comprising of 5 Trustees. The Trust board currently provides governance over its operations. The operations are run by around 15 volunteers, and friends of the Tramways Whanganui Trust who are also subscribed donors to the Trust. The Trust has no paid staff. The Trust has a treasurer, who maintains the financial records for the Trust.

**Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Goods and Services:**

The trust is 100% reliant on the efforts from its volunteer base in running and maintaining its operations (it has no paid personnel) and on donated goods and services from the community.

**Main Source of Cash and Resources**

The Trust's main source of cash are the sale of tram-tickets, books and memorabilia, donations from subscribed friends and donations from the general public.

**Main Methods Used To Raise Funds**

The main methods used to raise funds are through targeted grants to other charitable entities like the Four Regions Trust and the National Lotteries.

**TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST**

**TRADING ACCOUNT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

<b>2024</b>		<b>2025</b>
\$		\$
<u>9,600</u>	Sales - Tickets	<u>7,981</u>
9,600		7,981
	<b>Cost of Sales</b>	
409	Opening Stock	286
<u>325</u>	Purchases - Tickets	<u>-</u>
734		286
<u>(286)</u>	Closing Stock	<u>(340)</u>
(448)	<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	54
<u>\$9,152</u>	<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u>\$8,035</u>

*These management reports are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and compilation report.  
These statements have been compiled without undertaking an audit or review engagement.*

**TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
**MEMBERS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

<b>2024</b>		<b>2025</b>
\$		\$
	<b>Income</b>	
9,152	Gross Profit Trading Account	8,035
1,260	Corporate Donations	950
2,154	Donations - Public	1,919
22	Members Subscriptions	22
<u>1,357</u>	Interest Received	<u>1,589</u>
<u>\$13,945</u>	<b>Net Surplus</b>	<u>\$12,515</u>

*These management reports are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and compilation report.  
These statements have been compiled without undertaking an audit or review engagement.*

**TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
**OPERATIONAL ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

2024		2025
\$		\$
	<b>Operational</b>	
	<b>Income</b>	
13,945	Gross Profit from Trading Accounts	12,515
<u>13,945</u>		<u>12,515</u>
	<b>Expenses</b>	
-	Function Expense	156
<u>-</u>		<u>156</u>
	<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>	
1,632	R & M Tramshed	458
364	R & M Tram	35
65	Office Equipment	-
<u>2,061</u>		<u>493</u>
	<b>Administration Expenses</b>	
804	Accountancy	617
413	General Expenses	350
2,677	Insurance	2,817
190	Office Expenses	153
720	Telephone & Fax	508
-	Security Expenditure	250
425	Subscriptions	262
1,000	Licenses & Fees	604
11	Bank Fees	-
117	Volunteer Welfare	61
<u>6,357</u>		<u>5,622</u>
	<b>Depreciation</b>	
197	Plant	177
359	Tramshed	323
<u>556</u>		<u>500</u>
8,974	<b>Total Expenses</b>	6,771
<u>\$4,971</u>	<b>Net Surplus</b>	<u>\$5,744</u>

*These management reports are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and compilation report.  
These statements have been compiled without undertaking an audit or review engagement.*

**TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST**  
**STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

<b>2024</b>		<b>2025</b>
<b>\$</b>		<b>\$</b>
	<b>TRUSTEES EQUITY</b>	
37,082	Opening Balance	42,053
<u>4,971</u>	Net Surplus	<u>5,744</u>
<u>\$42,053</u>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<u>\$47,797</u>

*These management reports are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and compilation report.  
 These statements have been compiled without undertaking an audit or review engagement.*

## TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

2024		Note	2025
\$			\$
	<b>Current Assets</b>		
150	Cash Float		150
11,665	Westpac Bank - 00 Account		16,666
4,639	Westpac Bank - 10 Account		4,715
241	Westpac Bank - Operating Account		549
246	Accounts Receivable	1	618
286	Stock on Hand	1	340
80	Tax Refund Due		80
20,066	Westpac Term Deposit - 81		5,901
-	Westpac Term Deposit - 81/02		14,700
37,373			43,719
	<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
-	Accounts Payable		230
319	GST Payable		191
(319)			(421)
37,054	<b>Working Capital</b>		43,298
	<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
	<b>Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	1	
1,772	Plant		1,595
3,227	Tramshed		2,904
4,999			4,499
4,999	<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		4,499
42,053			47,797
\$42,053	<b>Net Assets</b>		\$47,797
	<b>Representing Trustees Equity</b>		
42,053	Trustees Equity		47,797
\$42,053			\$47,797

*These management reports are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and compilation report.  
These statements have been compiled without undertaking an audit or review engagement.*

**TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST**  
**SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

Asset	Private Use	Cost Price	Book Value 01/07/2024	Additions Disposals	Gain/Loss on Disposal	Capital Profit	---- Depreciation ---- Mth Rate \$	Accum Deprec 30/06/2025	Book Value 30/06/2025	
<b>Plant</b>										
Container		3,541	1,772				12 10.0% DV	177	1,946	1,595
		3,541	1,772					177	1,946	1,595
<b>Tramshed</b>										
Tramshed Fence - Contribution		4,348	3,227				12 10.0% DV	323	1,444	2,904
		4,348	3,227					323	1,444	2,904
<b>Total</b>		7,889	4,999					500	3,390	4,499

*These management reports are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and compilation report.  
These statements have been compiled without undertaking an audit or review engagement.*

**TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST****NOTES TO THE MANAGEMENT REPORTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025****1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES****REPORTING ENTITY**

Tramways Whanganui Trust is a Charitable Trust registered under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 and the management reports have been prepared for the trustees to manage the organisation.

**Charitable Status**

The Trust was registered as a Charitable Entity with the Charities Commission on 1 May 2008. Charities registration number CC23680.

**MEASUREMENT BASE**

Unless otherwise stated the accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of financial performance and financial position on an historical cost basis have been followed by the Trust.

**Revenue Recognition**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the sale of goods and services, to the extent it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Entity and revenue can be reliably measured.

Sales of services are recognised in the period by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the end of the reporting period.

Government grants are recognised as revenue on receipt where no performance conditions have been specified on receipt of the grant. Where there are specified future conditions to be performed, government grants are recognised as a liability on receipt. The grants are recognised as revenue over the period that the specified conditions are complete and the associated costs are recognised.

**Expenses**

Expenses have been classified by their business function.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and demand deposits, together with other short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

**SPECIFIC ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The following specific accounting policies which materially affect the measurement of profit and financial position have been applied.

**Accounts Receivable**

Accounts receivable are stated at their estimated realisable values.

**Stock on Hand**

Stock on Hand is stated at lower of cost, using first-in-first-out basis, and net realisable value with appropriate provisions for damage and obsolescence.

**TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST****NOTES TO THE MANAGEMENT REPORTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025****Property, Plant & Equipment**

Property, plant and equipment is recognised at cost less aggregate depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure directly attributable to the acquisition of assets and includes the cost of replacements that are eligible for capitalisation when these are incurred.

All other repairs and maintenance are recognised as expenses in the Statement of Financial Performance in the financial period in which they incurred.

Depreciation has been calculated using the maximum rates permitted by the Income Tax Act 2007.

Gains and losses on disposal of fixed assets are taken into account in determining the net result for the year.

**Goods and Services Tax**

Revenue and expenses have been recognised in the financial statements exclusive of GST except that irrecoverable GST input tax has been recognised in association with the expense to which it relates. All items in the Statement of Financial Position are stated exclusive of GST except for receivables and payables which are stated inclusive of GST.

**CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

There have been no changes in accounting policies. All policies have been applied on a basis consistent with those used in previous years.

**2 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

The organisation had not entered into any Capital Commitments as at balance date (2023 Nil).

**3 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

There were no contingent liabilities at year end (2024 Nil).

**4 OPERATING REVENUE**

Total revenue received by the Entity during the year was \$12,461 (2024 \$14,394).

**TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST**  
**MANAGEMENT REPORTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

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BETWEEN

WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL

AND

TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST

25-27 TAUPO QUAY, WHANGANUI

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DEED OF GROUND LEASE  
&  
TRAMWAY LICENCE

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**THIS DEED** dated the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021

**BETWEEN** Whanganui District Council ("Lessor")

**AND** Tramways Whanganui Trust ("Lessee")

## **BACKGROUND**

- A. The Lessor is the owner of the Premises.
- B. The Lessee is the existing occupier of the Premises and owns the Lessee's Improvements situated thereon (being the Tram Shed).
- C. The Lessor has agreed to lease the Premises to the Lessee and the Lessee has agreed to take the Premises on lease.
- D. The Lessor has also agreed to grant to the Lessee a licence to operate a Tram on the Tramway, to and from the Premises.

## **WITNESSES AS FOLLOWS**

### **1. INTERPRETATION**

The following defined terms will apply to this lease which are in addition to the defined terms in the First Schedule, unless the context indicates otherwise:

#### **1.1 Definitions:**

**"Annual Rent"** means the annual rent specified in the First Schedule which is subject to review in accordance with clause 6 of this lease;

**"Authority"** means and includes every government, local, territorial and statutory authority having jurisdiction or authority over the Premises or their use, the Licenced Area, and the Licenced Use;

**"Community Organisation"** means a non-profit organisation whose principal objective is to provide recreational, social services or cultural pastime activities for its members or the wider community;

**"Council Policy"** refers to the Whanganui District Council Community Organisation Leases Policy December 2008 and includes all amendments and revisions made to that policy from time to time;

**"Expert"** means an expert with not less than 10 years' relevant experience appointed, at the request of either party, by the president for the time being of the New Zealand Law Society (or any successor body) or his or her nominee;

**"GST"** means tax levied under the Goods and Services Tax Act 1985 and includes any tax levied in substitution for that tax;

**"Insured Risks"** means loss, damage or destruction resulting from fire, flood, explosion, lightning, earthquake, storm, volcanic activity, tempest and aircraft impact and any other risks which the Lessor reasonably requires to be insured against;

**"Lessee"** and **"Lessor"** include where the context permits their respective agents, employees, contractors and invitees;

**"Lessee's Improvements"** means:

- the Lessee's fixtures and fittings and other improvements situated in or on the Premises, and includes all buildings, structures, equipment and plant owned or placed on the Premises by the Lessee;
- the Lessee's fixtures, fittings, improvements, equipment and machinery situated in or on the Licenced Area, including all of the Tramway;

**"Lessee"** and **"Lessor"** include where the context permits their respective agents, employees, contractors and invitees;

**"Licence Fee"** means \$1 (if demanded);

**"Licence Rights"** means the non-exclusive right of the Lessee to:

- carry on the Licensed Use on and from the Licensed Area; and
- have access over the WRTM and Moutoa Quay to the Licensed Area, to carry out the Licensed Use, via the most convenient route practicable while minimising interference with all other users of, or visitors to, the WRTM and Moutoa Quay;

**"Licenced Area"** means the area of the WRTM shown on the diagram attached to this document in the Fourth Schedule:

**"Licenced Use"** means to:

- install and maintain a Tram Line, and a Tram Electric Supply;
- operate a Tram and the Tramway;

**"Outgoings"** means the outgoings specified in the First Schedule;

**"Permitted Use"** has the meaning given in the First Schedule;

**"Premises"** means the land described in the First Schedule and shown outlined on the plan attached to this lease in the Third Schedule but excludes the Lessee's Improvements;

**"Rates"** means all rates, charges, levies, assessments, duties, impositions and fees from time to time payable to any Authority relating to the Premises;

**"Rent Setting Process"** means the Lessor's process to determine the Annual Rent based on criteria including the area of the Premises, rateable value of the relevant land, the opportunity cost of holding the Premises for leasing, and any other criteria determined by the Lessor under the Council Policy or otherwise from time to time;

**"Subsidy"** means the discount determined by the Lessor to apply to the Annual Rent based on the Lessee's ranking in the Rent Setting Process;

**"Tram"** means the rail vehicle known as "Number 12, 1912 Boon Electric Tramcar";

**"Tram Electric Supply"** means the electric substation, transformer, rectifier, electric cables, wires and components together with the posts, poles, insulators, and other equipment for the conveyance of electricity relating to the operation of the Tram on the Tramway;

**"Tram Lines"** means the rail tracks on which the Tram operates in and around the WRTM;

**"Tram Shed"** means the tram shed situated on the Premises, being a Lessee Improvement;

**"Tramway"** means the Tram Lines and the Tram Electric Supply;

**"Utilities"** means all utility and other services connected and/or supplied to the Premises, including water, sewage, drainage, electricity, gas, telephone and rubbish collection; and

**"Working Day"** has the meaning given in the Property Law Act 2007. Notices served after 5pm on a Working Day or on a day which is not a Working Day, will be deemed to have been served on the next Working Day;

**"WRTM"** means the precinct of the Whanganui River Traders Market around Moutoa Quay and adjoining the Whanganui River, being situated in the vicinity of the Premises;

- 1.2 Building Act terms:** the terms "Building Consent", "Building Work" and "Code Compliance Certificate" have the meanings given to those terms in the Building Act 2004;
- 1.3 Defined expressions:** expressions defined in the main body of this lease have the defined meaning in the whole of this lease including the background and the schedule;
- 1.4 Headings:** section, clause and other headings are for ease of reference only and do not form any part of the context or affect this lease's interpretation;
- 1.5 Joint and several obligations:** where two or more persons are bound by a provision in this lease, that provision will bind those persons jointly and each of them severally;
- 1.6 "This lease":** any references in this document to "this lease" will be construed to refer to the lease and licence contained herein, unless the context requires otherwise;
- 1.7 Negative obligations:** any obligation not to do anything includes an obligation not to suffer, permit or cause that thing to be done;
- 1.8 Parties:** references to parties are references to parties to this lease and include each party's executors, administrators and successors;
- 1.9 Persons:** references to persons include references to individuals, companies, partnerships, associations, trusts, government departments and local authorities in each case whether or not having separate legal personality;
- 1.10 Plural and singular:** singular words include the plural and vice versa;
- 1.11 Schedules:** the schedules and their contents have the same effect as if set out in the body of this lease;
- 1.12 Sections, clauses and schedule:** references to sections, clauses and the schedules are references to sections and clauses of and the schedules to this lease;
- 1.13 Statutes and regulations:** references to a statute include references to regulations, orders, rules or notices made under that statute and references to a statute or regulation include references to all amendments to that statute or regulation whether by subsequent statute or otherwise; and

**1.14 Lessor's consent:** the Lessor's consent under this lease is required for each occasion even if the Lessor has given consent for the same or a similar purpose on an earlier occasion.

## **2. GRANT OF LEASE**

The Lessee is a Community Organisation, and the Lessor has agreed to grant to the Lessee a lease of the Premises for the Permitted Use. The Lessor leases to the Lessee and the Lessee takes the Premises on lease for the Term beginning on the Commencement Date and at the Annual Rent.

## **3. GRANT OF LICENCE**

The Lessor has agreed to grant to the Lessee the Licence Rights for the Term beginning on the Commencement Date and at the Licence Fee, provided that the Lessor may temporarily suspend the Licenced Use by giving prior notice to the Lessee if the Lessor considers (acting reasonably) there to be a conflicting event or use in or around the Licenced Area. For the avoidance of doubt, the Lessor will have the right to grant third party rights, to use land in and around the Licenced Area, that cause a temporary suspension of the Licenced Use.

## **4. HOLDING OVER – LEASE AND LICENCE**

If the Lessor permits the Lessee to remain in occupation of the Premises after the expiry or earlier termination of the Term, the Lessee will occupy the Premises pursuant to a periodic tenancy that may be terminated in accordance with sections 210 and 211 of the Property Law Act 2007. To the extent applicable to periodic tenancies, the covenants and agreements set out in this lease and implied by law will continue to apply between the parties. The Licence Rights will also continue for the period of such periodic tenancy.

## **5. ANNUAL RENT AND LICENCE FEE**

The Lessee must pay:

- 5.1 Annual Rent:** the Annual Rent in advance by periodic payments on the Rent Payment Dates as specified in the First Schedule;
- 5.2 Payments of Annual Rent:** the first Rent Payment Date will be the Commencement Date;
- 5.3 Payments of Licence Fee:** the Licence Fee in one lump sum (if demanded) on the Commencement Date;
- 5.4 No deduction or set-off:** all rent and other money payable by the Lessee to the Lessor under this lease, without any deduction or set-off; and

- 5.5 Method:** all payments of Annual Rent by direct bank payment or as the Lessor may direct.

## 6. RENT REVIEW

- 6.1 Process:** The Annual Rent and the level of Subsidy may be reviewed by the Lessor during the Term on each Rent Review Date in accordance with the Rent Setting Process. The Annual Rent payable on review must not exceed the then current market rent for the Premises. The review of the Annual Rent may be conducted by the Lessor within 2 months prior to the relevant Review Date and at any time up to the next Review Date. Any change in the Annual Rent following a review will apply from the relevant Review Date (and backdated where appropriate).

- 6.2 Reporting requirement:** The Lessee must in order to assist the Lessor in determining the Annual Rent, report to the Lessor in writing no later than one month prior to each Rent Review Date on the following matters:

- 6.2.1** the Lessee's current membership;
- 6.2.2** the frequency of the Lessee's use of the Premises and the purposes for which the Premises have been used by the Lessee;
- 6.2.3** the current and future extent of the Lessee's community involvement and activities; and
- 6.2.4** such other information requested by the Lessor so that the Lessor is well informed about the Lessee's current and anticipated circumstances,

and the Lessee will provide to the Lessor a copy of the Lessee's last financial statements. If no financial statements are reasonably available, the Lessee must provide to the Lessor a reasonable summary of the Lessee's annual income and expenditure.

- 6.3 Lessor's Notice:** The Lessor must notify the Lessee in writing of any increase in the Annual Rent (backdated if the review process is completed after the relevant Rent Review Date), such notice to specify the new Annual Rent payable from the relevant Rent Review Date. The Lessee will pay any shortfall in Annual Rent upon receiving a backdated notice.

## 7. GST

- 7.1 Payment:** The Lessee must pay to the Lessor all GST payable on the Annual Rent and other money payable by the Lessee under this lease. The Lessee must pay GST:

**7.1.1 Annual Rent:** on the Annual Rent on each occasion when any rent falls due for payment; and

**7.1.2 Other money:** on any other money payable by the Lessee on demand.

**7.2 GST default:** If:

**7.2.1 Lessee fails to pay:** the Lessee fails to pay the Annual Rent or other money payable under this lease (including GST); and

**7.2.2 Where Lessor becomes liable for penalty:** the Lessor becomes liable to pay additional GST or penalty tax,

then the Lessee must pay the additional tax or penalty tax to the Lessor on demand.

## 8. DEFAULT INTEREST

**8.1** If the Lessee fails to pay any instalment of the Annual Rent or any other money payable under this lease for 10 working days after:

**8.1.1 Due Date:** the due date for payment; or

**8.1.2 Demand:** the date of the Lessor's demand, if there is no due date,

then the Lessee must on demand pay interest at the Default Interest Rate on the money unpaid from the due date or the date of the Lessor's demand (as the case may be) down to the date of payment.

## 9. OUTGOINGS

**9.1 Lessee to pay Outgoings:** The Lessee must on demand being made by the Lessor pay the Outgoings specified in the First Schedule without deduction or set-off. If any Outgoing is not separately assessed on or charged to the Premises, the Lessee must pay a fair and reasonable proportion of that Outgoing.

**9.2 Apportionment:** Any Outgoing which is not assessed or charged for a period falling wholly within the Term will be apportioned between the Lessor and the Lessee.

**9.3 Penalties:** If any Outgoing is payable by a date after which a penalty applies, the Lessee must pay that Outgoing at least five days before the penalty is applied.

## 10. UTILITY CHARGES

- 10.1 Lessee to pay utility charges:** The Lessee must promptly pay to the relevant Authority or supplier all charges for Utilities which are separately metered or charged to the Premises.
- 10.2 Apportionment:** The Lessee must pay to the Lessor on demand a fair and reasonable proportion of any charge for a Utility that is not separately metered or charged to the Premises.
- 10.3 Meters:** If the Lessor or any Authority requires the Lessee to do so, the Lessee must at the Lessee's own expense install a meter or other measuring device necessary for the proper measurement of the charges for any Utility or other services supplied to the Premises.

## 11. COSTS

The Lessee must pay to the Lessor on demand:

- 11.1 Costs of considering Lessee's request:** The Lessor's reasonable costs incurred in considering any request by the Lessee for the Lessor's consent to any matter contemplated by this lease.
- 11.2 Default costs:** all costs, charges and expenses for which the Lessor becomes liable as a result of the Lessee's breach of any of the terms of this lease, including the Lessor's legal costs (as between a lawyer and client) of and incidental to the enforcement of the Lessor's rights, remedies and powers under this lease.

## 12. INSURANCE

- 12.1 No insurance held by the Lessor:** The Lessee expressly acknowledges for the purpose of section 271 of the Property Law Act 2007 that the Lessor has not insured the Premises or the Licenced Area, or any improvements on the Premises or the Licenced Area, against any Insured Risks, and the Lessee will meet the cost of making good such destruction or damage to the extent permitted by that section.
- 12.2 Lessee to insure:** The Lessee must at all times during the term:
- 12.2.1 Lessee's Improvements:** insure and keep the Lessee's Improvements insured to their full insurable value against the Insured Risks. The insurance is to be in joint names of the Lessee and the Lessor, and details of such insurance (together with any changes from time to time) must be provided to the Lessor;

**12.2.2 Public risk insurance:** keep current a public risk insurance policy applicable to the Premises and the Licenced Area and any activity carried on, in, or from the Premises and the Licenced Area for the amount specified in the First Schedule (being the amount which may be paid out arising from any single accident or event); and

**12.2.3 Pay premiums:** pay the premium for the insurance taken out under clauses 12.2.1 and 12.2.2 when due.

**12.3 Lessee not to void insurance:** The Lessee will not do or omit to do any act which makes void, voidable or less effective the insurance required under clause 12.2. Where due to the Lessee's act or omission the said insurance becomes less effective or void, and as a result the Lessor suffers loss or damage, the Lessee will on demand compensate the Lessor in full for that loss or damage.

**12.4 Damage or destruction:** In the event of loss or damage to the Lessee's Improvements the Lessee must make good the damage. The Lessee must claim, arrange, organise and receive such insurance or other compensation as is payable in respect of that loss or damage. The Lessee will use the compensation received to repair or reinstate the loss or damage, using materials and methods of construction approved by the Lessor (acting reasonably). There will be no suspension or abatement of rent or outgoings pending completion of the repairs or reinstatement.

**12.5 Cancellation - Premises:** If the Premises and/or any improvements on the Premises are damaged:

**12.5.1** so as to render the Premises untenable;

**12.5.2** so as to require demolition or reconstruction and as a result in the reasonable opinion of the Lessor the Premises will be untenable; or

**12.5.3** not so as to render the Premises untenable, but where any necessary permit or consent is unobtainable or the insurance money received by the Lessee is inadequate for the repair or reinstatement, and the repair or reinstatement is necessary for the continued Permitted Use of the Premises,

then the Lessor may at any time (and must within 3 months of the Lessee requesting in writing a decision by the Lessor under this clause) give the Lessee one months' written notice to terminate this lease. Any termination pursuant to this clause will be without prejudice to the rights

of either party against the other including, without limitation, the Lessee's obligation under clause 17.

- 12.6 Damage to Licenced Area:** If the Licenced Area, and/or any improvements on the Licenced Area relating to the proper operation of the Tramway, are damaged in the manner described in clause 12.5, then the Lessor's right of termination in clause 12.5 shall apply (amended as appropriate) in respect of the Licence Rights.

### 13. MAINTENANCE

- 13.1 Maintenance:** The Lessee must throughout the Term maintain the Premises and the Lessee's Improvements (including the Tramway and all Tramway lighting fixtures and fittings), to a high standard of presentation as required for the Moutoa Quay river front area, and in particular the Lessee must:

**13.1.1 Improvements:** maintain in good order, repair and condition the Lessee's Improvements (including the Tramway and all Tramway lighting fixtures and fittings), and all structures (whether owned by the Lessee or Lessor) within or on the boundaries of the Premises including fences, paths, and vegetation such as trees and hedges, whether such maintenance or repair arises due to the improper, careless or abnormal use of the Premises by the Lessee or any other person using the Premises, or otherwise;

**13.1.2 Keep premises clean:** keep the Premises clean and tidy;

**13.1.3 Broken glass:** replace all broken glass on the Premises including plate glass and windows;

**13.1.4 Utility services:** maintain in good order repair and condition any stormwater and sewerage, drainage and water supply systems within the Premises that service the Lessee or the Lessee's Improvements to the point where they connect with the street mains, and must immediately repair any breakage or leakage of such systems when discovered by the Lessee;

**13.1.5 Painting:** paint and decorate the exterior of all buildings in a colour scheme agreed with the Lessor when such buildings require repainting and in any event at intervals of not more than ten (10) years;

**13.1.6 Graffiti:** remove any graffiti from the structures within the Premises within 24 hours of the earlier of discovery by the Lessee or notification by the Lessor;

**13.1.7 Removal of rubbish:** regularly remove and properly dispose of all rubbish and waste from the Premises;

**13.1.8 Removal of trees and contouring of land:** seek the Lessor's written consent prior to removing or allowing the removal of any trees, or the re-contouring of any land; and

**13.1.9 Pests:** prevent and exterminate any pest infestation on the Premises.

**13.2 Remedy neglect:** The Lessee must with reasonable speed comply with any notice in writing given by the Lessor requiring the Lessee to comply with any requirement described in clause 13.1 the Lessee has neglected to undertake.

#### 14. SIGNS AND ADVERTISING

**14.1 External signs:** The Lessee must throughout the Term:

**14.1.1 Comply:** comply with relevant Council Bylaws, the District Plan, any of the Lessor's management plans, strategies and guidelines;

**14.1.2 Signage limit:** erect only one sign showing the name and any logo of the Lessee and/or sponsor as well as the use of the Premises and contact details. Subject to the prior written approval of the Lessor:

(a) additional signs may be displayed where these are required to give effect to Permitted Use; and

(b) temporary signs may be displayed relating to special events;

**14.1.3 Signage design:** ensure the design and appearance of any signage does not detract significantly from the amenity of the neighbourhood of the Premises by being obtrusive. The Lessee will not install any flashing, illuminated or moving signs or signs painted in fluorescent colours; and

**14.1.4 Signage content:** not display any signage which could reasonably be considered offensive to any section of the community.

**14.2 Removal of Lessee signage:** Upon or before the expiry or earlier termination of the Term, the Lessee must:

**14.2.1 Remove signs, etc:** remove all signs and advertising devices affixed to or painted on the Premises; and

**14.2.2 Restore Premises:** restore all affected parts of the Premises to the Lessor's reasonable requirements.

**14.3 Lessor and other signage:** The Lessee must not without the prior written approval of the Lessor (which may be withheld in the Lessor's absolute sole discretion) remove or interfere with any signage of the Lessor, or any other lessee of the Premises.

## **15. USE OF PREMISES AND LICENCED AREA**

**15.1 Permitted Use:** The Lessee must be and remain throughout the Term a Community Organisation, and only use the Premises for the Permitted Use.

**15.2 Licenced Use:** The Lessee must:

**15.2.1 High standard:** operate the Tramway to a high standard with appropriately experienced, skilled and qualified staff;

**15.2.2 Tourist attraction:** conduct the Licenced Use in a manner befitting a tourist attraction; and

**15.2.3 Licenced Use:** only use the Licenced Area for the Licenced Use.

**15.3 Restrictions on use:** The Lessee must:

**15.3.1 No noxious activity or nuisance:** not carry on any noxious, noisy or offensive business or activity in or about the Premises or the Licenced Area or do anything which is or may become a nuisance or annoyance to any person, but the carrying on of the Permitted Use and the Licenced Use by the Lessee in a reasonable manner will not of itself be a breach of this clause;

**15.3.2 Resource Management Act 1991:** not do anything which is or may become a breach of any duty imposed on any person by the Resource Management Act 1991;

**15.3.3 Health and safety:** comply with the health and safety obligations described in the Second Schedule to this lease, and all relevant codes or practice or legislative instruments relating to health and safety at work;

**15.3.4 Railways Act 2005:** comply with the Railways Act 2005 in undertaking the Licenced Use; and

**15.3.5 Acts, bylaws, etc:** comply in all respects with all acts, bylaws, regulations, rules and requisitions relating to the Premises, the Licenced Area, the Lessee's use of the Premises and the Lessee undertaking the Licenced Use.

## 16. BUILDING WORK

**16.1 Approvals:** Subject to the provisions of this section, the Lessee must not carry out any Building Work, or allow any Building Work to be carried out, on the Premises or the Licenced Area without first giving detailed plans and specifications of the proposed work to the Lessor on every occasion and:

**16.1.1 Lessor's approval:** obtaining the Lessor's prior written approval to the Lessee's plans and specifications; and

**16.1.2 Building Consent:** obtaining and giving the Lessor a copy of all Building Consents required to enable the relevant Building Work to be carried out lawfully.

**16.2 Building Act 2004:** The Lessee must at its cost:

**16.2.1 Building Consent:** carry out all Building Work in conformity with the Lessor approved plans and specifications and the Building Consent produced to the Lessor under clause 16.1.2; and

**16.2.2 Code Compliance Certificate:** promptly obtain a Code Compliance Certificate and provide a copy of it to the Lessor on completion of any Building Work.

**16.3 Property in Lessee's Improvements:** Any improvements that the Lessee has affixed to the Premises, and any alterations or additions, or alterations to improvements on the Premises made by the Lessee, will remain the property of the Lessee.

