

# AGENDA



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MEMBERSHIP: Andy Cranston (Chair), Colin Alder, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Ani Pahuru-Huriwai, Rawinia Parata, Aubrey Ria, Tony Robinson, Rob Telfer, Teddy Thompson, Rhona Tibble, Nick Tupara, Josh Wharehinga and Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz.

## OPERATIONS - ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAIAO ME NGĀ HAPORI Committee

DATE: Wednesday 7 December 2022

TIME: 12:30PM

AT: Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Chambers), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne

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# Operations

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<b>Reports to:</b>	Council
<b>Chairperson:</b>	
<b>Deputy Chairperson:</b>	
<b>Membership:</b>	Mayor and all Councillors
<b>Quorum:</b>	Half of the members when the number is even and a majority when the membership is uneven.
<b>Meeting frequency:</b>	Six weekly (or as required).

## Functions

- To provide governance oversight of Council's operational programmes, services, activities and projects (including major projects) related to environmental operations, community development and infrastructural assets.
- To enable the progress of the Council's operational activities, projects and services.
- Its scope includes:

### Environment Services and Protection

- Building Services
- Enforcement
- Environmental Health
- Pests and Plant management
- Biodiversity
- Integrated catchments
- Land management
- Animal control
- Harbour management

### Infrastructure Services

- Urban Stormwater
- Wastewater
- Water Supply
- Land, Rivers and Coastal
- Local Roding Network – including associated structures, bridges and retaining walls, walkways, footpaths and road reserve, landscaping and ancillary services and facilities, street lighting and traffic management control
- Solid Waste – including landfill and transfer stations, recycling and waste minimisation

### Communities

- Cultural Activities including Theatres, Museum and Public Art, Library and Tairawhiti Navigations
- Recreation and Amenity – including open spaces, parks and gardens, cemeteries, community property and the Olympic Pool complex

### Planning and Development

- Customer Engagement
- Support Services

## Terms of Reference

### Operational oversight

- Provide governance direction for the Council's operational activities as outlined in the general purposes and scope section.
- Review and adjust relevant working programme priorities within agreed budgets, activity management plans and levels of service as per the Council's Long Term Plan.
- Receive updates on programmes, major projects/projects and activities.
- To have input into, and make decisions on, operational proposals, options and cost of projects/major projects.
- Contribute to the development of short term plans for community services and community facilities.
- Consider the strategic regulatory and compliance issues.
- Prepare submissions on any matter that is within its rationale and terms of reference for Council approval and submit on behalf of Council when timelines do not allow Council prior approval.

### Asset management

- Oversee the management of all Council's physical assets – including land, buildings and roads.
- Make decisions on infrastructure and assets becoming Council's and on infrastructure and community assets on behalf of Council.
- Progress the sale of properties as approved in the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan.
- Contribute to the development of and oversee delivery of economic development projects.
- Consider proposals to change the status or revoke the status of a reserve as defined in the Reserves Act 1977 (including the hearing of submissions).

## Power to Act

To make all decisions necessary to fulfil the role and scope of the Committee subject to the limitations imposed.

To establish subcommittees, working parties and forums as required.

To appoint non-voting advisory members and/or Tangata Whenua representatives to assist the Committee.

## Power to Recommend

To Council and/or any standing committee as it deems appropriate.

### 3. Governance Work Plan

OPERATIONS - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE							Meeting Dates				
Group Activity	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	13-Apr	9-Jun	4-Aug	15-Sep	15-Dec	
Community Lifelines	Journeys Infrastructure	June 2020 Weather Event	The Finance and Performance Committee requested a progress report on the June 2020 Emergency Works Project which has a repair cost of \$16.8M.	Information	Dave Hadfield						
Community Lifelines	Solid Waste & Road Safety Education	Gisborne District Council Future Recycling and Rubbish Collection Services	To improve Council's waste management system for better health and safety outcomes and emissions reduction by introducing a wheelie bin service for Gisborne City for kerbside collection of rubbish and recycling with the intent to introduce future service for organics.	Decision	Chloe Howard-Lloyd						
Community Lifelines	Journeys Operations	Tolaga Bay Wharf	Report on completed safety Improvements on Tolaga Bay Wharf and the ongoing issues we have had.	Information	Kellee Tupara						
Community Lifelines	4Waters Operation	Ruatoria Water Supply Update	Progress of establishing a potable water source for carrier supply and community collection in Ruatoria	Information	Murray Campbell						
Community Lifelines	Journeys Operations	Emergency Rooding Fund Application and Plan for Delivery	The purpose of this report is to provide information on the steps required to complete an emergency rooding fund request to Waka Kotahi and provide the timeline for delivery if the funding for the latest March 2022 weather event is approved.	Information	Donna McArthur						
Community Lifelines	Solid Waste	Waste Management Collections Contract	To agree to go to direct procurement for the waste management kerbside collection	Public Exclusion (D)	Phil Nickerson						
Strategy and Science	Science monitoring	Swimming Pool monitoring programme	Requesting decision on whether to continue the pool monitoring program	Decision	Kathryn Sharman						
Community Lifelines	Solid Waste	The Future of Refuse and Recycling for Tairāwhiti	Report for Council's approval to improve our current kerbside collection to a wheelie bin system.	Information	Chloe Howard-Lloyd						

OPERATIONS - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE							Meeting Dates				
Group Activity	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	13-Apr	9-Jun	4-Aug	15-Sep	15-Dec	
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	Hawaiki Turanga Update	To mid-Feb Committee 2023	Information	De-Arne Sutherland						
Community Lifelines	4 Waters Operations - Land Rivers & Coastal	Flood Mitigation Proposal Downstream of Papatu Station - Te Arai River	The purpose of this report is to analyse the urgent flood mitigation proposal received from Clark Farming and provide implications and recommendations to the Operations Committee for approval.	Decision	Mangala Wickramanayake						
Community Lifelines	4 Waters Operations	Gisborne Water Supply - Meeting the New Water Quality Assurance Rules	The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee about the new rules for drinking water quality and explain the potential for not meeting full compliance during the 2022/2023 summer.	Information	Judith Robertson						
Community Lifelines	Solid Waste	Solid Waste Update	To report on the following in 2022: Works planned around solid waste and the timing of the review of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. Waste Contracts moving forward. Update on the Paokahu landfill. Update on the Tairāwhiti Environment Centre. Resource Recovery Centre regarding waste plans, waste collection contracts; and what can be done around illegal dumping.	Information	Phil Nickerson						
Environmental Services and Protection	Compliance and Enforcement	Annual Report Dog Control Policy and Practices 1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021	The Council is required under the Dog Control Act and subsequent amendments to report annually to the Secretary of Local Government on its dog control policy and operations. Section 10A requires Council to report on a number of statistical aspects of its dog control policy responsibilities.	Decision	Gary McKenzie						
Environmental Services and Protection	Compliance and Enforcement	Our Air Tairāwhiti 2022 - Review of Winter Air Quality and Consideration of New Research	Update on monitoring for air quality in Tairāwhiti for the year 2022.	Information	Kate Sykes						

OPERATIONS - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE							Meeting Dates				
Group Activity	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	13-Apr	9-Jun	4-Aug	15-Sep	15-Dec	
Internal Partnerships	Democracy & Support Services	Appointment of the Deputy Chairperson of Operations – Environment & Communities		Decision	Heather Kohn						
Internal Partnerships	Democracy & Support Services	Appointment of the Deputy Chairperson of Operations - Infrastructure		Decision	Heather Kohn						
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	Cobham School Neighbourhood Play System	Update on the progress to improve play opportunities in Elgin through the development of a neighbourhood play system.	Information	Tyler Kirk						
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	Peel Street Toilets		Information	De-Arne Sutherland						
Liveable Communities	Integrated Catchments	Update Report on Projects Funded by the 2020–21 Natural Heritage Fund		Information	Melanie Cheetham						
Liveable Communities	Integrated Catchments	Allocation of the Natural Heritage Fund	To make recommendations on the allocation of the Natural Heritage Fund. This is an annual fund available to assist biodiversity related projects on private land.	Decision	Melanie Cheetham						
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	Waingake 29% Future Use Issues and Options	Report & Powerpoint	Workshop	Amy England						
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	Tokomaru Bay Destination Play Park	Will go to 2023 meeting - waiting until Hapu have the capacity to engage on the topic and likely to be late this year.	Information	Tyler Kirk						
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	Tokomaru United Sports Club Lease	Requesting to grant a lease to the Tokomaru United Sports Club for the building the club currently occupies.	Decision	Abbe Banks						

OPERATIONS - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE							Meeting Dates				
Group Activity	Activity	Name of agenda item	Purpose	Report type	Owner	13-Apr	9-Jun	4-Aug	15-Sep	15-Dec	
Liveable Communities	Community Projects	Waingake Transformation Programme Update	Provide an update on the Waingake Transformation Programme and associated restoration activities	Information	Amy England						
Liveable Communities	Integrated Catchments	GDC Internal Biodiversity Work Plan		Information	Don McLean						
Liveable Communities	Integrated Catchments	Land Overlay 3A and Sustainable Hill Country Project		Information	Kerry Hudson						
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	Makorori Master Plan Update	The plan will set out the priorities for the protection and enhancement of the beach for the next 20-30 years.	Information	Tyler Kirk						
Liveable Communities	Liveable Spaces	Peel Street Toilet Building Restrengthening Update	To mid-Feb Committee 2023	Information	De-Arne						
Strategy and Science	Community Projects	Water Services Entity Bill	Submission Content	Information	Yvette Kinsella						
Strategy and Science	Strategy and Science	AIA Water Availability Project	Aqua Intel Aotearoa (AIA) External presenters	Information	Tom Porter						
Strategy and Science	Strategy and Science	Uawa-Hikawai Catchment Scientific Bore Drilling Project	Completion Information Report	Information	Tom Porter/ Joanne Ferry/ Graeme Card						
Community Lifelines	4 Waters Infrastructure	Vehicle Fleet Update	To identify the relevant sections of Policy for Council's vehicle fleet acquisition/retention (ie what criteria is used to determine the current fleet and who makes the decision on acquiring and retiring vehicles); what the plan, timeframe and budget is for decarbonising the fleet (ie electrification) and explain the steps/policy/practice employed to ensure the fleet use is optimised.	Information	Simon Jeune & Graham MacLean						
Community Lifelines	Journeys Infrastructure	Emergency Works Roading Repairs	The purpose of this report is to obtain local share of funding for emergency works roading repairs for years 2022-23 and 2023-24	Decision	Dave Hadfield						



