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## **Council – Annual Plan Hearings**

### ***Kaunihera***

### **OPEN MINUTES**

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**Minutes of a meeting of the Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Wednesday 15 July 2020 at 9.33am.**

#### **PRESENT**

**Chairperson** Mayor P Southgate  
***Heamana***

**Deputy Chairperson** Deputy Mayor G Taylor  
***Heamana Tuarua***

**Members**

- Cr M Bunting
- Cr M Forsyth
- Cr M Gallagher
- Cr R Hamilton
- Cr D Macpherson
- Cr K Naidoo-Rauf
- Cr A O’Leary
- Cr R Pascoe
- Cr S Thomson
- Cr M van Oosten
- Cr E Wilson

**In Attendance**

- Richard Briggs – Chief Executive
- Lance Vervoort – General Manager Community
- Jen Baird – General Manager City Growth
- David Bryant – General Manager Corporate
- Chris Allen – General Manager Development
- Eeva-Liisa Wright – General Manager Infrastructure Operations
- Sean Hickey – General Manager Strategy and Communications
- Sean Murray – General Manager Venues, Tourism and Mayor Events
- Blair Bowcott – Executive Director Special projects
- Rebecca Whitehead – Business and Planning Manager
- Julie Clausen – Unit Manager Strategy and Corporate Planning
- Cerice DeLacy – Project and Performance Coordinator
- Natalie Palmer – Unit Manager Communications and Marketing
- Amanda Banks - Policy and Strategy Advisor

**Governance Staff**

Amy Viggers – Governance Team Leader  
Carmen Fortin and Rebecca Watson – Governance Advisors

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**1. Apologies – *Tono aroha***

**Resolved:** (Cr van Oosten/Mayor Southgate)  
That the apologies from Cr Forsyth for partial attendance are accepted.

**2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***

**Resolved:** (Cr van Oosten/Mayor Southgate)  
That the agenda is confirmed.

**3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga***

No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.

**4. Confirmation of the Council Annual Plan Open Minutes - 12 March 2020**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr van Oosten)  
That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 March 2020 as a true and correct record.

**5. Confirmation of the Council Annual Plan Meeting Open Minutes - 10 June 2020**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr van Oosten)  
That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Council Annual Plan Meeting held on 10 June 2020 as a true and correct record.

*Cr Naidoo-Rauf joined the meeting (10.34am) at the end of the above item. She was not present when the matter was voted on.*

*The following members of the public spoke to their submissions on the draft Annual Plan.*

**Tony Armstrong** (representing Hamilton Residents & Ratepayers Association Inc)

Mr Armstrong spoke against the proposed Annual Plan, particularly the rates rise, noting his concerns with the rising debt levels. He spoke to the current happenings in the world, particularly the government debt, to combat Covid-19 and the impact on the supply chain.

**Rod Bowman**

Mr Bowman spoke against the proposed Annual Plan, noting his concerns around rising rates, and rising debt levels which he felt will become unsustainable for residents, particularly in relation to the Housing Infrastructure Fund loan for the Peacocks development.

**Geoff Kreegher**

Mr Kreegher spoke against the proposed Annual Plan, noting his concern with the suggested increase in rates and the rising levels of debts. He outlined his concerns with the planned capital programmes, as well as some of the other planned projects such as the living wage, and the implementation of a Maaori strategy.

**Unique ID 304371593**

The submitter spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan. She spoke to her work as a supporter of the arts, and the challenges to fund arts against other needs such as social schemes and infrastructure. She stated that the Council should not be afraid to spend money on the arts, noting the impact of Covid-19 on

the availability of funding, as well as the positive impact that arts have on society and mental health of the community.

**Daniel McCaffrey**

Mr McCaffrey thanked Council for the professionalism of staff and ease of making a submission to the proposed Annual Plan . He spoke against the proposed Annual Plan, noting his concerns with the term 'invest' in relation to infrastructure planned as part of the proposed Annual Plan . He noted his concerns with the refurbishment of the transport centre and other capital items which he deemed unnecessary.