## 17. REMOVAL OF IMPROVEMENTS

**17.1 Reinstatement:** Upon the expiry or earlier termination of this lease the Lessee must at its cost as soon as practicable and to the reasonable satisfaction of the Lessor:

**17.1.1 Remove Lessee's Improvements:** return the Premises to a condition that is suitable for leasing by the Lessor by removing all of the Lessee's Improvements and reinstating any Building Work undertaken by the Lessee on the Premises, so that the layout of the Premises is returned to the layout as at the Commencement Date, unless the Lessor agrees in writing prior to the end of the

lease that such removal and/or reinstatement (in part or whole) is not required;

**17.1.2 Repair damage:** repair any damage caused to the Premises by that removal;

**17.1.3 Disconnect services:** ensure all services to the Lessee's Improvements removed are properly and lawfully disconnected;

**17.1.4 Restore land:** restore the surface of the land; and

**17.1.5 Leave Premises tidy:** leave the Premises in a clean and tidy condition free from any obstruction, equipment or debris, and suitable for leasing by the Lessor.

**17.2 Failure to reinstate:** If the Lessee fails to reinstate the Premises in accordance with clause 17.1, then any costs incurred by the Lessor in reinstating the Premises at the end or earlier termination of the lease will be recoverable from the Lessee on demand. Ownership of the Lessee's Improvements that are not removed by the end or earlier termination of the lease may, at the Lessor's election, pass to the Lessor without compensation to the Lessee.

## 18. ASSIGNMENT AND SUBLEASING

**18.1 No assignment and subleasing:** The Lessee must not without the Lessor's prior written approval in writing (which may be withheld in the Lessor's absolute sole discretion):

**18.1.1 Assign:** assign the Lessee's interest in this lease; or

**18.1.2 Sublease:** sublease or part with possession or share occupation of the whole or any part of the Premises.

## 19. LESSOR'S RIGHTS OF ENTRY

**19.1 Entry to Premises by Lessor:** The Lessor may, with all necessary materials and equipment at all reasonable times and on reasonable notice (but at any time without notice in the case of an emergency), enter the Premises to:

**19.1.1 Inspect Premises:** inspect the condition and state of repair of the Premises;

**19.1.2 Compliance with statutes, etc:** carry out any works to comply with any statutes, regulations, by-laws, ordinances, orders, proclamations, requirements of or notices by any Authority; and

**19.1.3 Effect repairs:** carry out any repairs or maintenance where the Lessee has failed to do so (refer clause 21.5).

**19.2 Minimise disturbance to Lessee:** The Lessor will take reasonable steps to minimise any disturbance to the Lessee when exercising the entry rights granted under clause 19.1.

## 20. QUIET ENJOYMENT

If the Lessee pays the Annual Rent and the Licence fee and performs the Lessee's obligations in this lease, the Lessee will be entitled to quiet enjoyment of the Premises and the Licenced Area throughout the Term without interruption by the Lessor or any person claiming under the Lessor except as otherwise specified herein.

## 21. DEFAULT

**21.1 Essential terms:** The Lessee's breach of any of the following terms is a breach of an essential term of this lease:

**21.1.1 Payment of rent:** the covenant to pay rent or other money payable by the Lessee under this lease;

**21.1.2 Use of Premises:** the terms restricting the use of the Premises;

**21.1.3 Licenced Use:** the terms restricting the Licenced Use; and

**21.1.4 Compliance:** for the avoidance of doubt, the provisions in clause 15.3.

**21.2 Waiver of arrears or payment obligation:** The Lessor's acceptance of any arrears of rent or other money payable under this lease is not a waiver of the essential obligation to pay any other rent or money payable under this lease.

**21.3 Default:** If the Lessee fails to perform or observe any of the essential or other material terms of this lease, then the Lessor may without prejudice to any of the Lessor's other rights or remedies at law or in equity sue the Lessee for specific performance or terminate this lease under clause 21.6, and where necessary re-enter the Premises in accordance with the Property Law Act 2007.

**21.4 Bankruptcy etc:** Without limitation, an act of default under this lease will include the Lessee:

**21.4.1 Bankruptcy or arrangement:** where a natural person:

- (a) being declared bankrupt or insolvent according to law; or
- (b) assigning his or her estate or entering into a deed of arrangement for the benefit of creditors; or

**21.4.2 Dissolution:** being an entity other than a natural person:

- (a) being wound up or dissolved;
- (b) entering into voluntary administration or any assignment or other compromise or scheme of arrangement with the Lessee's creditors or any class of the Lessee's creditors; or
- (c) having a receiver, manager or receiver and manager appointed relating to any of the Lessee's assets.

**21.5 Lessor may remedy Lessee's default:** The Lessor may in its absolute sole discretion remedy any default or breach by the Lessee under this lease at the Lessee's cost.

**21.6 Lessor may terminate:**

**21.6.1 Non-compliance:** If the Lessee causes or allows a breach of clause 15.2 or 5.3 in relation to the Licenced Use (whether or not such breach creates a risk to the safety of people or property) then the Lessor may (in its absolute sole discretion) on demand suspend until further notice, or terminate, the Licence Rights without prejudice to any right or remedy of the Lessor that may have accrued.

**21.6.2 Other default:** If any other default under this clause 21 remains un-remedied for a period in excess of 15 Working Days after the Lessor has given notice in writing to the Lessee describing the default and the steps the Lessee is required to take to remedy it, then at any time thereafter and prior to the default being remedied the Lessor may terminate this lease with immediate effect by giving a termination notice to the Lessee in writing.

**22. RIGHT OF EARLY TERMINATION**

**22.1** Without prejudice to clause 17, the Lessor will at its discretion have the right to terminate this lease in any of the following events:

- 22.1.1** A declining level in the membership of the Lessee organisation;
- 22.1.2** The Lessee changing its business or activity to one that is not supported by the Council Policy; or

- 22.1.3** The Lessor's decision that an alternative use will provide greater value to the community. In this instance the Lessor will use its best endeavours to assist the Lessee with finding alternative premises.
- 22.2** Before undertaking any action to terminate this lease pursuant to clause 22.1, the Lessor shall inform the Lessee of its intention. Any termination arising from any of the above actions shall require at least three months' prior notice.
- 22.3** The Lessee may terminate this lease on giving six (6) months' notice in writing to the Lessor.
- 22.4** Any termination of this lease in accordance with clauses 21, 22 or otherwise will be without prejudice to the rights and remedies of a party that may have accrued as at the date of termination.

## **23. COMPENSATION**

**23.1 Lessee's acts or omissions:** If any act or omission of the Lessee:

**23.1.1 Repudiation:** is a repudiation of this lease or of the Lessee's obligations under this lease; or

**23.1.2 Breach of lease:** is a breach of any of the Lessee's obligations under this lease,

the Lessee must compensate the Lessor for the loss or damage suffered by reason of the repudiation or breach.

**23.2 Entitlement:** The Lessor's entitlement to recover damages will not be affected or limited by:

**23.2.1 Abandonment:** the Lessee abandoning or vacating the Premises;

**23.2.2 Re-entry or termination:** the Lessor electing to re-enter the Premises or otherwise terminate this lease;

**23.2.3 Acceptance of repudiation:** the Lessor accepting the Lessee's repudiation; or

**23.2.4 Surrender:** the parties' conduct constituting a surrender by operation of law.

**23.3 Legal proceedings:** The Lessor may bring legal proceedings against the Lessee claiming damages for the entire Term including the periods before and after:

**23.3.1 Premises vacated:** the Lessee has vacated the Premises in a manner not permitted in this lease; or

**23.3.2 Abandonment, etc:** the abandonment, termination, repudiation, acceptance of repudiation or surrender by operation of law referred to in clause 23.2,

whether the proceedings are instituted before or after that conduct.

**23.4 Mitigation of damages:** If the Lessee vacates or abandons (etc) the Premises (as referred to in clauses 23.3.1 and 23.3.2), whether with or without the Lessor's consent, the Lessor must take reasonable steps to:

**23.4.1 Mitigate damages:** mitigate the Lessor's damages; and

**23.4.2 Lease Premises:** endeavour to lease the Premises at a reasonable rent and on reasonable terms.

The Lessor's entitlement to damages will be assessed on the basis that the Lessor should have observed the obligation to mitigate damages contained in this clause. The Lessor's conduct in pursuance of the duty to mitigate damages will not by itself constitute acceptance of the Lessee's breach or repudiation, or a surrender by operation of law.

## 24. NO WAIVER

**24.1** The Lessor's waiver or failure to act in response to the Lessee's breach of any of the Lessee's obligations in this lease will not operate as a waiver of:

**24.1.1 Waiver of breach:** the same breach on any later occasion; or

**24.1.2 Waiver of obligations:** any other obligations in this lease.

## 25. INDEMNITY

The Lessee indemnifies the Lessor, to the extent permitted by law, against all actions, proceedings, calls, claims, demands, losses, damages, costs, expenses or liabilities of any kind suffered or incurred by the Lessor resulting from any acts or omissions of the Lessee in breach of this lease.

## 26. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

**26.1 Mediation:** The parties will endeavour to resolve any dispute or difference by mediation. Either party may initiate mediation by giving written notice to the other party. The mediator will be agreed upon by the parties or, failing agreement within 5 Working Days after written

notice initiating mediation is given, appointed by the President of the New Zealand Law Society (or any successor body) or his or her nominee.

- 26.2 Expert determination:** If the dispute or difference is not resolved within 10 Working Days after the appointment of the mediator, or such longer period as the parties may agree, then either party may refer such dispute or difference to an Expert for resolution as follows:
- 26.2.1** The party referring the dispute to the Expert is to give the other party 5 Working Days written notice of its intention to refer the dispute to the Expert;
- 26.2.2** The Expert is to act as an expert and not as an arbitrator. The fees and expenses of the Expert will be borne and paid by the Lessee and Lessor in equal shares.
- 26.2.3** Both parties will have the right to make submissions either personally or by their nominated representatives either orally or in writing to the Expert and in making a determination the Expert will provide each party with a detailed statement of reasons in writing for reaching the determination.
- 26.3 Action at Law:** The parties must go to mediation and expert determination under this clause 26 before they can begin any action at law (other than an application for injunctive relief).

## 27. NOTICES

- 27.1 Service of notices:** Any notice or document required or authorised to be delivered or served under this lease may be delivered or served:
- 27.1.1 Property Law Act 2007:** in any manner prescribed in Part 7 of the Property Law Act 2007 for the type of notice being served; or
- 27.1.2 Facsimile:** by personal delivery, by posting by ordinary or registered mail, or by facsimile where permitted by the Property Law Act 2007 for a notice of its type.
- 27.2 Time of Service:** Any notice or other document will be treated as delivered or served and received by the other party:
- 27.2.1 Delivery:** on personal delivery;
- 27.2.2 Posting by mail:** on the second Working Day following the date of posting to the addressee's last known address in New Zealand; or

**27.2.3 Facsimile:** on completion of an error free transmission, when sent by facsimile.

**27.3 Signature of notices:** Any notice or document to be delivered or served under this lease must be in writing and may be signed by:

**27.3.1 Attorney, etc:** any attorney, officer, employee or solicitor for the party serving or giving the notice; or

**27.3.2 Authorised person:** the party serving the notice or any other person authorised by that party.

## **28. LEASE NOT REGISTRABLE**

The Lessee must not require registration of this lease against the title to the Premises.

## **29. WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL AS LESSOR**

Any consent or approval given by the Whanganui District Council as Lessor under this lease will be given by the Council acting as Lessor, and not in its capacity as regulatory authority.

## **30. LESSEE'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK**

The Lessee agrees to occupy and use the Premises and the Licenced Area and any improvements thereon at the Lessee's risk and releases the Lessor, its employees, contractors and invitees from all claims and demands of any kind and from all liability in contract, tort, or otherwise for any loss or damage suffered by the Lessee, to the maximum extent permitted by law.

## **31. AS IS WHERE IS - HAIL**

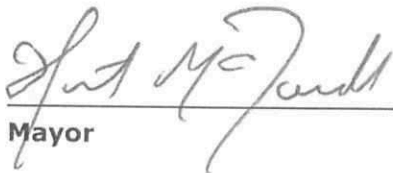
**31.1 HAIL Site:** The Lessee acknowledges that the following will apply if the Premises and/or the Licenced Area are listed on the Whanganui District Council Hazardous Activities and Industries List (HAIL). The Lessee will not be liable for any remedial work required to decontaminate the Premises or the Licenced Area except to the extent such work may be required for the Lessee to lawfully operate. For example, the Lessee will be required to comply with requirements imposed under the National Environmental Standard for Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NESCS) where the NESCS requirement arises under a consent obtained by the Lessee to operate from the Premises.

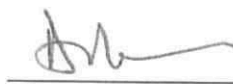
**31.2 As is where is:** Without affecting clause 31.1, the Lessee takes the Premises on lease, and the Licenced Area on licence, on an "as is where is" basis, having satisfied itself that the information in the HAIL will not adversely affect the Lessee's operation. The Lessor will not be required

to compensate the Lessee for any land remediation cost required to be met by the Lessee in order for the Lessee to operate from the Premises or the Licenced Area, or any loss suffered by the Lessee as a consequence. For the avoidance of doubt, the Lessor (as property owner, but not regulatory authority) may not require the Lessee to decontaminate the Premises and make good, unless such requirement has been imposed on the Lessee by a regulatory authority under clause 31.1 (or otherwise). The Lessor may, where such a requirement has been imposed, enforce the Lessee's compliance with it under the terms of this Lease (e.g. clause 15.3).

**EXECUTION**

The **COMMON SEAL** of the **WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL** was hereunto affixed as Lessor by and in the presence of:


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

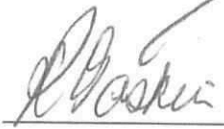
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elected Member



**SIGNED** by **TRAMWAYS WHANGANUI TRUST** as Lessee in the presence of:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorised person

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorised person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full name of witness **Valerie Anne Bartrum, JP**  
**#18079**  
**WHANGANUI**  
Justice of the Peace for New Zealand

\_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation of witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of witness

**FIRST SCHEDULE****Reference Schedule - lease**

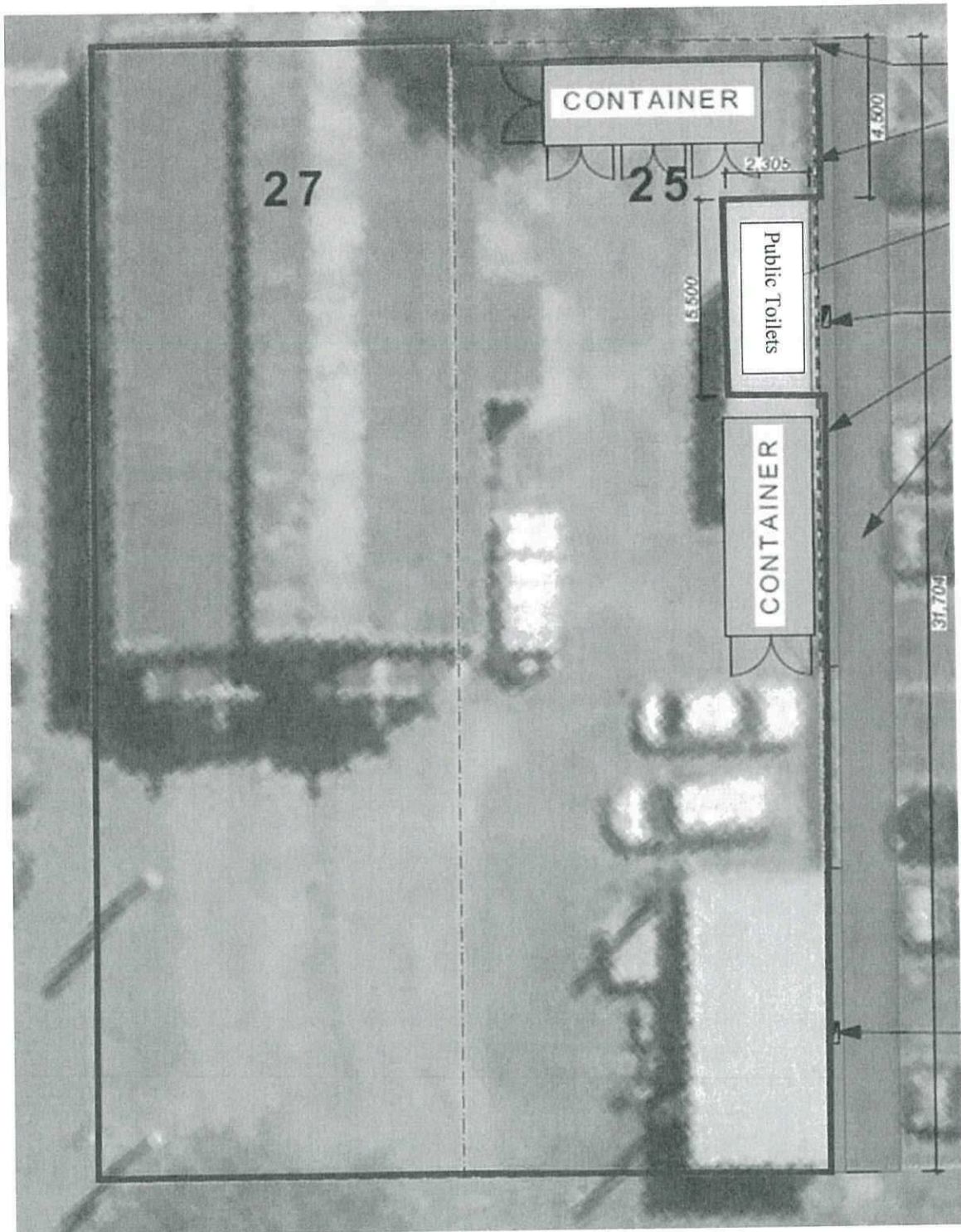
<b>Lessor:</b>	Whanganui District Council
<b>Lessor's Address:</b>	101 Guyton Street, Whanganui
<b>Lessee:</b>	Tramways Whanganui Trust
<b>Lessee's Address:</b>	PO Box 4296 Whanganui
<b>Premises:</b>	The Lessor's property situated at 25-27 Taupo Quay, Whanganui comprising 617m <sup>2</sup> more or less, being Lots 12 and 13 DP205 contained in title registers WN6B/193 and WN6B/194
<b>Term:</b>	6 (six) years
<b>Commencement Date:</b>	1 June 2020
<b>Further Term(s):</b>	N/A
<b>Renewal Dates:</b>	N/A
<b>Final Expiry Date:</b>	31 May 2026
<b>Annual Rent:</b>	\$5,331.00 (plus GST) per annum
<b>Rent Payment Dates:</b>	Annually in advance with the first payment on the Commencement Date
<b>Rent Review Date(s):</b>	3 yearly
<b>Permitted Use:</b>	Activities associated with the storage, operation and maintenance of the Tram
<b>Public Risk Insurance:</b>	\$1,000,000
<b>Default Interest Rate:</b>	15% per annum
<b>Outgoings:</b>	Rates and Utilities, and all costs which directly or indirectly relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Lessee's Improvements; and</li> <li>• any fixtures, fittings or chattels owned by the Lessor.</li> </ul>

**SECOND SCHEDULE**  
**Health and safety**

The Lessee will do all things necessary to comply with its obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 ("HSW Act") including, but without limitation, the Lessee will:

- (a) Ensure all risks on or about the Premises (including any improvements or plant, machinery or equipment) are eliminated where reasonably practicable, or minimised where elimination is not reasonably practicable.
- (b) Identify risks on the Premises before undertaking any work on the Premises or permitting any work to be undertaken on the Premises.
- (c) Take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure the safety of all persons while they are on the Premises.
- (d) Have and comply with appropriate health and safety plans/policies aimed at ensuring the Lessee meets its duties under the HSW Act, and will make such plans/policies available to the Lessor, and will act reasonably to amend such plans/policies where the Lessor considers (acting reasonably) a change may be required to meet the Lessee's HSW Act duties.
- (e) Ensure that any work carried out on or in relation to the Premises is carried out in a safe manner.
- (f) Immediately notify the Lessor by telephone or other means of immediate communication that a risk exists, or a situation may arise, where any person may not be safe or harm may result to any person on or about the Premises.
- (g) Promptly notifying the Lessor in writing upon becoming aware that:
  - (i) any inspector has or intends to enter the Premises, and the outcome of that inspection;
  - (ii) any accident or injury to any person has occurred on or about the Premises, and detail the steps that have been taken or are proposed; or
  - (iii) any improvement or prohibition notice is likely to be or has been issued relating in any way to the Premises and/or any work carried out on the Premises.
- (h) As far as is reasonably practicable, the Lessee must consult with, co-operate with, and co-ordinate activities with the Lessor and any other occupier of the Lessor's land to ensure that the Lessor's land is safe.

THIRD SCHEDULE  
Lease Area



2020-7-30 25-27 Taupo Quay - WDC - Tramways Whanganui Trust - Tram Shed and general use licence - 28 July 2020

**FOURTH SCHEDULE  
Licence Area**



2020-7-30 25-27 Taupo Quay - WDC - Tramways Whanganui Trust - Tram Shed and general use licence - 28 July 2020



## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 43

Not speaking

First name: **Kees**  
Last name: **Crawford**  
Organisation: **N/A**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

A major concern with the proposed entry fee for the new Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery is that it risks reducing accessibility and undermining the purpose of a publicly funded space. Evidence discussed in council debates suggests that introducing a charge can significantly lower visitor numbers, meaning both locals and tourists may be discouraged from engaging with the gallery. This is particularly problematic given that ratepayers have already contributed substantial funding toward the redevelopment, creating a perception that people are being asked to “pay twice” for access. The proposal also raises practical concerns, such as how to define who qualifies as a local and the potential for unfairness in pricing. More broadly, the situation highlights criticism that the council did not fully take public opinion into account, as ongoing debate around costs and fees suggests that many community voices were not adequately reflected in the decision-making process. A strong case can be made for temporarily closing Whanganui East Pool for one summer to allow for refurbishment and cost reduction. While closure would be inconvenient in the short term, it enables essential upgrades to be completed more efficiently without the complications of keeping the facility operational, which often increases costs and extends timelines. Continuing to run the pool while it requires work can also lead to higher maintenance expenses and a lower-quality experience for users. A planned pause allows the council to invest resources more effectively, potentially resulting in a safer, more modern facility that better serves the community in the long run. Although access would be temporarily limited, this short-term sacrifice can be justified by the long-term benefits of improved infrastructure and reduced financial strain on the council. An argument against extending Davis Library is that it may not align with the direction society is heading. As information increasingly shifts online through digital platforms, e-books, and databases, traditional library usage is declining, raising questions about whether investing

heavily in expanding a physical space is the best use of resources. In a town like Whanganui, where funding is limited and must be carefully prioritised, allocating money toward modern infrastructure, technology, and services that support future growth could be more beneficial. There is also a concern that focusing on expanding a traditional library risks holding the city back from adapting to changing needs, especially as younger generations rely more on digital access than physical collections. From this perspective, choosing not to proceed with an extension could encourage investment in more forward-thinking initiatives, helping the community stay relevant and competitive rather than committing to a model that may continue to decline in use over time. A key area for consideration is the council's approach to loan repayments, with a stronger focus on more aggressive repayment recommended. While current debt levels may be manageable, a faster repayment strategy would help reduce the long-term cost of interest, ensuring that less public money is lost over time and more is available for essential services in the future. This approach would also improve the council's overall financial position, lowering exposure to rising interest rates and reducing long-term risk. In addition, prioritising quicker debt reduction could provide greater flexibility for future investment, allowing the council to respond more effectively to community needs without being heavily restricted by existing obligations. It may also strengthen public confidence by demonstrating responsible financial management and a commitment to reducing burdens on future ratepayers. While this strategy may require tighter spending in the short term, the long-term benefits in financial stability and reduced debt pressure would be significant.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 72

Not speaking

First name: Charmaine  
Last name: Cullen

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

For me, the water, which I can't drink and the terrible Internet. Water not up to drinkable standard for me (probably others) it cause stomach upset. I've been made aware this problem has be going on for years, yet for years you the council have been collecting money from rate payers to fix the water situation. Internet and digital communication is also an all time low. This is the 21st Century not the Ark Ages. I moved from the Southland area two years ago, to Whanganui due to ill health and I've never witness such diabolical services and we the ratepayers are expected to except it. Along with other residents of Whanganui.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 13

Speaking

First name: **Rhea**  
Last name: **Dasent**  
Organisation: **Federated Farmers**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents: yes

# SUBMISSION

TELEPHONE 0800 327 646 | WEBSITE [WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.FEDFARM.ORG.NZ)



To: Whanganui District Council

Submission on: **Draft Annual Plan 2026-27**

Date: 3 May 2026

Submission by: Federated Farmers  
**WHANGANUI PROVINCE**

Address for service: **RHEA DASENT**  
**SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR**  
Federated Farmers of New Zealand  
**Ph** 021 501 817  
**E** [rdasent@fedfarm.org.nz](mailto:rdasent@fedfarm.org.nz)

The Whanganui Province of Federated Farmers welcomes the opportunity to submit to Whanganui District Council on its [Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 Consultation Document](#).

We acknowledge any submissions from individual members of Federated Farmers.

## SUBMISSION SUMMARY

1. That an entry fee is trialled to gather evidence on how visitor numbers will be impacted and how much a fee could contribute to the Gallery.
2. The Council investigates whether shifting the ratepayer contribution away from the General Rate and towards to UAGC would flatten discrepancies between ratepayer contributions and be lower than \$244 per ratepayer.
3. Federated Farmers is neutral on the Whanganui East Pool closure, and the Davis Library extension, but we encourage the Council to investigate a shift away from the property-value General Rate and to the UAGC as the main funding mechanism for both of these activities.
4. That working dog fees remain at \$50 per dog for the first three dogs and \$14 for subsequent dogs.
5. That the Council investigates a tiered fee system for resource consent application fees depending on activity status.

## SARJEANT GALLERY

Federated Farmers supports entry fees for the Sarjeant Gallery, for all visitors.

An entry fee will have the benefit that the user is directly contributing to the cost, and entry fees for all visitors will ensure out-of-town visitors do not feel singled out.

Are ratepayers aware that they already contribute about \$244 per year towards the gallery, and would this information change their opinion on an entry fee? The [rates breakdown](#) provided on the council webpage details how much each residential ratepayer contributes to the Sarjeant Gallery, which is \$244 and 12.1% of their general rate and UAGC contribution. From the 2024 Long Term Plan, we note that it is the General Rate that is the mechanism to collect ratepayer funding for the Gallery.

Activity	Approx \$ amounts (rounded)	Percentage (rounded)
Parks and open spaces	\$318	15.8%
Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui	\$244	12.1%
Property portfolio	\$230	11.4%
Libraries	\$175	8.7%

Federated Farmers has different opinions on the merits of property value rating compared to uniform charges. We support the use of the UAGC for the ratepayer contribution towards the gallery, because the UAGC upholds the principle of *equal benefit = equal rate*. However, using the General Rate to fund the gallery will result in an unequal contribution between ratepayers based on their property value, rather than access to or use of the gallery.

We appreciate that the farming group of ratepayers will contribute 7.3% of the funding towards the gallery, based on the Financial Impact Statement in the 2023 Long Term Plan, compared to 83% residential. We also appreciate the use of differentials by land use (commercial, residential, farming) and by property size (with farms struck at a differential of 0.22 for >10ha) But it is unclear to Federated Farmers how the \$244 per residential ratepayer in the breakdown applies to farming ratepayers.

Activity	Basis	Allocation to groups		
		Commercial	Farming	Residential
<b>General rate activities</b>				
Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery Whanganui	Unit	8.4%	7.3%	84.3%

We encourage the Council to investigate the shifting the ratepayer funding aspect of the Sarjeant Gallery from the General Rate and to the UAGC instead. With 22,442 rating units in the district, and UAGC component evenly spread could equalise the amount each individual is contributing towards the Gallery.

The Council estimates that an entry fee just for out-of-town visitors could bring in between \$30,000 and \$396,000 a year, which is a big range of possibilities. We acknowledge the concern that an entry fee could reduce the visitor numbers, which currently sit at +100,000 visitors per year. Perhaps the

entry fee could be trialled for a set period of time to ascertain if, and by how much, visitor numbers will be impacted and how much it could contribute to operational costs.

**Submission:**

1. That an entry fee is trialled to gather evidence on how visitor numbers will be impacted and how much a fee could contribute to the Gallery.
2. The Council investigates whether shifting the ratepayer contribution away from the General Rate and towards to UAGC would flatten discrepancies between ratepayer contributions and be lower than \$244 per ratepayer.

## UAGC

Federated Farmers calculates that the Uniform Annual General Charge is about 18% of the total rates take. This is a disappointingly low level of UAGC usage, especially when the maximum allowable by legislation is 30%. There is plenty of room for the UAGC to increase and provide funding for activities that provide equal benefit, rather than using the General Rate.

There are many benefits to the UAGC, and we strongly encourage the Council to use this mechanism more. The UAGC is not vulnerable to fluctuations in property value and is better at addresses rates affordability concerns. Relying more on the General Rate could leave all ratepayers with much higher bills when their property value increases, like it did in 2022. This increased property value is unrealised unless the owner sells, meaning that ratepayers are not seeing the extra value in their bank accounts, but only on paper.

The recent revaluation may have eased capital values slightly, with residential CV down by 0.5% and farm CV also decreasing, whereas land values on average rose by about 1%. The district experienced a big jump in valuations in 2022 which demonstrates how much valuations can change suddenly and therefore impact the General Rate. With the General Rate being the mechanism that the Council relies on most for a wide range of activities, this creates a downside for the Council when it makes rates income uncertain and needing to be adjusted frequently, and also a downside for ratepayers when it creates discrepancies for the properties that experience big changes in their valuations, which are not related to their income or ability to pay rates.

Many of the activities currently funded by the General Rate can be shifted to the UAGC. Libraries and Aquatics being services that are equally available to all ratepayers, and access to these facilities are not determined by citizens' property value. Likewise internal council activities like Governance and District Planning are of equal benefit. Citizens with high value properties absolutely do **not** enjoy greater or more favourable governance, rather that all citizens are equally represented and served by their council governance, so equal contributions to this service makes sense.