## 10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION



22-248

**Title:** 22-248 Allocation of the Natural Heritage Fund

**Section:** Integrated Catchments

**Prepared by:** Melanie Cheetham - Senior Land Management Officer

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday 7 December 2022

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Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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### **Report to OPERATIONS - ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAI AO ME NGĀ HAPORI for decision**

#### **PURPOSE – TE TAKE**

The purpose of this report is to make recommendations on the allocation of the 2023 round of the Natural Heritage Fund.

#### **SUMMARY – HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA**

The Natural Heritage Fund is an annual fund available to assist biodiversity related projects on private land.

For the 2022/23 financial year there is \$140,000 available for allocation to projects.

Twenty-three funding applications were received this year requesting a combined total of \$347,921.

Applications were assessed using the biodiversity merit ranking sheet which considers the social, cultural and environmental attributes and gains of a project. Based on this assessment, and operating within the financial limitations of the fund, staff recommend allocating full or partial funding to 17 projects.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

## RECOMMENDATIONS – NGĀ TŪTOHUTANGA

That the Operations Committee:

1. Approves the Natural Heritage Fund allocations be granted as follows:

• Journey's End Station Feral Cat Trapping Project	\$7,300
• Moanui Station Whio Project	\$8,400
• Riverpoint Road - Maungarongo Wetland Margin Project	\$6,200
• Te Aroha Bush PMA Fencing Project	\$20,000
• Mangaparae Papakainga Restoration Project	\$8,000
• Kotare Station Kahikatea Fencing Project	\$8,000
• Monowai Station Wetland Project	\$15,000
• Riverton Orchard- Maungarongo Wetland Margin Project	\$10,000
• Aerial Station Fencing Project	\$10,000
• Eastwoodhill Arboretum Riparian Project	\$8,200
• Te Arai River Riparian Project	\$8,000
• Haunui Station Wetland Restoration Project	\$8,000
• Hillview Station Fencing Project	\$8,000
• Ahititi Station QEII Weed Control Project	\$900
• Whangara Farms Revegetation Project	\$5,000
• Hikutai Station Waikohu River Riparian Project	\$7,000
• Anaura Inc. Planting Project	\$2,000

*Authorised by:*

**Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities**

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**Keywords:** Natural Heritage Fund, biodiversity

## **BACKGROUND – HE WHAKAMĀRAMA**

1. The Natural Heritage Fund (NHF) was set up in 2012 to replace the Natural Heritage Rates Remission Policy.
2. The NHF is intended to assist private landowners to protect or enhance indigenous biodiversity on their land. The NHF gives Council recognition and support to the positive contribution landowners make to retaining biodiversity values as guardians/kaitiaki of their land.
3. In every NHF round since its inception, the amounts requested for funding have far exceeded the extent of funding available.
4. Strong community support for an increase to the NHF was received through the 2021–2031 Long Term Plan (LTP) submissions process. As a result of this, the NHF was increased in 2021 from \$40,000 to \$100,000 per annum.
5. The 2021–2031 LTP also committed an additional \$100,000 per annum for biodiversity related spending. This biodiversity budget was approved in addition to the increase to the NHF and a portion of the budget was allocated to the Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) team.
6. At the end of the 2021/22 financial year, the portion of the LTP biodiversity budget allocated to ICM was underspent. To utilise the unspent budget most effectively for biodiversity gains, the ICM team made a request to the Central Organising Roopu (COR) to put \$40,000 of the unspent biodiversity budget towards NHF projects. This action was approved by COR in July 2022.
7. As a result of this action, there is now a total of \$140,000 available for NHF projects in 2023.
8. Demand for funds continues to exceed the increased allocation. A record number of applications were received this year (23), up on last year's previous record number of 20.
9. The grant approvals in this report relate to the 2023 round of the fund.

## **DISCUSSION and OPTIONS – WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA**

10. Applications needed to be submitted in writing by 1 October 2022. A total of 23 applications were received. Applications were assessed against the eligibility criteria and were scored using the Regional Priority and Biodiversity Merit ranking sheet (**Attachment 1**).

### **Assessment and Allocation of the Fund**

11. It is recommended that 17 projects receive all or part of the funding requested (see **Attachment 2** for project scores and funds requested).
12. Six projects will not receive any funding. This is due to the over-allocation of available funds, the need to support a range of projects across the community and the requirement that both projects and applicants provide sufficient information for assessment and meet certain eligibility criteria (see **Attachment 3** for eligibility criteria).

13. The part funding of projects has been necessary in previous years of NHF grants due to the ongoing over-subscription of the fund and the aim of achieving the highest overall biodiversity benefit across multiple sites and within the limitations of the fund.
14. The part-funding of projects is carefully considered, and relevant applicants are advised accordingly. This means that the individual integrity of each project is not considered to be compromised by the offer of part-funding. The matter is discussed with all applicants who are asked to indicate whether they have the capacity to fund the additional project costs themselves and/or seek further funding from other sources or adjust their project timeframes.

### **Projects recommended to receive funding**

#### **Kererutahi Farms Partnership: Eastern Whio Link Project**

15. Kererutahi Farms Partnership owns several large properties near Matawai. The owners have partnered with Eastern Whio Link to undertake extensive predator control (cat and stoat trapping) on their properties as part of the wider 40,000 hectare (ha) Eastern Whio Link project in the upper Waioeka catchment. This is a large-scale project aiming to protect and enhance the populations of endangered species including whio, kiwi and pekapeka/long and short-tailed bat in the upper Waioeka area through targeted predator control.
16. Four separate applications were submitted to the NHF for predator trapping projects on three Kererutahi Farms properties: Journeys End Station, Moanui Station and Karikari Station. The combined total requested by these projects was \$44,000. Council's biodiversity staff requested that the applicant rank each separate application in order of importance to the wider Eastern Whio Link project (Priority 1-4). The purpose of this was to assist with prioritising which projects would be allocated funding first if the NHF was unable to offer the full amount of funding requested to all four projects.
17. During the assessment process, staff carefully considered the purpose and intent of the NHF, particularly the need to support a range of projects across the community. While all four of the Kererutahi Farms Partnerships applications scored highly on the biodiversity merit ranking sheet, a decision was made to recommend that only the Priority 1 and 2 projects receive funding in this round of the NHF to allow for the effective sharing of the fund.
18. The two Kererutahi Farms/Eastern Whio Link projects recommended to be supported by NHF funding this year are:

#### **Eastern Whio Link Priority 1: Journey's End Feral Cat trapping Project, Matawai**

19. Journey's End Station has a large landscape-scale stoat control operation established by Eastern Whio Link through the Department of Conservation's Jobs 4 Nature funding. The project is seeking additional funds to overlay this stoat trap network with cat traps. This will help to provide comprehensive predator control for the Whio that inhabit the property's streams as well as the fragmented kiwi population that was discovered in the area in 2021.
20. The flow-on benefits of cat control across this property will positively impact pekapeka/long and short-tailed bats which roost on the property, along with known populations of whitehead, falcon, robin and tomtit.
21. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$7,300** towards the purchase of traps.

### Eastern Whio Link Priority 2: Moanui Station Whio Project, Matawai

22. This project requires the purchase of additional stoat and cat traps to establish a comprehensive stoat and cat control network up the Moanui River which flows along the boundary of Moanui and Koranga Stations. This stoat and cat control will complement the pest control projects established on neighbouring Koranga Station and Journey's End Station to create a "core area" of intensive best practice stoat and cat control. This will allow whio, kiwi and other species in the area to flourish.
23. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$8,400** towards the purchase of traps.

### Riverpoint Road: Maungarongo Wetland Margin Project, Matawhero

24. Mark Geuze owns a kiwifruit orchard on Riverpoint Road. The boundary of the property adjoins part of the Maungarongo o Te Kooti Reserve. The Maungarongo reserve is a 48ha section of the old river loop which is recognised as a regionally significant wetland. The wetland is under threat from invasive weed such as willow and blackberry which are prolific around the margins of the site. The applicant is proposing to undertake weed control and indigenous planting on the boundary of his property and the wetland reserve. This project will build on other recent restoration work on and around the wetland margins through controlling the invasive weeds and further enhancing the site through the planting of appropriate native species.
25. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$6,200** towards weed control and the purchase of plants.

