

**Submission on Tasman
District Council
Consultation Document
for the Long Term Plan
2018-2028**

5 April 2018

For more information please contact:

Jane Murray

NMDHB Public Health Service

Email: jane.murray@nmdhb.govt.nz

Phone: (03) 543 7805

Nelson Marlborough District Health Board (NMDHB) (NMH) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu. NMH appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Tasman District Council (TDC) Consultation Document and supporting information for the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

We see it as essential for TDC to continue to work in partnership with NMH around promoting and developing social and physical environments which will contribute to the health, wellbeing and resiliency of the local population. Of particular relevance to this submission, key issues where TDC and NMH can effectively work together are drinking water, active transport and physical activity, and healthy homes and housing affordability.

The table overleaf page outlines specific areas of the draft Plan that NMH wishes to support and includes a series of recommendations for the Council to consider.

Conclusion

NMH believes that the Tasman District Council Consultation Document and supporting information on the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 generally identifies key issues and reflects the current needs of the district.

NMH would like to offer its assistance in working with TDC on these issues.

NMH looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with TDC on activities that will be of direct benefit to the wellbeing and health of the community, and encourages TDC's continued active commitment to leading and investing in social development of our community.

NMH **wish to be heard** in support of its submission.

Yours sincerely



Peter Bramley
Chief Executive
Peter.bramley@nmdhb.govt.nz

Draft Plan Reference	Discussion	Recommendation / Support
<p>Draft Community Outcomes Pg 3</p>	<p>NMH supports the revision of the Community Outcomes. Outcome 1: NMH is pleased to see that the first outcome now states that the natural environment will be “sustainably managed”, this aligns the community outcomes with the purpose of the Resource Management Act. Outcome 2: It is also pleasing to see that accessible has been added to the descriptors for urban and rural environments. It is important that people of all ages and abilities can easily access places of interest in the region. Outcome 3: NMH supports the inclusion of the words “safe and secure” in relation to transport and infrastructure. Outcome 7: NMH supports the inclusion of two new bullet points outlining the Council’s commitment to foster relationships with Maori.</p>	<p>NMH supports the revisions to Community Outcomes 1,2, 3,7</p>
<p>Infrastructure Strategy</p>	<p>Infrastructure Priorities NMH supports the four priority areas (Infrastructure is safe and secure, meets needs of a changing population, is resilient and prudently managed). These priority areas will result in systems that can meet the current needs of the population as well be flexible enough to cater for future populations.</p>	
<p>Drinking Water Supply and Quality</p>	<p>NMH does not wish to comment on supply options (i.e. Waimea Dam versus alternative supplies or storage facilities) as it considers that falls more appropriately with the community given the wide range of considerations outside of public health. Quantity of water is a public health issue and appropriate solutions to mitigate risks to drinking water availability are supported. NMH supports the proposed programme of work to improve water sources and capacity including the provision of new trunk mains in Richmond, Motueka, and Rabbit Island</p>	<p>NMH asks that the TDC continues to consider the appropriate timing of all the upgrades with particular regard to commitments made in Council’s Water Safety Plans. NMH supports their implementation within the shortest practicable timeframe.</p> <p>NMH supports the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Option 1 to enhance water

(2021-22), the Mapua upgrades (2018-2022), the relocation of the Richmond water supply bores to reduce the risk of saltwater intrusion, and the installation of a new water source for the Dovedale rural water scheme.

NMH is pleased to see that the timeframes for these programmes is in the near future which will make it easier for the Council to meet the requirements of the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand 2005 (Revised 2008) (DWSNZ).

Chlorination of water supplies provides residual protection from contamination of drinking water within the distribution system, as implied by alternative option 1b under Part B: Improving Drinking Water Quality. (Consultation document p16).

NMH acknowledges TDC's strong commitment to improving drinking water quality by investing significantly in local water treatment plants. This will reduce the risk of drinking water contamination and the subsequent health and social implications.

NMH recommends that affordability arguments be weighed against the Council's legislative duties (under the Health Act 1956) to take all practicable steps to achieve full compliance with the DWSNZ within the shortest possible timeframe.

There is current uncertainty whether the Health (Fluoridation of Drinking Water) Amendment Bill will pass. If NMH acquires the power to make decisions and give directions about the fluoridation of local government drinking water supplies, NMH is keen to enter into discussions with TDC to discuss the Act's implications for the region.