**Submission:**

3. Federated Farmers is neutral on the Whanganui East Pool closure, and the Davis Library extension, but we encourage the Council to investigate a shift away from the property-value General Rate and to the UAGC as the main funding mechanism for both of these activities.

## FEES AND CHARGES

Federated Farmers notes that there will be inflationary increases at 3.0% for the following services:

- Building consent related fees
- Land Information Memorandum (LIM) fees
- Policy/planning fees
- Resource consent fees
- Health registration fees
- Cemetery fees
- Most venue hireage fees
- Vehicle permit fees
- Animal management service fees (excluding dog registration and pound fees).

Of these services, Federated Farmers is most interested in Resource Consent and Animal management fees. However the changes to animal management fees is for services such as microchipping, surrender of dog to Council, and sale of dog, and these are not services that farmers will likely use.

We support the working dog fee category remaining at \$50 per dog for the first three dogs, and then \$14 for subsequent dogs.

The resource consent fee for a non-notified land use consent at \$2,215 is on the steep side compared to neighbouring councils.

Council	Non-notified resource consent fee
Whanganui	2,215
Ruapehu	1,650
Manawatu	1,142.00 (controlled) 1,647.00 (restricted discretionary) 2,380.00 (discretionary) 3,110.00 (non-complying)
Stratford	1,500.00
Rangitikei	1,830.00

The Manawatu fee tiers for controlled, restricted discretionary, discretionary and non-complying resource consents are an idea that Federated Farmers supports and encourages Whanganui to investigate.

**Submission:**

4. That working dog fees remain at \$50 per dog for the first three dogs and \$14 for subsequent dogs.
5. That the Council investigates a tiered fee system for resource consent application fees depending on activity status.

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Federated Farmers is a not-for-profit primary sector advocacy organisation that represents farmers, and other rural businesses. Federated Farmers has a long and proud history of representing the needs and interests of New Zealand's farmers.

The Federation aims to add value to its members' businesses. Our key strategic outcomes include the need for New Zealand to provide an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their businesses in a fair and flexible commercial environment.
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of the rural community.
- Our members adopt responsible management and environmental practices.

This submission is representative of member views and reflect the fact that local government rating and spending policies impact on our member's daily lives as farmers and members of local communities.

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Federated Farmers thanks the Whanganui District Council for considering our submission on the Draft 2026-27 Annual Plan.



# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 1

Not speaking

First name: **Mish**  
Last name: **Davenport**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

1. Entry to Sarjeant Gallery: I would like to see a nominal entry fee for out-of-region visitors. Perhaps \$5 for an individual; \$10 for two or more members of the same family (and extended family up to, say 6 adults and children); and \$20 for a group of 7 or more people (including tours). 2. Whanganui East Pool: If refurbishment is guaranteed in the next FY, do it now, because costs are guaranteed to increase. If you cannot guarantee refurbishment, take a summer pause, but I suspect you'll end up having to close the pool as costs I suggest that costs are going to become unaffordable as the conflict in the Middle East draws on and markets start to fall. 3. Davis Library extension: I think this should be delayed. I fear there are going to be ever increasing costs that render this as at best nice-to-have, whereas keeping the lights on will be far more important. 4. Loan repayments: I'm torn on this. My instinct is to pay down debt, but I'm uncertain if this is actually going to matter much in the medium to long term, especially as many residents are almost certainly finding it increasingly difficult to afford even a basic lifestyle. 5. How budgets are set: I don't think there is any choice but to allow for flexibility. I would like to see some form of risk assessment of truly important 'things affecting the community' included in future draft annual plans written in plain English, so we can see what matters, why it matters, how they are proposed to be addressed, when they must be addressed by at the latest (this year, next year, 5 years time, etc.), and what happens if they're not addressed. Other: Port Development: The body of the draft annual plan completely omits any mention of the Port Development, yet this is clearly a financial and business risk, especially as the replacement for MV Anatoki has a deeper draught and, as I understand it, is currently unable to use the port. Furthermore, what is the value to the owner of the replacement vessel of visiting Whanganui if there's no freight for them to collect and deliver to other ports? I understand there are other aspects to the port, but is there a (again) a

business risk assessment and an collective understanding and acceptance of risks and mitigation measures/actions to support the council's - ergo ratepayers' - financial investment in the port? I hear and read a fair bit about the port, but it's often seems to be "jam tomorrow". Zebra crossing left side of Drews Avenue across Taupo Quay: This can be a sometimes quite dangerous crossing, especially on a Saturday morning on Market day, though at least the traffic is normally travelling quite slowly. Perhaps you could consider a zebra crossing there to make it safer for pedestrians (I know it is a 'courtesy crossing' now, but few drivers treat it as such). Cyclist-aware traffic lights: A number of traffic lights at intersections in the CBD don't register cyclists. During the day this is rarely a problem, but in the evening and at night it is sometimes necessary to 'jump' the red light after waiting for much longer than is reasonable for lights to change. Alternatively, adopt a traffic calming approach, and after, say, 6pm rotate the traffic lights when traffic is light. To close: I am relatively fortunate in that my wife and I between us can - just - accommodate rate increases, and we are generally reasonably happy with the council's performance. Other folk, however, are going to struggle, regardless of how large or small the increase is. Unfortunately, there aren't a great deal of diverse and well-paid (or otherwise paid) work in Whanganui, which can make it hard for people, including well-qualified folk. Thank you.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 83

Not speaking

First name: **Carissa**  
Last name: **Demchy**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

I think increasing services to council properties, ie swimming pool, is going to make it harder for lower income families to use them regularly. Also I agree with not doing the Davis library extension yet

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 88

Not speaking

First name: **Bruce**  
Last name: **Dickson**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

YES, There should be a charge for entry to the Gallery for visitors. The Davis Library Extension should proceed. Some loan repayments should be made but limited to allow other works to take place. A fund should be set aside to support voluntary organisations who wish to undertake projects/services for the benefit of the community - and need Council support including some funding. These organisations can and do provide considerable added value to community life by carrying out projects which Council does not feel are part of their core responsibilities - but which would add considerably to public amenity or lifestyle.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 53

Speaking

First name: **Carla**  
Last name: **Donson**  
Organisation: **Women's Network Whanganui - Manager**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Please see attached file which reflects our feedback/submission.

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**Supporting documents:** yes

## SUBMISSION TO WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN 2026

### A perspective from the Women's Network, Whanganui

**1. COMMUNITY CONTRACTS:** In my role as the Manager of the Women's Network, I acknowledge the Council for its continued support for Community Contract funding and our organisation further endorses the continuation of this commitment. This funding opportunity is significant for many community groups, especially those that are non-government funded. In an increasingly challenging funding environment, local grant funding initiatives are vital in recognising the significant contributions that many community and voluntary agencies make to the wellbeing of our people. Making multi-year funding available is also significant to sustainability and future planning, particularly for smaller organisations like ours that are truly independent, grass roots, and without government funding contracts. **We value our role on the Safer Whanganui Steering Group and want to acknowledge Cr Kate Joblin for her role chairing and Lauren Tamehana as Project Lead – they are vital champions for community development.**

For context, the Women's Network has been in existence for 40 years in Whanganui making positive change for women and girls across our community and district. Over the last three years, our services have generated impact for 7000-8000 people annually. Pretty impressive for an organisation with only one paid employee. **In the 2025 year, this includes:**

- **La Fiesta: NZ's Best Women's Fest:** 2368 direct participants with 100 activities and events + 85 festival partners and venues across Whanganui over 30 days. La Fiesta is the only month-long women's festival in the world, something which Whanganui needs to feel proud of and to continue advocating for.
- **Winter Wonderfest:** 1025 direct participants with 61 activities and events, 40 festival partners, 30 venues over 18 days.
- **In-house support services:** assisted approximately 1500 women and girls.
- **Community partnership activities and programmes:** assisted just over 3000 women and girls – this includes our monthly Women Who Lead programme and our monthly meet-ups [two each month] for women who live or feel alone.

#### **Funding for women's organisations:**

Supporting women-led solutions is one of the highest-impact investments we can make to shift outcomes for families, communities, and future generations. However, across global philanthropy and development funding, the proportion directed specifically to women's and girls' organisations remains **below 2%**. Most feminist and women's rights organisations operate on extremely small budgets, typically in NZ this would be significantly less than \$100,000 annually. Core, flexible, and long-term funding is especially scarce, despite the long-term impact demonstrated by many organisations. Women continue to be disproportionately impacted by: gender-based violence, unequal pay and economic inequality, poverty and limited access to educational opportunities, unpaid care work, reduced access to health and poorer health outcomes, discriminatory social norms and cultural practices, political under-representation, digital harm and harassment, climate change and humanitarian crises. In effect, women's organisations receive a disproportionately small share of global funding despite playing a central role in advancing gender equality, community resilience, and social change.

In the current context, there is an identified geopolitical backlash and shrinking civic space globally which has limited access to funding for feminist movements. Funding systems have tended to privilege larger national and international NGOs, which further impacts accessibility for local women-led organisations. These dynamics create a cycle where the groups closest to the issues receive the least funding, even though they often deliver the most transformative impact in their communities. Investing in women is not optional – it is the most effective strategy for strengthening communities, reducing inequality, and driving lasting social change.

#### **The size and impact of the community and voluntary sector in New Zealand:**

- The sector is vast, with over [114,000 non-profit organisations](#) in Aotearoa New Zealand, ranging from small community groups to large charities.
- The sector employs approximately 7% of New Zealand's workforce, making it a significant contributor to the economy.

- Volunteers play a crucial role in the sector, with around [21.5% of New Zealanders](#) volunteering their time and skills to support community organisations each year.
- In 2020, [the estimated value of volunteer hours in New Zealand was \\$4 billion](#), highlighting the immense contribution of volunteers to the sector and the wider community.

These statistics underscore the vital role that the community and voluntary sector plays in Aotearoa New Zealand, both in terms of economic contribution and social impact.

### **Maintaining advocacy and support for the continuation of the Census:**

The Census has been a cornerstone of democracy, equity, and evidence-based decision-making. The recent announcement to end the Census by 2030- to be replaced by a combination of administrative data and annual surveys gathered across government agencies – has been received with some concern by researchers and community advocates.

For women’s organisations, the Census is one of the few tools that exposes the scale of gender inequity — from unpaid care to income gaps to housing insecurity. Without it, women’s realities become invisible, and invisibility leads directly to underfunding and inaction.

The Census underpins almost every major public investment — from health funding and school planning to transport, housing, and emergency services. When the Census is weakened or discontinued, the people who lose the most are those already under-served: Māori, Pacific peoples, disabled communities, women, rural populations, and low-income households.

Every school, hospital, housing programme, violence-prevention service, and community initiative relies on accurate population data to advocate for fair funding, design effective services, and demonstrate unmet need. Losing this data would mean losing the evidence needed to challenge inequity and secure the resources that our communities deserve. One way that we can strengthen our community response at a local level is to advocate for a continued commitment to the Census.

### **2. DOOR CHARGES AT THE SARJEANT GALLERY: The Women’s Network does not have an identified position on this.**

However, we do acknowledge the significance of the gallery and its collection to the unique heritage and history of Whanganui - and the esteem with which it is held both nationally and internationally. There is evidence to suggest that a hybrid model that allows for mixed revenue generation works well – actively encouraging donations from all visitors, supporting revenue from secondary spend [via the retail store and gallery cafe], and paid entry to special exhibitions could work well. Gathering further information by directly surveying national and international visitors to the Sarjeant could also be useful in ascertaining their views and experiences at cultural institutions at other destinations around NZ and the world.

### **3. DELAYING THE DAVIS LIBRARY EXTENSION: The Women’s Network does not have an identified position on this.**

Our team actively works with the Whanganui District Library team and acknowledges their vital role in meeting the needs of our community, not only through the provision of traditional library services, but via their very dynamic community activity programmes across the library hubs and venues. Increasingly, libraries around the world have become important community centres, providing spaces for people to connect and to feel a sense of safety, belonging and community wellbeing.

Decades-long delays to the Sarjeant Gallery extension have resulted in significant cost to our community. Continuing to delay services that have demonstrated the need for development only serves to generate a greater financial burden over time. We would be supportive of further development of the library given the community impact that it generates. Libraries are essential infrastructure that must be invested in over time to meet the ever-changing social needs of our community.

Further to this, it would be good to see an ongoing commitment to the development of a clear and comprehensive plan for Pukenamu Queens Park. It is the jewel in the crown of a range of valuable central city assets. Capitalising on the location of all of our unique cultural institutions by developing improved accessibility

[including parking and lighting], pathways and wayfinding, and enhanced green public spaces would also further demonstrate our status as a UNESCO City of Design.

**4. WHANGANUI EAST POOL: The Women's Network does not have an identified position on this.**

We would be happy to support the views demonstrated by the majority of people that utilise this facility. However, there is some risk to further delay – both in terms of public safety and ongoing costs.

**5. SLOWING DOWN LOAN REPAYMENTS: The Women's Network does not have an identified position on this.**

Our organisation recognises that increased costs of living pressures are impacting many people across and within our district. Whilst paying off debt quicker is a prudent strategy, there is also some argument for delaying this at a time when many folk are already feeling the burden of increasing weekly costs.

**6. KEEPING BUDGETS LEAN- OR BUILDING A BUFFER: The Women's Network does not have an identified position on this.**

In respect of our previous comments about the cost implications of delaying development over time, there is the potential for this to impact contingencies. And, whilst we have also recognised that there are cost pressures faced by our community, a commitment to ensuring some financial reserves to mitigate unexpected expenses seems to be a prudent fiscal response, especially with the current geopolitical uncertainty and the ways in which this is impacting supply chains over time.

**WITH APPRECIATION**

The Women's Network values its ongoing partnership with the Whanganui District Council and extends grateful appreciation to the officers and elected members for providing opportunities for our community to actively participate in the development of this special place that we call home.

**Prepared by: Carla Donson BA, MNZM – Manager, Women's Network**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 156

Not speaking

First name: **Matt**  
Last name: **Dutton**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?** Yes. Keep entry to the Sarjeant Gallery free.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 5

Not speaking

First name: **Mary-Ann**  
Last name: **Ewing**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Sarjeant Gallery- no I do not think that entry charges should be introduced. Whanganui east pool- I think that the option for a moratorium on this issue is the correct one. Loan repayments-should continue as before. paying loans on as continuous policy. Budget flexibility- the WDC should be open to some leeway on how budget is spent rather than tightly adhered to. Davis library extension. I strongly urge the WDC to continue with extension plans for the library. As it is now, the size is inadequate for a town our size. Its facilities serve a wide range of people- all ages, different abilities, different ethnicities. We pride ourselves on having a top of the range art gallery. We should be equally proud of having an excellent Library. I also believe the amount spent on new purchases by the library should be increased as well, at least up to its previous amount.

**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 31

Speaking

First name: **Michelle**  
Last name: **Excell**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Sarjeant - you should not introduce a door charge for anyone. Your economic impact report for the area based on the Gallery is good. You should: make donations more prominent (look to ChCh Gallery for inspo), make visitor surveys more prominent (in-person, scan QR, on website, in emails), introduce more ticketed events and exhibits (people WILL pay), less expense/free shit at the many fantastic exhibit openings throughout the year and/or increase Friends of the Sarjeant annual fee, sort out the P&L at the cafe cos that should be making money and it is ridiculous that it doesn't (you likely need an experienced hospo panel/board helping you). You haven't provided enough information on the Davis Library extension to get informed resident feedback. I'm not an economist so can't speak to the Load and Budget questions without more information. I have included an attachment below, a targeted rates reduction proposal that will help local businesses in the short term, with suggestions on longer term management. I am happy to speak to this in more detail.

**Supporting documents:** yes

**Proposal to remove the Promotional Levy (collected targeted rate) from CBD building owners on behalf of the Mainstreet organization. From Michelle Excell and Rose Miller.**

As you are aware, the Council collects a targeted rate from building owners who fall into the Mainstreet CBD area. It comprises two parts, one for maintenance, the other for promotional activities to raise awareness of businesses that operate in the area. In this economic downturn we believe that removing this annual \$110,000 from a handful of ratepayers is a prudent decision. We are not suggesting repurposing it, we are recommending it be removed from the targeted rate.

We are offering to conduct a three week-long survey of Mainstreet ratepayers (direct and indirect) asking them whether they receive value from Mainstreet initiatives paid for by the Promotional Levy and whether they would like to see Mainstreet continue these efforts. Council can consult on the survey itself, if it wishes, but Michelle and Rose will have ultimate sign-off as we are running the survey at our own expense. If this proposal is approved by May 26, we would run the survey from 1-21 June, with findings presented to and discussed with Council week of June 22, so that a **decision can be made by Friday June 26th about whether to remove the Promotional Levy from the targeted rate from July 1st 2026.**

As Mainstreet members and business owners ourselves who have life-spanning careers in marketing, design, and advertising we strongly believe the promotional activity should be handled by an organization with more experience, accountability, and City-wide purview. We are very familiar with the background on why the Promotional Levy is part of the targeted rate and we believe it was once necessary and valuable, but no longer. We have consulted with Mainstreet Members (business and building owners), and Board Members going back to its inception. Michelle sat on the Mainstreet Board throughout 2025 and has run a high profile Mainstreet event for the past two years so is very familiar with the inner workings and promotional efforts both in scope and impact.

In recent years the focus of Mainstreet has become more about the maintenance operations and liaising with Council, and while these are vital and valuable services, they do not require the Promotional Levy to function. When there are Council-led tourism and business-growth initiatives including Discover Whanganui and full-time staffed tourism roles including those at i-SITE, it feels more appropriate that promoting our unique and wonderful businesses and CBD should be managed under a City-wide strategy. There are also groups more experienced and equipped to contribute to a City-wide promotional strategy on behalf of businesses, such as Business Whanganui, street-specific groups like those on Guyton and Drews, and even individual businesses like Property Brokers and Plumber Dans with vested interests who do so much to support our residents and promote business growth.

Supporting reasons that can be discussed in more detail at the Hearings:

- While we believe there has been an issue with the Promotional Levy funds being adequately and effectively put to use by Mainstreet *for years*, since 2025's AGM there has been a total cessation of all promotional activities. This is what ultimately made us look into the matter but even if these initiatives started up again we still don't believe it is appropriate for Mainstreet to be receiving these funds. At the time of this submission Promotional Levy funds that Mainstreet receives are not being used at all. There is an urgent need to survey members and remove the levy from July 1st 2026 if they agree.
  - The newsletter started in 2025 has stopped and the team behind it have heard nothing from Mainstreet all year.
  - All public- and business-facing roles within Mainstreet have resigned this year. The GM, Administrator and Member Liaison roles managed public-facing platforms like social and website and newsletters and emails, vendors, liaised with members, tried initiatives like late-night shopping, and reported on all promotional activities undertaken.
  - The website is not being updated.
  - Social media from Mainstreet accounts stopped from March 1 2026. The previous contract expired and the vendor who was managing it declined a continuation due to lack of strategy and direction coming from Mainstreet (presumably because all previous employees with knowledge had left).
  - The Mainstreet office has been closed to the public and Members for months and the Mainstreet Members who pay the Promotional Levy have lost all insight and say into how it is being spent.

***In all these cases, if the Promotional Levy was being used to support these efforts through salaries and vendor deliverables, and now it is not: why would the Levy continue to be collected?***
- Promotional efforts by Mainstreet don't support all businesses equally.
  - There is no full directory of businesses that is publicly available and kept up-to-date, and businesses are either selectively or not at all promoted.
  - The newsletter that was revived in 2025 featured a single business per month, with no mention of other businesses in the category (i.e. beauty, retail, etc)
  - New businesses that open in the CBD area don't get any general promotion from Mainstreet. They don't get featured in social posts, or on the website (sometimes they are added, but sometimes not).
  - It's confusing for anyone out of town to have multiple websites to go to, e.g. Discover Whanganui + Mainstreet. It should be consolidated and businesses promoted locally and nationally under one strategy and tactical initiatives.
- It doesn't make sense to promote only Mainstreet businesses with this much promotional spend, especially when it means leaving out businesses that are over the road from each other like on Drews Ave and St Hill St. Especially during Vintage Weekend or Christmas-time when all surrounding businesses are involved.
- There are two things that will need to be assessed or reallocated should the Promotional Levy be removed:

- Aroha vouchers - though all vouchers already issued and submitted by businesses must be honoured by Mainstreet as they will already have received payment for them.
  - Flagpole space. This could come under Council direction for booking and payment and still be physically managed by the Mainstreet operations team.
- Events that are currently managed by Mainstreet can be managed by qualified event management vendors, or by Council or other organizations with Mainstreet supporting physical operations under contract.

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 65

Not speaking

First name: **Lynley**  
Last name: **Fowler**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

We have a nationally acclaimed Art Gallery which our rates helped with the funding. I went there once, last year, it was OK. I am waiting for them to do something else that would entice me to go again but it is definitely bringing in the tourists. Our Museum is very highly rated nationally. Some visitors go to that too and also valuable for school classes. I don't know the ratio - possibly 40V / 60L I might be drawn to that about once a year. The Library is likely to bring in only about 5% of visitors. All the rest are Whanganui District residents and they would come weekly or fortnightly all year round. This service is almost exclusively for the use of the people who have paid for it. Nationally our Library doesn't rate because we are shorter of space than we should be for our population, also shorter of funds and definitely shorter of stock. Why are the people of Whanganui always short-changed in a facility that is of greatest use to them. The Council's own reputation is also at stake when it keeps on back-tracking on its promises.

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 141

Not speaking

First name: **Scott**  
Last name: **Francis**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Visitors to the gallery should be charged a modest fee. We have already paid to upgrade the facility, we shouldn't subsidise visitor entry aswell. It doesn't make financial sense. Most visitors would be happy to pay a reasonable entry fee. The East Pools need serious consideration before spending any money on it. Is there decent patronage to make it affordable? Please balance debt repayment with rates increases - we have had the benefits of low rate increases for years but the reality is they must go up!

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 85

Not speaking

First name: **Alistair**  
Last name: **Fraser**  
Organisation: **Digital Inclusion Whanganui**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Digital Inclusion Whanganui supports Council's focus on balancing affordability with maintaining essential services. We recommend that digital inclusion be recognised as a practical access, wellbeing, and service-efficiency issue across Council services, libraries, and any future older persons' housing arrangements. A short supporting submission is attached.

**Supporting documents:** yes

# Submission on Draft Annual Plan 2026/27

## Digital Inclusion Whanganui

We support the Council's focus on balancing affordability with maintaining essential services and planning for Whanganui's future.



Digital inclusion is a practical way to support this balance.

Many residents — particularly seniors, low-income households, and others — face barriers to accessing and using digital services. As more Council services and communications move online, this can limit access, increase reliance on in-person support, and place additional pressure on staff and facilities.

Improving digital access and confidence does not require large new programmes. Small, practical support through existing channels can make a measurable difference to service use, independence, and community wellbeing.

### **Libraries and community access**

If decisions are made to delay investment or manage costs within library services, it is important to recognise their role as key access points for digital support. Libraries provide trusted, low-cost places where people can access the internet and receive assistance. Maintaining this function supports both access and efficient service delivery.

### **Older persons' housing**

As Council considers future arrangements for older persons' housing, including any transfer to a separate entity, it is important that tenant wellbeing is considered beyond the physical housing.

Access to affordable internet and basic digital support should be recognised as part of maintaining independence, reducing isolation, and enabling residents to engage with services. This is a low-cost addition that supports successful tenancy outcomes and reduces avoidable demand on support services.

### **Recommendation**

We recommend that digital inclusion be recognised as a practical, cross-cutting consideration in service planning and delivery, particularly where changes affect access to services, community facilities, or housing.


This approach supports affordability, improves access, and strengthens community resilience without requiring significant additional investment.

### **Alistair Fraser**

*Digital Inclusion Whanganui | Crystal Adventures Ltd*

<https://crystaladventures.co.nz/digital-inclusion-whanganui/>

[alistair@crystaladventures.co.nz](mailto:alistair@crystaladventures.co.nz)

 027 418 6545

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 95

Not speaking

First name: **Warrick**  
Last name: **Funnell**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents:

## **Submission to Whanganui District Council Annual Plan**

The Whanganui Residents and Ratepayers Association (WRRRA) believes that meaningful savings in the current year will be limited. However, this should not distract from the central issue: improving efficiency in the way Council operates.

At present, there is a persistent perception that Council management adopts a “cost-plus” approach—where expenditure grows to meet service ambitions, rather than services being delivered within disciplined financial limits. It is always easier to spend public money than one’s own, but the reality is that ratepayers no longer have the financial capacity to sustain this approach. Change is required, and it is required now, if we are to achieve lasting improvements in efficiency.

A significant challenge in preparing this submission, as with many others, has been the lack of accessible, detailed, and reliable data. For example, when attempting to determine the volume of LGOIMA requests received by Council, publicly available information proved inadequate. The limited data available suggested approximately 18 formal requests between late 2024 and early 2026—less than one per month. This raises concerns about both transparency and the accessibility of information.

The current process is time-consuming for those seeking information, and costly and frustrating for Council to administer. Given the Mayor’s stated commitment to transparency and open government, now is the appropriate time to turn that commitment into practical action by improving proactive disclosure and access to meaningful data.

This submission is fundamentally about the future of good governance and effective management. Both require renewed focus.

There is an inherent risk in any organisation that spending decisions become less disciplined when the funds are not personally earned. In most private businesses, a proposed 16% increase in wage and salary costs would be rigorously tested and justified. By contrast, Council’s explanation at a recent public meeting—that additional staff were simply “needed”—raises further questions. Where is the supporting business case? Has sufficient analysis been undertaken to explore whether efficiency gains could be achieved without increasing staff numbers?

Specific examples reinforce this concern. The Splash Centre has experienced average cost increases of approximately 27% per annum over the past five years and now employs 21 staff. This pattern suggests a cost-driven model, rather than one grounded in financial discipline. In the private sector, the key question is whether the numbers work; within Council, the approach appears to prioritise service delivery first, with funding to follow.

Similarly, the Sarjeant Gallery has increased staffing from 9 in 2020 to 19 today (12 full-time equivalents). This raises a reasonable question: is there a comprehensive business plan in place that focuses on maximising efficiency, or is growth in staffing being accepted without sufficient scrutiny?

The same concerns extend to contractor management. While it is often stated that contractors provide good value, there is little visibility around how that value is measured, monitored, and continuously improved. A robust and transparent framework for assessing contractor performance is essential to ensure ratepayer funds are being used effectively.

Ultimately, responsibility for operational efficiency rests with the Chief Executive. The WRRRA expects to see tangible improvements in efficiency and measurable outcomes over the coming year.

We also look to elected councillors to strengthen their governance role by actively challenging assumptions, demanding evidence-based decision-making, and ensuring better outcomes for the community.

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 104

Not speaking

First name: Nichole  
Last name: Ganley  
Organisation: N/A

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

I support : Out of town visitors to the Sargent Gallery should pay to help cover costs. Keep rates as affordable as possible and reduce loan payments. Keep budgets tight. Whanganui East Pool should take a one summer pause until it's refurbished and to help reduce costs whilst it's closed. The Davis Library extension should be delayed.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 23

Speaking

First name: **Helen**  
Last name: **Garner**  
Organisation: **Business Whanganui - Chamber of Commerce Chief**

Executive

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27? Attached

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Supporting documents: yes

# Submission on the Whanganui District Council Annual Plan 2026-2027

Prepared by Business Whanganui - Chamber of Commerce

Based on business community feedback

## Overview

This submission reflects direct feedback from the Whanganui business community on the proposed Annual Plan 2026-2027.

The overall picture is steady, with a clear intent from businesses to grow and invest over the coming year. At the same time, operating conditions remain tight.

Cost pressures are increasing, and the way Council processes operate is having a direct impact on time, cost, and confidence. Businesses are not calling for more complexity, they are looking for consistency, clarity, and efficiency in the fundamentals that enable them to operate.

There is support for a balanced financial approach and an understanding of the trade-offs Council must manage. However, confidence is closely linked to delivery. Where Council processes are efficient and predictable, they support activity and investment. Where they are not, they add cost and slow progress.

The opportunity for this Annual Plan is to focus on what will make the most practical difference: improving how things work day-to-day, reducing friction, and delivering reliably on core services.

## Cost Pressures and Value

Rates and associated costs are becoming more noticeable for businesses. While some are able to absorb increases, others are experiencing growing pressure.

Fees and charges also contribute to the overall cost of doing business and are felt at times as a barrier.

There is an understanding that Council must balance current costs with future risk. The key consideration for business is that costs are matched with clear value through efficient, reliable service delivery.

## Process Efficiency and Consistency

Improving the speed and consistency of Council processes will have a direct impact on business confidence and activity.

Feedback highlights opportunities to:

- Streamline consenting and approval processes
- Reduce duplication and repeated information requests
- Improve clarity and consistency of requirements
- Minimise delays in inspections and decision-making

These are practical improvements that would reduce time and cost for business, while improving the overall experience of working with Council.

## Reducing Friction to Support Growth

Businesses identified cost pressures and regulatory requirements as key constraints on growth, alongside workforce and demand factors.

Reducing friction within areas Council controls, particularly processes and compliance, is one of the most effective ways to support business activity without adding complexity.

A more efficient operating environment supports businesses to move forward with greater confidence.

## Transport, Access and Infrastructure

Transport, access, and fuel costs are having a clear impact on business operations.

This affects:

- Movement of goods and services
- Staff and customer access
- Overall operating costs

Maintaining and improving core infrastructure remains essential. Practical local improvements, particularly those that support access, safety, and reliability continue to make a meaningful difference.

## Business Confidence and Outlook

Businesses are generally looking ahead with an intention to grow or invest, while remaining mindful of current conditions.

Experience with Council is mixed, and this plays a role in shaping confidence. Where processes are clear and timely, they support activity. Where they are not, they can slow decision-making and investment.

Confidence is strengthened through consistent delivery and a clear focus on what matters.