### Te Aroha Bush PMA fencing project, Pehiri

26. Phillip Steele of Te Aroha Station is proposing to erect deer-proof fencing around three areas of highly significant indigenous vegetation on his property. The areas are identified in the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP) as Protection Management Areas (PMA) numbers TN29, TN30 and TN31, known as Te Aroha Bush – remnants of primary (original) alluvial swamp forest and home to nationally significant populations of four species of threatened/at risk native plants. The areas are also subject to QEII National Trust covenants. The areas are currently fenced to exclude farm stock; however deer are still able to access the areas, potentially causing significant damage through browsing.
27. This project aims to exclude deer from the protected areas by increasing the height of the existing fences. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$20,000** towards the purchase of fencing materials and associated labour.

### Mangaparae Papakainga Restoration Project, Whatatutu

28. The Mangaparae Papakainga Restoration Project was established in 2017 and was successful in receiving NHF funding in 2017 and 2019 to initiate the early phases of the project. The project has gone from strength to strength, planting over 9000 trees to date and is now in its final stages.
29. The aim of the project is to restore the whenua with native vegetation, including wetland and riparian restoration. The focus is on building iwi environmental education based on Te Aitanga a Mahaki and Ngariki values that emphasise historic land uses such as weaving and rongoa, and connecting people to the land by allowing walkway access.

30. Actions proposed for year 5 of this project include completing wetland planting, planting whanau heritage harakeke/flax and toitoi for moka/piupiu and weaving, undertake weed control and complete accessways for kaumatua, marae and whanau use.
31. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$8,000** towards the purchase of plants, labour, materials and weed control.

#### **Kotare Station: Kahikatea Swamp Restoration Project, Motu**

32. Henry and Sofie Gaddum of Kotare Station at Motu have been undertaking a number of biodiversity enhancement projects on their property. One of these project areas is a rare remnant kahikatea wetland which provides habitat for breeding weka and other native birds. This project is proposing to fence the area to exclude stock, undertake pest control and supplementary planting of the area with 1500 lower canopy and wetland plants.
33. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$8,000** towards the purchase of plants and fencing materials and associated labour.

#### **Monowai Station: Wetland Restoration Project, Waimata**

34. Laura and Jeremy Watson of Monowai Station are proposing to fence, plant and undertake pest control in four wetland/pond areas on their property. Currently there is full sheep and cattle stock access to these sites. Monowai Station is part of a large-scale 3500 ha biodiversity improvement project being undertaken by members of the Waimata Catchment Group. Several biodiversity enhancement projects have already been initiated on the property which have been showcased to school groups and the community. A recent ecological survey identified the property as a potentially suitable location for the future re-introduction of brown teal/pateke.
35. It is recommended that this project be allocated **\$15,000** towards the purchase of plants, traps, fencing materials and associated labour.

#### **Riverton Orchard: Maungarongo Wetland Margin Project, Matawhero**

36. Anita Willock of Riverton Orchard is proposing to undertake weed control and indigenous planting on the boundary of her property which adjoins part of the Maungarongo o Te Kooti Reserve. This project further supports the other restoration work in and around the margins of the 48 ha section of the old river loop which is recognised as a regionally significant wetland. The section of the wetland margin covered by this project is under threat from invasive weeds and some large exotic silver poplars. Removing the large trees, undertaking weed control and planting appropriate indigenous species will build on other restoration work which is occurring around the wetland margins.
37. It is recommended that this project be allocated **\$10,000** towards weed control (including the removal of silver poplars) and the purchase of plants.

### Aerial Station Fencing Project, Otoko

38. Fraser Tombleson of Aerial Station is proposing to retire a 17 ha area of steep, erosion prone land surrounding the Makaretu Stream. The area to be retired already has a significant population of regenerating secondary indigenous vegetation, which would be further enhanced through stock exclusion. The retirement of the site from grazing will also help to improve the water quality of the Makaretu Stream, which is a tributary to the Wharekopae River. The project has attracted funding support through the Wharekopae River Restoration Project.
39. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$10,000** towards the purchase of fencing materials and the employment of a fencing contractor.

### Eastwoodhill Riparian Restoration Project, Ngatapa

40. Eastwoodhill Arboretum at Ngatapa is proposing to fence and plant a section of stream that runs through the native area walk section of the arboretum. The area has recently undergone a weed management programme and it is now proposed to supplementary plant the areas with indigenous species and erect a stock-proof fence. Eastwoodhill is the National Arboretum of New Zealand and this project aims to include local schools and the community in both the planting and maintenance of the area.
41. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$8,200** towards the purchase of plants, fencing materials and the employment of a fencing contractor.

### Te Arai River Riparian Project, Manutuke

42. Mark and Kim Lumsden own a property on Waingake Road that borders the Te Arai River. The riparian area of their property is currently heavily infested with exotic weeds, including blackberry and barberry. This project aims to undertake weed control and planting of 1250 indigenous species along approximately 520m of the riverbank. The area will also be fenced to protect the plantings and to exclude stock from accessing the river.
43. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$8,000** towards the weed control, the purchase of plants, fencing materials and the employment of a fencing contractor.

### Haunui Station: Wetland Restoration Project, Te Karaka

44. Tom Sanson of Haunui Station is proposing to fence and plant a wetland area on his property. The area is already partially fenced, however farm stock is still able to gain access, which is degrading the ecological value of the wetland. The project is proposing to complete the perimeter fence and plant approximately 1000 appropriate indigenous species.
45. It is recommended that this project be allocated **\$8,000** towards fencing and the purchase of plants.

#### Hillview Station: Fencing Project, Te Karaka

46. Hadley Charteris of Hillview Station is proposing to exclude cattle from a 3.4ha area of indigenous vegetation on his property. The area is already partly fenced and a further 1050m of fencing is proposed to complete the perimeter. Excluding cattle from the area will allow the vegetation to further regenerate and provide protection to the waterway that intersects the project area.
47. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$8,000** towards the purchase of fencing materials and associated labour.

#### Ahititi Station: QEII Weed Control Project, Waimata

48. Bill Savage of Ahititi Station has a 4.5ha QEII National Trust covenant bush block on his property. Ornamental clematis is climbing into the edge of the bush while periwinkle and tradescantia are spreading into the bush from the old house site adjacent to the block. This project aims to undertake weed control to eliminate some weed species and slow the spread of others inside the covenant area.
49. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$900** towards undertaking weed control.

#### Whangara Farms: Revegetation Project, Whangara

50. Whangara Farms Ltd is proposing to establish indigenous seedlings on a 12ha area of eroding hill country adjoining Waihau Road. The intention is to plant up to 1000 seedlings per year over three years. Livestock will be removed from the area and indigenous vegetation will be established from a mixture of planting and managed natural reversion. This application is for the purchase of plants for the first year of the project.
51. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$5,000** towards the purchase of plants.

#### Hikutai Station: Waikohu River Riparian Project, Matawai

52. Mark and Tess Shaw of Hikutai Farm are proposing to complete the fencing of a section of the Waikohu River that is currently part of a stock laneway on their property. This will completely exclude stock from accessing the waterway, both enhancing water quality and allowing for the continued regeneration of the area from the existing scattered indigenous riparian vegetation. Additional supplementary planting of indigenous species is proposed in the future once the fence is established.
53. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$7,000** towards the purchase of fencing materials and associated labour.

#### Anaura Inc: Planting Project, Anaura Bay

54. The Proprietors of Anaura Incorporated are proposing to establish indigenous vegetation on a steep hillslope above the Anaura Bay campground. The hill slope has been retired from grazing and has been subject to erosion in recent years. Establishing a cover of indigenous vegetation on this site will help to reduce the erosion risk, encourage birdlife and enhance the visual environment of this high-profile site.
55. It is recommended that this project is allocated **\$2,000** towards the purchase of plants.



## **ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE – TE AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA**

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long-Term Plan

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

**Overall Process:** Medium Significance

**This Report:** Medium Significance

56. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of Low significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

## **TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT – TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA**

57. There has not been any tangata whenua/Māori engagement in relation to funding allocation decisions under the Natural Heritage Fund. Applications are open to all landholders, including iwi/hapu groups. Applicants are encouraged to undertake their own independent iwi engagement/ consultation where relevant as part of their project development.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI**

58. The NHF has been promoted through the Council's website and in Council's rural-focused digital e-newsletter Panui Taiao. An article was published in the Gisborne Herald on 19 August 2022, announcing that NHF applications were being accepted for the 2023 funding round. Council staff promote the fund through advocacy when engaging with landowners.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications – NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI - ngā whakaaweawe /ngā ritenga**

59. The nature of the projects supported by the NHF will have a positive impact on climate change through the establishment of new plantings, improvement of water quality and the restoration and rehabilitation of existing natural areas. Mature indigenous vegetation and healthy wetland ecosystems are an excellent resource for carbon sequestration.

## CONSIDERATIONS – HEI WHAKAARO

### Financial/Budget

60. The funding recommended in this report will use \$100,000 allocated to the NHF for the 2022/23 financial year and \$40,000 allocated to Integrated Catchments for biodiversity protection and enhancement that was unspent in the 2021/22 financial year.

### Legal

61. There are no legal implications associated with the Natural Heritage Fund.

## POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS–KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE

62. The allocation of the fund to private landowners will contribute to an environmentally sustainable Tairāwhiti by allowing for the preservation and protection of indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems in the region. This is consistent with Council's policies and plans.