- security and supply in accordance with the proposed programme (Consultation Document, Pg 14)
- Consideration of alternative option 1b to permanently chlorinate the listed supplies (Consultation document, Pg 16).
 - Principle Option to upgrade or install water treatment plants that provide the level of treatment required by the Standards (Infrastructure Plan, pg 27)
 - Support relocation of Richmond water supply bores further inland (Infrastructure Plan, pg 28)
 - Support installation of a new water source at Dovedale (Infrastructure Plan, pg 29)
 - Support construction of new infrastructure in Richmond and Motueka to service new areas of growth (Infrastructure Plan, pg 29)
 - Support the upgrades of existing trunk main and storage infrastructure for Mapua / Ruby Bay (Infrastructure Plan, pg 29)
 - Support writing and submission of Water Safety Plans for all supplies within the 2018/19 timeframe.

<p>Wastewater</p>	<p>NMH is pleased to see that TDC is proposing actions to reduce the number of overflows as these present a risk to environmental and public health.</p>	<p>NMH supports the following matters shown in the Infrastructure Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing programme of pipe renewal to replace broken and cracked pipes (pg 35) • Ongoing inflow and infiltration investigations (pg 35) • Pump station upgrades throughout the Pohara and Mapua wastewater network (pg 36-37) • Construction of new pump stations in Brightwater, Mapua and Motueka West (pg 37) • Upgrade of existing pump stations at Motueka, Richmond West and Brightwater (pg 37)
<p>Stormwater</p>	<p>NMH is supportive of the measures that the Council is initiating to mitigate flood risks.</p> <p>In addition, NMH agrees with the Council's approach to mitigating the effects of stormwater on the environment, in particular to improve the quality of the stormwater. The proposed stormwater upgrades will reduce the risk of wastewater overflow events and any associated potential public health effects.</p>	<p>NMH supports the following matters shown in the Infrastructure Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the capacity of the receiving pipes and streams (pg 43) • Construction of treatment wetlands (pg 44) • Installation of stormwater treatment devices (pg 44).
<p>Solid Waste</p>	<p>NMH supports the establishment of the Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit as this provides for efficiencies and further opportunities to minimise waste in the region.</p>	<p>NMH supports the trialling of new recycling drop off points.</p>

<p>Environmental Management</p>	<p>NMH continues to support TDC in its environmental monitoring programme. NMH recommends that the TDC continues to find ways to refine its programmes in order to respond quickly to any trends that show a detrimental effect (Environmental Management Activity Management Plan pg 4).</p>	
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>NMH notes that TDC is currently preparing a network operating framework for Richmond which considers all modes of transport and includes establishing walking and cycling corridors, intersection improvements and the creations of hubs where different transport modes can interact. NMH supports TDC's intention to fund a range of Active Transport initiatives. Investment in active transport delivers a range of social, environmental and economic benefits which include reduced congestion, emissions, and increased health and wellbeing. Active transport is becoming increasingly important for all age groups. For Tasman's ageing population, active transport offers people greater transport choice in terms of affordability and accessibility.</p> <p>NMH supports the proposed investment into extending the Nelson-Richmond bus routes but continues to urge TDC to consider incorporating Wakefield into the route in the future. Given the number of satellite communities between Wakefield and Richmond, a regular bus route would be a great asset to those communities especially those who are unable/ do not wish to drive. People need to weigh up whether they will pay more for accommodation close to key locations, or choose to pay for cheaper housing further away and pay more transport costs. Extending bus services</p>	<p>NMH supports the following matters shown in the Infrastructure Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct new footpaths (pg 50) • Renew existing footpaths (pg 50) • Undertake network optimisation improvements that will provide a transportation network that is integrated, safe, and fit for purpose for all users. • Extend the existing Nelson-Richmond route to provide better coverage of Richmond (pg 50). <p>NMH recommends that should the Richmond bus extension prove successful then consideration should be given to further extending the service to Wakefield.</p>