## Focus on the Fundamentals

Feedback consistently reinforces the importance of Council focusing on its core role.

This includes:

- Delivering reliable infrastructure
- Providing efficient and predictable processes
- Maintaining clear and consistent regulatory settings

There is a preference for Council to enable business activity, working alongside established organisations and networks, rather than duplicating effort.

## Economic Development and Delivery

There is support for a balanced approach between generating revenue and supporting wider economic activity.

Businesses are looking for:

- Clear priorities
- Strong coordination
- Delivery that leads to visible outcomes

A focused approach, with effort directed toward areas of greatest impact, will strengthen confidence and support economic opportunity.

## Priority Areas for the Annual Plan

Based on this feedback, the following areas are identified as priorities:

### 1. Improve process efficiency and timeliness

Streamline consenting and approvals, reduce duplication, and provide clear, consistent requirements.

### 2. Maintain discipline around costs and value

Ensure rates and fees are supported by efficient, reliable service delivery.

### 3. Invest in core infrastructure

Continue to prioritise transport, access, and essential services that support business operations.

### 4. Reduce unnecessary complexity

Simplify regulatory and compliance requirements where possible.

### 5. Strengthen delivery focus

Prioritise initiatives with clear impact and demonstrate outcomes.

### 6. Work through established channels

Support and enable organisations already connected to the business community.

## Closing Comment

The business community is clear in its expectations.

Support for business is grounded in consistent delivery of the fundamentals - infrastructure, efficient processes, and a regulatory environment that enables activity.

Focusing on these areas will reduce friction, support investment, and strengthen confidence across the region.

That is where the greatest impact lies.

Contact:

Helen Garner  
Chief Executive  
Business Whanganui – Chamber of Commerce  
e. [ceo@businesswhanganui.nz](mailto:ceo@businesswhanganui.nz)  
m. 021 345 385

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 46

Not speaking

First name: Yvonne  
Last name: Gatland

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Sarjeant Gallery- residents=free, out of towners=pay a fee Whanganui East Pool-close next summer. close for good-put the money into an outdoor pool, 50m with a diving well, by the Splash centre. Aramoho, Gonville, Central, Castlecliff, Durie Hill & St Johns Hill all have to travel to the Splash cnr; why not Whanganui east people? Davis Library ext= delay indefinitely. We need our community libraries to flourish. Loan repayments- stop borrowing and putting Whanganui into debt eg. pilot school, derelict buildings eg Pilot school (1991) Whanganui Furnishers- knock them down and build something that enhances Whanganui. Budgets- live within your means

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 107

Not speaking

First name: **Brittany**  
Last name: **Gibson**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Free entry. Pool pause. No extension to library. Pay down debt. Future issues will arise. Also, when can we get a decent new playground? Kowhai park needs an upgrade and interactive play for preschoolers.

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**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 92

Speaking

First name: Peter  
Last name: Gilderdale

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

I wish to give feedback on several aspects of the Annual Plan Firstly, it seems as though the Library has become the go-to place for cost cutting. It has just lost two years worth of purchases, and had operating hours slashed. Now Council is kicking the very necessary extension to the Davis Library into touch. Once again, the user experience of Library patrons is to be sacrificed to the budget. It is also worth noting that the information given people in the consultation document is insultingly slanted. There is no explanation of why an extension might be needed. As such it is written in such a way as to ensure that there is no proper opposition to the decision. I would like Council to consider the following: •

While art galleries and museums attract both locals and out-of-towners, libraries are very predominantly used by locals. Yet a simple walk through the three institutions, particularly looking at their displays, shows that the library is comparatively underfunded. Compared to other libraries I know around the country, too, our library's collections and activities (of which there are many) seem to operate on the proverbial smell of an oily rag. One has to query why the Council is willing to sacrifice an institution that serves so many locals. •

The library currently sees over 250,000 visits a year. That is well over double the Sargeant's traffic. Granted they are not equivalent to each other, but it does give a good sense of how central the Library is to many people's lives. •

The Davis currently feels cramped and tired. Books are shelved uncomfortably high even for someone tall, like me. •

Parking and the new bus service are actively discouraging people from coming to the area. Many patrons of the library (and other institutions in the Pukenamu Precinct) are elderly. The need to park well

away from the library itself, or now walk from St Hill Street, is hardly facilitating the demand for the library.

•

Cutting closing time back to 5.00pm disadvantages working people who might otherwise pop into the library after work. I would like to see that change rolled back. All in all, it is clear to me that the Library is not getting the attention or appreciation it deserves from Council. Words are all very well, but the continuing whittling away of this service makes no sense to me. I can only assume that some Councillors and Council staff are not aware of what a diamond in the rough they have. What I believe needs to happen is: 1.

The roofing fix needs to be given absolute urgency. Wet books are wrecked books. That must not happen. 2.

As I understand it, the plans for the extension are insufficiently detailed to allow proper costings to be done. As such statements like “costs have gone up since 2019” are meaningless. Proper planning needs proper costings, so completing the plans to the point where they can be used to give a full costing would seem prudent. 3.

Decisions around the extension, and any eventual alternatives, need to be prioritised. Leaving them for the next 10 year plan means that nothing will be done for years and years. This may be the actual intention, but it is a bad intention. 4.

In the meantime, the Council needs to roll back some of the unhelpful measures that were implemented, at the Library's expense, a couple of years ago. These have significantly affected the user-experience of patrons, for (as I understand it) only achieved a minimal claw-back. My next point applies to both the Library and to the Council's debt. If you look at a country like Singapore, they have run a very significant debt in order to finance world-class facilities. It's a great place to visit. Auckland, by way of comparison, didn't put in rapid transport in the 70's because councillors were afraid of ratepayers, and look at the mess that has created. It is okay to run up debt to put in facilities that benefit ratepayers. A library that is up to current standards is one such an investment. My final point basically comes with the same rationale. I would like to commend Councillors for thinking long-term and not voting for a knee-jerk claw-back from the Sarjeant Gallery, by putting in a door-charge for out-of-town visitors. Whanganui needs such visitors

and a door charge would certainly end up costing patronage both at the gallery and in town. The amounts given in the consultation document, seem realistic. A door charge would also be unfair to the many Kiwis from other centres who contributed to the Sarjeant's fundraising.

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**Supporting documents:**

yes

## Submission on the Annual Plan

*Peter Gilderdale*

I wish to give feedback on several aspects of the Annual Plan

Firstly, it seems as though the Library has become the go-to place for cost cutting. It has just lost two years' worth of purchases, and had operating hours slashed. Now Council is kicking the very necessary extension to the Davis Library into touch. Once again, it looks like the user experience of Library patrons is to be sacrificed on the altar of the budget.

It is also worth noting that the information given to people in the consultation document is insultingly slanted. There is no explanation of why an extension might be needed. As such it is written in such a way as to ensure that there is no proper opposition to a decision that appears like it has already been made.

I would like Council to consider the following:

- While art galleries and museums attract both locals and out-of-towners, libraries are very predominantly used by locals. Yet a simple walk through the three institutions, in particular looking at their displays, demonstrates that the library is comparatively underfunded. Compared to other libraries I know around the country, too, our library's collections and activities (of which there are many) seem to operate on the proverbial smell of an oily rag. One has to query why the Council is willing to sacrifice an institution that serves so many locals.
- The library currently sees over 250,000 visits a year. That is well over double the Sarjeant's traffic. Granted they are not equivalent to each other, but it does give a good sense of how central the Library is to many people's lives.
- The Davis currently feels cramped and a bit tired. Books are shelved both uncomfortably high and uncomfortably low. Aisles are close together.
- Parking and the new bus service are actively discouraging people from coming to the area. Many patrons of the library (and other institutions in the Pukenuamu Precinct) are elderly. The need to park well away from the library itself, or now walk from St Hill Street, is hardly facilitating the demand for the library.
- Cutting closing time back to 5.00pm disadvantages working people who might otherwise pop into the library after work. I would like to see that change rolled back – at least for one or two evenings a week, if more is not possible..

All in all, it is clear to me that the Library is not getting the attention or appreciation it deserves from Council. Words are all very well, but the continuing whittling away of this service makes no sense to me. I can only assume that some Councillors and Council staff are not aware of what a diamond in the rough they have. What I believe needs to happen is:

1. The roofing fix needs to be given absolute urgency. Wet books are wrecked books. That must not happen.
2. As I understand it, the plans for the extension are insufficiently detailed to allow proper costings to be done. As such, statements like "costs have gone up since 2019" are meaningless. Proper planning needs proper costings, so completing the plans to the point where they can be used to give a full costing would seem prudent.

3. Decisions around the extension, and any eventual alternatives, need to be prioritised. Leaving them for the next 10-year plan means that nothing will be done for years and years. This may be the actual intention, but it is a bad intention.
4. In the meantime, the Council needs to roll back some of the unhelpful measures that were implemented, at the Library's expense, a couple of years ago. These have significantly affected the user-experience of patrons, yet (as I understand it) only achieved a minimal claw-back.
5. The Council needs to find a way to provide better transport to the Pukenuamu Queens Park area, now that the new bus routes leave a significant walk for anyone taking the bus to the library, gallery or museum.

I do wonder whether the library is suffering from people in decision-making positions failing to understand who libraries are truly for and what they do. Libraries are multi-faceted institutions. They provide books (physical and digital) to people who can't afford them; a study space for people whose homes are not ideal for study; free computer and communication services for those who can't afford them; a place for people who can't afford genealogical sites to do genealogy and learn about their whakapapa; a focal point for community initiatives; and they provide social opportunities for the lonely. And, of course, they support a publishing industry that adds almost 300 million dollars to the New Zealand economy. The need for libraries is not going to go away, and in a world where community is increasingly eroded, it seems to me that they are more needed than ever.

My next point applies to both the Library and to the Council's debt. If you look at a country like Singapore, they have run a very significant debt in order to finance world-class facilities. It's a great place to visit. Auckland, by way of comparison, didn't put in rapid transport in the 70's because councillors were afraid of ratepayers' wrath, and look at the mess that decision has created. It is, I believe, okay to run up debt to put in facilities that benefit ratepayers in the long term. A library that is up to current standards is one such an investment.

My final point applies the same rationale. I would like to commend Councillors for thinking long-term and not voting for a knee-jerk claw-back from the Sarjeant Gallery, by putting in a door-charge for out-of-town visitors. Whanganui needs such visitors and a door charge would certainly end up costing patronage both at the gallery and in town. The amounts given in the consultation document seem realistic. A door charge would also be unfair to the many Kiwis from other centres who contributed to the Sarjeant's fundraising.

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 130

Not speaking

First name: Liz  
Last name: Goodrich

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Entry to the Sarjeant Gallery - I would be interested to learn how much was brought in by donations. If that is a reasonable substantial amount, then I don't think a charge should be made. If not, then I think there should be a minimal fee between \$2 and \$5.

Whanganui East Pool: Without knowing usage numbers over 2025/26 it's difficult to make a suggestion, but if it was well supported by local children and youth, I would like to see it open again next summer.

The Davis Library extension - I agree that the extension should be delayed

Loan repayments I think we should keep paying loan repayments off at a slightly higher rate than required

How budgets are set - I would prefer to see some buffers built in, but encouragement should be given to underspend on those budget. Buffers should only be given to standard operating budgets for essential services; no more marketing, PR or one-off promotional items (e.g. logos!)

**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 38

Speaking

First name: **Pete**  
Last name: **Gray**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Davis Library extension Council providing funding in 2022-23 to undertake the planning of the extension all the way to construction drawings which would have enabled firm costing and also allowed a process of value engineering to determine the best way forward. The work was started in late March 2023 but was later halted (in secret) on the instructions of the former Chief Executive without consulting Council or informing either the public or the library team. Thus is it not possible now to say what the final cost might be – although we know that in the intervening six years since the first ROC was determined that construction costs have risen enormously. In order for council and the community to make an informed decision about how or when to progress the extension, the plans need to be completed as originally intended and proper costings established. This will take a number of months, but based on the previous offer from the architects should not be very expensive as a fair amount of preliminary work has already been done – just not to the required level of detail. This means that the project will not be in a position to proceed next financial year. However, completing the plans and getting clear pricing will enable fundraising – from both the public and institutions – to begin together with setting a clear timeframe for construction. Enough time has been wasted through internal roadblocks. The reasons for undertaking the extension have not changed or gone away. An extension to the Davis Library has been talked about for more than twenty-five years. The project has been consulted on twice. Council cannot keep re-litigating promises it has made to the public after consultation. You said you were going to do something – you should just go ahead, set a date and do it. Sarjeant Gallery door charges Since the estimated income from this ranges all the way from damn-all to a fair amount, it seems a risky move to impose a charge, even assuming you can easily identify who has to pay (short of challenging everyone who comes into the Gallery). Previous experience elsewhere suggests that this

would have an overall negative impact, both on the Gallery's income from other sources (shop, cafe, donations) and on the wider community through reduced visitation. Budgets I have two comments here. It is good to see the book budget restored to the level in the LTP. The 34% cut had a significant impact on the library's ability to replace and refresh its stock and on the community's access to the latest publications. It will take many years to bring the collection back into balance, but this is an excellent first step. The saving in the library budget from closing earlier on weekdays and reducing hours on Saturday has made access to the library harder for those who are in work and was achieved by reducing the wages of some of Council's lowest-paid staff. I suggest that this change be reversed. Council should be improving access to its public spaces, not restricting it.

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**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 80

Not speaking

First name: **Barbara**  
Last name: **Gray**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Entry to Sargeant Gallery: What an exorbitant money pit this has been! We did NOT need a cafe or all the other extensions that have encroached on parking spaces...we just needed to earthquake strengthen our beautiful building and make sure the stored works were in a humidity-controlled environment. People come to see the Sargeant building...the other add-ons are unnecessary, cost ratepayers enormous amounts of money while at the same time interfering with local [cafe] businesses. Yes, we should definitely have a door charge. The money we might have saved had council been realistic in the first place could have been put towards upgrading the museum...God help us if the council insist on adding extensions and cafes there. We are a small town...not a metropolis. Let's keep our spending realistic and affordable. The Davis Library: Definitely defer spending. How much refurbishment is needed?... not desired. You go there to get /read books...it does not need to be fancy. We need to be realistic about REAL needs, not desires. Its time the council officers keep the spending focussed on what their real purpose is, not their dreams of legacy. Already the Sargeant, the Flight School, the unnecessary/unwanted extra runway, and the big buy up of properties downtown have proven that they are getting above themselves in what they are really paid [by the ratepayers] to do. Stick to the basics, please!!!  
Loan Repayments: If only the officers were spending their own money...it's easy to get someone else into debt and they are doing a pretty good job of that now. How about no more borrowing until the debt is paid off? How budgets are set? Yes, budgets must be kept tight. Not just this year but going forward. Council needs to stick only to the basics, stop introducing things we don't need, focus on what we have and look after it well. We did not need vanity projects... new monogramming being one example. Just stick to the basics!!!

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 60

Speaking

First name: **Blake**  
Last name: **Greenlees**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Set another budget towards a Youth Committee/Council within Whanganui.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 52

Not speaking

First name: **Rochelle**  
Last name: **Handley**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents: yes

Whanganui District Council Annual Plan 2026/27 Consultation Submission – Entry to Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery

We've been running an independent business in Whanganui for the past 20 years and engage daily with members of the public both local and out of town visitors. Public engagement is an excellent opportunity to gather opinions and ideas on topics that are meaningful and effect our community so we thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

We are aware recently that a special meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee took place and Whanganui District councillors voted against a door charge at Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery. We are delighted with Council's decision to retain free admission for all and would like to show that we strongly support the continuation of a free admission through this Annual Plan process.

It is a fact that Art plays a key role in community development by creating spaces for connection, supporting local economies, and preserving cultural identity. Major donors and central government have invested millions in the redevelopment of Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery on the explicit understanding that these treasures would remain accessible to all.

So please retain the free admission which will help support the high visitor numbers, strengthen and encourage community engagement and showcase Whanganui as the wonderful Arts destination it has become.

*Rochelle Handley & Lesley Stead*

**Stead & Daughters Ltd | Paige's Book Gallery**

60 Guyton Street | Whanganui 4500 | New Zealand  
Phone: +64 6 348 9095



## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 105

Not speaking

First name: **Graham**  
Last name: **Holloway**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

1. Sarjeant Gallery: A door charge is essential to stop subsidising the wants of others who don't want to pay. This galerie is a burden in my opinion to the ratepayer. (if it caught fire don't put it out) 2. Whanganui East Pool: Close it for 1 year & get the job done, make it something to be proud of, and as such I would envisage then that the patronage would increase significantly and an increasing income. 2. Davis Library extension: Delay Davis Library, reinstate fines for not returning books on time and start charging for books. Not free anymore. Start by having an area where books are charged for, especially new ones. 4. Loan repayments: Debt has to drop, not climb. Councillors should be held to account for wrong decisions made that hit the ratepayer i.e. flight school & rebranding. 5. Budget setting: There is no definitive answer on this one. We can't predict the future. However, accountability must prevail like the councillors said at the pre-election functions.

**Supporting documents:** yes

28/04/24

Graham Holloway

re SUBMISSION COUNCIL POLICY and BYLAWS

Whanganui District Council has been negligent towards its existing ratepayer base, by carrying on charging LOW DEVELOP FEES, ie like to connections to our infrastructure system at the peril of the existing ratepayers whom then are charged for that shortfall. This is proven by the exorbitant rate increase us seniors are now forced to pay because someone else is getting a good deal. The Whanganui Chronicle on Sat 26/08/23 published an article re this problem, proving WDC have been aware of it for some time, and have NOT ACTIONED THE PROBLEM. Hence being negligent.

There is absolutely no reason why existing ratepayers should be expected to pick up the cost, in any form. There is absolutely no excuse to <sup>put</sup> up the costs significantly to what was in the article. And if YA DONT WANT TO PAY STAY AWAY and pay HIGHER somewhere else. A perfect example of this is the property at 4 Springvale Rd, where it is proposed to build many townhouses. Article was in Whanganui Chronical 27/11/23. Its the same theory that WDC has towards parking. There is NO discount for excuses, JUST PAY THE PARKING TICKET, and if you dont there are consequences.

#### RE UTILITIES

Also with regard to infrastructure, I propose that WDC hold our UTILITIES to count when they dig up WDC areas, and do a shoddy patch up. I had discussion with [REDACTED] some time ago bout this problem that to expect ratepayers to pay for the reconstruction of WDC assets. My proposal would be that the UTILITIES are responsible for their reinstatement work to carry the same effective lifetime warrenty that WDC would put on the if undisturbed area. A perfect case in point is the crap footpath in Jones st from a Telco job some time ago. And added to the proposal is that if a utility changes ownership, SO DOES THE REPAIR. [REDACTED] said that the UTILITIES wont like it, and I replied NOR DO WE. He also said that he thinks it is a great idea because it looks after ratepayers interests. A point is that although the UTILITIES WONT LIKE IT, if they do a proper job from the outset, it wont be an issue. Added to the proposal is that if a UTILITY has work done, and WDC are not informed of it as required, WDC can dig again and find the culprit and FINIE THEM ACCORDINGLY.

Uneven surfaces for us seniors to walk on are a big issue, and moreso the likes of me thru an accident in 1976, dont life my feet very far, I just have to have my shoe get caught on a risen edge, and I AM THEN OVER. That then becomes a WDC issue like what happened to me here in NIXON ST last year, and WDC repaired the area with a dash of speed because WDC know it is part of their DUTY OF CARE and when they fail with their duty of care, then the saying THE SMELLY BROWN STUFF HITS THE FAN.as it should.

#### PARKING and GROWTH OVER FOOTPATHS

I propose that WDC have parking a vehicle the WRONG WAY AROUND eg must face the way of driving, A BY LAW VIOLATION, and an immediate fine just like the Police do. I accept that Police dont do it here in Whanganui because of a WDC parking department. So its needs sorting.

With regards to growth of vegetation from properties over the footpath, that to be made an advertised by law by adjacent property owners of the footpath network to ensure their srubby and tree growth DOES NOT IMPACT THE FOOTPATH NETWORK. I propose a large FINE for this to be in order, but first a council notice to the culprit with what is required with a short remedy period, and then if NO ACTION THE FINE. No excuses not to, furthermore if the property owner allows it

to happen again, well then the FINE BECOMES INSTANT, with an increase for not complying.

I understand that CENTRAL GOVERNMENT has set fines for LOCAL COUNCIL, however thru their stupidity, the fines that can be obtained are like POCKET MONEY because they are so low and outdated, and it is too expensive for local authorities to administer for what is obtained in the fine, so in escence the culprits dont care.

WDC needs to pressure Central Govt, along with other local authorities, that Central Govt needs and should relinquish ALL LOCAL BODY FINES CONTROL and let the LOCAL BODIES SET FINES THEMSELVES, to their own circumstances. That will also help keep rates down for those whom dont do stupid stuff and behave as good citizens should because it would be like putting a FINES METER ON THE IDIOTS. If someone could design a FINES METER FOR IDIOTS, we might then get to a zero rates payment , and how cool would that be.

Graham Holloway

10/04/26

Graham Holloway

Re Submission Council Policy and Bylaws

### DEVELOPERS FEES

Hi team, on 28/04/24, I submitted a proposal under the same above heading and a copy of is attached. I like many others are extremely concerned how our rates are spiraling out of control. We have been asked to submit ideas for increased income. The concern I have is that when we do that, nothing or very little materializes. Point in mind is what I have attached from 28/04/24. I accept that with reference to Low Development Fees, there has been some WDC action on it, not to the degree where developers pay for the lot because in essence, that then means without a doubt that the ratepayer is subsidising the developers profit. That is offensive in any form.

#### Utilities

We are being reminded by WDC information articles that infrastructure has got very expensive due to material costs. I accept that, however what I cant accept is WDC NOT CHANGING THE BYLAW RE UTILITY COMPANIES workmanship. I come from a roading family, and I have seen here first hand here shoddy unacceptable practices from WDC roading contractors, to the point where I documented it and sent to Andrew Tripe and David Langford. I have discussed what I wrote in the 28/04/24 consultation with others in and out of WDC, and the same answer comes back to me that what I have suggested. That also tells me without a doubt that significant savings for the ratepayer are achievable by WDC being extremelley proactive on contractors that destroy our hard surfaces for utilities and send the account to the Utility involved.

#### Parking and Growth over Footpaths

This issue really annoys me wondering why WDC dont sort this issue. The problem is growing like a wart. For example, no [redacted] and no [redacted] st WDC have performed to a low level below zero on this one because the 2 culprits have been told before and havnt taken any notice of. I bought this up again on 31/03/26 at a meeting with Mike Fermor, I absolutely accept what Mike said that it was beyond his work brief, and I thanked him for his comment that he will pass it on to have it sorted. This again highlights WDC staff NOT doing what they are employed to do, and secondly because WDC havnt had the stamina to change the bi law for this, that then gives excusses for no action. Pathetic is an apt word that comes to my mind. WDC are aware of all this, they are aware that people have walking dissabilities, are aware that I also do, and this is a total failure in your duty of care, and again that is totally unacceptable.

#### Parking Wrong Way around and on Footpaths

WDCs attitude to this issue is beyond belief. WDC needs to impliment a bi law re parking on footpaths and the wrong way around as per our govt traffic rules. If you park on the footpath or the wrong way around in eg Marton, the Police can give an infringement notice, however here because the WDC have their own parking dept, the Police step aside. If you contact the Police bout an unregistered vehicle, or parked on a footpath or the wrong way around like they do most evenings here in Whanganui East, Police tell ya to contact WDC, but WDC dont do anything outside of work hours. That is in essence is like having a piece of paper with PTO on both sides. I do accept there are costs, however, I am as others am sure that it wouldnt take long for the idiots that do this to be rewarded with a fine for their stupidty thus making the process an economical one. On the 21/02/26, there was an article in the NZ Herald bout a man whom popped

home for 10 minutes and got a \$70.00 fine for parking in his driveway over the footpath. How cool is that, because if WDC had the same bi laws as the Mount Albert man found out, then it would be self funding from stupidly increasing our income stream. If WDC cant do it, give the parking back to the Police, its that simple. I have heaps of photos to justify my comments, and I understand that there are issues, so another bi law to have would be if dash cam footage is available it can be used like the Police.

Here in Whanganui we have a large proportion of seniors and beneficiaries that are being queezed financially in every direction, and me being a senior it is a major concern, I am ok however there is a large proportion that arnt. To give you exact figures, a single person on the pension was receiving \$1079.84 per fortnight, that has gone to \$1110.30, an increase of \$30.46 per fortnight then WDC Rates \$4200.00 plus 5.2% = \$4418.00 increase of \$218.00 then Horizons \$533.00 plus 8% = \$575.00 increase of \$42.00 total increase \$260.00

That equates to a third of seniors increase going to rates. Some get rates assistance, however that only leaves \$20.00 per fortnight for everything else that has risen, and that collectively is pushing seniors backwards over the edge, and that is totally unacceptable in any form.

At a guess I have hit some nerves, and I am not being disrespectful, just pure concern, but not like others, I am prepared to do something bout it. [REDACTED] s  
h a [REDACTED] p and if anyone would like to discuss what I have written, I am back on or about the 15/07/26 and to have the opportunity to discuss it further, and show photos I have that will be brilliant and welcoming. My contact details are on the top with my address

Thanks team    Regards Graham Holloway



## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 106

Not speaking

First name: **Stephen**  
Last name: **Hormann**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

I am a WDC Library staff member but this is my personal submission as a Whanganui resident, library user and ratepayer. It is unclear whether Council is proposing to just delay/reschedule the planned Davis Central Library extension due to current affordability issues or to reassess the need for the library extension project entirely. If the latter, this would be a significant concern. The library is the most visited Council facility and highly valued by its customers (door counts and regular surveys demonstrate this). We meet the needs of a diverse range of residents and people from outside the district, including many international visitors. I understand that in terms of national standards/comparisons our library is currently undersized (floor area and collection items) in terms of the population it serves, which is growing. Our museum and art gallery have recently received significant investment and I believe it should now be the turn of the library to receive due attention. Library services are a core local government function and the infrastructure to support this requires suitable investment. Cost will always be an issue in the current economic situation but perhaps there may be simpler, more cost effective extension options that could be looked at. I would like to see Council firmly commit to a Davis Library extension and preferably not to keep delaying it. A related matter is that the library does not currently have air conditioning and working in hot conditions in summer (often in excess of 25 C) has become a major H&S concern for staff (nor is it good for our customers, many of whom are elderly). We have been told that addressing this will need to wait for the proposed library extension but the longer this is delayed, the more of a problem it becomes. If the library extension were not to proceed the Council will need to retrofit the existing building with a suitable HVAC system. I do not support an entry charge for out of district visitors to the Sarjeant Gallery. The gallery redevelopment project received considerable national and private funding and holds a nationally-significant art collection, so everyone should have free access. I

understand that when the Govert Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre in New Plymouth introduced a similar charge that visitor numbers dropped significantly which is not what we want. Better to request donations/koha. Closing the Whanganui East Swimming Pool over the summer would presumably negatively affect those schools like Whanganui East School who use the pool for swimming lessons. Perhaps other arrangements can be put in place like free busses to the Splash Centre? Fully support the upgrade of the pool. Thanks for your consideration of my submission. Stephen Hormann

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 135

Not speaking

First name: **John**  
Last name: **Hulley**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Sarjeant Gallery should charge to cover costs and not be subsidised by ratepayers. Whanganui pool should close permanently, the splash centre is enough for Whanganui. Davis Library extension should be delayed-current financial pressures from the Iran war are likely to become severe and frivolous expenditure needs to be avoided. Debt needs to be paid down , but rates do not need to rise above inflation rate, savings need to be found in avoiding virtue signaling programmes that are not core council functions e.g . pride parades, art galleries, pandering to Maori etc. Budgets need to be tight because too much money has been wasted already on money losing projects, e.g. Flying school, art gallery, Virginia lake aviary etc

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 99

Not speaking

First name: **Bridget**  
Last name: **Hurley**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Entry to Sarjeant Gallery - donations should be encouraged by all users. Whanganui East Pool - refurbishment will make the pool more attractive to users, closing it for a single summer to do so will yield positive long term results. Davis Library extension - delay until cost pressures decrease and suitable planning for parking is in place. Loan repayments - necessary. To prolong the debt may result in it compounding if the council requires further leveraging in the near future. The general public are already critical of council spending and debt. It will look good to present a debt reduction as an outcome of the current council's term. Budgets - allowing some flexibility is essential to future-proof against global events. A few grumbles about cost now is better than a revolt when crisis occurs and there is no financial cushion to preserve infrastructure.

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 34

Speaking

First name: **Stuart**  
Last name: **Hylton**  
Organisation: **Waimarie Riverboat Restoration Navigation Trust**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents: yes

## **Submission to the Whanganui District Council Annual Plan 2026-27**

**From: Waimarie Riverboat Restoration and Navigation Trust “Trust”**

**Subject: Council Support for this Year’s Waimarie Out of Water Survey and major twenty-five-year maintenance upgrade**

### **Introduction:**

The **Waimarie Riverboat Restoration and Navigation Trust “Trust”** wish to raise with Council the operational and financial risks associated with our project to pull the Waimarie from the Awa mid-June 2026 to complete major maintenance works along with its 5 yearly maritime survey. The Trust seeks any assistance Council to ensure this work can go ahead. This submission outlines the project, key risks and issues.

### **Project Overview**

#### **Background**

'PS Waimarie', is New Zealand's only operational coal-fired paddle steamer that plies the Whanganui Awa. PS Waimarie holds a unique place in New Zealand's maritime heritage. Built in London (1899) and assembled in Whanganui, she has operated on the Whanganui River for over a century. Following a remarkable community-led recovery from more than 40 years submerged, she was relaunched back into commercial operation on 1 January 2000. Salvaged from the bottom of the Whanganui River where she sat for around 50 years, the Paddle Steamer Waimarie was restored to her former glory and re-launched in 2000 to make her New Zealand’s only authentic coal-fired paddle steamer in operation.