*Cr O'Leary joined the meeting (10.12am) during the above submission.*

**The meeting adjourned 10.23am to 10.39am.**

*Cr Macpherson left the meeting during the above adjournment.*

**Katherine Wilson, Senior Advocacy Advisor and Brian Squair, Waikato Branch President (Property Council Waikato)**

Mr Squair and Ms Wilson spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan, noting that all regions are showing a decrease in construction due to the current economic climate, and that in their opinion both local and central government needed to invest in construction and provide policies that enable growth and projects. Mr Squair noted the Property Council however were disappointed in the timing of the need for the 3.8% rates increase outlined in the proposed Annual Plan and questioned the need for this increase at this time. They outlined their concerns around delaying some core infrastructure in places such as Peacockes, and the possible barriers this may create to private investment. They requested that the Council look to decrease the suggested 3.8% rate increase.

**Steve Hamilton**

Mr Hamilton spoke against the proposed Annual Plan. He identified that there were a number of cell phone towers around the city which he felt were causing health issues, and he felt there was no consideration given to health and safety concerning the damage the new LED lights caused to the eyes of children. He also noted his concerns with the aerial sprays used, and the potential negative impact this had on the future generations. He stated he had concerns with the prevalence of aluminium and the chemicals being used and the increases of Alzheimer's disease as a result.

**Joanne Turner (Hamilton Christian Nightshelter Trust)**

Ms Turner spoke in favour of the proposed Annual Plan, thanking the Council for the work completed to create funding to enable organisations such as theirs to function. She outlined the work that the Hamilton Christian Nightshelter Trust was doing to assist those that needed their help. She spoke in support of the City Safe service, and asked for continued support of the nightshelter through such mechanisms as funding availability via the Long Term Plan.

**Tony Dixon**

Mr Dixon thanked the Council for the opportunity to be able to speak to the proposed Annual Plan. He spoke against the Annual Plan, specifically the proposed rates increase. He stated he felt that Council was borrowing to pay for 'pet projects', and that during the lockdown Council had denied ratepayers the ability to utilise 40% of the services that their rates paid for, therefore instead of a rate increase the Council should be looking to decrease rates by 40% for the next quarter.

**Vicki Ravlich-Horan (Waikato Food Inc)**

Ms Ravlich-Horan spoke against the proposed Annual Plan, noting that in her opinion areas such as Napier have greater support from their Councils therefore creating a regional focus as a food destination. She also highlighted that often people identified proximity to other locations such as Auckland, Raglan and Taupo as a reason for living in Hamilton but this instead should be used as a drawcard for visitors to Hamilton instead, using food outlets as an attraction.

**Martin Toop**

Mr Toop spoke against the proposed Annual Plan, noting that there was a concerning lack of maintenance on the trees around the city on the berms, meaning a significant number of them are dead or dying. He also noted that there was a lack of new planting and development of parks and gullies. He spoke of his concern with the lack of parks staff, and lack of emphasis on climate change as part of the projects announced by the local and central government, and the lack of support for planting and climate change actions in places such as China and India. He noted that he felt that the Annual Plan had a lack of urgency towards climate action.

**The meeting adjourned 11.43am to 11.54am.**

**Rangimahora Reddy** (Rauawaawa Kaumatua Charitable Trust)

Ms Reddy and Mr Purcell (Chairman of the Trust) spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan and thanked the council for their support during the Covid-19 lockdown, which enabled the trust to provide food to kaumatua in need during the lockdown period. They spoke to the age friendly status of Hamilton city and leadership of the Council towards this achievement. Ms Reddy asked the Council to incorporate age friendly projects and infrastructure, such as ramps and accessibility features, hearing and visibility functionality. She also noted that work was required to start or continue on footpaths and pathways to ensure those using mobility devices are able to use these safely.

**The meeting adjourned between 12.14pm to 12.18pm.**

**Colin Jones** (Commercial & Industrial Consultants Ltd)

Mr Jones spoke against the proposed Annual Plan and noted his concerns with the information he had been collecting over the last 2.5 years via LGOIMA regarding affordable housing. He acknowledged that the Council was in a difficult financial place and the impacts of the economic climate was going to be significant. He noted his concerns with standing orders which gave 4 days to distribute agendas, and the pressure that this placed onto Elected Members.