## RISKS – NGĀ TŪRARU

63. There are no major risks associated with the decision or matters outlined in this report.

## NEXT STEPS – NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
Dec 2022	Notify applicants of funding allocation decisions and draw up contracts	
2023	Monitor progress of projects and process payments	

## ATTACHMENTS – NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA

1. Attachment 1 - NHF regional priority and biodiversity merit ranking sheet 2023 [**22-248.1** - 1 page]
2. Attachment 2 - 2023 NHF report assessment score table [**22-248.2** - 2 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - NHF Funding criteria 2023 [**22-248.3** - 1 page]

## Gisborne District Council Natural Heritage Fund Regional Priority and Biodiversity Merit Ranking Sheet

Criteria	LOW Score 0	MEDIUM Score 6	HIGH Score 12	Score
<b>Regional Significance</b>				
<b>Regional Priority</b>	Not a regional priority.	Moderate regional priority, will help meet regional objectives.	Key regional priority and meets regional objectives.	<b>Max Score 12</b>
<b>Project Importance</b>				
<b>Ecological context</b>	Minimal role in long term health of wider ecosystem.	Moderate role in long term health of the wider ecosystem	Key role in long term health of the wider ecosystem	
<b>Representativeness (based on Nick Singers ecosystem mapping)</b>	Not a representative habitat type or ecosystem of the area concerned	Representative habitat type or ecosystem of the area concerned but not identified as a Protection Management area or other significant area.	Contains the best representative examples in the Ecological District of habitat type or ecosystem of the area concerned and identified as a Protection Management area; other significant area or a buffer to one of these sites.	
<b>Rarity or distinctiveness</b>	Area of concern does not contain plants or habitats (including wetlands) that are rare or threatened or support rare or threatened species.	Contain heavily degraded plants or habitats (including wetlands) that are rare or threatened or support rare or threatened species that is heavily degraded.	Contain plants or habitats (including wetlands) that are rare or threatened or support rare or threatened species.	
<b>Connectivity</b>	Area of concern is small and isolated.	Area of concern forms a linkage, buffer or corridor to a moderately significant area of habitat.	Area of concern forms a linkage, buffer or corridor to a highly significant area of habitat.	
<b>Naturalness</b>	Area has little or no existing indigenous character or is predominately indigenous in character but has been heavily invaded with pest and weed species and/or has been structurally modified (e.g. heavily grazed, weedy) where regeneration back to original state is unlikely.	Area is predominately indigenous in character but contains some pest and weed species and/or has been structurally modified (e.g. grazed, weedy) where project will result in direct gains to improve the naturalness of the site (e.g. stock exclusion).	Area is predominately indigenous in character but contains some pest and weed species and/or has been structurally modified (e.g. grazed, weedy) where project will result in likely regeneration back to original state (e.g. stock exclusion and pest control).	
<b>Long-term protection</b>	The project area will not be protected from future vegetation clearance / disturbance.	The applicant has indicated that there is long term commitment to protect the site but there will be no form of legal protection.	The project area will be protected in perpetuity by a QEII covenant or other means to ensure long-term viability of the project site.	<b>Max Score 54</b>
<b>Project Impact and planning</b>				
<b>Best Practice</b>	The project will involve a practice / process that's success is not well documented with an unknown outcome.	The project outlines good practices in most cases but may not be the best option for the site or project outline is vague.	The project utilises best practice that is appropriate for the site, is well planned out and does not go against relevant regional or national strategies.	
<b>Project design and measurable objectives</b>	The project does not have well thought out project design and there are no measurable objectives.	The project design is appropriate for the site but the measurable objectives or expected outcomes are not well defined.	The project design and delivery is credible and appropriate for a project of this size. The application demonstrates measurable objectives, with appropriate and well-defined milestones and / or expected outcomes.	
<b>Sustainability</b>	The project is unlikely to be successful on its own and will require ongoing support from other sources.	The project demonstrates some long term benefit. The work will require some ongoing funding through other sources.	The project demonstrates long term benefits. This work will be able to sustain itself without requiring ongoing funding through the NHF.	
<b>Engagement with GDC</b>	Application was submitted with no prior discussion	Application was discussed with staff	Staff conducted a site visit prior to or during application process	
<b>Funding Partnerships</b>	The project will not allow for a potential partnership between the applicant, Council and other funding providers to ensure the project succeeds.	The project could allow for some potential partnerships between the applicant, Council and other funding providers to ensure the project succeeds but this has not been initiated.	The project will create a partnership between the applicant, Council and other funding providers to ensure the project succeeds.	<b>Max Score 45</b>
<b>Connectivity of our people</b>				
<b>Creating connections</b>	The project is unlikely to connect the land owner and (or) the community with the environment.	The project somewhat connects the land owner and (or) the community with the environment.	This project connects the land owner and (or) the community with the environment.	
<b>Attitude and behavioural change</b>	The project is unlikely to aid in any positive environmental attitude or behavioural change. There is unlikely to be any public awareness or connection of people to the environment from the proposal.	The project will aid in minor positive environmental attitude and behavioural change. There may be some public awareness of the environmental issue that is being addressed.	There is an opportunity to create positive environmental attitude and behavioural change. This includes increased public awareness of issues, reconnecting people to care and stewardship / kaitiaki of the environment, and demonstrated ability to transform behaviour.	
<b>Community participation</b>	The will be no community participation in the project.	The will be some community participation in the project.	This project encourages community participation.	<b>Max Score 27</b>
<b>Applicant Capacity and value for money</b>				
<b>Technical capability</b>	It is unlikely that the applicant has the correct technical skills or has contractors available with the correct skills to ensure the project is successful.	The applicant has some technical skills or is proposing to use a provider / contractor that is likely to have some of the right technical skills.	The applicant has demonstrated through previous similar work that they have the right technical skills, or are using a provider / contractor with the right technical skills.	
<b>Good return on investment</b>	The project has limited value (economic, social or environmental) for the outcomes that the applicant stated they would deliver and the risks associated with the project are high and unlikely to be mitigated.	The project has some value (economic, social or environmental) for the outcomes that the applicant stated they would deliver but the proposal does not adequately address the risks that could occur.	The project shows good value (economic, social or environmental) for the outcomes that the applicant stated they would deliver. This assessment includes whether the proposal takes into account and adequately mitigates any risks associated with the project.	
<b>Applicant contribution</b>	The applicant and other stakeholders will provide minor contributions to the project.	The applicant and other stakeholder's have contributed appropriately to this project.	The applicant and other stakeholders have contributed appropriately to this project, and have leveraged appropriate in-kind support for the size / type of project.	
<b>Project budget</b>	The project costs are unreasonable and unfeasible for the likely benefits of the project.	The project budget is somewhat financially feasible but does not demonstrate best value for money.	The project budget is financially feasible for the work proposed, and the project costs are reasonable.	<b>Max Score 36</b>

**APPENDIX 2**

The table below summaries the score for each aspect of the Regional Priority and Biodiversity Merit Ranking assessment and funding allocation.

Applicant	Size of project area	Regional Priority	Project Importance	Project Impact & planning	Connection of our people	Capacity and value	Total Score	Funds requested	Funding Status	Funds recommended to be allocated
Kererutahi Farms-(P1) Journey's End Feral Cat trapping	1,600ha	12	39	39	27	36	153	\$7,300	Full	\$7,300
Kererutahi Farms-(P2) Moanui Station Whio	1,110ha	12	39	39	27	36	153	\$8,425	Full	\$8,400
Te Aroha Bush PMA	41.2ha	12	48	36	15	30	144	\$45,247	Part	\$20,000
Geuze- 157 Riverpoint Rd	300m	12	42	30	27	30	141	\$7,675	Part	\$6,200
Monowai Station Wetlands	3.9ha	12	33	36	21	36	138	\$19,570	Part	\$15,000
Kotare Station Kahikatea swamp	2ha	6	30	42	21	36	135	\$19,786	Part	\$8,000
Mangaparae Papakainga	5.9ha	6	27	42	27	33	135	\$10,200	Part	\$8,000
Riverton Orchard-Wetland margin	1ha	12	42	27	21	24	126	\$14,000	Part	\$10,000
Tombleson- Aerial Station	17ha	6	36	36	15	30	123	\$14,800	Part	\$10,000
Eastwoodhill-Riparian	1.8ha	6	36	27	27	24	120	\$11,300	Part	\$8,200
Lumsden- Te Arai River riparian	0.5ha	6	27	30	15	33	114	\$16,830	Part	\$8,000

Applicant	Size of project area	Regional Priority	Project Importance	Project Impact & planning	Connection of our people	Capacity and value	Total Score	Funds requested	Funding Status	Funds recommended to be allocated
Haunui Station Wetland	2.55ha	6	36	27	12	27	108	\$12,983	Part	\$8,000
Charteris-Hillview Station	3.36ha	0	30	27	15	30	102	\$10,250	Part	\$8,000
Savage-Station QEII Ahititi	4.5ha	6	39	24	12	21	102	\$900	Full	\$900
Whangara Farms Planting	1ha	6	24	30	15	24	99	\$5,000	Full	\$5,000
Hikutai Station Riparian	3.2ha	0	21	27	12	24	84	\$15,500	Part	\$7,000
Anaura Planting Inc.	0.38ha	0	18	24	18	24	84	\$2,300	Part	\$2,000

**Appendix 3: Natural Heritage Funding criteria**

The criteria for eligible projects are:

- The land must be privately owned within the Gisborne District;
- No overdue rates or other outstanding charges owed to Council;
- At least 50% of the total cost of the project is to come from an alternative source;
- Application is not for activities required by resource consent or rules under Gisborne statutory plans, or national policy;
- Have clear objectives that are consistent with Council's statutory functions, Regional Policy Statement and overall environmental objectives;
- Be of long-term benefit to the local environment and show evidence of good resource management;
- There must be a demonstrated ongoing commitment to maintain the natural area e.g. stock exclusion, plant and animal pest control where necessary;
- Be designed to become self-supporting without ongoing financial contributions from the Council;
- Demonstrate the necessary skills and experience is available to undertake the project;
- The grants will not be retrospective;
- Eligible activities include permanent stock exclusion fencing (excluding maintenance of existing fencing) for the purpose of allowing natural regeneration and protection of significant terrestrial, riparian and coastal sites, purchase of locally sourced native plants and trees, site preparation and planting, weed and animal pest control.