	<p>provides more choice for people, this is important when housing costs continue to rise.</p> <p>NMH welcomes the addition of a new performance measure monitoring the annual growth in use of passenger transport exceeding specified levels. This will assist TDC to tailor services to meet needs. (Transportation Activity Management Plan (AMP) pg 29)</p> <p>The TDC have identified that the condition of the footpaths around the District is worsening. It is pleasing to see additional funding added to address this as well as a change in the performance targets from 90% to 95% of footpaths being improved to meet average or better conditions. (Transportation Activity Management Plan pg 38)</p> <p>NMH is pleased to see that within the Levels of Services for the minimum length of new footpaths shows an increasing target each year as this shows an annual commitment to improving active transport infrastructure. (Council Activities Summary pg 39).</p> <p>The key list of stakeholders that have an interest in Transportation activity is listed on pg 46 of the Transportation AMP. NMH requests that NMH's Public Health Service is also added to the stakeholder list.</p>	<p>NMH supports the following matters shown in the LTP Consultation document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takaka to Pohara shared pathway past Motupipi School (pg 19) • Tasman's Great Taste Trail extension from Norris Gully to Motueka (pg 19) <p>NMH supports the following matters shown in the Council Activities Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town centre upgrades to provide improved shared spaces (pg 44) <p>NMH recommends that the Public Health Service is listed as a stakeholder.</p> <p>NMH supports the allocated funding identified for Williams Street, Salisbury Road and Queens Street for improving active transport infrastructure.</p>
<p>Active Transport</p>	<p>Within Appendix B: Detailed Capital Budgets in the Transport AMP, NMH notes that funding has been allocated to upgrades to Williams Street, Salisbury Road, Queen</p>	

Street to improve efficiency. It is hoped that this includes upgrades to pedestrian and cycling facilities, as well as road improvements. This is especially important given that there are at least seven educational facilities in the area from ECEs through to the secondary school. For children, using active transport to and from school is an important way to get some physical activity each day. With the high child obesity rate in New Zealand, this is a relatively easy way to increase physical activity in children.

<p>Cycle Infrastructure</p>	<p>TDC has clearly demonstrated a commitment to cycling in the region through its Great Taste Trail and additional cycle routes. However given the number of cycle trails and the expected increase in cycling, there appears to be a low number of bicycle stands (20) as shown in the Transport AMP pg 17. Investment in good quality, easily accessible cycle parking is critical to increasing cycling as a mode of transport.¹ Therefore the number and quality of bike stands in the region should be assessed to see if it adequately meets demand. Cyclists need to be able to easily lock the frame of the bike directly to the bike stand, many old style racks only allow the front wheel to be locked which is not as secure given that most bikes have quick releases on their front wheels.</p> <p>NMH notes that in the Property Survey 2017 (Property AMP pg 22), that only 55% of staff agreed with the statement that Council provides enough secure bike stands for staff. The levels of bike stand can have an effect on cycling numbers. Improving cycle infrastructure is one way an organisation can help encourage its employees to use active transport and this is something that NMH is looking into for its sites.</p>	<p>Recommendation: that TDC assesses the number and quality of the bike stands in the region.</p>
<p>Drinking Fountains</p>	<p>NMH notes that Street Furniture Inventory Summary (Transportation AMP, pg 17) shows that there is only one drinking fountain in the Tasman Region. Given that the district is one of the sunniest in the country, NMH urges the</p>	<p>Recommendation: that TDC increases the number of drinking fountains in the towns in the region.</p>

¹ Austroads (2016) *Bicycle Parking Facilities: Guidelines for Design and Installation*, Retrieved from <https://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/items/AP-R527-16>

	<p>TDC to consider increasing drinking fountains across the district when town centres are upgraded. TDC has shown its commitment to the introduction of a sugar sweetened beverages policy whereby sugar sweetened beverages are not provided or made available for purchase at council-owned buildings and events. Increasing the number of drinking fountains is another way the Council can contribute to the health and wellbeing of its citizens by giving people the option of free easily accessible water in public places.</p>	
<p>Shade structures</p>	<p>In addition it is noted that there are only three shade structures in the District (Transportation AMP, pg 17). Further consideration should be given to increasing either the number of structures or suitable trees so that people are able to get refuge from the sun in the middle of the day. This is especially important for children in playgrounds to ensure that they have additional sun protection.</p>	<p>Recommendation: that TDC looks at the amount of shading in playgrounds in the region.</p>
<p>Playgrounds</p>	<p>The Reserves and Facilities AMP states that the majority of the playgrounds were old and nearing the end of their asset life and that makes maintaining the playgrounds to a high level of compliance difficult (pg 57) but it is difficult to ascertain what playground renewals were planned in the AMP. Playgrounds are an important community asset in terms of social connection and increasing physical activity. NMH would encourage the Council to continue to invest playgrounds across the district, including placing playground equipment into new subdivisions.</p>	<p>NMH supports the Council to continue investment in playgrounds.</p>
<p>Community Facilities Pg 19</p>	<p>NMH want to emphasise the importance of continual investment in community facilities, these are places which can knit communities together by providing a social meeting</p>	<p>NMH supports the following matters shown in the LTP Consultation document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saxton Field Development

