

What do you think?

KCDC Long Term Plan Questionnaire – Jake Roos/Low Carbon Kapiti response

Submit by 31 July 2017

Our key challenges

Which of the challenges listed do you think are most significant for Kāpiti?

- → *Protecting our unique natural environment*
- → *Comparatively low levels of high-value employers and tourism*
- → *Limited transport connectedness in some areas*

Any challenges you think we've missed?

→ *The need to move to a low carbon economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and phase out the use of fossil fuels.*

→ *Adapting to climate change – increased flooding, sea-level rise, migration, drought*

What's important to you? Tell us what you like or don't like most about each approach:

Building on our community strength

→ I like: *'More community events could look to attract locals as well as visitors'*

'increased funding of community groups with an aim of making our villages more liveable'

→ I don't like: N/A

Enhancing our natural advantage

→ I like: *'attracting residents and businesses that support this.'*

→ I don't like: *No mention of restoring native forests, encouraging the hill country to regenerate into bush.*

Attracting greater growth

→ I like: *'enhance the desirability and usability of our townships and their contribution to the local economy. Community development work could focus primarily on attracting visitors and growing employment opportunities'*

→ I don't like: *'the premise that greater growth will benefit our district'. What kind of growth do you mean? Growth meaning development can be either good or bad depending on the type of development: starting with a premise that does not make this distinction is disingenuous and will lead to poor decisions.*

Growth can mean economic growth measured by GDP. GDP is a poor measure of improved human welfare and prosperity and indeed economic activity – unpaid work is ascribed no value for example. This has been widely accepted by all reputable economists for decades. The

regional council has adopted the Genuine Progress Indicator as a key metric in recognition of this and I suggest the district council takes a similar step.

Growth could also mean population growth. A degree of this is inevitable, but it is far from guaranteed to be beneficial. Poorly planned or misplaced development to accommodate newcomers can lead to negative outcomes for people, the economy and the environment.

If you'd like to see a different approach to how the Council focuses their resources and activities, tell us about it:

→ Title: *Sustainable development*

About the approach:

Starting with a premise that a healthy environment is a necessary precondition for having a healthy society and economy, decisions are taken that ensure the best possible outcomes for people living here now and many years in the future. I recommend that the Council reacquaint itself with Te Haerenga Whakamua – the ART Confederation's perspective on sustainable development written in 2012 to inform the district plan review, and base its approach off this.

Of all the points you've made so far, what do you think is most important for us to focus on?

That reducing greenhouse gas emissions must be a priority in the Long Term Plan. The UN has recently said the next three years are the last chance to get global emissions on a downward path in time to stay within the 2 degree global warming limit of the Paris Agreement. Local government has a crucial role to play in reducing emissions, hence it must be included as a key challenge to be addressed in the 2018-21 LTP. Furthermore, the actions associated with reducing emissions will help address many of the other challenges the district faces, improve Kāpiti as a place to live and protect and enhance its number one unique advantage: its natural environment.

What changes will you notice in the coming years that will show you we're achieving what's important to you?

- The Council will achieve its 80% greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for 2021-22 and the district's greenhouse emissions will be declining also.
- more of our hill sides will be regenerating into native bush and there will be more restored environments such as forests, dunes and wetlands to enjoy.
- It will be easier and safer to get around by active transport, and there will be noticeably more people walking and cycling as a result
- There will be busy, vibrant town centres in Paraparaumu and Waikanae
- There will be places to charge electric vehicles at key civic destinations
- Streetlights will be LED – the streets at night will be lit in true colour instead of brown/orange.