*Cr Bunting left the meeting (12.21pm) during the above submission.*

**The meeting adjourned 12.34pm to 1.29pm.**

**Ariana Simpson** (Waikato Women's Refuge Te Whakaruruhau)

Ms Simpson spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan, and noted in her submission the request from the Waikato Women's Refuge for funding for one Full Time Equivalent staff member. She explained this would enable the refuge to continue to provide support in the Waikato area, especially with the purpose built refuge being completed currently.

**Kelli Pike**

Ms Pike spoke as an individual in support of the proposed Annual Plan, asking the Council to keep the living wage included in the proposed Annual Plan, despite some submitters asking for this to be removed. She spoke to the struggles of being paid less than a living wage, and suggested that the costs could be minimised by capping the increases of wages for the 250+ staff being paid over \$120,000 per annum. She asked that the Council did not freeze or drop rates, rather to move ahead with the suggested 3.8% rates increase to fund infrastructure to combat climate change and to enable living wage to be paid to council staff.

**Simon Leadley and Kelli Pike** (Living Wage Waikato)

Mr Leadley and Ms Pike spoke on behalf of Living Wage Waikato in support of the proposed Annual Plan, especially concerning the payment of a living wage to council staff and the positive impact that this level of income would have on people and the on flow effect that this then has on local businesses.

**Lynne Garnham (Tui 200 Inc)**

Ms Garnham spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan, specifically the parts of the plan referencing the Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park. She spoke of the background to the park and the work that Tui 2000 Inc has historically completed in this area, and thanked the Council for their support for planting in the area. She also supported the zoo entrance area, and noted that benefits of this project are significant to Hamilton, socially, economically and environmentally.

*Cr Forsyth joined the meeting (1.49pm) during the above submission.*

**Stephen Atkins**

Mr Atkins spoke against the proposed Annual Plan, noting his concerns with the proposed 3.8% rates increase, and asked the Council to revert to the 2.8% proposed rates increase. He outlined his concerns with the increasing housing unaffordability in Hamilton, with large costs and salaries within the Council.

**Don Good (Waikato Chamber of Commerce)**

Mr Good spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan, in particular the proposed 3.8% rates increase. He noted in his opinion it was easier to absorb smaller planned increases rather than one big jump, and increments of 3.8% are easier to plan for than one big 12% jump in several years' time to make up for that lack of smaller increases. He also spoke in support of the continuation of maintenance of infrastructure to ensure that larger insurmountable issues don't come to the fore down the track. He noted that the proposed increase in rates are the average equivalent of 1 flat white every 2 weeks per ratepayer. Mr Good also asked that the Council boosts expenditure on attracting good businesses to Hamilton.

**Graham Pollard (Friends of Hamilton Zoo)**

Mr Pollard spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan, particularly in support of the proposed new zoo entrance as part of the Annual Plan. He spoke to the current visitor experience which has some challenges, and also noted the ability for education spaces and facilities particularly to educate children on climate change, and the ability to then promote the zoo as a destination which helps the city economically.

*Cr Bunting re-joined the meeting (2.05pm) during the above submission.*

**Jason Wade (Clarence Street Theatre Trust)**

Mr Wade spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan. He spoke about Hamilton becoming the cultural capital of New Zealand and the possibilities with this. He requested that the Council continue to invest in the arts and spoke of the importance of each theatre space and the different needs that each theatre space answers. He gave an overview of the work that Clarence Street Theatre Trust undertakes and gave an overview of what Clarence Street Theatre can bring to the community and to Hamilton.

**David Waine (Riverlea Theatre & Arts Centre Incorporated)**

Mr Waine spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan, as part of his role as Chair of the Riverlea Theatre and Arts Centre. He spoke to the challenges of raising funding, particularly funding required for repairs necessary to remain viable. He requested that consideration is given to the set up of some form of arts and community funding pool, which would enable organisations such as Riverlea to access funding at municipal rates. He noted the challenges of accessing funding through other community organisations such as WEL Energy Trust.