For 26 years since restoration, PS Waimarie has -

- Carried over 350,000 passengers and become Whanganui’s premier tourism venture being No 1 on Trip Advisor, with experiences including trips on the Whanganui River, boat/bike experiences, Whanganui River heritage museum and coffee!
- Sustained traditional maritime skills through hands-on steam operation and vessel management
- Preserved late 19th-century steam technology in great working condition, along with a niche museum preserving heritage activity on the Awa for nearly two centuries
- Honoured Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River) under the Te Awa Tupua Act 2017
- Anchored Whanganui's position as a growing heritage destination

#### **Necessary Project**

This year's out of water project represents a critical intervention to secure this nationally significant heritage asset for Whanganui for the next 50+ years. After 26 years of continuous post-restoration service, the vessel's decks have degraded beyond safe thresholds. The Trust has been undertaking "makeshift maintenance" between out of water surveys (every five years), but the Maritime New Zealand surveyor has now advised that patch-up jobs are no longer acceptable. Timber degradation now exceeds safe thresholds, and water ingress is damaging internal joinery and the steel structure.

Therefore, after the 2025/26 sailing season, around August this year, the Trust intends to remove the Waimarie from the Awa for 'her' major restoration and preservation work along with Maritime Safety Authority 'out of water' survey. This is necessary to allow the vessel to continue sailing on the Awa post maintenance works.

The Trust has been planning this year's out of water survey to take advantage of Whanganui Port's new dry docks and 'travel lifter' to raise the vessel from the Awa and have the necessary maintenance work completed in a purpose built, safe environment.

### **Size and Scale of the Project 2026**

- **Value:** \$0.6M community heritage project (last two five yearly out of water surveys/maintenance work has cost circa \$160k)
- **Timeline:** June–September 2026 (4 months)
- **Significance:** First major refurbishment since 1995–2000 restoration
- **Asset:** 126-year-old nationally significant object (Ministry of Culture & Heritage, 2021); NZ's last operational coal-fired paddle steamer
- **Scope:** Out-of-water full deck replacement (upper and lower); hull repairs; corrosion repair; anti-corrosion coatings; full Maritime NZ Part 40B survey
- **Workforce:** Multiple specialist trades + Waimarie Staff and volunteers
- **Complexity:** Work requires period-authentic materials and methods; tide-dependent haul-out; tight weather window

### **Trusts Funding Strategy**

The Trust is actively working to secure the additional \$0.6M necessary to fund the project work. The repair work is specialized, and the full extent of the work will not be unknown until the old decks are fully removed and the substrata is revealed.

We know that securing the funding we need won't be straightforward, and we have adopted a thoughtful, multi-layered approach, especially in a climate where funding is tight and timeframes are short.

That said, we know the Waimarie is an iconic local entity or taonga that should enjoy universal support from our community. Our pitch will need to be 'on point' and we have engaged a professional fundraiser to assist our efforts. Key funding streams targeted are:

1. **Lotteries Grant Board (Heritage):** Application submitted for **\$380k**. Expected to hear of outcome late April 2026.

2. **Community Grants:** Started applying to the following community funding organisations for similar amounts to previous Out of Water Surveys i.e. **\$100k** total target.

- NZCT
- Four Regions
- Grass Roots
- Lion Foundation
- Community Foundation

3. **Community Fundraising:** With the help of a professional fundraiser and local business sponsors we aim to hold one to two large fundraising events to target local funding support to the tune of **\$60k**. Additionally we are selling a range of products to raise money including Waimarie labelled Gin, ‘give a little page’, naming rights to the vessel’s saloons (2), custom naming plaques on vessels steps and deck plank sponsorship opportunities. (**\$60k**)

4. **Trusts fundraising efforts over the past two years - \$90k** in a maintenance account.

5. **Underwriting and potential loan:** The past two out of water surveys has seen Council underwriting potential project shortfalls with circa \$25k being provided during the last out of water survey. The Trust is seeking similar support from Council for this year’s project along with discussions around loan facility should one of the major funding streams not eventuate.

The biggest risk to achieving the full funding amount is that our application to the Lotteries Grants Board is either unsuccessful or approved for less than we’ve planned for.

### **Consequence of non-completion of the project**

Failure to complete the necessary deck replacements and maintenance work will result in loss of operational certification and non-compliance with the Maritime Transport Operator Plan. This would halt all heritage voyages (10,000 passengers per year) for 2026/27 season and potentially beyond, increasing future repair costs, cause substantial financial and reputational damage to both the Trust and the charitable business operating it, and risk the vessel returning to dereliction (as occurred approximately 80 years ago).

### **Project risks and issues**

The Trust has an exceptional 25+ year track record of planning for, fundraising for and completing the vessels necessary annual winter maintenance programmes along with the more substantial five yearly out of water major maintenance programme and MSA survey. However, this year’s survey and works are somewhat more critical meaning the risks and consequences are elevated.

The risks and issues can be summarised as –

- 1. Failure to raise sufficient funds to proceed with the project**
- 2. Failure to secure the Port's travel lifter and dry dockside to enable our contractors and volunteers to complete the work in a safe manner within our 'off-season' window.**

### **Failure to raise sufficient funds**

Should the major lottery fund application not be successful or the other fundraising activities fail to raise the expected funds, the Trust will have some hard decisions around whether to proceed with the project or risk not operating until funds are found.

Possible relief in this scenario is one off Council funding support or some form of suitable loan.

The Trust should know around early May how successful the Lotteries application has been with other fundraising efforts expected to be known later in July 2026.

### **Failure to secure dry dockside to enable our contractors and volunteers to complete the work in a safe manner within our 'off-season' window.**

The Port revitalisation project has always given hope to the Trust that it would be able to utilise the facility to bring our community vessel out of the water and complete dry docks works and survey. Both Q West and the Port's governance personnel had indicated willingness over the years of assisting this community project. However, it appears the Port project is not as operational as initially hoped for, with arrangements between the Port Authority and the intended operator, Q-West Boat Builders, not as advanced as parties had planned.

Whilst there appears to be an interim agreement in place between the two parties, it is obvious to the Trust that relationships and understandings are still evolving.

The Trust has found it difficult, until recently, to get the Port's operator to engage with us around our project planning and use of the Port. With only two months to go until project start date, several Port use matters are uncertain including –

- Whether the vessel can be housed on the hard stand, or nearby, for the duration of the survey and maintenance due to Q-west's competing needs;
- What costs will apply for any of the services and use – commercial charges or otherwise – as a community not for profit organisation, commercial rates would severely impact on our projects finances.
- Whether our contractors and volunteers will be able to work on the dry dock, if its available, due to Health and Safety protocols; The Trust is still endeavouring to get answers to these questions from the Port operator.

### **Assistance Sought**

The purpose of this submission is to –

1. Raise the risks and consequences with Council surrounding this year's Waimarie Dry Dock survey and major maintenance project;
2. Seek in-principle financial underwriting of the project costs from Council, including support for cost incurred due to the need for an alternative dry dock location;
3. To seek Council's support in facilitating an agreement with the port company/operator that enables us to lease a portion of land for the duration of the upcoming works, while also working proactively toward a longer-term arrangement that allows the Trust to access and utilise this asset for future out-of-water surveys and maintenance.

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 48

Speaking

First name: **Jango**  
Last name: **.**  
Organisation: **Community Recycling Action Party**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents: yes

# SUBMISSIONS WANGANUI ANNUAL PLAN 2026-27

Langgo

FIRSTLY I WOULD LIKE TO SEE TRANSPARENCY RETURN TO COUNCIL RATES DEMANDS (A COPY INCLUDED)

THESE QUITE CLEARLY SHOWED THE INCREASES FROM YEAR TO YEAR, NOW WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE TRUE COSTS ARE, BACK IN 2007-2008 WE DID

IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT THE SERGEANT GALLERY IS NOW COSTING THE RATEPAYER

IN 2013 WANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL SOLD ITS SHARES IN ENERGY DIRECT NZ LTD \$8M WENT TO REDUCING DEBT WHILE \$7M WAS USED TO PAY OFF DEBT IN WANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL HOLDINGS LTD, WHY IS IT THEY HAVE MANAGED TO ACCRUE A DEBT?

WHAT IS THE C.C.O. DISTRICT COUNCILS HOLDING COMPANYS FINANCIAL POSITION FOR 2025-2026 YEAR

IN 2007/08 YEAR ROADING WAS NECK AND NECK WITH WATER SUPPLY AT \$200<sup>00</sup> PER RATE PAYER BY 2014/15 WAS JUST OVER \$200<sup>00</sup> BUT ROADING HAD GONE UP TO NEARLY \$350<sup>00</sup> WHAT IS IT NOW?

THE \$3M OVERSPEND ON SPLASH CENTRE 2007 \$36<sup>00</sup> BY 2014 \$55<sup>00</sup> WHAT IS IT NOW?

THE FIASCO WITH THE SEWERAGE PLANT \$18<sup>00</sup> IN 2007 \$300<sup>00</sup> IN 2014

WHAT IS THE POINT OF GETTING THE RATES INCREASE DOWN TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL BY GOING BACK THROUGH THE FIGURES AND DOING THE COST SAVING EXERCISES, IF YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO BORROW THROUGH OUT THE YEAR!?

ROADING - FOR AROUND SIX YEARS I HAVE ASKED (PROBABLY LONGER) TO GET THEIR PREFERRED CONTRACTOR TO FIX THEIR SEALING JOB THAT WAS DONE UP PORTAL ST. AT THE TIME I COMPLAINED TO THE CHRONICLE, THEY HAD A RESPONSE FROM THE CONTRACTOR WHO ADMITTED THERE WAS CONTAMINATION IN THE STONE THERE BY ADMITTING TO THE FAILURE LETS GET THIS SORTED OUT. PLEASE

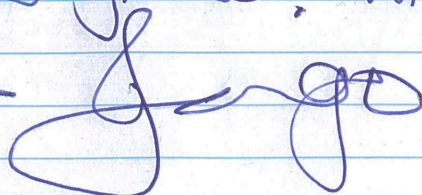
WHILE IM ON THE SUBJECT OF ROADING I EI COURAGE COUNCILLORS TO TAKE A DRIVE DOWN DURIE VALE ROAD AND HAVE A LOOK AT REPAIRS DONE ON ABOUT 5 DIFFERENT OCCASIONS AND SEE IF COUNCIL IS GETTING VALUE FOR MONEY. THESE REPAIRS ALSO HAD TRAFFIC CONTROL AT TIMES AS WELL. HOLES FILLED WITH ANOTHER HOLE A FOOT AWAY (300mm)

WHO SIGNS THIS WORK OFF FOR PAYMENT? DID ANYONE FROM COUNCIL CHECK THE SEALING JOB UP PORTAL ST? DID THEY GET PAID FOR THIS WORK?

DEBT

HAS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL PAID ANY LOANS OFF IN THE LAST 2 YEARS? WHAT IS IT NOW?

MORE ON THE DAY. -



**Wanganui District Council Rates Assessment  
Explanation of Rates Charges 2007/08**

**General Rates**

The general rate is comprised of two charges. The first charge is a uniform charge of \$52 per rating unit. The second charge is a land value rate. In setting rates Council considers the impact of rates and services on three groups. Those groups are commercial, residential and farming.

The rate is used to fund the following services in proportion for each \$100 of charge.

	Commercial	Residential	Farming
Community development	2.28	11.64	6.01
Economic development	54.96	7.86	9.76
Emergency Management – Civil Defence	1.47	7.49	3.87
Emergency Management – Rural Fire	1.07	0.57	22.71
Environmental Policy	11.22	8.57	18.35
Governance & democracy	5.55	28.31	14.62
Regulatory services	11.31	8.63	18.49
Waste minimisation	2.35	11.98	6.19
Waterways and natural drainage	3.90	5.96	-
Whanganui River control	5.89	8.99	-
	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00

**Community Facilities Rate**

The community facilities rate is applied to each separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit.

Each \$447.00 charge applied is used to fund the following services.

Cemeteries	7.27
CBD Maintenance	14.96
CBD Parking	-15.44
Community Buildings and Rural Halls	6.91
Cooks Gardens	26.27
Investments	-158.80
Library	99.63
Minor Transport	16.48
Parks and Reserves	215.06
Property	19.96
Regional Museum	58.25
Royal Wanganui Opera House	15.26
Sarjeant Gallery	45.08
Sports Grounds	30.54
Swimming pools	42.73
War Memorial Hall	22.83
	\$447.00

**Roads and Footpaths Rate**

This rate is applied to the capital value of each rating unit and is applied differentially with the three groups being commercial, residential and farming. Council's funding policy allocates funding according to the three groups outlined under General Rates. The differential has been calculated to achieve this.

The proportion of rate used for footpaths and roads is outlined below per \$100.00 of charge.

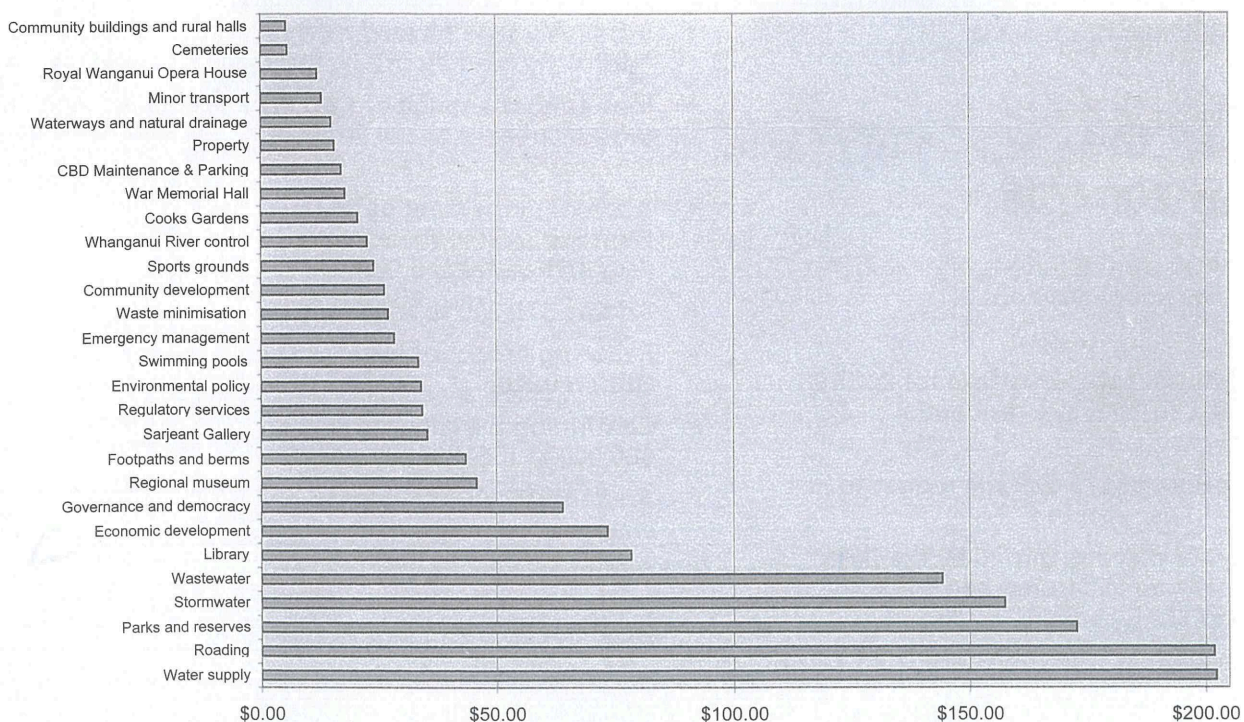
	Commercial	Residential	Farming
Footpaths and Berms	14.96	36.06	-
Roads	85.04	63.94	100.00
	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00

# How Wanganui's rate increases compare with other councils

The following table shows how the Wanganui District Council's residential rate increases compare with those of a number of other councils for last year and the current year

Council	Rates increase % 2006/07	Rates increase % 2007/08
Wanganui	3.0	1.7
Napier	5.5	3.6
Auckland	6.8	3.6
Tauranga	10.4	4.0
Timaru	4.3	4.4
South Taranaki	3.8	4.6
Hastings	5.8	5.6
Hamilton	6.1	5.9
Rangitikei	4.2	6.0
Dunedin	5.5	6.1
Ruapehu	8.5	6.8
North Shore	9.5	6.9
Christchurch	8.2	6.9
Whangarei	7.0	7.0
Nelson	9.2	7.4
Masterton	7.7	7.7
Manawatu	8.0	8.0
Palmerston North	6.8	8.7
Invercargill	7.8	9.0
New Plymouth	7.2	13.4
Horizons Regional Council	6.1	18.2

## How the average Wanganui residential rate of \$1,572 is spent



# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 8

Speaking

First name: Tracey  
Last name: Jarman

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Sarjeant Gallery- visitors should pay an entrance fee.  
Costs will only increase to ratepayers and community  
Whanganui east pool-stand by your vote to keep it open. How long will the refurbish take?  
Davis Library- maintain the Davis Library (as in maintenance) Given the number of libraries do we need really require an extension?  
Loan repayments-keep rates affordable  
Budgets-keep budgets tight  
Costs- infrastructure & consultants

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 7

Not speaking

First name: **Margaret**  
Last name: **Jarman**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Sarjeant Gallery. Visitors should pay \$20 Whanganui East Pool. Can it be done in off season Davis Library. Do we need to extend- don't we have enough libraries in Whanganui for our population Loan repayments-Rates are out of control Look after what you already have. Stop your wish lists and stick to core business only.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 121

Not speaking

First name: **Christine**  
Last name: **Kale**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Sarjeant Gallery should not charge an admission fee  
Whanganui East pool should be closed until  
refurbished but the refurbishment shouldn't be put  
back David Library Extension is not needed ever Loans  
need to be paid back sooner rather than later The  
Council should support Quartz Museum even if it  
comes out of the Sarjeant funding

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**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 62

Not speaking

First name: **Kimberly**  
Last name: **Kawau**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Sarjeant Gallery fees - I think keep it fees free, personally have not taken my Whanau in there, think it's a gem to have something like this available to the community, having a koha box available might encourage people, but personally think that keeping it free will have a negative affect on income and people through the doors. Possibly to save money, only open Tuesday - Sunday. Whanganui East Pool - with the current condition this pool is in, I think taking the extra attention to do some proper well planned maintenance on it will do some good, the longer the delays in maintaining it, the less it's able to provide a successful season to its community. The Davis Library - never been there in my life, but just get it done, cost of materials things it needs done are just going to continually increase. Loan repayments - return to normal pay schedule, gives wiggle room, tighten councils staffing and allocate more appropriately will help manage this. If overall these community projects bring in more income if the buildings and businesses are maintained, better managed with staffing and salary allocation, this will help tremendously with keeping budgets down

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 58

Not speaking

First name: **Sacha**  
Last name: **Keating**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

General feedback, I believe the council is continuing to look at a limited scope for revenue gathering in a time of general economic instability for the average community member. Are these really the only questions being discussed around the table for the annual plan? Do we have a strong enough commercial arm of the council. Would it make sense do use council capital to create goods and services so the community pays for goods and services and the council procures profit from those endeavours. Is there local laws that stops the council from establishing infrastructure and roading business so external corporations sub contractors are not receiving the regional tier one contracts? I think its the wrong time economically to pass on costs using rates for the residential sector. We have some multi million dollar commercial operations that can write off rate increases as an expense thus still benefiting through the taxation system. Residents pay straight from the pocket with no benefit. Entry to the Sarjeant Gallery should be koha based, those that can afford to donate should and those who are unable to pay but want to be exposed to cultural experiences should be able. Whanganui East Pool is needs to be open, it is popular in summer, do the work in winter. The Davis Library extension should be postponed, possible add some more digital assets at the current building to encourage more membership and participation. Loan repayments should be low until there is some global stability. How budgets are set. The golden rule is you must spend money to make money. Extend the budget vision with relationships with the surrounding Iwi economic power, apply more co-governance strategic directions with co funded projects both domestic and international.

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 33

Not speaking

First name: **Jillian**  
Last name: **Kelly**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Entry to Sarjeant Gallery - should remain free for everyone Whanganui East Pool - take a one summer pause until it's refurbished Davis Library extension - delay given cost pressures

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 76

Speaking

First name: **George**  
Last name: **Kinder**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27? No

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Supporting documents:

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 118

Not speaking

First name: **Chantel**  
Last name: **King**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

I think the gallery should stay free for everyone as it's a public space for people to enjoy the artwork. If visitors are to pay, how would it be checked by staff that they are visitors and not Whanganui residents. Because of the popularity of the pool in the summer, closing it for one summer may be best to get the job done faster and there is also the splash centre as an alternative so it's not like there is no pool in the summer. Budgets should allow for some flexibility when thinking into the future but also keeping allocated budgets for specific projects that carry more weight and are significant to the community

**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 147

Not speaking

First name: **Jason**  
Last name: **Lane**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Entry to the Sarjeant Gallery - Out of town visitors should pay a fee Whanganui East Pool - take a one summer pause until it's refurbished to help reduce costs whilst it's closed. Davis Library - delay the library extension given cost pressures. Loan repayments - remove the extra \$590,000 but do not reduce further. How budgets are set - build in a buffer to better manage unexpected costs, even if it means slightly higher rates now.

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 11

Speaking

First name: **Shelley**  
Last name: **Loader**  
Organisation: **Community House (Whanganui) Association**

Incorporated

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents: yes



# Community House Whanganui

**Supporting community-led development and local organisations across Whanganui**

Community House Whanganui supports and works alongside a wide range of community organisations across the district and brings a community-led development perspective to this submission.

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## Submission on Draft Annual Plan 2026/27

### Community-led development, local service delivery, and sector sustainability

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Annual Plan 2026/27.

We acknowledge the challenging financial environment Council is operating in, including rising costs, infrastructure pressures, and the need to balance affordability with maintaining essential services. We appreciate the careful approach being taken and the openness to community input.

We recognise that Council is required to make difficult trade-offs. Supporting community-led, locally based approaches is one way to manage these trade-offs by maintaining outcomes while containing long-term costs.

This submission is provided in two parts:

- **Part 1:** Community-led organisations and local service delivery (sector-wide perspective)
- **Part 2:** Community House Whanganui (organisation-specific perspective)

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### **Part 1: Community-led organisations and local service delivery**

This submission focuses on the role of community-led organisations and the importance of locally based service delivery across Whanganui.

In Whanganui, community-led organisations are already playing a significant role in supporting whānau, strengthening neighbourhoods, and complementing formal services across the district.

We acknowledge Council's existing support for community organisations and encourage continued and strengthened investment in this area as a core part of service delivery.

### **Community-led organisations as essential infrastructure**

Community-led organisations are a critical part of Whanganui's social infrastructure. They play a unique role in strengthening neighbourhoods, building connections, and supporting people in ways that formal services alone cannot achieve.

These organisations:

- Extend the reach of Council and other services into communities
- Engage people who may not access centralised or formal services
- Build trust, participation, and local capability
- Enable communities to identify and respond to their own needs

This aligns strongly with Council’s stated focus on strong neighbourhoods, community wellbeing, and working in partnership with local organisations.

Alongside investment in physical infrastructure, there is also a need to recognise and support the social and relational infrastructure that enables communities to function effectively.

Sustainable outcomes are most effectively achieved when communities are enabled to lead, rather than being treated as passive recipients of services. Community-led development supports this by working “with” communities, building long-term resilience and reducing dependence on higher-cost interventions.

Importantly, community-led organisations provide the *relational infrastructure* that enables other investments—whether physical, social, or economic—to succeed.

We ask that Council explicitly recognise and support community-led, locally based organisations as a core part of its service delivery approach within the Annual Plan and future planning. This is particularly important as Council begins shaping the Long-Term Plan 2027–2037, where decisions about service delivery models and investment will have lasting impacts.

### **Local service delivery matters**

Effective service delivery requires a strong local presence.

While centralisation can improve administrative efficiency, outcomes are often better when services are accessible within neighbourhoods. Local delivery reduces barriers, supports early engagement, strengthens trust, and enables responsive support.

For many people, particularly those who are more vulnerable or less connected, local access is the difference between engaging with support and not engaging at all.

Maintaining services within suburban and community settings should therefore be seen as an essential component of an effective and efficient service delivery system.

We ask that decisions about service design and delivery actively consider the importance of maintaining local access and strengthening neighbourhood-based provision.

### **Community cohesion, resilience and long-term prosperity**

Community cohesion is foundational to resilience, wellbeing, and economic strength.

Communities where people feel connected and participate locally are more resilient and better able to respond to challenges. Strong, connected communities are also better able to respond to unexpected events and disruptions, reducing pressure on formal systems during times of stress.

Social cohesion also contributes directly to economic outcomes, creating conditions that attract investment, support local enterprise, and enable sustainable growth.

Community-led organisations are central to building this cohesion. They create the relationships, trust, and participation that underpin both social and economic outcomes.

For these reasons, supporting community-led development and maintaining local service presence should be seen as an investment in Whanganui's long-term resilience and prosperity, not simply as a social or discretionary cost.

### **A cost-effective approach**

Investment in community-led organisations is cost-effective. It reduces demand on intensive services, prevents escalation, and improves long-term outcomes.

This approach helps shift investment toward prevention and early support, which is consistently more cost-effective than responding to issues once they have escalated.

This represents strong value for money for ratepayers, as investment supports multiple organisations and outcomes simultaneously.

Community-led organisations also function as a form of social buffer, providing flexibility and responsiveness at a local level when unexpected needs arise.

In the context of reduced government funding and increasing competition for limited resources, authentic collaboration across the community sector is becoming more difficult to sustain. Community-led development provides an alternative approach by fostering shared ownership, collective action, and locally driven solutions, and is gaining momentum as an effective model for achieving positive, long-term outcomes.

### **Equity and inclusive outcomes**

It is also important to consider equity in how services are designed and delivered.

Not all communities have the same ability to access centralised services or respond to challenges. Factors such as transport, income, mobility, and social connection all influence participation and outcomes.

Locally based, community-led organisations help to address these disparities by:

- Providing accessible, trusted entry points into support
- Reaching people who may otherwise be excluded
- Supporting culturally appropriate and locally relevant responses

Building resilience across Whanganui requires recognising these differences and ensuring that all communities are supported to thrive.

This approach is also consistent with place-based and relationship-focused ways of working, including partnership approaches with iwi and hapū.

## **Participation and better decision-making**

Community-led organisations also play an important role in enabling meaningful participation. They connect people to decision-making processes and ensure that local knowledge and lived experience inform how services are designed and delivered.

This leads to better decisions, stronger community buy-in, and more effective use of resources.

## **Considerations for the Annual Plan**

We encourage Council to:

- Recognise community-led organisations as core infrastructure
- Maintain and strengthen support for community-led initiatives
- Consider local access in service design and delivery
- Continue to work in partnership with community organisations

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## **Part 2: Community House Whanganui**

Community House Whanganui provides a practical example of the system-level role described above.

Community House is not a frontline service provider. It is a shared, trusted platform that strengthens the wider community sector by enabling organisations and individuals to connect, collaborate, and access support.

### **Our role in the system**

Community House:

- Provides affordable shared space and infrastructure
- Supports organisations to operate sustainably
- Reduces costs through shared resources
- Enables connection, coordination, and collaboration
- Acts as a trusted entry point for individuals navigating services

This bridge-building role is also reflected in wider public commentary and advocacy, which highlights community perspectives, strengthens understanding across the sector, and supports more coordinated and effective outcomes.

This creates a multiplier effect — supporting many organisations and outcomes simultaneously, rather than a single service.

### **Growing demand and system pressure**

Community organisations are facing increasing demand, constrained funding, and growing complexity. At the same time, individuals are finding it harder to navigate services and access support.

Community House sits at the centre of this environment, with demand for its role increasing.

Without increased investment:

- Organisations will struggle to sustain their work
- Opportunities for collaboration will be reduced
- Access to support may become more difficult
- The sector becomes less connected and less effective

### **Evidence of increasing demand and system impact**

Recent activity at Community House Whanganui demonstrates the increasing demand for this type of shared, community-led infrastructure.

Over the past year, we have seen:

- A significant increase in bookings and use of shared spaces, including from organisations that are unable to pay due to funding constraints, as well as new businesses, agencies and community groups
- A marked rise in enquiries for office space, with demand now exceeding availability
- Continued growth in engagement from organisations and agencies across the district
- An increase in organisations seeking support and advice with administration, funding, and sustaining their operations
- A significant increase in requests from organisations to be included in the Community Com.Chat newsletter, reflecting a growing need for visibility and connection
- More organisations actively seeking opportunities to work collaboratively with others

This reflects a wider trend of increasing demand for accessible, affordable, and connected community space, alongside growing pressure on organisations to remain viable.

At the same time, we are seeing increasing demand for connection, participation, and shared learning across the sector. This is reflected in:

- Strong engagement in Community-Led Development initiatives, including Lunch & Learn sessions and the CLD conference
- Ongoing requests for support to connect organisations and enable collaborative approaches
- Community House being actively invited into collaborative spaces

These opportunities are focused on strengthening collaboration across different perspectives and improving outcomes through collective approaches.

Alongside this, we are seeing increasing engagement from the wider community. There has been a noticeable rise in members of the public coming into Community House seeking opportunities to volunteer, connect, or talk through issues they are facing. This reflects the role of Community House as a trusted, accessible entry point into the community sector.

Through our role as a connector and observer of system patterns, we are also identifying gaps in service delivery and responding where needed. This includes areas such as:

- Chronic homelessness
- Support for survivors of abuse in care

- Suicide prevention in older persons

This work is not about replacing existing services, but about responding to unmet need and enabling more effective connections across the system.

Together, these examples demonstrate both the increasing pressure on the community sector and the growing importance of shared, community-led infrastructure in supporting coordinated, responsive, and effective outcomes.

This increasing demand is occurring at a time when funding constraints across the sector are limiting capacity, further reinforcing the need for shared infrastructure that supports efficiency, collaboration, and access.

