

Nelson City Council

Draft Annual Plan

2019-2020

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For more information please contact:

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Submitter details

1. Nelson Marlborough Health (Nelson Marlborough District Health Board) (NMH) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu o te Waka a Maui. NMH appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Nelson City Council's Draft Annual Plan.
2. NMH makes this submission in recognition of its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956.
3. This submission sets out particular matters of interest and concern to NMH.

Specific Comments

4. It is very pleasing to see that the Council and iwi are committed to working together in partnership and that an Iwi Engagement and Partnership Strategy is being developed. This shows commitment to collaboration where key players are able to work together for positive outcomes for our communities. NMH is interested in supporting this work as well.
5. NMH supports NCC's recognition that climate change presents key challenges for the region in terms of adaptation and resilience. Climate change will affect our community in a range of different ways in terms of exposure to hazards, sea level rise, and increase in vector borne disease. NMH supports additional investment in infrastructure, measuring and reducing council's greenhouse gases, investigating community emissions, adapting to coastal hazards, enhancing active transport options and protecting biodiversity and healthy streams.
6. NMH supports the proposed city centre development to improve mobility and walking spaces around the city. NMH support the Council's vision to create a liveable centre and would be happy to work with the Council on a City Centre Vision and Plan.
7. NMH supports the Meanwhile Spaces project that uses temporarily vacant buildings to house arts organisations, start-ups, community organisations and charities as this is one way the Council can support community groups and small business opportunities that could lead to future employment opportunities for people especially young people.
8. NMH notes that funding may be diverted from Rutherford Park to creating a park in the City Centre. If a park were to be created, NMH would like to see this park include attractions for children, who are under-catered for in the central city, and

to include shade so people can get respite from the sun, a water fountain to access free drinking water, and accessible seating. NMH recommends that such an area is alcohol free and smokefree.

9. In regards to smokefree, it is worth noting that Nelson City Council is lagging behind other New Zealand Councils in terms of its smokefree policies. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in New Zealand. Many other councils have adopting the following policies relating to restricting smoking in outdoor dining areas, central business districts, council buildings, transport hubs, social housing and at events. Nelson City Council along with Gore, Queenstown, Tasman and McKenzie Councils are in the bottom five South Island Councils in terms of the extent of their smokefree policies [refer to Appendix one].¹ The public are now in favour of smokefree places and spaces. The 2018 Nelson Tasman's Fresh Air Project showed that 95.8% of customers were in support of smokefree outdoor dining and 73.5% of customers were more likely to visit again because a café was smokefree.²
10. NMH urges NCC to endorse the government's SmokeFree 2025 Aotearoa goal and to adopt an action plan of how the Council may support this.
11. NMH strongly recommends that Nelson City Council works closely with NMH to develop a range of smokefree strategies for Nelson City and adopts a smokefree approach within its City Centre Plan.
12. Making the central business district a smokefree environment will enhance amenity values and encourage activity. Evidence shows that extending smokefree areas:
 - a. does not harm business^{3,4} ,
 - b. can reduce the impact of cigarette-related litter in outdoor areas, resulting in reduced cleaning costs, fire risk and environmental impacts⁵
 - c. is generally supported by the public⁶

¹

<https://www.midcentraldhb.govt.nz/HealthServices/PublicHealth/Documents/Smokefree%20Mapping%20NZ%20Councils-Outdoors%20and%20Spaces%20-%20202535%20SOUTH%20ISLAND.pdf>

² <https://www.smokefree.org.nz/smoking-its-effects/health-effects>

³ Loomis BR, Shafer PR, van Hasselt M. 2013. *The economic impact of smoke-free laws on restaurants and bars in 9 states*. Preventing Chronic Disease 10:120327

⁴ World Health Organization. 2015. *Tobacco*. Fact sheet No 339. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe

⁵ Cancer Society of New Zealand and Health Sponsorship Council. 2008. *Smokefree councils implementation kit: A guide for local health promoters*. Wellington: Cancer Society of New Zealand and Health Sponsorship Council

⁶ Health Promotion Agency. 2013. *Acceptability of extended smokefree areas and smokefree cars*. Wellington: Health Promotion Agency

- d. reduces the risk of adverse health effects from second-hand smoke exposure, de-normalises smoking especially around children, and encourages smokers to quit⁴

- 13. NMH supports the proposed cycle routes including the Cross-town Link, Waimea Road, Hampden Street Intersection and the Main Road Stoke Cycleway improvements because these projects support people to walk and cycle.
- 14. NMH supports the upgrading of the water network including the additional funding required for the pipeline renewal and wastewater model calibration, and stormwater and flood protection.
- 15. NMH supports the important work that Council does in partnering and supporting the work of community groups to focus on community wellbeing.
- 16. NMH supports Queen's Garden Toilet upgrade and encourages the Council to consider an accessibility audit to ensure that all users can access this toilet easily.
- 17. NMH supports the installation of an accessible ramp from the Trafalgar Pavilion to the Trafalgar Park.
- 18. NMH supports the construction of the Community Youth Facility in Stoke.

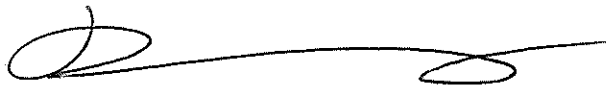
Community Housing

- 19. NMH acknowledges that the Council is looking carefully at its community housing stock. It is well understood that New Zealand is facing a shortage of subsidised housing especially as home ownership is dropping and our population is ageing. NMH acknowledges that the much of Council stock lacks accessibility requirements and requires upgrades to insulation and heating which is a cost to the Council and subsequently the ratepayer, nonetheless it is important that this work be completed for the wellbeing of the tenants. Key to the argument is the fact that some of the most vulnerable live in Council's community housing and this housing is their home. Therefore it is important that any decision that the Council makes regarding the ownership model of this housing needs to ensure that the long term health and wellbeing of these residents is considered, and that the level of service is continued and not diminished in any way. To ensure that this occurs, the Council needs to retain a share of the community housing so that it can exercise some control over standards. NMH recommends Option F) Mixed ownership of community housing is adopted.

Conclusion

20. NMH thanks the Nelson City Council for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Annual Plan.
21. NMH believes that many of the variations to the Long Term Plan 2018-28, as set out in the Draft Annual Plan, will benefit community health and wellbeing as discussed in this submission.
22. However, NMH considers that there are some further initiatives that NCC can implement to result in greater community health and wellbeing outcomes. This includes making the streets and public spaces of the Nelson CBD smokefree environments. NMH would like to offer its assistance in working with NCC on this matter.
23. NMH looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with NCC on activities that will be of direct benefit to the wellbeing and health of the community, and encourages NCC's continued active commitment to leading and investing in social development of our community.
24. NMH **wishes to be heard** in support of its submission.

Yours sincerely



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