**Title:** 22-275 Appointment of the Deputy Chairperson of Operations - Environment & Communities

**Section:** Democracy & Support Services

**Prepared by:** Heather Kohn - Democracy & Support Services Manager

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday 7 December 2022

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Legal: Yes

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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## **Report to OPERATIONS - ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAI AO ME NGĀ HAPORI for decision**

### **PURPOSE - TE TAKE**

The purpose of this report is for the Operations – Environment & Communities Committee to appoint its Deputy Chairperson.

### **SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA**

Each Committee at its first meeting is required to elect a deputy chairperson.

The role of the Deputy Chair is to stand in for the Chair in the event of sickness, leave or any other absences.

The system of voting for the Deputy Chair will be in accordance with Standing Order 5.6 (**Attachment 1**) and Council has set System A as its election procedure.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

**That the Operations - Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Tai ao me Ngā Hapori Committee:**

- 1. Appoints Councillor ..... to be Deputy Chair who received the majority of votes from members present and voting.**

*Authorised by:*

**James Baty - Director Internal Partnerships**

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**Keywords:** committee, chairperson, deputy chairperson, standing orders, Operations – Environment & Communities

### **ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA**

1. Attachment 1 - Standing Order 5 6 Voting system for deputy chairs [**22-275.1** - 1 page]

## 5.6 Voting system for deputy mayors, committee chairs and deputy chairs

When electing a deputy mayor, a committee chair or a deputy chair, the local authority must resolve to use one of the following two voting systems.

**System A:** The candidate will be elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the local authority or committee who are present and voting. This system has the following characteristics:

- (a) There is a first round of voting for all candidates;
- (b) If no candidate is successful in the first round, there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and
- (c) If no candidate is successful in the second round, there is a third round and, if necessary, subsequent rounds of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded.

In any round of voting, if two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person to be excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.



## 11. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION



22-271

**Title:** 22-271 Land Overlay 3A and Sustainable Hill Country Project  
**Section:** Integrated Catchments  
**Prepared by:** Kerry Hudson, Integrated Catchment Manager  
**Meeting Date:** 7 December 2022

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Legal: No

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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### Report to OPERATIONS/TE KOMITI WHAKAHAERE MAHI for information

#### PURPOSE - TE TAKE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on progress and implementation of the Sustainable Hill Country Project and its focus on Land Overlay 3A.

#### SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTANGA

Soil erosion is a significant resource management issue in the Gisborne District. Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), now Te Uru Rakau (TUR) provided funding from 1992 until 2018 through the Erosion Control Funding Programme (ECFP)- Land Treatments. Landowners were required to provide “effective tree cover” on the “worst eroding land”, Land Overlay 3A (LO3A) by providing a Sustainable Hill Country Project (SHCP) Works Plan in line with the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP).

Funding is no longer available other than existing grants already approved under the ECFP which are available up until 2028.

Land management staff have continued an advocacy role with landowners to progress approved ECFP grants to comply with their Works Plan. Existing ECFP grants include large areas of exotic forestry approved at the commencement of the ECFP and recent approvals for managed reversion and pole planting. Completing the remaining Work Plans continues to be slow due to focussing resources on implementation of existing approvals and the need to vary Works Plans to incorporate alternative funding and recent government policy.

MPI allows existing grants to be varied up to the existing financial value; consider changes in treatment options; and changing location of works within a property.

Focus has been on advocacy to obtain grants, implement works and identifying further opportunities to improve the treatment of LO3A. As a result, approximately 85 properties (estimated due to the extent of variations) have draft Works Plans yet to be approved.

Council's advocacies include assisting TUR alongside landowners to treat LO3A.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

**That the Operations Committee:**

- 1. Notes the contents of this report.**

*Authorised by:*

**Michele Frey - Director Liveable Communities**

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**Keywords:** Land Overlay 3A, Sustainable Hill Country Project

## BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA

1. The Sustainable Hill Country Project (SHCP) provides for implementation of the Land Overlay 3A (LO3A) provisions of the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP). Works have been funded through the Erosion Control Funding Programme (ECFP) administered by the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), now Te Uru Rakau (TUR). The ECFP closed in 2018 however existing approvals are still available to landowners up until 2028.
2. LO3A, our “worst eroding land” required “effective tree cover” by 2021. Council's advocacy role has assisted landowners to develop SHCP Works Plans outlining treatment options proposed to provide for effective tree cover.

**Note:** “effective tree cover” trees/shrubs deliberately placed or established in a manner that will form a canopy and root network sufficient to provide protection from spoil erosion within 10 years:

“Works Plan”: A plan to achieve the establishment and maintenance of effective tree cover.

**Note:** LO3A is the worst eroding land in the region, designated as severe to extreme erosion in the New Zealand Land Resource Inventory (NZLRI). The TRMP requires a SHCP Works Plan is developed, approved by Council and implemented by the landowner. Alternatively, a resource consent is required for activities being undertaken on LO3A.

3. Several factors have necessitated variations to existing Works Plans:
  - Changes in national policy and funding opportunities such as:
    - The Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) which provides funding in addition to the ECFP, when both are combined they provide for a significantly improved outcome, and:
    - The Freshwater Reforms includes the requirement for Freshwater Farm Environment Plans (FWFP) and allows for Works Plans to be aligned with the requirements of a FWFP.
4. These variations provide improved outcomes by appropriately establishing vegetation to provide long term protection on sensitive land.

## DISCUSSION and OPTIONS - WHAKAWHITINGA KŌRERO ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA

### Progress with Land Overlay 3A Works Plans and the Implementation of Effective Tree Cover

5. While there remain an estimated 85 properties without a signed SHCP Works Plan, Council's focus with a limited staff resource has been:
  - Providing advocacy to complete works on land with grant approvals;
  - Supporting the implementation of works while grant assistance is available; and
  - Advocacy assistance by varying Works Plans where recent funding and government policy provides opportunities for improved long-term outcomes.

6. A number of works plans simply require sign off by landowners and then council. Variations to works plans are providing improved environmental outcomes and require landowner and council sign off. Land without governance structures cannot access funding is a situation where Council continues to advocate for good governance structures.

### **Influencing Factors**

#### **Emission Trading Scheme (ETS)**

7. The ETS, which enable landowners to earn carbon credits, is being utilised to secure establishment of vegetation cover on LO3A. This is a sound option where ECFP funding has been insufficient to meet reasonable costs for very sustainable options.

#### **Freshwater Farm Environment Plans (FWFPs)**

8. Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is currently requiring FWFPs as part of the Freshwater Reforms. Compliance with both LO3A requirements and FWFPs use existing ECFP funds and the ETS to assist. SHCP Works Plans are a subset of the wider FWFP. This will provide improved long-term outcomes.

#### **Untreatable Land**

9. A concern raised when the SHCP was incorporated into the TRMP was that of untreatable land. There remains a significant area of land designated as untreatable consisting of land with: very severe to extreme erosion where vegetation cover does not establish; very steep slopes with skeletal or no soil profile; and a combination of both erosion and slope factors. Land designated as untreatable is excluded from requiring effective tree cover. Gisborne District Council's objective is to prevent further land deteriorating to this extent and continuing to research options for land treatment. These options are high risk, expensive and success is dependent on favourable long term climatic conditions.

### **ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - TE AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA**

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

**Overall Process:** Low Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

**Overall Process:** High Significance

**This Report:** Low Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

**Overall Process:** **Medium** Significance

**This Report:** **Medium** Significance

10. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

### **TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA**

11. Consultation with tangata whenua and other parties was carried out as part of the consultation on the SHCP 2007 to 2009. By its nature, much of the work to address LO3A involves close liaison with tangata whenua, particularly in relation to the Waipapu River catchment.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI**

12. Advocacy through engagement with landowners is ongoing. Continued support where alternative sources of funding and alternative vegetation establishment may progress and improve treatment of LO3A land is ongoing.
13. Gisborne District Council is working alongside landowners to progress their SHCP Works Plans while looking at a smooth path to incorporate existing SHCPs into a wider FWFP.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI - ngā whakaaweawe / ngā ritenga**

14. Initiatives including treatment options: afforestation, managed reversion and also pole planting, provide for positive effects in terms of climate change. Ensuring trees are established where long term stability of plantings is promoted will also provide for long term sequestration of Carbon.
15. Areas being established in trees or allowed to revert to treat LO3A are often entered into the ETS.

### **CONSIDERATIONS – HEI WHAKAARO**

#### **Financial/Budget**

16. Apart from budgeted staff resourcing, there is no funding allocated in the Long-Term Plan to implement the SHCP. Further resource to assist with the wider FWFP initiatives would result in more LO3A land being treated in the long term.
17. Provision of funds for the ECFP and ETS are provided from MPI.

#### **Legal**

18. Once the 2021 deadline for completion of SHCPs was reached, there were some landowners who have not met the provisions of the TRMP rules. Consequences could include enforcement of the rules. Incorporating requirements for treatment of LO3A into a wider FWFP is an action Council is pursuing.
19. Allowing time for landowners to vary their Works Plan provides for improved land treatments as funding from both the ECFP and ETS results in some treatments being more affordable and more beneficial to all parties. The availability of plant material for some options is a complication.