**Jeremy Mayall (Creative Waikato)**

Mr Mayall spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan, and spoke of his desire to see an continued investment in the arts as part of the recovery budget, as the arts played a significant role in health recovery in other places such as Christchurch. He also noted his support of the development of an arts fund. He gave an overview of the work that Creative Waikato completes in the community and the positive impact that they have, and the potential impact that the arts have on the wellbeings required to be considered as part of legislation. In response to questions from Elected Members he gave an overview of the arts funding

recently announced by central government and how this would impact on local organisations such as Creative Waikato.

**Ron Pengelly**

Mr Pengelly spoke against the proposed Annual Plan, specifically the use of rates to enable the development and purchase of capital infrastructure. He identified Part 4 of the Local Government Act which states that ratepayers should never be required to pay rates for those projects for which they do not receive any direct benefit. He noted his concerns with older, established ratepayers being required to pay rates in particular for Peacockes infrastructure.

**Margaret Evans (TOTI)**

Ms Evans spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan, in support of preserving Founders Theatre and seeing this repurposed as a space such as a town hall. She asked for some extra time to get a proposal together for the repurposing, and to then ultimately be able to put this forward to the Long Term Plan. She spoke to the history of the Founders Theatre and some of the possibilities that could go into this space, such as a café and bar, outdoor theatre or museum.

**Staff Action:** *Staff undertook to provide details of the consultation process concerning Founders Theatre to Elected Members.*

**Margaret Evans (TOTI)**

Ms Evans spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan. She outlined a project to develop a Heritage Village at Claudelands project, with various styles of houses throughout the years, in the style of Howick Village and others which are popular visitor destinations. She noted that this could also showcase Maaori history and dwellings. TOTI requested the opportunity to come back to the Council with a developed business case to then feed into the Long Term Plan. Ms Evans highlighted the potential positive economic, social development of such a project.

**The meeting adjourned 3.27pm and 3.39pm**

*Cr Forsyth retired from the meeting during the above adjournment.*

**Roderick Francis David Aldridge**

Mr Aldridge spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan, specifically the suggested plan to pay council staff a living wage, as well as infrastructure to support alternative modes of transport such as cycling. He suggested with the right infrastructure Hamilton could become the cycling capital of NZ and lead the way in environmental change. He noted there was never going to be a better time to borrow and therefore to be able to invest in projects to make an impact and enable change.

**Garry Mallet**

Mr Mallet spoke against the proposed Annual Plan, identifying that he had concerns around infill and intensification, as well as restrictive covenants. He felt that restrictive covenants could threaten the ability to create infill and intensification of housing, as well as the negative impact on housing affordability. He asked the Council to look into the issue, as he did not have comfort that the council did not have a true indication of housing and land capacity.

**Staff Action:** *Staff undertook to provide information to Elected Members concerning the mechanism on visibility of restrictive covenants.*

**Tony Andres (Kirikiriroa Restoration Forum)**

Mr Andres spoke in support of the proposed Annual Plan, particularly the fund available to community organisations. He gave an overview of the work that Kirikiriroa Restoration Forms completes, and spoke of the need to keep work going on an ongoing basis, particularly in the un-developed areas like gullies where no other forms of developments can be completed. He spoke of the role of volunteers in this body of work,

as well as the return on investment, like the return of native birds such as the kereru, the positive impact of native areas and wildlife on children, as the potential ability to create a carbon neutral city leading the country.

**The meeting adjourned at 4.20pm until 1.30pm Thursday 16 July 2020.**

**The meeting reconvened at 1.33pm, 16 July 2020.**

**6. Apologies – *Tono aroha***

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Wilson)

That the apologies from Cr Pascoe for lateness and Cr O’Leary for absence are accepted.

