



**KAPITI COAST ASSN Inc**

The Mayor and Councillors  
Kapiti Coast District Council  
PO Box 60601  
Paraparaumu

Submission on the 2018-2038 Long Term Plan

Kapiti Coast Grey Power Assn (KCGP) thanks the Council for the opportunity to comment on the plan and congratulates the Council on its initiative to write to each household detailing the rates that will accrue to their properties.

KCGP is however, concerned that the consultation period was started on a Saturday and information was not available to ratepayers until 25/3/2018 the letter to each household was not available to the end of that week. While the average rate is lower than last year, and is within the Council's parameters, the constant increases above the rate of inflation is steadily decreasing the standard of living of the most vulnerable, those on fixed incomes.

*Financial Strategy*

KCGP welcomes the green line test and the limit on capital expenditure but believes that the Council is depriving ratepayers of income by not rating for benefit or charging rentals for encroachment.

*District economic development*

The proposed introduction of a rate for businesses is welcomed by KCGP after advocating for its introduction for many years.

KCGP is pleased that the Town Centres Transformation Project is identified as economic development, and the project time frame for this activity has been extended to reduce the impact on rate-payers.

KCGP remains concerned that there is no effective measure of Council economic policies that will satisfy the community that this expenditure is resulting in an increase in higher incomes for Kapiti's workers. Discussions with a policy analyst last year (which Council directed were to take place) about KPIs appear to have been

fruitless. Perhaps now that businesses are contributing to this expenditure they will be seeking accountability.

### Rating Review

We welcome the review of rates. Rates in Kapiti are regressive and are relative higher than other Councils in the region because medium income is lower and rates are less affordable.

### Rates assistance

KCGP welcomes the amendments that have been made to this policy. However KCGP is concerned at the low numbers of renters applying for rates relief. Discussions with the firms that manage rental properties reveal that all but one are unaware of the assistance that can be given to qualifying tenants. All but one firm contacted saw benefit for some of their tenants. An examination of the claim form suggests that the need to declare income to the landlord, along with a lack of publicity may be a barrier for tenants.

### Recommendation

The give greater publicity to this policy and Council staff meet with KCGP to review the design of the application form.

### Housing

KCGP welcomes the Councils initiative in this area. The report of the Housing Task Force is fully supported by KCGP. It is disappointing to see that a three year time frame has been allocated to this activity

### Coastal Protection

The full version of the LTP includes the statement

“Council has decided to continue with the maintenance of the wall, but any tasks associated with capital works will be deferred to 2024 and beyond to allow the Council to decide on our strategy and approach on coastal matters in the district.”

KCGP suggests that it is for the Community to decide to support any strategy and approach to coastal matters.

KCGP has two concerns in this area.

#### 1) The Paekakariki Sea wall

During workshop discussions it was revealed that there were two options

- A rock revetment or
- At a greater cost a concrete structure.

KCGP's concerns are that while the concrete structure was supported by the Paekakariki community this is a district wide charge and the whole community should be consulted because.

- Of the increased cost of the concrete structure which was stated to be the preferred option because it will leave a beach at low tide and
- The precedent that this will establish for other areas on the coast north of Paekakariki which may also have concrete structures established

KCGP asks that design work on a concrete wall not proceed until the question of precedent is considered and the whole community is consulted.

2) That property owners, where the Council has established a sea wall to protect public assets, also receive benefit, should be rated for that benefit.

Previous LTP's have said:

“Where public intervention to protect public assets also creates private benefit via protection of private assets, Council may seek contribution to the cost of the works based on the specific analysis of the private benefit created.”

The works south of Marine Parade are protecting significant private assets as is the maintenance work at Raumati.

KCGP asks that this policy be revived and implemented. A statement in a previous LTP that this work (determining benefit) will cost more than the revenue received does not stand over the 30 year lifetime of the structures.

### Stormwater

KCGP welcomes the prioritisation of stormwater works to provide relief for affected residents. With nearly one third of Kapiti's properties designated as being flood-prone (for a 1 in 100 year event), minimising flooding and protecting flood prone properties is a significant challenge and the impact of climate change on ground water tables, through rising sea levels and increasing storm intensity, a 30 year time frame to prevent flooding of habitable floor flooding is clearly not acceptable. KCGP is concerned that these properties will become uninsurable for flooding.

### Age Friendly Kapiti

KCGP is disappointed that the statement in the long version LTP is not supported by a policy statement and a strategy. KCGP fully supports the action of the OPC in developing a policy and strategy for consideration by the Council. It also supports the policy and strategy as developed by the OPC

### Encroachment

Despite the Council telling KCGP that encroachment would be considered in this LTP, there has been no action and ratepayers have been deprived (again) of a

### Rubbish

The switch from the yellow rubbish bags to bins has seen a number of complaints by KCGP members. They fall into two distinct areas.

1. Elderly, or disabled people will have problems handling a bin up a steep path or driveway it could be very dangerous.

2. Those people who do lots of recycling tend to have less rubbish, particularly if it is a one person household, and will put their yellow rubbish bag out once every 4-6 weeks. They are now have to pay for rubbish bins which they don't want and don't

need. Many people see this as extortion. It sends the wrong signal about recycling. If they go the tip there is an incentive for people to put their rubbish in the recycling.

We wish to make an oral submission. Unfortunately due to other circumstances we will not be available until 3 May at the earliest.

Kevin Burrows

President

Kapiti Coast Grey Power