## **POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS-KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE**

20. The development and implementation of the SHCP Works Plans are a key requirement within the TRMP.
21. The TRMP review will reconsider the effectiveness of SHCP Works Plans and identify other areas vulnerable to erosion and develop appropriate provisions and methods for managing land use in these areas accordingly. LO3A and erosion control works on slight to moderately eroded land will also be considered within the Freshwater Farm Planning process. Reducing erosion is critical to improving freshwater health across the region and for achieving the requirements set out by the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM).

### **RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU**

22. The main risk is some landowners not completing implementation of the LO3A provisions. MPI funding to progress works where existing approvals are available continues up until 2028. Council could require landowners to obtain a resource consent with conditions requiring completion of works to achieve "effective tree cover" or take enforcement action to ensure effective stabilisation of LO3A.
23. The lack of opportunities for long term gully control works is a concern locally and amongst North Island Councils.

### **NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action/Milestone</b>	<b>Comments</b>
2023 and Ongoing	Continuation of assistance to landowners	Ongoing advocacy role with landowners
2023 and Ongoing	Incorporating LO3A into FWFPs	Integrating changes in legislation to further assist treatment of LO3A.

**Title:** Our Air Tairāwhiti 2022 – an update on winter air quality levels and implications for monitoring arising from the World Health Organisation air quality guidelines 2021 & Health and Air Pollution in New Zealand 3.0 2022

**Section:** Environmental Services & Protection Compliance & Enforcement - Environmental Health

**Prepared by:** Kate Sykes - Team Leader Compliance & Monitoring

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday 7 December 2022

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Legal: Yes

Financial: No

Significance: **Low**

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## **Report to OPERATIONS - ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES/NGĀ WHAKAMAHI - TE TAI AO ME NGĀ HAPORI for Information**

### **PURPOSE - TE TAKE**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on monitoring for air quality in Tairāwhiti for the year 2022. The report also provides an update on recent changes to the World Health Organisation (WHO) air quality guidelines and the Health and Air Pollution in New Zealand 2016 (HAPiNZ 3.0) study, and the implications for the Gisborne District Council (GDC) for managing air quality if these guidelines are adopted as air quality standards in New Zealand.

### **SUMMARY - HE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA**

Previous Council report [20-334](#) and [21-67](#) alerted the committee to air quality issues in our city. In April 2022, the air shed over Gisborne city was gazetted as a polluted airshed in response to previous exceedances of the PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter with a diameter of less than 10 micrometres) limit contained in the National Environmental Standard for air Quality (NESAQ) which permits one per annum. This year there were 16 exceedances (one is permitted). The primary pollutant is from domestic wood burners.

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) previously consulted on proposed amendments to the NESAQ in April 2020 with a proposed shift in focus from monitoring and managing air quality based on PM<sub>10</sub>, to monitoring and management based on both PM<sub>10</sub> and the more hazardous to health particulate matter range, PM<sub>2.5</sub> with both daily and annual average thresholds being set based on the 2005 World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines. While not currently mandated, current monitoring of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels would indicate 30 exceedances of the proposed limit.

Implementing the revised NESAQ was delayed, pending the outcomes of the review of the World Health Organisation air quality guidelines, and the updated Health and Air Pollution in New Zealand (HAPiNZ 3.0) study.

In September of 2021, WHO released its review of its 2005 air quality guidelines. This has resulted in significantly more stringent air quality guidelines. Nitrogen dioxide guidelines have been reduced to 25% of the 2005 values, and daily and annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> guidelines reduced to 67% and 50% of the 2005 values respectively. The HAPINZ 3.0 study reported that air pollution health burden due to man-made sources increased by 10.2% between 2006 and 2016. This increase is due to increased exposure to NO<sub>2</sub> (from motor vehicle emissions), but the full impact of worsening NO<sub>2</sub> has been lessened by the improvements in PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations.

It is anticipated that these updated documents will form a basis for the setting of the new air quality standards for New Zealand under the amended NESAQ and may require monitoring for NO<sub>2</sub> by Council in future. Council's air quality strategy is being reviewed considering these documents to inform airshed action plans and the review of the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUTANGA**

**That the Operations - Environment & Communities/Ngā Whakamahi - Te Taiao me Ngā Hapori Committee:**

### **1. Notes the contents of this report.**

*Authorised by:*

**Helen Montgomery - Director Environmental Services & Protection**

**James Baty - Director Internal Partnerships**

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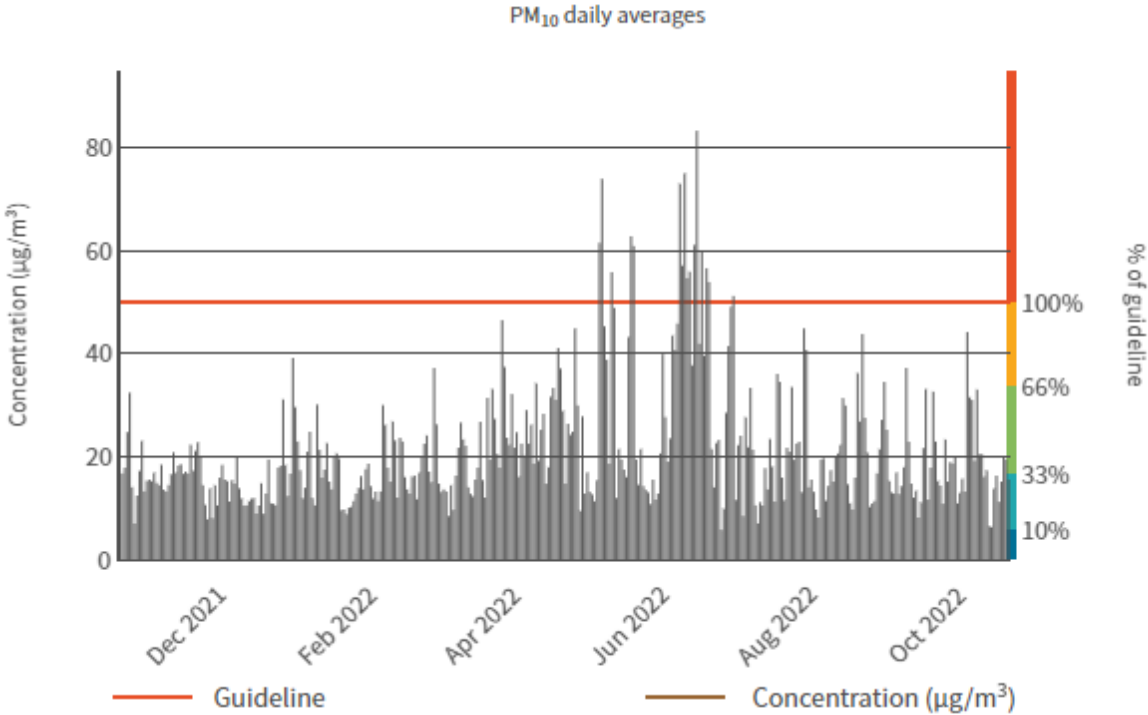
**Keywords:** Air Quality Update, Winter Monitoring



**BACKGROUND - HE WHAKAMĀRAMA**

Gisborne Air Shed Monitoring

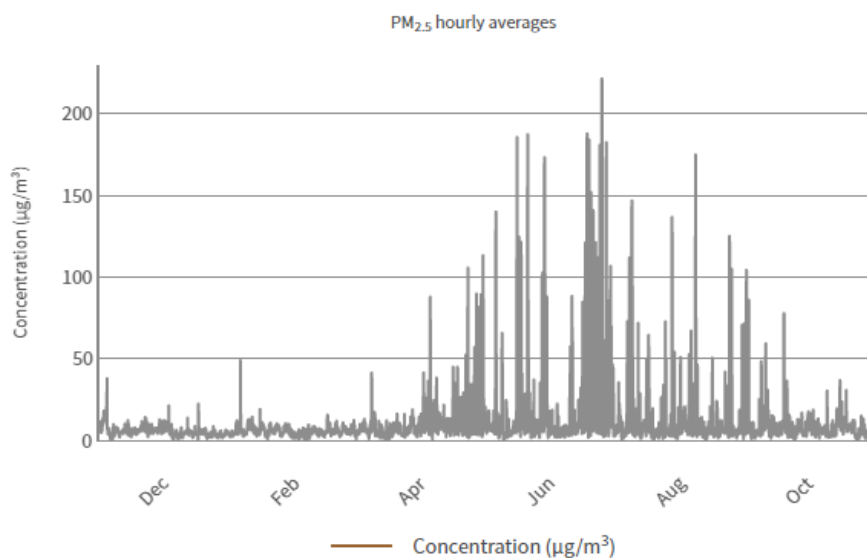
1. In November 2021, an application was submitted to the Minister for the Environment to gazette the urban area of Gisborne city as a polluted airshed in respect of PM<sub>10</sub>. This application was granted and gazetted in April 2022 (see appendix 1 for airshed map). It requires Council to consider how the pollution can be reduced, for example through behaviour change and if necessary, changes to the rules in the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan (TRMP). Any potential changes required will be considered as part of the review of the TRMP.
2. In the interim, education and awareness campaigns will be a valuable tool. The community does not appear to be aware that the main cause of the problem are home fires.
3. Gazetting of the urban airshed prohibits any new trade or industrial application for a discharge containing PM being granted within the gazetted area unless the applicant can 'offset' the discharge. In practice this offset is difficult to achieve. Outside of the gazetted area, applications for trade or industrial discharges containing PM can be considered and approved if appropriate, although the applicant must consider how their discharge may impact the gazetted area.
4. Monitoring of PM<sub>10</sub> is undertaken at a representative site (Gisborne Boys High School). The site has a seasonal pattern of high winter concentrations indicating a typical home-heating signature source of emissions. Over the winter months of 2022, 16 exceedances of the PM<sub>10</sub> standard (the limit being 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> over a 24-hour average) were spread across the months of May to August, as shown in the table below.