**7. Engagement Response to the 'Back on track. Hamilton's COVID-19 recovery budget' Annual Plan 2020/21**

The Mayor gave an overview of the process for Elected Members to obtain further information from staff ahead of next week’s Annual Plan deliberations Council meeting. Elected Members asked for further information concerning:

- Impact on the financial strategy of borrowing;
- Costs of borrowing;
- Latest update on shovel ready projects;
- Return on investment on stimulus and infrastructure projects;
- Founders Theatre consultation process;
- Comparisons of funding in arts to other metro centres;
- Different funding models for arts funding – more information concerning WEL energy funding model;
- Events funding levels;
- History of arts and events funding;
- Community Infrastructure Funding;
- Inclusion of work streams to come out of the Long Term Plan;
- Modelling redone on 2.8% vs 3.8% increases in rates;
- Commercial rates deferral – information on Auckland’s process;
- Clarify potential costs in future years as a result of paying living wage;
- Impact of potential need to co-pay any shovel ready projects;
- Any modelling of the financial impact on Covid-19;
- Project manager role at Waiwhakareke being put on hold;
- Impact of any deferrals on any cycling infrastructure;
- Understanding if anything other than Eastern Pathways cycleway is being deferred;
- More information on Fairfield Hall;
- Universal design of planned projects;
- Review of Arts Policy;
- Ability to create the opportunity for creative sector to meet together;
- Support in place for the arts sector to become self sufficient; and
- Contestable funding for gully restoration.

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Deputy Mayor Taylor)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) notes that the verbal submissions will be considered along with the written submissions during the ‘Back on track. Hamilton’s COVID-19 recovery budget’ Annual Plan 2020/21 deliberations meeting on 23 July 2020.

**The meeting was declared closed at 2.56pm.**



## Appendix 1 – Submission from submitter Tony Armstrong

Presentation to HCC annual plan at 9.50 on 8/7/20

Good morning

Thanks for allowing this presentation

I am Tony Armstrong and have been elected as the president of the Hamilton Residents and Ratepayers Association. This is a well respected and trustworthy group that holds at its core common community values, transparency, integrity, democracy, accountability and expertise.

My working experience includes 35 years primary teaching, 40 years farming dry stock on 250 acres and our business includes several rental properties and I also have spent 6 years as a Regional Councillor representing Hamilton.

Many momentous events are unfolding right now. A global pandemic, violent social unrest, frightening socialism and the unleashing of the most destructive monetary policies in our history.

Never in NZ history has society carried so much debt. Much of which will not or cannot be repaid.

In the days and months ahead, there will likely be much less stability of any kind for everyone.

All government's COVID regulations have broken supply links, put at risk all small businesses, decimated tourism and frightened society into some significant changes.

HCC is totally reliant on continual growth and a vibrant and flourishing ratepayer's base. Community's ability to pay is being put at risk now that we are moving into a global depression. Let's not forget the risk and implications of further lock downs on the economy. Even a zero rate increase may be far too high as we expect that many homeowners, central commercial and restaurant, to name a few, may have to be liquidated and that rate burden will be steadily shifted to existing ratepayer. The cost of living due to supply chain disruption, social distancing etc. suggests rates will become relatively unaffordable.

A rate rise can then be easily explained as a community bail-in. The risks of a bail-in is high as it already is in statute.

Council's \$600 million in borrowing is unsustainable, (forecast \$900m) we are all living beyond our means. Council has no ability to pay down debt under the current economic climate. Council uses community assets as collateral, in reality our assumed assets are just collateralised debt now. Council's annual plan should in essence now be overseeing the insolvency of the system that you are governing.

The community does not have much collateral left. It's all obligated debt.

Cost overruns are a sign of poor management. I see very very little 'cost benefit analysis' entailed in infrastructural spending exemplified by Peacocks, Founders, Rail. Neither council nor government can work out an equitable apportionment system around the "contributions process". This needs to happen.

Businesses who apply for consent are up against over-engineering the design work by the consultants with huge added cost, so as to simply get it through council processes easily. Examples earthquake remedial, engineer reports, health and safety, PS 3 reporting.

All this extra non productive charges gets added each year, one way or other, to rate payers and the public.