### **Why investment matters**

Investment in Community House is a system-level investment.

It:

- Supports multiple organisations at once
- Reduces duplication and increases collaboration
- Improves access for individuals
- Strengthens resilience across the sector

This represents strong value for money and aligns directly with the outcomes sought in Part 1 of this submission.

### **Alignment with strategic direction**

Community House's Strategic Plan 2025–2030 focuses on:

- Strengthening shared space and support
- Building trust and social capital
- Enabling connection across the sector
- Supporting collaboration and collective impact
- Ensuring a sustainable and resilient model

These priorities directly contribute to:

- Stronger neighbourhoods
- Improved access to services
- Greater collaboration and reduced duplication
- More resilient and sustainable community outcomes

### **Funding request**

We ask that Council maintain and, where possible, increase its support for Community House Whanganui to ensure that its capacity can grow in line with increasing demand and community need.

Community House currently operates on just 1.75 full-time equivalent staff, a level of resourcing that sits in stark contrast to the scale and complexity of work outlined above. While we actively secure and maximise available community funding, we also absorb significant pressure within the sector—regularly providing free or low-cost space and support to organisations experiencing funding constraints. Current staffing is operating well beyond funded capacity, with team members consistently working in excess of paid hours, contributing to burnout and limiting the ability to take leave. Additional staffing resource is required to ensure sustainability and to enable Community House to continue supporting and participating in collaborative initiatives across the sector.

Increased and sustained funding will enable:

- Continued affordability and accessibility for community organisations
- Greater capacity to support organisations and individuals
- Stronger coordination and collaboration across the sector
- A more resilient and effective community support system

### **Closing**

Community-led organisations are essential to achieving the outcomes Council is seeking—strong neighbourhoods, resilient communities, and a city that works for all.

Community House Whanganui plays a unique and critical role in enabling these outcomes at a system level.

Supporting both community-led organisations broadly, and the infrastructure that sustains them, will help ensure that Whanganui remains connected, inclusive, resilient, and economically sustainable into the future, while continuing to build strong neighbourhoods across the district.

Thank you for considering this submission.

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### **Submitted on behalf of:**

Community House (Whanganui) Association Incorporated

### **Contact person:**

Shelley Loader

**Email:** [office@communityhouse.org.nz](mailto:office@communityhouse.org.nz)

**Phone:** (06) 347 1084

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 111

Not speaking

First name: **Ben**  
Last name: **Mackay**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Keep loan payments the same. Do the library extension. Close Wang East pools and build an outdoor one at splash with free Saturday buses to it and free holiday buses to it.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 15

Not speaking

First name: **Annette**  
Last name: **Main**  
Organisation: **Te Whare Rehua Sarjeant Gallery Trust**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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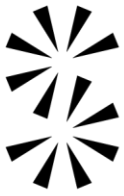
### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

We support the decision not to charge an entry fee for Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery.

**Supporting documents:**

yes



Tēnā koutou

**Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery was founded with the vision of Henry Sarjeant.**

**We all know his words.**

**“For the inspiration of those yet to come.”**

At the time, visitors may not have been those to whom his words were directed.

But we seriously need our visitors to be inspired by our community. A community assisted by the government and donors to a level that if it was to be considered today would be seen as unachievable.

The story is compelling; the building is a stunning addition to our built landscape, and the cultural narrative is like no other.

I am advised that many of the major donors were driven by the understanding that access to the treasures held by the Sarjeant would be freely accessible to all.

And successive government decisions to allocate significant funding considered the economic and social wellbeing benefits that would follow.

This is not the time to be considering a door charge without understanding the pitfalls. You will know what these are, as they have been presented before. But they include,

- The costs and potential confusion of managing proof of a visitor's identity are important considerations.
- The decision around “who is local”
- The experience of other galleries which introduced door charges.
- The disincentive to visitors.
- The severe drops in attendance. experienced
- Disappearing visitor donations, reduced retail and cafe income.
- The other impacts on wider economic activity that will follow.

There are more, as you already know, but in our case especially, any barrier to visitation works against our stated objectives of providing access to our collection, and our cultural experiences.

**The challenge we face.**

Our Whanganui share of international and domestic visitor numbers has not yet returned to pre-Covid figures.

Despite percentage growth figures which appear positive, it remains that Whanganui's income from domestic and international visitors lags



well behind the income our neighbours in Palmerston North and New Plymouth receive from both domestic and international visitors. Both locations with far less attraction to international visitors based on what we know drives their choices of destinations.

An international visitor levy has also since been introduced.

The gallery needs to do everything it can to build and consolidate visitor activity, alongside other visitor attractions, so that it becomes a stable and enduring attraction on the national and international stage, through its involvement in Tourism NZ campaigns. This is still work in progress from our perspective.

It is unfortunate that this discussion has arisen when the Sarjeant is currently without a Head of Development, meaning work on the post redevelopment fundraising strategy has necessarily been paused.

This strategy will give a clear direction on the type of fundraising needed, and ways to reduce the ongoing cost to ratepayers.

Targeted fundraising will be achieved through the support of the Sarjeant Gallery Trust, the Sarjeant Gallery Friends, and the work of gallery staff.

Through private and ongoing fundraising, the Trust has established a substantial Endowment Fund, which pays for collection acquisitions and conservation, and will also support special education initiatives and exhibitions.

The high profile of the gallery, together with high visitation numbers, are key to attracting fundraising support.

Finally, I need to address the queries raised around existing charges for public facilities, in particular, swimming pools, to justify an entry charge at the Sarjeant.

The answer is simple.

Swimming facilities in Whanganui are not a key attraction to visitors from out of town or overseas.

They are community based facilities, and while visitors may choose to add a swim when they are here, this is not what attracted them to choose Whanganui.

The Whanganui River and the Sarjeant Gallery are the two of our compelling stories.

Any change to the accessibility of either, will be a barrier to a thriving visitor industry, and the flow on economic benefits.



Naku noa nā

Annette Main ONZM

Chair Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery Trust

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 144

Not speaking

First name: Yvonne  
Last name: Malaquin

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

I believe entry to the sargeant Gallery should be a minimal fee for visitors to NZ Whanganui East pool should stay open in a reduced capacity until it can be refurbished. Davis gallery extension delayed for now Loan repayments kept to current levels

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 112

Not speaking

First name: **Te Manawa**  
Last name: **Mateparae**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

The consultation document linked above is clear and informative. I do believe we should make “non local” visitors pay an entry fee to the gallery however this should be as low as possible to ensure it doesn’t discourage tourism to the building. As an annual swimmer at the Whanganui East Pools I do believe we should take next summer off and close the pools until after refurbishment. Alongside this I would encourage that there are more “events” at the splash centre that cater for what people like about WEP’s- Manu comp, inflatables ect. With the loan repayments I do believe we should decrease the amount that we are repaying as the debt will always be there however with the current economy this will help family’s who will have to also pay for the increase in repayments via rates.

**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 98

Not speaking

First name: Jessica  
Last name: McKenzie

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

People are broke or not far from it. Spending on things that may seem a drop in the pond, like the logo change, actually increase costs for everyone. These types of spending are literally frivolous and unnecessary in times like these. If not enough backing on door charges at the gallery, consider charges in select exhibitions on closed sections inside the gallery. Such as other gallery's do. Rate payers will obviously want things fixed that are broken, that they use or benefit from. Sounds from word of mouth and social media seemingly screaming about fixing bridges, community pools and upgrading the library. Not things that benefit a small few for looks (eg, logos, council building upgrades) aren't going to make rate payers feel listened to. This is money we are talking about. Increasing costs to the general folk to pay for crap we don't need, want or didn't ask for or vote on is always going to leave a sour taste in the mouth. Budgeting, tighten up. General maintenance and repairs. Work that's been done to improve and maintain the lake have been AWESOME! That is one of the busiest undervalued gems of Whanganui, and it is frequented by tourist going through or staying in town. Of course upgrading spaces that will bring in money would be ideal, but those are harder to establish. What will bring in money? What will cost less or on par with other expenses we have planned, that will help make a buck instead of only costing a buck? Hold more votes on things the community can get involved in. Suggest working bees, you'd be surprised how many out there will give up their time on a weekend day to improve community sites which will in turn save money. Just needs more spread of word, more planning and time for people to book in to get stuck in.

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 16

Speaking

First name: **Rosemary**  
Last name: **Miller**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

I am opposed to charging entry to the Sarjeant on the grounds firstly that art galleries and museums should be free to everyone as repositories of culture and secondly because it would be an absurd waste of the investment already made by destroying visitor numbers.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 90

Speaking

First name: **Neil**  
Last name: **Mills**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

The plan should be to work within a budget of inflation only.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 66

Speaking

First name: **Yvette**  
Last name: **Moorhouse**  
Organisation: **Fordell School**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27? Yes

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Supporting documents: yes

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Thursday 30 April 2026

## **Re: Inclusion of Fordell Area Infrastructure Improvements**

To The Whanganui Mayor and Councillors

Fordell School would like to submit this feedback to the Whanganui District Council Annual Plan, seeking the inclusion and prioritisation of infrastructure improvements for the Fordell area – specifically Budge Street outside Fordell School and Fordell Preschool, and pedestrian access between Fordell School and No. 2 Line.

### **Ongoing and Long-Standing Safety Concerns**

As the Principal of Fordell School, I wish to emphasise that the issues outlined in this submission are not new. Over my 10 years as Principal, these concerns have been raised repeatedly through submissions, emails, and direct communication with the council. Despite this consistent advocacy, the issues continue to be pushed back or deferred.

It increasingly feels as though Fordell is the village that continues to be overlooked, despite its growth, contribution, and clear safety needs.

### **Growth of Fordell and Increasing Pressure on Infrastructure**

During the past decade, there has been significant growth not only in the roll numbers at Fordell School and Fordell Preschool, but also in the population of the wider Fordell area. New homes and subdivisions continue to develop as Whanganui expands outward toward rural communities.

However, the surrounding infrastructure: roads, drains, parking, and footpaths, has not kept pace with this growth. The result is an environment that is increasingly unsafe for children, families and the locals, especially that of our older generation, accessing community facilities.

### **Budge Street - Safety and Access Issues**

Budge Street, particularly outside Fordell School and Fordell Preschool, is extremely narrow and unsafe during peak school times. Limited road width, combined with inadequate parking, creates daily congestion that places students and their families at risk.

Key concerns include:

- Unsafe drop-off and pick-up conditions for students.
- Vehicles parking on both sides of the road, limiting traffic flow.
- Severely restricted visibility for students crossing Budge Street.
- Increased risk of someone being hit by cars/traffic.
- The school bus struggling to safely access due to congestion and narrow road width.

The presence of both a school and a preschool on this road demands a far higher standard of safety than currently exists. Student safety must be paramount, and at present it is not adequately protected.

### **Open Drains - Serious Health and Safety Hazard**

Open roadside drains along Budge Street present an additional and ongoing hazard. When it rains, these drains fill with water and often remain full for several days.

Due to the narrow road and lack of safe parking:

- vehicles regularly park on the berms adjacent to the open drains, this is due to there being no room for on road parking.
- Students are then forced to enter and exit vehicles either from the road or near the edge of drains.
- Slips and falls into these drains are a genuine risk, particularly for younger students or elderly grandparents/family members.
- Vehicles have become stuck on the berms and, in some cases, have slid into the drains.

These drains are entirely inappropriate in a high use area where children are present every day.

### **Lack of Footpaths Fordell School to No. 2 Line and Condition of Existing Footpaths**

The lack of footpaths connecting Fordell School to No. 2 Line makes walking or cycling to and from school extremely dangerous. Students and the community are forced to share this narrow road with vehicles, which are often buses and trucks.

This situation:

- Places students at unacceptable risk.
- Fails to meet basic safe-school-access.
- Contradicts the Council's wider goals around safety and community wellbeing.

The current width and condition of footpaths within the Fordell village present significant safety concerns for students and the wider community. The narrow and uneven footpaths make it extremely difficult to safely walk groups of students to local facilities such as the Fordell Community Hall and the Fordell Community Pool.

This issue is particularly concerning for younger children. Preschool students walk in pairs while holding hands; however, the limited width of the footpaths does not safely accommodate this practice. As a result, one child is often forced to walk on the grass verge, where uneven surfaces (e.g., very high gaps between the edge of the footpath and grass) increase the risk of trips and falls. I myself have slipped off the edge of these uneven footpaths and hurt myself. In addition, the proximity of open drains creates a further hazard, with a real risk of children slipping in these drains.

Furthermore, both Fordell School and Fordell Preschool have students with diverse learning and mobility needs who require additional support, including hand-holding or close adult supervision when moving around the village. The current footpath infrastructure does not adequately cater for these needs and places these students at heightened risk. One example highlighting the real risk posed by the current state of the footpaths involved a student undergoing chemotherapy who required the use of a wheelchair. Due to the poor condition of the footpaths, the student fell from the wheelchair, resulting in a two week hospital stay. This was an entirely avoidable incident had these been sorted when it was first brought to the council's attention. Families already coping with serious health challenges should not be exposed to further harm because of infrastructure that is not fit for purpose.

Improving the width, consistency, and safety of footpaths is essential to ensure all children (and even the village homeowners) can move safely within their community and access local facilities without unnecessary risk.

### **A Community That Gives Back**

Fordell is a strong and resilient village. As a community, we do an exceptional job of supporting and fundraising for local amenities, including the Fordell Community Hall and the Fordell Community Pool. Families, staff, and volunteers consistently step up to maintain and enhance community facilities so that they can be used by not only the community but even those outside our community. It is now time for that commitment to be reciprocated through meaningful action on the long-standing health and safety issues that have been repeatedly brought to the Councils attention.

### **Request to the Council**

Fordell School asks the Whanganui District Council to:

- Include Budge Street and the wider Fordell area in the Annual Plan.
- Prioritise roading improvements outside the school and pre-school.
- Address parking congestion and visibility issues.
- Remove, cover, or otherwise make safe the open roadside drains.
- Construct a footpath between Fordell School and No. 2 Line.
- Extend the current width and uneven surface of footpaths, especially the large drop off from the edges.

### **Conclusion**

Whilst we appreciate and thank the recent patch-up of some footpaths in our area (this is still ongoing and taken 9 years to get underway), for more than a decade, Fordell School has consistently raised concerns regarding the safety of our students and community members. With continued growth in both population and school attendance, the risks associated with inaction are only increasing.

This submission is not about convenience; it is about the health and safety of children. We ask the Council to recognise the urgency of these issues and commit to tangible improvements that support the health and safety for Fordell School, Fordell Preschool, and the Fordell Community.

Ngā mihi nui



*Yvette Moorhouse*

Principal/Tumuaki  
Fordell School



Footpath becomes extremely narrow right outside the school.



Narrow footpath right beside open drains, when it rains these become full of water.



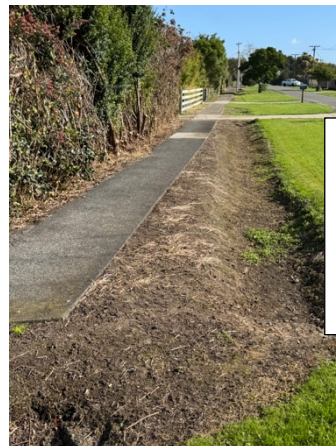
Footpath (fixed sections, not whole path) beside steep open drain. Look at the high lip.



Whilst some parts have been patched up – others sections are in a shocking state!



Piece going towards No.2 Line, narrow footpath with a very big open drain that fill up with water when it rains.



Footpath has a huge high lip, that then falls down into an open drain





Another piece of footpath showing the size of the drop from the footpath



Check out the state of this section of footpath! Would you feel happy with young children and elderly walking on this???



These drains fill with water, and stay fill for days. No area for parking, let alone walking (other side of street has the narrow uneven footpath).



This is an exposed culvet pipe – just waiting for some poor child to cut their foot on, or anyone that slips down due to the uneven footpath and cut themselves.



The end of the footpath, from here students have to walk on the road, or grass area – which when cars are parked is no area for walking. Frightening part of the road with no footpath and students ending up walking on the road sharing it with cars and trucks. Especially when traffic turns off from No.2 Line



1171 No 2 Line  
RD2, Fordell  
Whanganui  
4572  
Tel: 021 115 0323

30th April 2026

To The Whanganui Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing as a resident of Fordell, in support of the concerns raised by Fordell School Principal, Yvette Moorhouse, and Liz Hill, the Headteacher of Fordell Preschool, and alongside others in our community who are deeply concerned about the lack of safe and accessible infrastructure in our area.

Like many residents, I have contacted the Council multiple times regarding the condition of our pavements and the risks they pose. On one occasion, I reported that my then toddler son was injured when a section of path crumbled beneath his feet. Although repairs were carried out shortly after, only the section outside my property was addressed—not the area that had actually caused the injury—highlighting a pattern of incomplete fixes.

At the end of 2022, I also called to explain that my daughter was undergoing chemotherapy and required the use of a wheelchair. I raised concerns about how unsafe it was to navigate the footpaths, noting that even pushing a toddler in a pushchair was difficult and hazardous.

Despite these concerns being raised, no action was taken.

In early 2023, my fears were realised when my daughter fell from her wheelchair due to the poor state of the pavement. She sustained a knee injury which developed into a serious infection, resulting in a hospital stay of approximately two weeks due to her immunocompromised condition. This was a distressing and preventable incident.

Following this, I again contacted the Council and was advised—consistent with previous responses—that the matter would be passed on to the infrastructure team. However, there has been no visible improvement.

While some paths in Fordell have very recently been repaired, the specific areas that caused injury to two of my children remain unresolved and continue to present a hazard. The unsafe condition of the footpaths, combined with the busy road—particularly during school drop-off and pick-up times—creates a situation that many in our community feel is an accident waiting to happen.

While my experience is deeply personal, it reflects a broader issue affecting many in our community. The current infrastructure does not meet the needs of residents and poses ongoing safety risks, particularly for children, elderly individuals, and those with limited mobility.

As a community, we are asking the Council to prioritise these concerns and take urgent, meaningful action to improve the safety and accessibility of Fordell's infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope to see prompt and tangible progress for the benefit of all residents.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Wright



30th April 2026

Dear Whanganui mayor and councillors,

I am writing to formally raise concerns regarding the unsafe footpaths and roading conditions in our rural area, which are significantly affecting the safety and wellbeing of preschool children.

Our preschool regularly includes walking excursions as part of our programme, supporting children's learning, exploration, and connection with the local community in line with the early childhood curriculum. Unfortunately, we have now had to stop these excursions due to the dangerous condition of the footpaths.

The footpaths are extremely narrow and uneven, making them unsafe for young children to walk on. For safety reasons, children need to hold hands with teachers, often with two children alongside one adult. The current width and condition of the paths make this virtually impossible and place both children and staff at risk.

There are also open drains containing water alongside these routes, which present a serious hazard to young children.

In addition, we support children with diverse learning and developmental needs who require extra supervision and care near roads. The current environment makes safe access even more challenging for these learners.

Another ongoing concern is roadside parking for the neighbouring primary school. Due to limited safe parking, some school families are using our private preschool car park. While we understand the pressure on parking and wish to be supportive, this reduces available space for our enrolled preschool families and increases traffic movement and safety risks within our property.

These matters require urgent attention. As ratepayers, we expect safe and suitable infrastructure, particularly where young children and families are concerned.

We respectfully ask the Council to investigate these issues and consider improvements to footpaths, drainage safety, roadside parking, and overall pedestrian access in this area.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response.

Ngā mihi nui

Liz Hill

Head teacher

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 84

Not speaking

First name: **Donna**  
Last name: **Mummery**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Council needs to negotiate with service and goods suppliers instead of just accepting their fees without question. The \$65000 fee for design ofvthe new council logo is a prime example. Far too expensive

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 124

Not speaking

First name: **LYNETTE**  
Last name: **NEWBY**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Sarjeant Art gallery is a financial drain and was vastly over built. Definitely charge fees whanganui East Pool should stay open each summer, including next summer. It is noted the election year rates needed a much lower increase than every other year - you are fooling no-one. Delay Davis Library extension Stop any type of financial support for more visitor beds (hotel), if it is commercially viable then commercial entities will fund it. Pay down debt, it will pay off in the long run, we are not a commercial organisation with 'growth potential'. Keep budgets tight except where it makes sense to start the work now (eg. water, waste, etc) no point bankrupting those on a fixed income forcing them to look at supported housing options.

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 26

Not speaking

First name: **Beverley**  
Last name: **Pearce**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

1. WHANGANUI EAST POOL - refurbish as soon as possible and if that means closing for work to be undertaken during next summer then the sooner it is done the better. A vital community resource. 2. WHANGANUI LIBRARIES - I do not agree with extending the Davies library at any time - Support the hub libraries at Gonville, Castlecliff, Aromaho, and Hakeke. Make them community hubs for the community to utilise as per Gonville library. In these days of stretched finances going to the Davis Library is an expense. The new Horizon buses (far too big and generally empty) do not go past the Davis library. BUT make it a priority to redo the Davis Library Roof. WHANGANUI REPORTORY THEATRE - Stop dithering about the bank stabilisation. Stop the BULLYING. If the sale DOES NOT go ahead then what is the Council's intention. Be transparent and accountable. If it is the decision is to pull the building down and the land made into a carpark, then say so publicly but also publicly admit that the bank will still need to be stabilised. This matter has been around for the past two and a half decades and the various Councils should be ashamed of their behaviour and attitude to the Theatre that has entertained and educated the public since 1933. 4.SARJEANT GALLERY - Keep the entrance free for everybody until it is more established. The Director and Staff do a magnificent job. It is beautiful.

**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 18

Speaking

First name: **Graham & Lyn**  
Last name: **Pearson**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

door charges serjeant: overseas visitors first, if also to locals, then under 16 and 65+ and community cardholders free Whanganui East pool, vital part of community Library, delay extension, utilise local libraries more Loan, depends of interest, verses savings on not paying Need buffer Don't sacrifice looking after footpaths, as Whanganui has many older people and mobility scoters What is being planned for the Coast ? Great that solar finally being considered Keep supporting community groups Love the new signage with stories, more please Stay away from anu more aviation ideas Water services and infrastructure, keep up with the improvements Planning for growth: We want to see parks, bus routes, local shops, Community Hubs, library out[posts in the new housing areas, to support Communities and reduce car use We have great concern that industrial area has been allowed to developfirst, including Main Freight recently re location, yet Manuka Street still looks like a rural street, and Moston Road is just waiting to be a killer road. Maybe that will get some action!! We need d safe pathways, so kids can bike to school, we can bike and walk to Dr. Currently Mill Road is just used as car parking by the businesses workers. This seems a rather strange form with heading that I could not put our comments against

**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 21

Speaking

First name: **Scott**  
Last name: **Phillips**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Entry to the Sarjeant Gallery Entry should stay free for Whanganui residents and ratepayers. Visitors should pay a moderate fee to help cover costs. The reduction in visitor numbers to the gallery if there was an entry cost will not have as great an impact as shown by the fuzzy logic provided thus far by the council. There is no direct casual relationship as suggested and repeatedly reported. The imbalance of free entry to some council/rate payer funded facilities actually makes it harder for commercial operators to get business eg The Waimaire. Whanganui East Pool The pool should stay open next summer AND be one of the facilities where solar panels and batteries are installed. Hours should be family and worker friendly and open all weekends. Solar would allow the heating costs to be self funding, and during the off season feed back to the grid to further offset running costs. The Davis Library extension. Lets not do this at all. Loan repayments Keep paying down debt and keep rates as affordable as possible. Don't buy buildings that are left unrented for years like the Whanganui Furnishers Building which has had no social return and loss of 125k per annum x 3 yrs. All assets should be assessed on their ROI, both financial and social. The WE pools has poor financial return but high social, as does Kowhai park etc, commercial buildings generally have low social return, so need to have good financial returns, if not sell the assets to repay debt, don't pay some debt off then add debt in other areas. How budgets are set Allow more flexibility for future pressures, don't keep budgets tight year-to-year. This would mean budgets can also be adjusted downwards. Spending can be less. Don't spend millions on Velodrome tracks just because the previous council said too, and therefore you can deny blame. Scrap bad ideas or adjust budgets down when possible, don't just spend because it was already allocated, save the allocations for better future projects Other Do not continue any workstreams or consultant spending or budget lines for setting up or moving towards any new independent costly intergenerational debt laden

housing organisation. Council should properly maintain its current housing stock and adjust its rental incomes to cover costs.

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**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 20

Speaking

First name: **TRUDY**  
Last name: **Reeves**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Entry to the Sarjeant Gallery Entry should stay free for Whanganui residents and ratepayers. Visitors should pay to help cover costs. The reduction in visitor numbers to the gallery if there was an entry cost will not have as great an impact as shown by the fuzzy logic provided thus far by the council. There is no direct casual relationship as suggested and repeatedly reported. The imbalance of free entry to some council/rate payer funded facilities actually makes it harder for commercial operators to get business eg The Waimaire. Whanganui East Pool The pool should stay open next summer AND be one of the facilities where solar panels and batteries are installed. Hours should be family and worker friendly and open all weekends. The Davis Library extension. Lets not do this at all. Just like the kerbside compost collection was culled. Loan repayments Keep paying down debt and keep rates as affordable as possible. Don't buy buildings that are left unrented for years like the Whanganui Furnishers Building which has had no social return and loss of 125k per annum x 3 yrs. How budgets are set Allow more flexibility for future pressures, dont keep budgets tight year-to-year. This would mean budgets can also be adjusted downwards. Spending can be less. Other Do not continue any workstreams or consultant spending or budget lines for setting up or moving towards any new independent costly intergenerational debt laden housing organisation. Council should properly maintain its current housing stock and adjust its rental incomes to cover costs.

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 153

Not speaking

First name: Jill  
Last name: Richardson

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27? Yes

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Supporting documents:

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 28

Not speaking

First name: Susan  
Last name: Robertson

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

1. Sarjeant Art Gallery There should be an entry fee for every visitor to the Sarjeant Art Gallery, including locals. Even \$10 a head will contribute to the debt which we have been left with. 2. Davis Library Who knew there were extensions planned to the Davis Library? While I agree the building should be reroofed, it would be far more advantageous to the Whanganui public, for the WDC to support already existing suburban libraries, particularly with financial pressures, availability of time for family members and fuel costs, together with abysmal parking surrounding the main library. 3. Whanganui East Pool Stop dithering. Either keep it open for the entire summer or, if patronage is shown to be minimal, close it and bulldoze it in. 4. Old Commercial Buildings in the City Centre With particular reference to the "Andersons Building" on the corner of Ridgway St and Victoria Avenue, it is a hazard. Either contact the owner and give them a limited number of months to pay arrears and/or commit to refurbishment, or demolish it. While it is nice to think of Whanganui as an old city, these buildings are not structurally sound. Time to move on and modernise the city so we can be proud of our City of Design status. 5. Slowing Down Repayments Too late to ask why we have such a high level of debt - neither increase nor decrease the speed of repayment but under no circumstances enter into any more borrowing. 6. Memorial Hall Why is this not being promoted as a viable venue for events in Whanganui? Is it a white elephant. If not being used for a specific function, open it up for parking for the disabled. 7. Velodrome Another white elephant? Is Sport Whanganui involved in its usage? If not, why not. 8. Roding and Footpaths With an aging population, quality footpaths are essential for mobility devices. Poor tree selection (plane trees and oak trees) has led to degradation of both footpaths, roadways, and infiltration into our drainage systems, particularly in the city centre and leafy suburbs. Because most of the trees are deciduous, they contribute to blocked drains, flooded roads and are a nuisance to occupants

within affected streets. More regular clearance of the drains and leaf removal is essential. 9. Castlecliff Beach & Port Is it viable to keep our port open? Who is contributing to the cost of infrastructure to maintain our port being accessible, other than the ratepayer. Sand should be regularly removed from access roadways at both Morgan St and Rangiora St. Not just one sweep with a loader blade, but the entire area cleared. Monitored CCTV will be needed. 10. Staffing and Remuneration of Staff There should be a freeze on staff numbers, with a view to reduction of staff by natural attrition, and a freeze on wages. 11. Air Training School Close the former Oaks Hotel premises, currently being used to house training staff. Relocate the trainees to the former Nazareth building. Reinstate the hotel premises as a hotel, thereby making more accommodation available for the city. 12. Tidiness of Entry Points into the City Keep roundabouts tidy and mown. Otherwise plant with low maintenance plants that require little upkeep and do not impede visibility. While talking with Waka Kotahi, they should be encouraged to clean the Cobham Bridge side gutters for dirt and weeds as it presents a dirty image of Whanganui while approaching the city. 13. Water Treatment Water should be treated against contaminants to make it suitable for human consumption. Conclusion People are financially struggling and it would appear that millions of dollars of our money has been wasted. Obviously, those voting for these "schemes" do not have the necessary qualifications, business and/or financial, to make these decisions. It's easy to spend other people's' money. We all realise costs are increasing, but this is no time to waste money on "legacy projects". Every asset should be earning money and contributing towards the finance needed to run the city. Susan Robertson Bruce Robertson

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 146

Not speaking

First name: **Thomas**  
Last name: **Saldana**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

There should be a complete moratorium on vanity projects (like sister-city travel or ornamental sculptures) until debt is brought down to safe levels.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 12

Speaking

First name: **Gilberto**  
Last name: **Salinas**  
Organisation: **Te Whare O Rehua Sarjeant Gallery Friends**

Executive Committee

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents: yes



# Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery Executive Committee

## Whanganui District Council Annual Plan 2026/27 Consultation Submission

The Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery wish to acknowledge and thank the Whanganui District Council for its continued steady support of Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery. Council's commitment has ensured that the Gallery remains a cultural cornerstone for our community, and we are confident this leadership will continue.

### **Our Role and Contribution**

The Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery were established to provide a way for individuals and organisations to actively support the Gallery. Our members contribute thousands of dollars each year through subscriptions, fundraising, and targeted assistance for Gallery programmes.