- The level of exceedances is slightly less (4 exceedances less) than previous years since monitoring was switched to optical methodology. This is due to the warmer winter that was experienced. Exceedances occur when the weather is very still and the temperature is below 5°C, and manifests as smog under a meteorological inversion layer (see photo below, taken 2 July 2022 from Kaiti Hill). On this day, the PM<sub>10</sub> level recorded was 82.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup> over a 24-hour average.



- While not yet mandated, the proposed amendments to the NESAQ were released by the Ministry for the Environment with the main change proposed being a shift in focus from monitoring and managing air quality based on PM<sub>10</sub>, to monitoring and management based on the more hazardous to health particulate matter range, PM<sub>2.5</sub> (air borne particles 2.5 microns in diameter or smaller).
- In anticipation of this shift being confirmed, GDC has been undertaking monitoring for PM<sub>2.5</sub> at the GBHS site since 2021. Current indications are that based on the NESAQ limits there would be 30 exceedances as shown in the graph below.



8. The primary source of PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution is from domestic home heating as seen below (7 July 2022). This photo illustrates some of the spatial differences within the city, as while the monitoring station recorded an exceedance, the result of 54 µg/m<sup>3</sup> over a 24-hour average is less than what would be inferred from this photo.



9. Spatial differences are known to exist in the urban airshed, and as the NESAQ requires Council to monitor in the area most affected, additional monitoring equipment is to be purchased this financial year and eventually an additional site established following co-location with existing equipment.

### **Additional policy frameworks**

#### World Health Organisation air quality standards 2021

10. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has identified that air pollution is one of the biggest environmental threats to human health. Improving air quality can enhance climate change mitigation efforts, while reducing emissions will in turn improve air quality.
11. In September 2021, the WHO released updated Air Quality Guidelines (AQG) which recommend new, and often stricter limits for the classical<sup>1</sup> pollutants for the protection of human health. This was the output of a systematic review of the evidence that had accumulated since the release of the 2005 guidelines. The advances in health evidence since 2005 include:
- Health effects of air pollution have now been studied in most of regions the world.
  - More health conditions that are negatively impacted by air pollution have been identified.
  - It has been identified that primary combustion particles<sup>2</sup> and secondary inorganic and organic particles<sup>3</sup> should be the focus of toxicity studies.

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<sup>1</sup> Classical pollutants refer to PM, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, NO<sub>x</sub> and ozone

<sup>2</sup> Primary pollutants are emitted directly from the source

<sup>3</sup> Secondary pollutants form in the atmosphere via chemical reactions

12. Of particular importance to Gisborne/Tairāwhiti is the recommendation that the 24-hour average guidelines for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> have decreased from 50 to 45 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 25 to 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup> respectively. Likewise, the annual limits were reduced for both pollutants (Table 3, WHO, 2021). This potential drop in limits would increase the number of exceedances within our air shed.

Table 3 WHO guidelines 2021 compared to WHO guidelines 2005 and NESAQ

Pollutant	Averaging time	NESAQ/AAQG (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	WHO 2005 (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	WHO 2021 (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )
PM <sub>10</sub>	24-hr <sup>a</sup>	50	50	45
	annual	20	20	15
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	24-hr <sup>a</sup>	25	25	15
	annual	-	10	5
Nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	24-hr <sup>a</sup>	100	-	25
	Annual	-	40	10
Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	8-hr	100	100	100
	Peak <sup>b</sup>	-	-	60
Carbon monoxide <sup>c</sup> (CO)	24-hr <sup>a</sup>	-	-	4
Sulfur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> )	24-hr <sup>a</sup>	120	20	40

<sup>a</sup> 99<sup>th</sup> percentile, means there will be some allowable exceedances per year

<sup>b</sup> calculated using 8-hour means during the highest six-month running average

<sup>c</sup> mg/m<sup>3</sup>

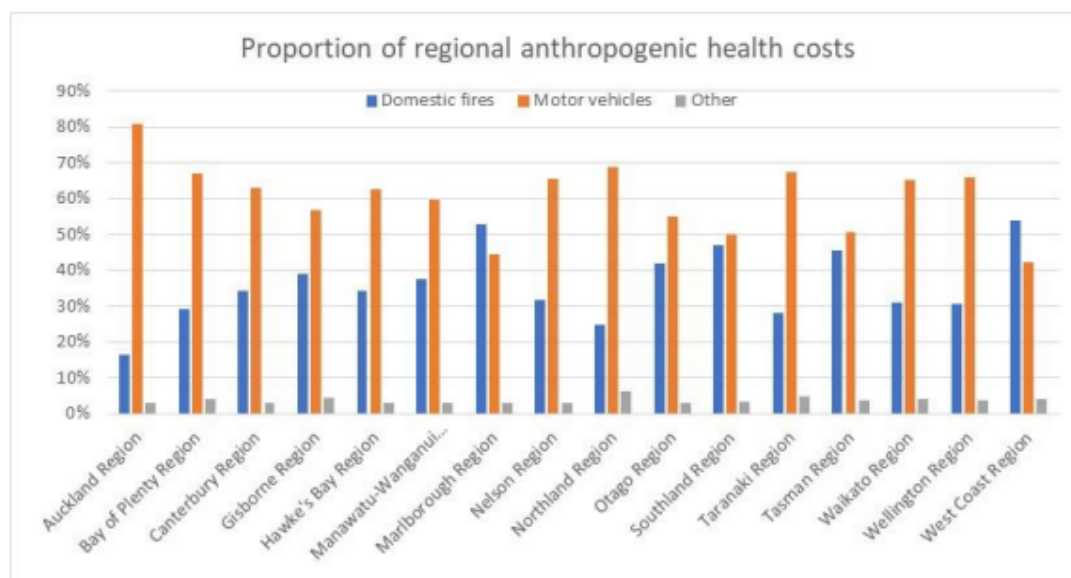
13. The WHO guidelines have also significantly reduced the guideline value for Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). The main source of nitrogen dioxide resulting from human activities is the combustion of fossil fuels (coal, gas and oil) especially fuel used in cars.
14. A spatial survey conducted in 2018 to look at air quality within Gisborne city, modelled the expected NO<sub>2</sub> levels using a combination of analyser tubes and data from the NZTA website. Using this model, the main traffic thoroughfares in the city comfortably complied with the previous WHO standard of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>. If the revised limits (of 25µg/m<sup>3</sup> 24 hr average) of the WHO guidelines are adopted into the revised NESAQ, it is likely that the limit would be breached, particularly along Wainui Rd and the Customhouse Street area.
15. As part of the work being planned to support the review of the TRMP, it has been identified that a future NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring site may need to be established.

#### Health and Air Pollution in New Zealand Study 2016 (HAPINZ 3.0)

16. People have a poor understanding of the health impacts of air pollution unless it is experienced at an individual level.
17. Understanding how much air pollution people are experiencing (exposure) is critical to understanding potential health impacts. This is because the combination of the length of time people are exposed to air pollutants, the concentration of the pollutants and the sensitivity of those people exposed together determine the likelihood and magnitude of resultant health effects. Despite the low levels of pollution in New Zealand versus many other countries, the health burden associated with air pollution is still appreciable.

18. Air pollution health effects in New Zealand were first comprehensively assessed in the Health and Air Pollution in New Zealand (HAPINZ 1.0) study undertaken by Fisher et al (2007)<sup>4</sup> for a base year of 2001 using census units. It was further expanded in 2012, with this third study undertaken in 2016.
19. The results from HAPINZ 3.0 were published in July 2022. The key findings of this study are presented in the infographic appended to this report (Appendix 2).
20. The social costs resulting from these man-made health impacts totalled \$15.6 billion with NO<sub>2</sub> exposure accounting for just over 60% of the total costs. This was a significant and surprising finding as no other research has published such strong associations between NO<sub>2</sub> and mortality.
21. The report concluded:
  - a. The social cost in Tairāwhiti from domestic fires was estimated to be \$60 million.
  - b. On average, motor vehicle impacts were more than twice those of domestic fires for total (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>) pollution from man-made sources. This is unsurprising given diesel vehicles, which are the main source of NO<sub>2</sub>, have increased significantly since 2006. Light diesel vehicles have increased by 44% and heavy diesels by 12% (MoT 2021). In Tairāwhiti the social cost from motor vehicles has been estimated to be \$87 million.
  - c. Overall, the air pollution health burden due to man-made PM<sub>2.5</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> sources increased by 10.2% between 2006 and 2016. All this increase is due to increased exposure to NO<sub>2</sub>, but the full impact of worsening NO<sub>2</sub> has been lessened by the improvements in PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations. In Tairāwhiti the total cost from man-made air pollution has been estimated to be \$154 million.

HAPINZ 3.0 Relative contributions of individual sources to the social cost of all man-made air pollution by region 2016



**Note:** Other includes industry and windblown dust

<sup>4</sup> Fisher G et al (2007). Health and Air Pollution in New Zealand: Main Report. Research report prepared by G Fisher, T Kjellstrom, S Kingham, S Hales, R Shrestha and others for Health Research Council of New Zealand, Ministry for the Environment, and Ministry of Transport. Auckland, NZ

22. Both these two pieces of research will have significant impacts for any revised NESAQ. It is further complicated due to the RMA reform with decisions still being made on how National Environmental Standards will sit under the new Natural and Built Environments Act framework. Despite this continuing uncertainty on when the amended NESAQ will come into effect, Ministry for the Environment has provided an early signal on the importance of these guidelines to the NZ context.