	<p>place.</p> <p>NMH is pleased to see that the Council plans to continue to provide the existing 101 housing units for older adults. As the population ages, and housing affordability lowers, it is important that older people on lower incomes have access to affordable housing. NMH supports the creation of a working party to investigate future options for community housing and would be happy to be involved in the working party. (Reserves & Facilities AMP p 22).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motueka Library Development • Local Museum Funding. <p>Recommendation: NMH would like to be part of the working party investigating Community housing options</p>
<p>Housing for Elder</p>	<p>The Consultation Document only alludes to one mechanism to address housing affordability and that is the provision of more land for development. NMH considers that the issue of housing affordability should be given a greater profile within the LTP including by incorporating it as a discrete matter and providing reference to the Housing Accord and how its initiatives will give effect to, for example, including provisions which support affordable housing within the Tasman Resource Management Plan.</p> <p>Housing costs in the Nelson area are high compared to many other parts of New Zealand. The Median House Price to Median Household Income Multiples for February 2018 show that the average house sells for 6.4 times the average household income. As a comparison, the average in larger centres is 5.6 for Wellington metro, 4.9 for Dunedin and 5.2 for Christchurch, and in smaller centres, 4.1 for Timaru, 5.7 for Napier and 2.9 for Wanganui.</p> <p>Although housing generally reflects rather than creates socio-economic position, affordability has an influence in terms of:</p>	<p>Recommendation: Housing affordability is given a greater profile within the LTP</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to quality housing, • where people live and thus social and economic opportunities, • home ownership and the benefits in the stability that that offers, and • income available for other needs such as food, heating and health care. <p>Lack of affordable housing has a flow of effect in terms of people being attracted to the region and wishing to stay long term.</p>	
Public Toilets	<p>NMH supports the Council to review the provision of public toilets in the Region to ensure that the standard of public toilets is maintained (Reserves & Facilities AMP p 23)</p>	
Parks	<p>The Reserves & Facilities AMP (pg 36) shows that there has been a change in the Level of Service concerning the measure ensuring that "85% of residential properties are within 500m of open space." NMH agrees that this is an appropriate measure for assessing the open space network in existing urban areas. However further consideration should be given to decreasing the distance from 500m to 400m or less in new developments. Tasmania's population is ageing and therefore it may be increasingly difficult for older people to walk longer distances therefore it would be more appropriate to provide more open green spaces in newer areas which residents are easily able to access. This encourages physical activity for people who are less able and also provides more places where people can congregate which is important for mental health. Research has shown that living in areas with walkable green spaces positively</p>	<p>NMH recommends that the provision of small pocket parks are increased to being within 400m or less in new developments.</p>

	influenced the longevity of urban senior citizens, with one particular study showing that the factor of walkable green streets and spaces near the residence significantly and positively influenced the survival of senior citizen's independent of a person's age, sex, marital status and socio economic status. ²	
Parks and Recreation Facilities	It is pleasing to see that CPTED principles are incorporated into the design of parks and recreation facilities to ensure that the risk of crime is minimised (Reserves and Facilities AMP pg 91).	NMH supports the safety monitoring programmes for Reserves and Facilities.
Parks and Community Facilities	TDC's Reserves General Policies states that TDC Reserves are smokefree. NMH supports these policies and encourages the Council to extend the policy further to a Smokefree Outdoor Policy where smoking is banned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council events • the principal entrances and exits of Council buildings and facilities, carparks and bus stops, • shared public spaces • alfresco dining areas, • beaches • council housing Auckland City Council is in the process of rolling out this type of policy ³ . Given the success shown the preliminary	NMH recommends that TDC extends its smokefree policy to a broader outdoor policy.

² Takano T, Nakamura K, Watanabe M. 2002. *Urban residential environments and senior citizens' longevity in megacity areas: the importance of walkable green spaces*. Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health 2002;56:913-918 Retrieved from <http://jch.bmj.com/content/56/12/913.info>

³ <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-by-laws/out-policies/Pages/smokefree-policy-.aspx>

results of the Fresh Air Project, 96% of people surveyed in the Nelson/Tasman trial supported smokefree outdoor dining areas, more people may favour an extended policy. Reducing the prevalence of smoking and de-normalising smoking behaviour is one way the Council can improve the health and wellbeing of Tasman communities.