

From: Resilient Carterton
191 Belvedere Road
Carterton

To: Carterton District Council
via email: submissions@cdc.govt.nz

Submission on Annual Plan 2019/20 Consultation Document

This is the submission from Resilient Carterton on the Annual Plan 2019/20. We wish to speak at the feedback session on 29 May 2019.

The global challenges facing our community (the 4 Es)

A resilient community will be better able to maintain the well-being of its people in the face of the 21st century's global challenges:

Ecological—water, food, climate disruption, ecological services, biodiversity loss, pollution, disease

Energy—declining resources and cost increases, climate change impacts e.g. supply disruptions

Economic—debt, fragile global economy, effects of droughts and storm events, especially with regards to our farmers, and the flow-on effect for local business and council rates

Equity—worsening inequality, lack of resources and engagement, impacts of climate change on deprived and displaced populations.

These issues and the actions needed are interrelated. Resilient Carterton's submission focuses on climate change and its effects.

Climate change

Climate change, its mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and managing the impacts of climate change, is the most important issue facing the Council and the District's residents.

Council needs to completely understand the problem and recognise the urgency and scale of the response needed.

This submission lists a number of actions to be taken by Council as soon as possible. In summary these are:

- Review the commitments made under the Mayoral Declaration on Climate Change, as signed and re-signed by Mayor John Booth.
- Measure and report regularly on the carbon emissions of Council and of its key suppliers such as Fulton Hogan.
- Set a target and actions to reduce those carbon emissions.
- Include climate change implications (emissions and risks) in every paper to Council meetings, committees, and advisory groups, and as a separate component of Annual Plans and Ten Year Plans.
- A connected, informed, and sustainable community will be more resilient to cope with the impacts of climate change.

Our current prosperity is based on energy from fossil fuels. We know these are declining, prices will increase, and the Emissions Trading Scheme (or future equivalent) will put pressure on carbon-emitting activities. It will never be cheaper or easier to take action to mitigate or prepare for climate change than now. So don't delay. Do it while still possible.

Proposals

We were challenged to provide you with suggestions on what to do. Here is a list of over 40 specific practicable actions, many of which involve little cost.

We ask that Council commit to the following actions, and set dates and assign resources for each to be achieved:

Climate change mitigation—direct action by Council

1. Review and report progress against commitments made under the Mayoral Declaration on Climate Change.
2. Develop ambitious action plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Publish the water demand/conservation strategy that has been developed over the past two years.
4. Measure and report on emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide gases.
5. Include climate change implications (emissions and risks) in every paper to Council meetings, committees, and advisory groups, and as a separate component of Annual Plans and Ten Year Plans.
6. Lower the carbon footprint of Council events.

7. Implement green infrastructure, such as rain gardens, street trees, and bioswales to absorb stormwater.
8. Improve the energy and resource efficiency of infrastructure.
9. Replace Mayor's and all Council vehicles with electric or hybrid vehicles.
10. Urban design and population growth plans to capture all opportunities to minimise carbon emissions of community.
11. Plant lots more trees.
12. Provide trees for others to plant.
13. Include climate change/fossil fuel ethical criteria for Council investments.
14. Implement solar PV arrays at Council facilities, eg Events Centre, offices, Daleton Farm, pool. Any excess could be fed back to the grid.
15. Adopt broad measures of well-being (rather than GDP and consumption) for reporting the general well-being of the District residents.

Climate change mitigation— support and promote in the community

16. Lobby central government for better and effective mitigation policies.
17. Lobby Regional Council to incorporate/align long distance public transport in its public transport services.
18. Promote walking, cycling, public transport, and other low carbon transport options.
19. Support the use of renewable energy.
20. Don't support international tourism. The global comprehensive tourism footprint of tourism-related greenhouse gas emissions is about four times greater than previous estimates, is growing faster than international trade, and is already responsible for almost 1/10 of global greenhouse gases.
21. Support the uptake of electric vehicles as transition to limited transport use.
22. Promote local economy and local production of goods and services.
23. Support local currency.
24. Promote frequent community feel-good celebration events.
25. Promote electric vehicle public charging points.
26. Promote carbon assessment tools for businesses and households.
27. Provide suggestions on how individuals can reduce their carbon footprint.

Climate change adaptation—direct action by Council

28. Ensure there is explicit consideration of climate change impacts in the next review of the Council Infrastructure Strategy. Given the uncertainties predicting these impacts,

best practice is to consider multiple futures and multiple time horizons. Planning needs to go beyond just engineering considerations but also include explicit consideration of social equity in infrastructure design and choices, and of biodiversity implications.

29. Install renewable energy sources (wind/solar) for council usage.
30. Ensure stormwater capacity is adequate for increased storm events.
31. Review points of risk from flooding and address where practicable.
32. Develop plan for local risks: drought, localised flash flood, flood, high winds.
33. Top and prune trees at risk from high winds, especially ones too close to power and communications lines.

Climate change adaptation—support and promote in the community

34. Assist community to understand, prepare for, and respond to the physical impacts of climate change.
35. Promote household resilience including food, water, health—emphasising local and small-scale.
36. Support better insulation.
37. Support workshops on ‘How to deal with climate change impact’.
38. Promote passive solar, healthy, and energy efficient house design.
39. Promote household water tanks—require them in all new builds, and promote the retrofitting of existing homes. Water tanks of adequate size (10–20,000 litres) collecting rainwater reduce the demands on town supply, reduce stormwater runoff, and provide independent sources of water in case of natural emergencies, eg earthquake. Water tanks on site promotes personal responsibility in water usage.

Climate change—other

40. Reconsider WEDSAP and the pursuit of economic growth in the context of climate change.
41. Consider signing up to Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.
42. Include climate change as a standing separate item on every Council meeting agenda.

We would be pleased to talk with you about our submission. The new approach by Council to have conversations with submitters rather than formal hearing is applauded and we look forward to a constructive conversation.



Resilient Carterton
13 May 2019