## **ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE - TE AROTAKENGA o NGĀ HIRANGA**

Consideration of consistency with and impact on the Regional Land Transport Plan and its implementation

**Overall Process:** **Low** Significance

**This Report:** **Low** Significance

Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan

**Overall Process:** **Low** Significance

**This Report:** **Low** Significance

Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy

**Overall Process:** **Low** Significance

**This Report:** **Low** Significance

The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district

**Overall Process:** **Low** Significance

**This Report:** **Low** Significance

The effects on individuals or specific communities

**Overall Process:** **Medium** Significance

**This Report:** **Low** Significance

The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue

**Overall Process:** **Low** Significance

**This Report:** **Low** Significance

23. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **Low** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

## **TANGATA WHENUA/MĀORI ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA TANGATA WHENUA**

24. Air and air quality are both taonga and a part of kaitiakitanga for Māori. While no specific engagement is planned around monitoring technology, iwi aspirations will be recognised and implemented as part of the TRMP review.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - TŪTAKITANGA HAPORI**

25. No specific community engagement has been undertaken.
26. Preparations are currently being made to update the air quality strategy and develop airshed action plans which should help inform future funding requests through the next LTP cycle for air quality management and implementation.

27. Specific actions that could be considered include:

- a. Incentive schemes available to the respective communities for upgrading old wood burners.
- b. Education and awareness campaigns for improving air quality.
- c. Initiatives that primarily target landlords and primary wood merchants.
- d. Funding Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding with key stakeholders such as the Te Whatu Ora – New Zealand and Iwi and public private partnerships.
- e. Co-funding agreement with EECA for the installation of heating appliances.
- f. Regulatory options such as regional plan rules and or Bylaws to reduce emissions from home heating, outdoor burning and industry.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE – Impacts / Implications - NGĀ REREKĒTANGA ĀHUARANGI - ngā whakaaweawe /ngā ritenga**

28. Climate change is directly linked to clean air in an unhealthy cycle where air pollution contributes to climate warming, which then leads to more air pollution.
29. Diesel use is a major contributor to NO<sub>2</sub> production. The HAPINZ 3.0 report has highlighted the social cost of this pollutant. Reducing vehicle hydrocarbon emissions will benefit both air quality, health and climate change and is a focus of the Land Transport Authority.

### **CONSIDERATIONS - HEI WHAKAARO**

#### **Financial/Budget**

30. Additional air quality monitoring equipment will be purchased during this financial year. This cost has been identified in capex budgets.

#### **Legal**

31. Council has statutory obligations under s15 of the NESAQ to monitor the air quality of the region if it is likely that a contaminant will breach the standard and to improve air quality in polluted air sheds.

### **POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS - KAUPAPA HERE me ngā RITENGA WHAKAMAHERE**

32. The current monitoring network supports and informs the development of the air quality chapter of the TRMP. The TRMP must be consistent with the NESAQ.
33. The two recent reports will inform the development of the revised NESAQ under the forthcoming Natural & Built Environment Act when this comes into effect.
34. Future monitoring programmes will be developed with the WHO air quality guidelines 2021 and the HAPINZ 3.0 recommendations in mind.

## RISKS - NGĀ TŪRARU

35. There are no major risks associated with this matter at present.

## NEXT STEPS - NGĀ MAHI E WHAI AKE

Date	Action/Milestone	Comments
November 2023	Annual Report to Committee on air quality matters	Should the NESAQ be released earlier than expected an update will be provided to Committee

## ATTACHMENTS - NGĀ TĀPIRITANGA

1. Attachment 1 - Map of Gisborne Urban Airshed [**22-268.1** - 1 page]
2. Attachment 2 - HAPIN Z-3.0-study-key-findings-infographic [**22-268.2** - 1 page]





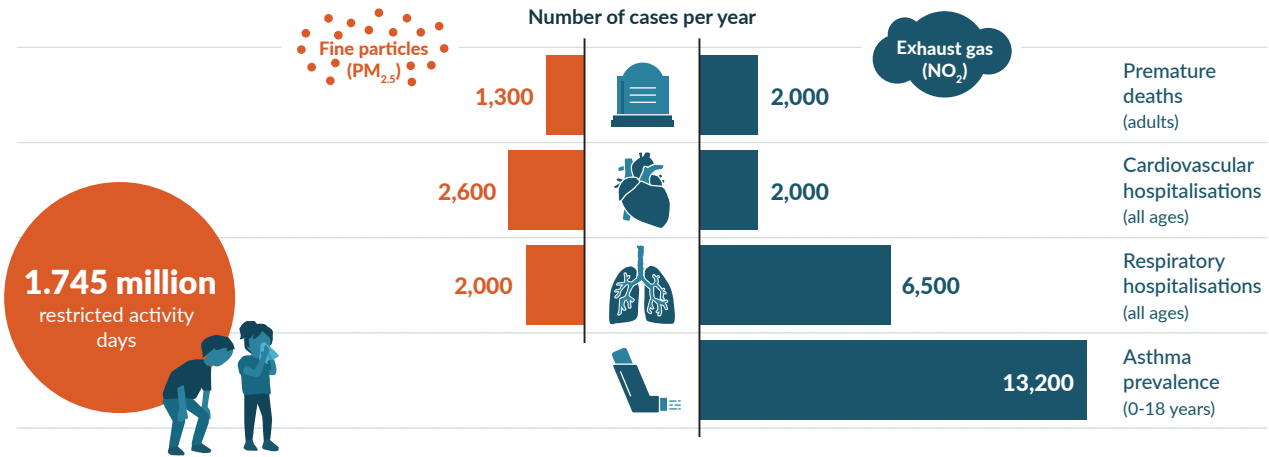
Health and Air Pollution in New Zealand (HAPINZ)

# HAPINZ 3.0 study key findings

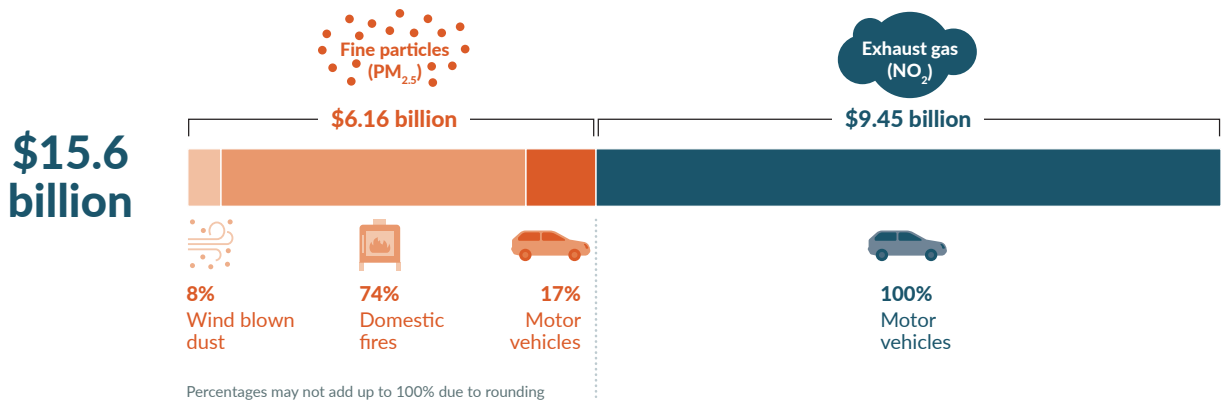
Air pollution does significant harm to our people, especially our tamariki.

Clean air matters to Kiwis: making improvements in air quality makes a difference to people's health.

## Health impacts from human-made air pollution (2016)



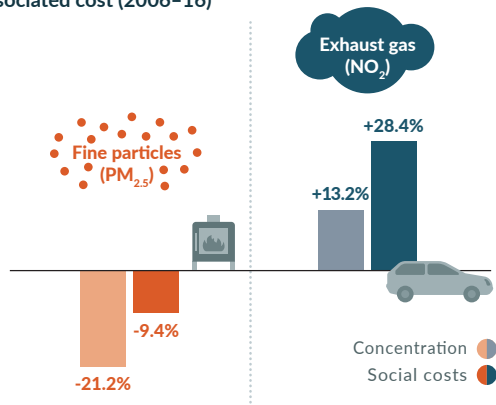
## Social costs of health impacts from human-made air pollution (2016)



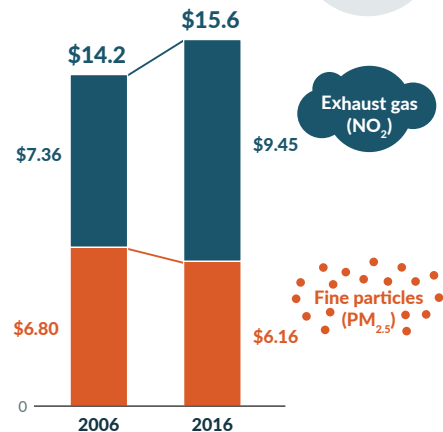
## Trends in air pollution and social costs (2006-16)

Improvements in PM<sub>2.5</sub> were offset by increased exposure to NO<sub>2</sub>.

Change of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> population-weighted concentration and associated cost (2006-16)



Social costs per year in billion \$



**+10.2%** was the overall increase of the health burden