We also play an operational role. The Friends coordinate volunteers for events, projects, and community activities, and the Executive Committee members "*formally volunteer their time and expertise*", providing support that "*offers substantial economic benefits*" and fills gaps that would otherwise require paid solutions. We also periodically purchase and gift works to the Gallery's collection, strengthening its national significance.

All this local support is provided at no cost to the ratepayer and reflects our long-standing commitment to the Gallery's success.

### **Support for Retaining Free Admission**

The Friends were delighted with Council's recent decision to retain free admission for all visitors. This approach aligns with the Gallery's purpose "*to exist as a public amenity for the betterment of our community and its wellbeing*", and it ensures that the Gallery remains accessible, welcoming, and widely used.

We strongly support the continuation of free admission through this Annual Plan process.

In our March 2026 submission on the door-charge proposal, we noted that the Gallery team "*already has the local ratepayer in mind by offsetting additional costs to the community through revenue generating strategies already in place and thriving beyond projected measures due to the high visitor rates already recorded*". Introducing a charge would be "*a step backwards*" that risks deterring visitors and reducing economic activity for local businesses.

Free admission also directly supports the work of the Friends. Our activities – including volunteer coordination, membership growth, and community engagement – are strongest when the Gallery is freely accessible. Free entry encourages participation, supports the success of Friends-led initiatives, and helps us introduce new people to the Gallery's programmes and to the Friends community. A door charge would make this work more difficult by reducing casual visitation and limiting opportunities to connect people with the Gallery.



# Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery Executive Committee

## Whanganui District Council Annual Plan 2026/27 Consultation Submission

Whanganui's strong sense of community – consistently highlighted in Council's strategic direction – is clearly visible in the way people engage with the Sarjeant Gallery. Free admission strengthens this by keeping the Gallery open and welcoming to all. At a time when concerns have been raised about declining volunteer participation across the district, the Friends' ability to attract and retain volunteers is supported when the Gallery is busy, inclusive, and easy for people to visit. A door charge would work against these goals by reducing casual visitation and limiting the opportunities that spark new volunteer involvement.

Museums and galleries contribute to local economies primarily through the spending of visitors in surrounding businesses. New Zealand research shows that visitor expenditure is a major component of the economic impact of cultural institutions, particularly in regional centres. International experience also shows that introducing entry fees tends to reduce visitor numbers. If a door charge were to reduce visitation at the Sarjeant, the flow-on effects would be felt by Whanganui's hospitality, retail, and tourism sectors. Retaining free admission supports the local economy and thereby Whanganui residents who benefit from a busy, well-used Gallery.

### Looking Ahead

The Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery remain committed partners in supporting the Gallery's mission and ensuring its long-term success. We respectfully urge Council to continue its strong support for Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery and to retain free admission for all visitors as part of the 2026/27 Annual Plan.

We request the opportunity to present our submission to Council in-person.

Gilberto Andrés Salinas

**President**

Te Whare O Rehua Sarjeant Gallery Friends Executive Committee

friends@sarjeant.org.nz



## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 69

Not speaking

First name: **Oliver**  
Last name: **Sangster**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

For sargeant gallery, keep free for now, but also implement a "suggested donation" campaign for out of towners,, e.g. \$10 pp. Similar approach to Auckland's War Memorial Museum. Then next year, reassess based on impact (additional revenue/visitor number changes) whether to go with a formal entry fee. Must remain free for residents who already pay through rates. Defer davis library expansion, nor essential in current economic context. Neutral on other topics

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 73

Not speaking

First name:

Terry

Last name:

Sarten

Organisation:

Progress Castlecliff / Castlecliff Library & Community

Hub

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents:

yes

Submission to WDC Annual Plan 2026/27

Strategy for Whanganui.

Section: Activate Whanganui - Public Spaces and Community.

Castlecliff Library and Community Hub.

Progress Castlecliff noted last year the intention for WDC to continue their formal commitment in the long-term plan to continue funding the Castlecliff Library and Community Hub.

The library operates as satellite of the Davis Library. It is funded by WDC for operating overheads and the long-term lease of the premises. This funding is held and managed by Progress Castlecliff in a partnership with the Davis /WDC Libraries.

The Castlecliff Library & Community Hub is staffed by a team of unpaid volunteers with a Castlecliff Library Coordinator role reporting to Progress Castlecliff.

The library provides all the essential library services, a wide and ever-changing selection of titles for all ages, children's activities, toys and WiFi connect. It is a safe, welcoming public space for people /families who live in Castlecliff to browse the shelves, search, order, borrow and return books without the added cost of going into town to the Davis Library.

The Castlecliff Library & Community Hub also provides a local source of information and assistance with accessing links to other services such as WDC and agencies that provide support services and is used as a meeting venue by local groups.

The location places the library at the centre of Castlecliff on Rangiora Street next to the Citadel Cafe and close to a bus stop. Opening hours are 11am – 3pm Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat/Sun.

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 136

Not speaking

First name: Nick  
Last name: Sarup

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

1. Consider a door charge of \$1. Don't think that's enough to deter anyone from visiting but will help with costs. 2. Take a break from opening Whanganui East Pool for a year and invest that money elsewhere i.e. bridge by East club? 3. Agree with postponing Library extension proposal 4. Agree with Loan repayments proposal 5. Buffer could also lead to careless spending. With an 11 million loss, prefer to be close to budget. Buffer when it's possible without increasing rates.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 36

Speaking

First name: **Beth**  
Last name: **Savage**  
Organisation: **Community-Led Development (CLD) Collective –**

Whanganui

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27? Attached

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Supporting documents: yes

## Submission to Whanganui District Council Draft Annual Plan 2026/27

**From:** Community-Led Development (CLD) Collective – Whanganui

**Contact:** Beth Savage [office@wovenwhanau.org.nz](mailto:office@wovenwhanau.org.nz)  
Kath Parnell [kparnell@teorahou.org.nz](mailto:kparnell@teorahou.org.nz)

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### 1. Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Draft Annual Plan 2026/27.

This submission is made on behalf of the Whanganui Community-Led Development (CLD) Collective — a network of grassroots organisations, community groups, and partners who design and deliver the annual CLD Conference and ongoing Lunch-and-Learn opportunities.

Our work brings together volunteers, small community groups, organisations, and agencies to strengthen community capability, connection, and wellbeing across the district.

Community-led development (CLD) is an approach where communities define issues, design solutions, and lead action, with agencies acting as partners rather than directors.

CLD builds the relationships, trust, and local leadership that make services more effective and reduce pressure on formal systems.

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### 2. Overall Position

We strongly support continued and increased investment in grassroots community organisations and community-led development approaches.

This investment directly contributes to the balance the Annual Plan seeks between:

- Rates affordability
- Managing risk
- Delivering important services
- Planning for the future

Grassroots funding is not separate from these priorities — it is a cost-effective way to achieve them.

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### 3. Evidence from the Whanganui CLD Conference (2026)

The 2026 CLD Hui brought together over 60 participants from across the community sector, including volunteers, small community groups, organisations, and agencies. This represents a

**doubling of attendance from the previous year**, reflecting growing demand for connection, learning, and collaboration.

This momentum is also reflected in the ongoing lunch-and-learn sessions, with attendance reaching up to 50 people.

Following the conference, participants were invited to complete a survey, with approximately half responding — a high level of engagement that strengthens the reliability of the insights.

#### **Quantitative outcomes**

- **93%** said the event met or exceeded expectations
- **90%** would attend again or recommend it
- **77%** feel confident applying CLD approaches
- **87%** made new connections or identified collaborators

#### **What participants said**

- “Encouraged, invigorated, inspired.”
- “Connected and valued.”
- “A nurturing space where I felt welcomed.”

#### **Participants consistently said they most valued:**

- connecting with others doing similar work
- learning practical tools and frameworks
- hearing real examples of community-led projects
- feeling re-energised and inspired

One participant came into the hui feeling isolated and unsure how to engage their community. Through the day, they connected with others, gained practical tools, and left with relationships and confidence to act.

Participants also described leaving with a clearer sense of how to work **alongside community rather than for community**, and greater confidence to take practical steps.

These outcomes demonstrate that **relatively small investments build capability, coordination, and confidence across the sector**.

For a relatively small investment, the CLD Conference strengthened connections across dozens of organisations — improving how work is aligned and delivered across the district.

**This is system-level impact from a small investment.**

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## **4. Why Grassroots Funding Matters**

### **4.1 Affordable investment, high impact**

Grassroots initiatives are:

- Low-cost
- Locally driven
- Highly responsive

The CLD Conference itself emerged from a simple question — “*what if we brought people together?*” — and grew into an ongoing community of practice.

This is a **high return on small investment**.

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#### **4.2 Managing risk and reducing future cost**

Community-led approaches:

- Identify issues earlier
- Enable communities to respond before problems escalate
- Reduce demand on council and social services

Participants reported shifting toward:

- listening to community voice
- co-designing solutions
- working collaboratively

This is **preventative investment**.

By strengthening relationships, trust, and local capability, CLD reduces demand on services over time.

Issues are addressed earlier, responses are more coordinated, and communities are better able to support themselves — reducing reliance on formal systems.

This kind of relational work creates impact beyond individual programmes, enabling organisations to align efforts and avoid duplication.

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#### **4.3 Delivering services more effectively**

Grassroots organisations are:

- closest to community need
- trusted by local people
- able to respond quickly

The conference strengthened relationships across the sector, improving coordination and service delivery.

When services are connected to strong local networks, they are:

- more likely to be used
- better targeted
- more effective

This improves the return on council investment.

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#### 4.4 Planning for the future

Grassroots investment builds:

- leadership
- skills
- confidence
- collaboration

Training provided through the conference and learning sessions supports organisations to:

- plan effectively
- communicate better
- sustain their work

This builds capability that remains long after funding is spent.

Strong, connected communities also make council investment more effective — reducing duplication and enabling more coordinated responses.

In this sense, community-led development functions as **social infrastructure** — strengthening the relationships and networks that enable physical infrastructure and services to work.

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#### 5. Emerging Funding Pressures

We are increasingly concerned about the changing funding environment.

Government funding cuts are pushing more contracted service providers into the community funding pool. This is increasing competition for limited funding and reducing access for grassroots, community-led organisations.

As a result:

- larger organisations are competing for the same funding
- funding is being stretched further
- grassroots initiatives risk being crowded out

This shift risks moving funding away from locally responsive, relationship-based approaches toward more transactional service delivery.

Larger organisations have:

- dedicated funding capacity
- established infrastructure

Grassroots organisations rely on small, flexible funding to operate.

Without intentional balance, funding systems will favour scale — even though local relationships are where impact happens.

This environment also makes collaboration more important.

Organisations need to:

- share resources
- align efforts
- work collectively

Community-led development supports this by prioritising **relational work over transactional activity** — building trust, connection, and shared understanding that lead to long-term outcomes.

Grassroots organisations are also often the most accessible entry point for people who do not engage with formal services.

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## 6. What Happens If Funding Is Reduced

Reducing grassroots funding will likely result in:

- loss of local initiatives
- fewer opportunities for early intervention
- increased pressure on services over time

Costs are not removed — they are delayed and increased.

Small short-term savings can lead to higher long-term costs.

Investment in community-led approaches should be seen as a way of reducing future expenditure by strengthening prevention, coordination, and resilience.

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## 7. Doing Things Differently

We recommend:

### 1. Maintain and strengthen grassroots funding

- keep funding accessible and flexible
- prioritise small-scale, high-impact initiatives

## 2. Invest in capability and connection

- support initiatives like the CLD Conference
- recognise these as essential sector infrastructure

## 3. Support collaborative approaches

- enable organisations to work together
- invest in relationship-building, not just delivery

## 4. Focus on prevention

- prioritise approaches that reduce long-term demand
- 

## 8. What We Ask Council To Do

We ask Council to:

- maintain or increase funding for grassroots initiatives
  - protect access for small, local organisations
  - recognise community-led development as essential infrastructure
  - invest in approaches that build long-term capability and resilience
  - as part of that, contribute \$1,000 towards the annual CLD conference
- 

## 9. Conclusion

The CLD Conference and wider collective show what is possible when communities are supported:

- people connect
- capability grows
- collaboration improves
- action follows

These outcomes reduce pressure on services and improve how resources are used.

Grassroots funding is a small investment that:

- strengthens resilience
- improves service effectiveness
- reduces long-term costs

**Strong communities reduce pressure on infrastructure and services — they are part of how councils manage cost, not separate from it.**

With the right support, Whanganui can continue to build a connected, capable community sector able to respond to challenges alongside council.

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## **10. Closing**

We would welcome the opportunity to speak to this submission.

Ngā mihi nui,

**Community-Led Development Collective – Whanganui**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 133

Not speaking

First name: **Tom**  
Last name: **Seaman**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?      See attached

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Supporting documents:      yes

## **Submission of Annual Plan 2025/46**

The reality is charging fees for entry to regional museums and galleries has never worked anywhere in NZ. Policing who is local will also just be scammed. It would cost more than it would bring in. The only thing a fee will do is reduce visitor numbers.

The pool needs to be refurbished and the longer it's put off the more that work will cost with rising materials costs. Consider running some kind of free point to point shuttle service from Whanganui East pool location to city pool while it's being repaired.

Delaying the Davis library extension will see its costs rise from materials. The East Pool and Davis library are core infrastructure so proceed and cut back on other projects. But seriously look at the Davis extension design, if it's built out the back of the existing building opt for getting more space rather than some fancy complex design, look at an industrial type build like units on Mill Road.

Continue to pay down loans, if we don't we only pay more in interest in the longer term. Tighten other budgets. Without seeing what loans and the terms it's almost impossible for any rate payer to make an informed contribution. Ask the heads of all the local accounting firms to look at these documents and give the council their opinion.

Plans around infrastructure look good and should proceed this is core council business.

Affordable housing should not be a business the council is in. It is simply the central Government avoiding its responsibility. Push this back to the Government with a media release to that effect.

Council should also identify all costs imposed by central Government compliance and publish this as a % or rates so this is visible to all rate payers. They can take this up with their local MP and take it into account when they decide who to vote for. This would include costs for a merger of regional council work into council.

Remove budgets for feel good projects such as climate change initiatives. Unfortunately none of these projects will or can change our weather. If these projects are to be approved they should contain agreed targets to how much measurable carbon they will reduce and what weather changes will result. NZs CO2 emissions amount to 0.17% of worldwide emissions, the reality is that nothing we do in Whanganui or NZ will lower world-wide CO2 or change our weather which results from world-wide weather dynamics. If we must spend the money, send it to India, China and the USA because they are the world's largest emitter.

The failure of the flight school and the costs that will add to rates is yet another signal to council(s) that they should not be managing commercial enterprises. Thank goodness the proposed hotel was abandoned last year. It's also another reason for the Council to get out of affordable housing.

I'm hoping Council is not setting up the new water entity based on the WN model and contracts. Other councils like AK have also seen a loss of control and virtually no accountability from water entity executives. WN executives would have been sacked and not allowed to resign. These accountabilities must be built into organisational as well as staff contracts. There should be no golden parachutes where staff have to exit when they have failed.

It's difficult to make any comments on Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery funding because there is no real detail of what the budget breakdown is.

Tom Seaman



Whanganui

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 32

Not speaking

First name: **Margaret**  
Last name: **Silverwood**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

File attached on development of the old Kiwi Street School site.

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**Supporting documents:**

yes

To: Whanganui District Council (Annual Plan/Planning Dept)  
Re: Development of the former Kiwi Street School Site

Support with conditions: As a resident of Kiwi Street, I have become aware of some clearing of the old Kiwi Street School site, and after research I have come to the conclusion it is probable the site is being cleared for the future development of social housing. I support the provision of housing on this site to address local needs. However, I urge the Council to ensure this development follows eco-village and sustainable design principles.

Submission points:

1. Protection of Native Flora: The recent tree clearing on-site is a concern. I seek a condition that any development replaces this loss with a dedicated native bush corridor to support local biodiversity and provide a “quiet zone” for the neighbourhood.

2. Social Well-being through Nature: high-quality social housing should include communal green spaces. I advocate for a “Nature-First” layout that includes shared gardens and food forests, rather than a concrete-heavy subdivision.

3. Sustainability Standards: The development should be a model of modern, energy-efficient building that minimises environmental impact on the Whanganui East area. For climate change resilience, eco-village design (using permeable surfaces and swales) would protect the neighbourhood from surface flooding in extreme weather events.

Request: I ask that the Council work closely with the developers to ensure the community has a say in the landscaping and green space protection before final designs are locked in.

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 6

Not speaking

First name: **Bill**  
Last name: **Simmons**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

I support the refurbishment of the Whanganui East pool, but the Davis Library extension project should be abandoned. It is a step too far at a very bad financial time. Capital expenditure has cost Whanganui huge money in recent years and with the failure of the flight academy business, related property and asset losses combined with increased debt, Whanganui needs a period of stability and frugality to provide conditions for financial recovery. At present the Sarjeant Gallery has an average visitation rate less than 4 people per hour. On two occasions I have visited recently, the amount of under-utilised space in the new extension has been disturbing and the works on display would collectively struggle to justify paying any fee for. I suggest using some of the empty space to allow local artists to display their works and for premium showings for other NZ artists with desirable works capable of attracting sales from which the gallery would take a showing fee. There has to be more happening there and an art for sale section to use the space better and produce revenue. Entry fees at \$5 X 10,000 people would not even pay the salary of one of the 22 or so curators. Staffing levels there need reviewing and have done for a long time. Slow down the loan repayments and do much better to keep rates increases under 4% for everybody. More than that is unacceptable. The political commentary justifying rates increases is always misleading as rates generally across Whanganui and especially in Rural Lifestyle and General Rural Zones are at a much higher base level than New Plymouth and Palmerston North rates - which renders the vocal defence and self-congratulations about low % increases in Whanganui completely invalid. The supposedly small increases in Whanganui are still keeping Whanganui rates per property capital value higher than both New Plymouth and Palmerston North. For residential rural zones close to the city Whanganui annual rates on a \$1m to \$1.5m property are \$1K more than New Plymouth and \$2K more than Palmerston North. The habit of raising rates every year has to be curbed. The \$40K

delegation trip to Nagazumi Cho and the \$116K AI generated logo (yes it was there on AI all the time) are good examples of avoidable, wasteful expenditure. The full table of proposed expenditure by facility and by function is absent from the public annual plan document. Comparative budgets for different outputs, resources etc cannot be properly considered if they cannot be seen.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 139

Not speaking

First name: **Simon**  
Last name: **Skill**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

It looks sensible. I would suggest removing the \$500,000 extra debt repayment, but not reducing the further \$200,000 you mentioned. Keep on track for now. When (if?) the economy picks up again and people have more money to spend, then put the extra payments back in. Same opinion on raising rates to build up a buffer. Since things are tight now, don't try to raise too much more, but wait until people have more to spend.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 120

Not speaking

First name: **Mike**  
Last name: **Smith**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Entry to the Sarjeant Gallery - all visitors should pay to help cover costs. Nothing else in wanganui is free. Why should that be? Make something else free like the parking so that the businesses can actually have a chance of trying to stay open in this economy. Whanganui East Pool - take a one summer pause until it's refurbished and to help reduce costs whilst its closed. The Davis Library extension – delay the library extension given cost pressures Loan repayments – keeping rates as affordable as possible. How budgets are set - keep budgets tight year-to-year versus unnecessary spending and wasteful spending. Just a note here as there's no way to actually put general comments on these consultations, You have made this process very difficult for the average person to complete. It is quite hard to find what the changes are and what you're planning to do. It's not a straightforward process because of that a lot of people won't even bother giving the necessary feedback. You need to spell it out for people eg: this is what the council plans to change. Do you agree or disagree. More of a voting system than having to research and read millions of pages of documents and then give "us your feedback."

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 10

Speaking

First name: **Rory**  
Last name: **Smith**  
Organisation: **Whanganui Vintage Weekend Trust**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents: yes

To begin this submission, the Whanganui Vintage Trust Board would like to acknowledge and thank the Whanganui District Council for its continued support of the Whanganui Vintage Weekend event. It has done so since the very first offering way back in 2013. The gratitude doesn't just stop at the fiscal contribution of Council, it's far more than that; we also acknowledge Whanganui and Partners, Parks and Reserves, the Alcohol Licensing department and Property. We have consistently enjoyed support from all. We thank you, and indeed our MP, Carl Bates, for all your support.

That said, we request an increase in funding to \$60,000 from last year's \$27,500. This is to maintain and sustain the operational capabilities of the event. Our event Co-ordinator is a professional and offers professional services. Presently, goodwill in this area is being overstretched and provides a major risk in the short term. In the long term, this is a risk to the very future of the event.

We do believe that our funding could be justifiably increased, and we base this on two core premises:

- Vintage weekend contributes more than \$5 million directly to the local economy every year.
- We feel that when compared to some other events funded by the WDC, the funding (\$27,500) appears out of whack in terms of returns for dollars spent. Vintage Weekend has not had an increase in funding since its inception in 2013, and last year actually suffered a decrease in its funding.

This is not to criticise any other event, but contestable funding puts us in the uncomfortable position of actually competing for it. Putting on an event of any size is hard, and we openly support all those who work in this area.

Vintage weekend is a massive three-day festival that is aimed squarely at our community (we also invite the neighbours). While there are plenty of ways for people to spend their hard-earned cash during Vintage, as indicated by the \$5m earnings mentioned above, it is essentially a free event for all. It's Whanganui's party! This goes to the very heart of why our event is unique in New Zealand in terms of size and scale. This is, of course, because Whanganui is unique. It would be hard to replicate an event like Vintage Weekend because very few communities would be able to produce the same immense generosity of both spirit and wallet to deliver a similar event. In these tough and uncertain times, the community needs this event more than ever.

In closing, we offer our most important acknowledgment, and that is to an absolute army of volunteers and our generous sponsors. The volunteers show up every year. They are now highly experienced and skilled, and they are the single biggest reason for Vintage Weekend's success. Without this cohort and the generosity of our sponsors, Vintage Weekend would not exist, and the Vintage Trust Board is immensely grateful to every one of them.

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 131

Not speaking

First name: **Jeff**  
Last name: **Smith**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents: yes

## **Submission on the Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 Whanganui District Council**

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### **Summary**

More user-pays. Less non-essential spending. Sell non core assets.

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### **Introduction**

I am a long-term Whanganui resident and ratepayer, and I am very concerned about the scale of the rates increase proposed in the Draft Annual Plan. In the current cost-of-living environment, asking households and businesses to absorb another above-inflation rise, alongside a larger operating deficit and higher debt, is not affordable or sustainable.

I am asking Council to show stronger financial discipline: cap this year's increase at 1%, refocus on essential services only, aggressively grow user-pays and other non-rates income, and actively sell non-essential assets to reduce debt.

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#### **1. Cap the Rates Increase at 1%**

The starting point must be a hard ceiling on the rates increase of 1% for 2026/27. A clear cap will force genuine priority setting, rather than working out what Council wants to spend and then loading the balance onto ratepayers. Households and small businesses across Whanganui are already under significant financial pressure; many are having to cut back on essentials. It is reasonable to expect Council to do the same, and to live within a tight limit rather than treating high rates increases as the default solution to every budget problem.

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#### **2. Focus Rates Funding on Essential Services Only**

Within that cap, rates funding should be focused strictly on essential services and libraries. Most ratepayers accept that we must pay for safe drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, roads and footpaths, one community pool, and the existing library network. Those are the foundations of a functioning and liveable city.

Where I strongly disagree is with the ongoing use of general rates to fund non-essential or lifestyle services and projects: discretionary events, branding and promotion, new or upgraded leisure facilities, and other "nice to have" initiatives. Those may be desirable in better times, but they are not core services, and they should not be driving above-inflation rates increases.

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### **3. Declare an Income Emergency and Pause Non-Essential Projects**

To make a 1% cap workable, Council should declare an "income emergency", in the same way it declared a climate emergency in 2020, and pause, cancel, or significantly scale back non-essential projects and upgrades. This includes deferring new or expanded community facilities and promotional initiatives until the district's finances are back on a more sustainable footing.

It is far better to slow or stage discretionary projects over a longer period than to lock ratepayers into steep year-on-year increases. When families are choosing between essentials, they should not be asked to borrow more, via Council, to fund optional extras.

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### **4. Expand User-Pays and Non-Rates Income**

Council needs to lean much harder into user-pays and non-rates income. For non-essential services and high-end facilities, such as galleries, premium events, and leisure and recreation amenities, the default should be that those who use and benefit from them pay a much greater share of the cost.

That means more ambitious and targeted fees and charges on clearly optional or premium services, using sponsorships, commercial partnerships, leases, and other revenue sources, rather than blanket increases in general rates. This is a fairer model: core services are funded collectively, while optional extras are funded primarily by their users.

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### **5. Sell Non-Essential Assets to Reduce Debt**

Council should be prepared to sell non-essential assets and surplus property to reduce debt and future operating costs. Carrying non-core facilities and land on the balance sheet indefinitely puts pressure on both debt levels and depreciation, and ultimately comes back to ratepayers.

Assets such as the Whanganui East Pool are examples that could be considered for divestment, lease, or alternative ownership models, with appropriate safeguards, instead of being funded and renewed by Council forever. A systematic review of all non-core land, buildings, and facilities, with an explicit goal of disposal and debt reduction, would take pressure off both current and future rates.

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### **6. Call for Transparency**

I would like to see much greater transparency about what is actually driving the required rates take. Council should clearly separate essential from non-essential spending and publish a list of specific projects, services, and assets that could be paused, downsized, shifted to user-pays, or sold, along with the estimated impact each option would have on the rates requirement and on debt. That would allow the community to engage with real choices and trade-offs, instead of being presented with a high increase as if it were inevitable.

### **Questions for Council on the Draft Financial Statements**

I am asking Council to publicly answer the following questions arising from the Draft Financial Statements and Disclosure Statement 2026/27.

**6.1 Overall Rates Revenue Increase** Council is proposing to increase total rates revenue (including metered water, trade waste, and penalties) by around \$5.7 million between 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Please provide a clear breakdown of what (a) specific cost increases and (b) new spending decisions are driving this extra \$5.7 million, line by line, and which of those are genuinely unavoidable versus discretionary.

**6.2 Personnel Costs Increase** Personnel costs are budgeted to rise by roughly \$4.3 million between 2025/26 and 2026/27.

How much of this increase is due to new staff positions, how much is salary and wage inflation for existing staff, and what exactly will the additional staffing deliver that ratepayers do not already have?

**6.3 Other Operating Expenses Increase** "Other expenses" (payments to staff and suppliers) are planned to rise by just over \$4 million.

Which major contracts, service areas, or programmes account for the bulk of this increase, and what options were considered (if any) to contain or reduce these costs instead of passing them on through higher rates?

**6.4 Net Debt Increase** The forecast debt balance rises by roughly \$23 million between 30 June 2026 and 30 June 2027.

What are the top three projects or sectors that this extra \$23 million of debt is funding, and why are they being prioritised ahead of keeping rates and debt flat or reducing them?

**6.5 Venues, Events and Facilities Rates Increase** The rates requirement for "Venues, events and facilities" increases by about \$1.5 million between 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Which specific facilities or event programmes are driving this increase, and what reductions, deferrals, or user-pays options (if any) were analysed to avoid lifting the rates requirement in this non-essential area?

**6.6 Economic Development Rates Increase** The "Economic development" activity's rates requirement rises by around \$0.8 million.

What new initiatives, sponsorships, or programmes explain this extra spend; how will Council measure concrete economic returns; and why is this increase justified ahead of lower rates or debt reduction? Is this line item one that could be reduced substantially from the proposed **\$6.8m** from the general rate? Could tourism, visitor industry players shoulder any of the responsibility of this spend?

**6.7 Roothing and Transportation Rates Increase** The "Roothing and transportation" rates requirement grows by about \$0.7 million.

Within roading and transportation, which projects or cost pressures (for example, specific upgrades, renewals, or contract increases) are responsible for the extra spend, and what alternative phasing or scope reductions were considered? I ask council to defer any upgrades or repairs until central govt has materially committed to their share (e g Wakefield Bridge)

**6.8 Corporate (Overheads) Rates Increase** The "Corporate" rates requirement increases by around \$0.7 million.

What are the main components of this corporate increase (such as internal services, systems, or governance support), and how will Council demonstrate that overhead growth is tightly controlled and delivering measurable value to front-line services?

Given that many New Zealand councils, including Hutt City, Auckland, Dunedin, and Timaru, are using AI tools to cut admin time, automate financial reporting, and reduce manual processing, what specific AI or automation tools is Whanganui District Council currently using to reduce staff and overhead costs? When justifying higher personnel and corporate overhead budgets, can Council show how it has already captured AI-driven efficiency gains similar to those achieved elsewhere, or explain why it has not yet done so?

**6.9 Wastewater, Regulatory and Community Support Increases** Wastewater, Regulatory & Compliance, and Community Support each show noticeable increases in their rates requirements.

For each of these three activities, can Council publish a short, plain-English explanation of the main drivers of the increase, what statutory or safety requirements are involved (if any), and which elements are discretionary and could be reduced if the community prefers a lower-rates path?

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## Summary of Requests

I am asking Council to:

1. Cap the 2026/27 average rates increase at 1%.
2. Commit to a credible, published path back to a balanced budget.
3. Focus general rates on core infrastructure only.
4. Pause or cancel non-essential projects.
5. Substantially expand user-pays and other non-rates income.
6. Actively sell non-essential assets and surplus property to pay down debt and reduce long-term cost pressures.

This approach would demonstrate genuine financial leadership, protect struggling households and businesses, and put Whanganui on a more stable and affordable footing for the future.