Government which includes local government is nearly spending half of all money the country earns, this is crushing the productive sector which is our honest market indicator and is the only sector that actually creates wealth for our wellbeing.

Unfortunately the "Public Good" aspirational concept has turned into "public sad". The promises of fulfilling our A to Z of council promises to the community are becoming a burden to us all and will sadly be written down as stranded assets

Common core community values of transparency, integrity, democracy, accountability and expertise are being called into question. When I was young it was common to chat about the weather. Now it is about the public's loss of confidence in politician's decision making process. Everyone needs to take a look at these fundamental core values and readjust otherwise it's all going to end badly for all of us.

When someone criticises, you  
Should always consider the criticism accurate.  
Tony Armstrong  
13/7/20

Presentation to HCC annual plan 8/7/20



















## **Covid – 19 Recovery; Submission to Hamilton City Council**

Stephen Atkins, MEdL, BSc, Dip Tchg.  
Hamilton East.

**Explosive growth equals dramatic meltdowns (Hybels, 2008).**

- 1. The recent WEL Energy Trust election has a profound message from the community to those responsible for Community finances. The results show all four 'Bring Back Discounts' affiliated nominees were in the top 5 polling candidates, (see appendix, attached).**

The message is clear, do not burden individuals (in this case ratepayers) with costs that go beyond paying for essential services and moderate growth in capital items. As Freire (1997) states "Leaders who organise the people do not have the right to arbitrarily impose their world" (p. 159).

- 2. Please take your hands off my money. Revisit the 1% reduction in the rates increase, and indeed the full 3.8% increase in rates for 2020/2021 years should be wiped as one of Council's first responses to Covid. The Government assistance and cost savings during lock down adequately allow for this.**

Local Body and Regional rates take all my net income from the pension for all of the months of January to 31 March and this is set to further extend because of the cumulative effect of the high percentage rates increases.

If as stated a 1% reduction in the rates increase amounts to \$1.85 million (Back on Track, p.02) it follows that the 3.8% increase would total \$7.03 million. This 3.8% increase is on top of 9% from the previous year which in itself was a huge percentage increase when matched with wage increases for the average worker, and the cost of living increases, together with the financial difficulty that covid has presented for many. The compound effect of this and future suggested increases places an unrealistic burden on the average income earning ratepayer and allows potential for increased borrowing by Council, such borrowing in itself, being undesirable.

- 3. Please take your hands off my grandchildren's money.**

The development costs imposed by Council that are being used in part to fund costs are therefore imposed at an immoral level. What Council is unwittingly doing is costing homeowners up to \$300,000 over the life of a 30 year mortgage while at the same time increasing rates in a way that required central government intervention, to legislate against spiralling debt levels. Development costs combined with massively increasing rate demands are consigning my grandchildren to a lifetime of paying for Council costs that have rapidly become out of control.

**4. The large increases in remuneration among top earners in the Council need to be reined in to help address Council costs, and alleviate the burden imposed on all rate payers.**

Percentage increases lead to increasing inequality whereby even a 3% increase in CEO remuneration (\$16,000 this year) amounts to a greater increase in real terms than nurses, police, teachers, fire service and so on receive even in a decade, yet the latter are the backbones of society. A recent \$60,000 increase in remuneration for the CEO is double the yearly pension and is a slap in the face for all those older people who struggle with rising costs, which includes rates which can easily amount to 25% of net pensioner annual incomes even when the earner resides in a modest home.

As Wolf (2014) states "For me the most convincing argument against the ongoing rise in economic inequality is that it is incompatible with true equality as citizens. If, as the ancient Athenians believed, participation in public life is a fundamental aspect of human self-realisation, huge inequalities cannot but destroy it. In a society dominated by wealth, money will buy power. Inequality cannot be eliminated. It is inevitable, and to a degree even desirable. But, as the Greeks argued, there needs to be moderation in all things. We are not seeing moderate rises in inequality. We should take notice" (as cited in Di Muzio, 2015, p. ii).

While it is acknowledged Council has frozen wages for those earning over \$70,000 for twelve months, this does not address the excess that exists in the top echelon.