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 75

Not speaking

First name: Sarah  
Last name: Stephens

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Keep rates low. We are all struggling financially, and the conflict in the Middle East will probably increase lots of costs for Council as it is so now isn't the time for any projects. Just do the absolute basics - roads, water etc - and don't spent any extra \$\$

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 56

Not speaking

First name: Peter  
Last name: Stokes-Chapman

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

I'm a regular user of the library & don't see why it needs extending. The car park is a fiasco though. Someone's head should roll!! If its important to keep "East Pool" I would have thought a "Friends of the Pool" should be formed by volunteers who could look after certain aspects of the facilities. I do appreciate the H&S implications but surely this can't be a reason "not to do it"

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 137

Not speaking

First name: **Janine**  
Last name: **Stratton**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

To make a society work, costs money. I appreciate your balancing act and my chance to participate.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 68

Speaking

First name: **Trevor**  
Last name: **Strong**  
Organisation: **Whanganui Football Development Trust**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?

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Supporting documents: yes

## SUBMISSION TO WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN

Submitter: Trevor Strong - Chair of The Whanganui Football Development Trust

Email: trevor@evolve-lighting.co.nz

Address: WAFC CLUBROOMS, 14 Wilkie St, Wembley Park, Whanganui East

### **BACKGROUND**

The Whanganui Football Development Trust (WFDT) was established in 2021 to fill a gap in the development of football in Whanganui through improved facilities at Wembley Park, as it was apparent this was not within the capabilities of any club or existing organisation associated with football. The Trust's role is not to run the game of football but to determine and deliver the facilities needed to allow that to happen. The Trust identified that a football 'centre' was figuratively and literally needed at the Park. No existing structures offer the space, relationship to the playing fields or the facilities required to serve football administration, player needs and spectator viewing required for the modern game and to the high standards set by the governing body for top-flight football.

A new 500m<sup>2</sup>, two storey facility was designed, consented and constructed before it opened for use in September 2025. The facility comprises, modern changing rooms compliant with Football NZ requirements for top-tier football, meeting/ lounge space and associated ablutions and hospitality facilities as well as first floor viewing of 4 of the 8 senior playing pitches at Wembley Park.

The Trust set a target of constructing the facility for \$1.3M even though the current value of the building is set at \$2.4M. Thanks to generous support from the Whanganui community, Athletic Football Club members and even off-shore interests, the project has been completed and is now serving Wembley Park, already exceeding expectations in popularity from its users.

### **THE CURRENT SITUATION**

Even though the seemingly impossible target of \$1.3M has been expended on the facility, in November 2024 the project was nearly stopped at 81% completion, as ear-marked funding of \$250,000.00 from the NZ Lotteries was suddenly withdrawn when the Commission redirected all available funding to the Hawkes Bay community following the devastation wreaked by cyclone Gabrielle. Had this catastrophic event not occurred, we would not be making this submission to Council today.

The Trust was forced to reconsider its financial strategy and in the end, entered a short-term bridging loan for \$255,000 with a local individual who wishes to remain anonymous. The generosity of the offer allowed the facility to be completed and start serving the community. The alternative was an incomplete project unable to be used, at a cost of approximately \$1.0M.

The Trust worked extremely hard prior to and throughout the planning and construction phases to tap into all available funding sources including member donations, charitable trust grants, sponsorship from the construction industry, in both materials and free labour. The Trust has subsequently re-approached many of these parties but to be fair, their generous initial donations was as much as they could afford toward the project, and it is considered unreasonable to expect a second round of such generosity.

Since the facility has opened, the focus of the WFDT has been on establishing a responsible and practical operation and maintenance programme to ensure the facility remains useable, up to a high standard of repair, and delivering to users' expectations. Annual costs are currently valued at approximately \$20,000 per annum. Funding sources are currently being secured for this.

## **THE BENEFITS**

### **Football**

The new Football Centre is designed primarily to facilitate activities that manage and develop the sport of Football in Whanganui. Whanganui is quite unique in the football world in that all the city's competitive football is centred at the one Park. Hence the Football Centre is literally at the heart of the sport.

The WFDT selected the Whanganui Athletic Football Club (WAFC) as the base tenant in the facility as of all the clubs in Whanganui, it sustains the most football members, consistently offers top levels of regional football and undertakes the most quality programmes for player development at all levels, genders and for all ages. It employs a full-time director of football coaching, has a player import and export programme and provides the longest and most comprehensive football development pathway for aspiring players. The club has demonstrated its sustainability over its 90+ year history and is actively promoting growth in players numbers for male & female at masters, senior competitive, senior social and junior levels without exclusivity or discrimination.

The emergence of the new Football Centre, has been the catalyst for more development opportunities at the Park:

- A new FIFA all weather Junior sports precinct worth over \$250k was awarded to Whanganui when Central Football saw that the community was trying to help itself in developing its resources. This project is the first ever externally funded (FIFA, Football NZ, Central Football) development at Wembley Park and is only one of 6 turfs to be done in New Zealand.
- The National Secondary Schools' football is again considering Wembley Park for one of its annual tournaments which was lost to the City several years ago because of a perceived lack of suitable resources.
- The New Zealand Masters Games football tournament attracts over 800 players, by far the largest number of participants for any sport at the Games, and its continued growth in participants is attributed in no short measure to the ability of the Park to provide a unique tournament atmosphere. The ongoing improvement of facilities is not only appreciated, but expected from participants.
- Saturday morning football for Juniors continues to grow with something in the order of 1,200 young players turning out throughout the winter season. Each child generally has at least one parent accompanying them. The Centre provides them with a haven from the sometimes colder weather and a base from which to learn and understand the football pathway that lies in wait for their aspiring child.
- Women's participation in football is increasing at a staggering rate and the travelling leagues now play on a Sunday, such is the demand on playing and support facilities. A Whanganui Women's side is now successfully competing in a travelling league reaching from coast to

coast across the middle North Island; something that rivals the top Whanganui Men's league. Sunday play also allows the visiting teams to use the facilities' changing bays including showers & toilets as the existing visitor changing bays are not suitable for women's use noting there are no toilets there.

- The new Football Centre also includes a dedicated space for game officials which allows the 'main' game officials to be at the ground where the teams are. This facility can also separately cater for female officials, when the need arises.
- WAFC has a long-standing relationship with both Collegiate and Whanganui High School and WHS have now elected to play their interschool fixtures at Wembley Park as they are able to host the travelling contingent in the Football Centre.
- Further development is planned for the #1 field that the new Football Centre adjoins. Improved turf quality, field irrigation, flood lighting, and other 'stadium' type event facilities including vehicle roading & parking, all designed to meet the expectations of modern sporting spectators, are now in the planning.
- The WFDT has through the new facility construction project been able to facilitate enhancement of the Park's infrastructure by including capability in water main, sewerage & stormwater drainage and electrical capacity for the likes of future field irrigation, additional remote toilet facilities, floodlighting, security surveillance and a PA system.

## **Community**

The WFDT is working with the Whanganui Athletic Football Club to look for opportunities to increase the usage of the facility where gaps exist in their programme. This will involve other (non-football related) community groups especially in the Whanganui East suburb, as this sort of facility is not readily available elsewhere in this part of town.

The facility has a fully licenced bar and a full commercial kitchen to allow a full range of functions to be catered. Qualified bar managers and professional caterers have been engaged to ensure the facility is run to the best standard. This is the only facility of its kind at the Park.

Discussions with other sports codes regarding off-season (summer) use is also an option, as with both the clubrooms and the dedicated changing rooms being so close to playing fields, it makes for a rare combination and opportunity for codes seeking these sorts of facilities. Any potential additional use of Wembley Park by other sports codes would first involve discussion with Council regarding any sort of tenure the code may wish to undertake.

## **OUR SUBMISSION**

The WFDT is seeking Whanganui District Council support to clear the debt associated with the new facility in the order of \$250,000.00 +GST to be paid in 5 equal instalments across the 2026 – 2030 financial years.

This will allow the WFDT to focus on the future, continuing its planning for further development at the Park.

WFDT have negotiated favourable terms on the bridging loan in that there will be no interest charges across a five-year term provided a funding source is confirmed for settlement of the debt by 2031 and the debt is repaid on a regular basis across the term.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Trevor Strong

Chair – WFDT

22 April 2026



*The new Football Centre at twilight*



*New Football Centre Viewing deck onto Field #1*



*The new Lounge/ meeting space*



*The FIFA all-weather junior football precinct with Football Centre in background*



21 April 2024

The Trustees  
The Whanganui Football Development Trust  
Whanganui

Email: [trevor@evolve-lighting.co.nz](mailto:trevor@evolve-lighting.co.nz)

Dear Trevor,

It is a privilege to be able to provide a letter of support for The Whanganui Football Development Trust and to highlight some of the benefits of the work done at Wembley Park in Whanganui.

I have had a couple of opportunities to view the new clubroom facility at Wembley Park, and it is truly a fantastic facility and huge asset to both the venue and the community. The work that has gone into this by so many is an incredible example of how such a project can bring together a community, strengthen connections and inspire further growth.

As the Trust are aware, Central Football along with New Zealand Football have had the opportunity to secure six mini football turfs across the country. This is part of the FIFA Mini Arena Project which will see FIFA provide up to 1000 of these 40 x 20m fully enclosed artificial turfed arenas across the world and Central Football were asked to provide our view of a suitable venue for one of these arenas within our federation.

After some initial consultation, we had no hesitation in recommending Whanganui and Wembley Park as the best location for this mini arena. The development of the new clubrooms now makes Wembley Park an incredibly attractive venue for local football, the biennial masters football competition and other events, and given these developments, and plans in place for further improvements, it was a "no brainer" for us to choose Wembley Park to hold the FIFA Mini Arena for the Central federation.

Central Football remains very supportive of any further work planned at Wembley Park with the identified need for improvements around the roading and car parking infrastructure within the venue and are available to provide written or verbal endorsement and support if required.

Once again, our congratulations on the work done to date at Wembley Park and we look forward to getting the FIFA Mini Arena installed in the coming months, which will add even further to what is becoming a top-class community venue.

Sincerely

Darren Mason  
CEO – Central Football

CLIENT REFERENCE: 171-0QSH7  
BROKER: Greg Heerdegen

## Policy Schedule

### SMARTpak Material Damage Insurance

This is a summary of the cover provided by your policy. Please refer to the policy document for the full terms, conditions and exclusions relating to this insurance.

THE INSURED	Client No	Cover No
Whanganui Football Development Trust	171-0QSH7	2154888-001 -02
THE INSURER	INSURER POLICY NO	
Monument Insurance (NZ) as underwriting agent for IAG New Zealand Ltd AIG Insurance NZ Ltd Vero Insurance NZ Ltd	PL88Q520-1	
PERIOD OF INSURANCE	From 30/04/2026 to 30/04/2027 at 4:00pm; Local Standard Time	

#### SCHEDULE OF INSURED PROPERTY

Location	14 Wilkie Street, Whanganui East, Whanganui	
Address Known As	Whanganui Athletic Football Club	
Business Activity	Football Club - Club Rooms Facilities	
Buildings		\$2,392,236
Plant		\$100,000
Total Sum Insured		<b>\$2,492,236</b>

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 50

Speaking

First name: **Timothy**  
Last name: **Stubbs**  
Organisation: **Whanganui Residents & Ratepayers Ass**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?** See accompanying re closure of Economic Development Unit

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**Supporting documents:** yes

## **Whanganui Residents & Ratepayers Assn. Submission on Council 2026/27 Annual Plan**

**This submission is a recommendation to shut down Council's Economic Development Group and save the \$2.968 million dollars budgeted to run it.**

### Background:

*Quoting from the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, the Economic development unit promotes Whanganui as a destination to live, visit, work, study and invest. Through Whanganui & Partners, it also includes supporting new and existing businesses, bringing events to Whanganui and providing the latest economic data, analysis and commentary on the district. It also manages Whanganui UNESCO City of Design designation and Regional Film Office and the city's i-Site.*

**Why it is done is to facilitate the growth and development of the district's economy and profile to benefit the community.**

**No KPI is attached but if it were it would be success in bringing new business to Whanganui.**

However a detailed reading of the group's committee meeting agendas in 2024, 2025 and 2026 reveals:

1. No items addressing the specifics of any planning of approaches to industry bodies promoting or lobbying for Whanganui;
2. No items addressing the specifics of any approaches to individual businesses promoting or lobbying for Whanganui;
3. No items describing any assistance to any business seeking to set up in Whanganui.

**So, in effect the unit, from a ratepayers perspective, has contributed nothing to economic growth. And, hazarding a guess, it never has.**

Considerable time and effort has gone into:

1. The winding down of Whanganui & Partners, (real life evidence of a failed attempt at business development);
2. The cleaning up of the pilot school project, (further evidence of a failed business venture);
3. The port development which has now lost it's single customer, (separately managed by its own board of directors not requiring input, if any, from the economic development unit);
4. The airport carriageway, (separately managed by Airport management under the joint venture with central Government);
5. The longtime inherited Gasnet investment, (separately managed by its own board of directors not requiring input, if any, from the economic development unit);
6. The airport joint venture, (separately managed and not requiring input, if any, from the economic development unit).

**But none into lobbying for new business**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 14

Not speaking

First name:

Name

Last name:

Supplied

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Sarjeant Gallery - entry should remain free. Possibly some signage encouraging visitors to donate as they feel able could be added? Auckland Museum has for years had a more-or-less voluntary entry fee, with staff members at the entrance who encourage donations from non-residents but no actual enforcement if someone can't pay (e.g. wrong currency or incompatible bank card). Davis Library extension - I don't think it makes sense to delay the extension, and it's only a short-term saving, likely at a long-term cost. It doesn't seem efficient to reroof the old part of the building when the new roof could probably be had at a reduced cost if done together with the extension (and perhaps even some air-conditioning). With the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the library falling within this year, it seems especially poor timing to put off long-delayed works yet again. What a great celebration if, instead, we could have the 150th marked by upgraded facilities and a larger collection that actually meet standards for Whanganui's population size! I'd also like to note that recent budget 'savings' have significantly impacted my usage and enjoyment of library services particularly the reduced hours and lack of new book purchasing. Given the high usage of Libraries per population, the large savings to Council already achieved by substantial volunteer staffing, and the low level of library funding in comparison to other Councils in NZ, it is time to start really putting money back in! I think it is more prudent to reduce debt and build up contingency money wherever possible - money that is being spent on repaying interest on debt is money that isn't benefiting ratepayers! Just think of all the things that could be done if the >\$10m loan repayments mentioned in the consultation documents could have been part of the spending budget for facilities, services etc. - ratepayers would have paid the same amount, but got so much more out of their rates. As a resident, I think it's important for ratepayers to receive not just value for money, but value. Noone likes paying

bills but it's worse to have to pay money for services that don't meet your needs.

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**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 78

Not speaking

First name: **Felicity**  
Last name: **Temple**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

More unnecessary spending in a cost of living crisis that is about to go global. Council should be laser focused on keeping costs to a minimum (even if that means some projects are deferred) and ensuring that spending is on essential services only. Incurring more debt and deferring repayments is a poor strategy that future councils and ratepayers will inherit. Look at the USA if you need a textbook example of poor economic management.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 27

Not speaking

First name: **Ruth**  
Last name: **Tidemann**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?** It could be an idea to charge visitors a small fee

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**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 110

Not speaking

First name: **Zoe**  
Last name: **Tofa**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

I think the gallery should have a charge for out of town guests. I would like the pool to stay open over summer and refurb when it is closed in the winter. It is closed for a long time throughout the year this time should be used for the refurb. I think due to the cost of living there should be more consideration into footpaths and repairs. More people will be walking biking and moving by foot. There are footpaths missing by bus stops (Durham road is my local) which makes accessibility tricky for elderly and mums. I think more people would use public transport and access town etc if it was more accessible to get there.

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**Supporting documents:**

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 30

Speaking

First name: **Anthonie**  
Last name: **Tonnon**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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## Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

In general I'm generally happy with the direction of the Annual Plan, and I've been impressed with the council's approach over the last year. One thing I'd like to see emphasis on and more initiatives in, is encouraging, and removing barriers to economic and social activity in the core and in our older, pre WWII neighbourhoods - thickening up the areas in which we are strong and have the most potential, and increasing the wealth base to deal with difficult times and an uncertain future. I'd like to see us try to achieve more in the most tangible aspects of our core business. This city and this council is innovative, and fosters talent when it comes to strategy and design, but we can be less effective, and lack direct control or agency for on the ground delivery - particularly on areas like parks, maintenance and cleaning. We have very little direct control, to give a couple of examples, of our contractors cleaning bus stops, or maintaining plant beds. We can face relatively high costs for what seem like simple jobs, and for this reason we feel pressure to further reduce our ambitions - for example by not planting plants that require hand weeding. One of my main concerns would be the new borrowing for roading and wastewater in greenfields areas, and the large present and future liabilities these present. This year, to launch their new 30 year plan, the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission hosted urban planner Chuck Marohn as their keynote speaker. Marohn has looked at dozens of new world cities and found that consistently, the tax base from low density greenfields growth is not high enough to pay for the new, permanent liabilities from roading and three waters infrastructure, and many cities are now facing insolvency because they have doubled down on this growth at the expense of thickening up core neighbourhoods. Marohn argues cities need to correctly label streets and water connections as liabilities, not assets. This language of assets rather than liabilities is relevant in NZ, and I would note we've used this language in explaining our high debt level this Annual Plan - which is largely to do with

increased costs from greenfields growth. Until the last decade, Whanganui could claim to have been more judicious in this area than other comparable cities. We still retain some structural strengths - and it seems imperative that we thicken up in the areas that will be most productive - the central core first and foremost, and our older, tram build neighbourhoods next - neighbourhoods which are now connected with frequent public transport. A note on public transport The council has worked very successfully with Horizons Regional Council on public transport. Early results of the new network have been very encouraging - with 86% more people on buses in the new network's first week than the same week last year. Usually in a new network, usage in early weeks drops before rising, so this is very encouraging. The council has a real opportunity to leverage the new network in future planning decisions. Focusing growth of housing, business and destinations in the central core, and crucially - within walking distance of our two frequent public transport routes will see the city grow around existing roading and water infrastructure. It should be noted that Horizons has now decided to pause plans for new regional services, such as a Whanganui to Wellington region bus service. These plans had wide support in a 2023 consultation, and passed in the 2024 LTP, to be part of this year's Annual Plan budget.. Horizons are not consulting on their annual plan and there is now a danger these plans will be erased in the 2027 LTP. This is an area which could use council advocacy as Horizons finalise this year's annual plan and develop the LTP. On some of this year's questions: I'm happy with keeping entry to Te Whare O Rehua free, because of the very high level of the support from the New Zealand taxpayer, most of whom have not visited Whanganui, and should now be encouraged to. I support the idea of delaying a library extension at this time. I'd like to see the Whanganui East Pool open again this summer - for a longer period and for longer hours. The short hours and period of service seems not to have helped it in the last two years. Just like with a bus service, if a pool or public service is not open for a reasonable span, people will give up trying to use it. Now that we have frequent bus service to Whanganui East I think the pool will be a great attraction in summer, particularly for young people who can now travel there independently. On venues and activity in our spaces I'd like us to see how we can have more happening in our centre. In one area I have experience in - live music I believe that aiming to hold more shows at competitive rates would actually provide more income for the council. I'd suggest that Whanganui innovates here by opening up its community rate to New

Zealand touring acts with a ticket price below \$60. Presently, playing at the Opera House is only viable for shows with a ticket price reaching well over this price, and this means that hire is limited to tribute bands, or tributes of west end shows. There is a large layer of New Zealand touring acts with tickets between \$30 and \$60 that could be encouraged to play here at our community rate. I'd like to see us make use of our many impressive spaces, and see them more activated and honoured, and I think this would be worth investing in. Particularly I'd love to see more events and ceremonies in our War Memorial Forecourt. One small point of civic pride - I am surprised to see the War Memorial Forecourt used for parking cars. This would be unimaginable in Wellington's Civic Square or Auckland's Aotea Square - both of which have much more pressure for car parking in their surroundings. As a small and cost-free step in honouring the space, I would suggest that we cease parking the Whanganui Venues and staff vehicles on the forecourt. This would preserve the best view of one of the countries' best and most photographable civic buildings, and council has many other available off street parks that could be used when not loading and unloading.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 117

Not speaking

First name: **Hēmi**  
Last name: **Tūtiri**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

- Sarjeant should remain free for everyone - pay off debt faster and have higher rates - don't build in buffer  
- use debt for the unexpected - no comment on other key topics

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 25

Not speaking

First name: Rhona  
Last name: Vickoce

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

# A reasonable charge for overseas visitors to the Sargeant seems like a good idea. Works for Te Papa and many overseas institutions have such a charge.  
#One summer pause, now Whanganui East people can bus out to Castlecliff. #Davis Library will obviously need extension given the growth of Whanganui . Does it have to be now? Hmmm Loan repayments: Seems like on track ie balanced Budgets set: Flexibility for future pressures seems sensible given all the pressures of a less than rock star economy.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 17

Speaking

First name: **Mark**  
Last name: **Ward**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?** Yes, my submission is in the attached file.

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**Supporting documents:** yes

## Submission to the Whanganui District Council

### The life and legacy of Ellen Ballance (1847-1935):

- Public Service, Women Franchise and Good Deeds

Ellen Ballance was a significant and notable woman who was active in public life in Whanganui's early years. Through her life she gave generously - her time and resources- to many social, community and charitable activities and also to Christian mission.

Ellen was actively involved with the Whanganui Orphanage and Children's Home. She was a founding member of the Orphanage and involved in the managing and oversight of the Homes' affairs. Meeting minutes record her checking the cupboards to audit food and clothing supplies in the Orphanage. She is also minuted as giving support to an initiative to provide monthly bible lessons, by the clergy of Whanganui, to the children residing in the Orphanage and Children's Home. The Deed of Trust records the Orphanage was for the 'maintenance of destitute children, and the education or bringing up of such children in the Protestant faith'. In her later years Ellen's community interests, extended to supporting the Girls' Friendship Society and the new Plunket Society.

Of course, Ellen is most well known as the wife of Mr John Ballance, New Zealand's Premier (1891-1893) and long serving parliamentary representative for Whanganui and surrounding districts. During this Premiership she was a hostess, and friend to many at the Molesworth Street, Ministerial residence. She was regarded highly in Wellington circles and described as politically astute and a keen reformer, alongside her husband. Ellen supported John throughout his active public and political career, including triumphs and disappointments. When he became terminally unwell with cancer, she nursed him with care and devotion.

Ellen was a prominent leader in the international women's suffrage movement and a strong campaigner for political emancipation in New Zealand. She is credited as having influenced John about Women's Suffrage and gained his support of votes for women. For example, after John was elected Premier, she wrote to Kate Sheppard in 1891 saying she would do everything in her power to "further the cause". Grimshaw, Patricia (October 1970) "Politicians and suffragettes: women's suffrage in New Zealand, 1881-1893.

Ellen was active in the Women's Progressive Society (Vice President of the London-based society) and also the Whanganui Women's Franchise League (WWFL) which she established with Margaret Bullock. She held the inaugural role of President and under her leadership, the WWFL collected signatures for the Women's suffrage petition of 1893. Ellen was President of the Whanganui Branch up to 1893, with Margaret Bullock taking up the President's role, around the time of Ellen's bereavement on 27 April 1893. After John's death, she gifted the political library of her late husband to the League. Later that year, the League's name was changed to the Whanganui Women's Political League (WWPL).

The collective efforts of the Women's Suffrage Movement culminated in the passing of The Electoral Act, September 1893 which gave all women in New Zealand the right to vote. In September 1893 New Zealand became the first self-governing nation in the world to have universal suffrage.

After enfranchisement, Ellen continued her involvement in women's affairs through the National Council of Women New Zealand which represented women's view and campaigns for change; to ensure social, political and educational reforms were achieved.

In her personal life, Ellen was a devoted congregationalist of the Anglican Church and Christian education.

Ellen's civic mindedness and philanthropy is further evidenced in her Last Will and Testament which records includes numerous gifts to the City, ongoing investments in Christ Church – The Girls Friendly Society and financial support to the clergy - and to a number of charitable societies and institutions in New Zealand

- Whanganui City Council
    - Watercolour of John Ballance by Tennyson-Cole
    - Address presented to John Ballance by the Citizens of Whanganui
  - Whanganui Public Library
    - Maori weapons carvings and other Maori curios & Governor Paipais' walking stick
  - Christ Church - Vicar & Wardens of the Parish of Christ Church, Wanganui
    - Vicar & Curates Stipend" augmentations" of 20 pounds a year to the parish of Christ Church
    - A sum of 1,000 pounds towards building a future Rest Home for the Clergy on the St Chad's Church property - to be managed by the Parish ladies residing on Saint John's Hill.
  - The Branch of the Friendly Society of the Parish of Christ Church Whanganui (Church of England)
    - Ellen's piano, an electric teapot and coffee pot – for the benefit & use of the Branch of the Girl's Friendly Society of the Church of England associated with or established in connection with the Parish of Christ Church Whanganui

Direction to Trustees, in relation to Christian Work and Ministry (Anglican)

    - 1,000 Pounds investment to "some object or work" undertaken by the Branch of the Friendly Society of the Parish of Whanganui for the period of Kathleen's life. Kathleen died aged 59, on 28 April 1942 – which amounted to approximately 8 years, as Ellen passed away in 1935.
    - After the death of Kathleen Ballance, to pay the capital of the said sum to the Vicar & Church Wardens of the Parish of Christ Church Whanganui to be used as they shall see fit for the benefit of the Branch of the Girl's Friendly Society
  - Whanganui Orphanage, Alma Road
    - Ellen's gramophone & records
    - 1,000 pounds
  - Whanganui Horticultural Society - 50 pounds to be invested to provide a yearly prize or prizes
  - The St John's Ambulance Association Wanganui Centre - 50 pounds to be invested to provide yearly trophies
  - The Wanganui Branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals - 50 pounds
  - Wellington Branch of the Navy League – 25 Pounds
- 
- Business Women & Community Visionary

Ellen Balance was extraordinarily generous to the Wellington Diocese evidenced in her financial support to Christ Church Wanganui during her lifetime and the donation of property (The Knolls) for the construction of a church building known today as St Chads Anglican Church, on Saint John's Hill. This property had been the former home of John and Ellen & Kathleen (Kit) and donated to establish of new Christian mission for the new residential suburb. Subsequently, in her will she bequeathed a further sum of 1,000 pounds toward building a future Rest Home for the Clergy on the St Chad's Church property - to be managed by the Parish ladies residing on Saint John's Hill.

In 1910, Ellen purchased a property in Wicksteed St, where she lived with a companion. The property is situated at 264 Wicksteed St, central Whanganui.

39 Great North Road – Public Park to memorialise Womens Franchise, Ellen Ballance and the significant role of other Women in achieving universal suffrage?

Currently, the only memorial to Ellen Balance is a statement at the bottom of the stained glass window within St Chads Church. However, this is not publicly accessible and does not provide a full picture of the significant generosity and achievements of Ellen Balance. There is also a very high risk that with the Church being closed, that this Heritage Building (and memorial window) will be lost to the Whanganui community, and society, at large.

**SUBMISSION**

It is submitted that Council remembers and appropriately recognises the life and legacy of Ellen Ballance, a significant public figure and investor in the establishment of Whanganui, including financing public institutions, charitable enterprises, Christian education, and community outreach work. who gave so much to bettering New Zealand society, and

It is submitted that Council commits to investigating heritage protection to 39 Great North Road and securing a fitting memorial for Ellen Ballance who gave so much to bettering New Zealand society, and building the community fabric of Whanganui through her good deeds and monetary investment. A practical example of what could be advanced at Great North Road is Kate Sheppard House, Christchurch. <https://www.visitheritage.co.nz/visit/upper-south-island/te-whare-waiutuutu-kate-sheppard-house>.

The property, being sited on State Highway 3 with existing access and parking, could lend itself to conversion to a public park and Heritage Centre, including memorial to Ellen Ballance.

The acquisition of the property and building could be a future, strategic investment to complement the UNESCO City of Design accreditation for Whanganui.

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 19

Not speaking

First name: **Karen**  
Last name: **White**

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

The Sarjeant Gallery is a great asset for this community. Don't spoil it by putting on a door charge. It is proven in almost all instances, no matter how it's implemented (visitors vs locals) that attendance goes dramatically down, and therefore economic benefit is significantly reduced. Hysterical Facebook posts by mostly anonymous or fake accounts should not stop Council from making informed, evidence based decisions. The gallery is already earning significant revenue through it's shop and other commercial activities, and will continue to grow if not inhibited. The Whanganui East Pool should remain open and be fixed. Delay the Davis Library extension, particularly now that fuel prices (and therefore most products) are going to go up even further. Obviously do urgent maintenance work. Keep loan repayments as low as possible. The amount of the buffer is not mentioned, so it is hard to make an informed decision. I am in favour of a small buffer.

**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 86

Not speaking

First name: **Keith**  
Last name: **Wilkinson**

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Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Yes. While the work done to produce the annual plan is commendable, nowhere is there any mention of resilience or social cohesion. We cannot go blithely along thinking the environment or international trade is going to provide us with all we need for years to come. We have to become more self sufficient. Also we have many poor people living in Whanganui and quite a number of wealthy people. Such disparity of wealth creates distrust, undermines our sense of community and ultimately destroys social cohesion. This is something all councillors need to reflect on.

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**Supporting documents:**

## Annual Plan 2026/27

Submission # 79

Speaking

First name: Rachael  
Last name: Woodhead  
Organisation: Whanganui Residents & Ratepayers

Consultation Question	Submitter Feedback
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### Annual Plan 2026/27

**Do you have any feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2026/27?**

Sargeant Gallery should have a door charge to at least contribute to the costs. Whanganui East Pool - Pause for a summer. There is a wider conversation that could still happen before committing budget. Davis Library - Delay completely - unless the libraries are looked at in regards to how many we have and if some could be closed permanently to shift funding across. Loan Repayments is always preferable - it depends on what is left when the decisions are made. Minimum, if possible at least 50% of savings could be split between debt and rates relief? Budgets - Keep them lean. Only keep priority projects. We have additional areas we plan to speak to.

**Supporting documents:**