**5. HCC needs to maintain surpluses, and should be required to pay off debt over a targeted timeframe. To increase borrowing at a time of historically low interest rates is foolhardy, and places the city at risk should interest rates swing upwards.**

Key principles of successful business operation as argued in the Leadership Axioms include the need to be profitable and the need for a 'boiler fund' to sustain the business over periods of downturn (Hybels, 2008). That Council projects an increase in debt from \$344 million in 2018/19 to \$630 million for 2020/2021 and further increasing to \$900 million by 2027/2028 is a blight on the organization given that recent rates increases were as high as 9% and are still at an unacceptable 3.8%.

One step among many towards maintaining surpluses is the need to reduce the occurrence of projects that are wasteful (for example the three times redesigning of the Thomas Rd –Gordonton Rd intersection), and the need to drop individual councilor wish lists that are arbitrarily imposed.



## **6. Growth needs to be cut back.**

On a global scale the pandemic has not taught us anything. Human population increases and activity continue to destroy the atmosphere, habitats, and biodiversity among others, and is the prime driver of global warming. The fundamental flaw is an inability for humans to control our populations on global, national and regional levels. There appears no plan on any level to address the need to curtail human population growth, a growth both local and national governments buy in to. Covid has not done its job because we have failed to listen. As such a 'covid' will happen again.

In monetary policy, there is a question of ideology that needs addressing, that is, do we fund growth from borrowing or from the equity in the system? To do the former is to make us the toys of egoists within the highly usurious society that is a hallmark of NZ (Hunter, 2002). To do the latter will stop the flow of funds to lending institutions, and allow Council to use more of its revenue in direct benefit to its citizens, where measured advances can be implemented in timely ways.

### **References:**

Di Muzio, T. (2015). *The 1% and the rest of us*. London: Zed Books.

Freire, P. (1997). *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. (M. Ramos, Tran.) New York: Continuum.

Hunter, L. (2002). *Courage to change: A case for monetary reform*. Mount Maunganui, NZ: Harbourside Publications Ltd.

Hybels, B. (2008). *Leadership Axioms*. Michigan: Zonderran.

### **Appendix: 2020 WEL Trustee election results including candidate affiliation, showing top 5 polling candidates, with 4 affiliated to Bring Back Discounts.**

Received WEST, Michael Bring Back Discounts 9,164

JOHNSTON, Jan Bring Back Discounts 9,028

SILVERTON, Matt Bring Back Discounts 8,918

HAMILL, Rob Independent - Retain Assets 8,706

YAMUNANATHAN, Adrian Bring Back Discounts 7,866

## **Urgent Soaking up CO2 by Nation Wide Tree Planting**

In our adapting to climate change currently the emphasis is on reducing CO2 emissions. Major investment in Electric cars, solar panels, buses and biking is well underway. Tree planting is also expanding but this could be done on an urgent basis nationwide for all reasons.

How urgent is the need for change? What changes are happening in what we can grow, what food we can buy from overseas and from our fisheries? How many more people are there in the world now than this time last year? How much carbon absorbing greenery is lost to roads, houses, etc., every year?

Tree planting is a good investment, costs of tree planting and care are far outweighed by the returns. Food crops for us and livestock. Trees for fragrance and color. Trees for shelter from wind, rain, ultraviolet light, traffic noise and pollution. Timber for building and to replace steel. Trees to reduce erosion.

Tree planting for all reasons will involve far more citizens and get them on board adapting to climate change. Teachers, parents, is there room in your school grounds for more trees? Many schools should be funded to teach horticulture. Can the Department of Education encourage this? City Councils can government advise you to plant more trees around sports fields and parks. Our empty city green spaces will see more getting their exercise medication. Plant trees in home gardens on busy roads. Can homeowners ask for berm trees to replace those that have died? Supermarkets can you fill those gaps in your car parks where trees and shrubs have died. NZTA can you assist farmers with more roadside plantings to provide shelter for stock and color for tourism. The biggest need is funding and research for land use changes. Say 10% of grassland will have to be converted to orchards, timber, etc.

Research funding needs to be changed to support this emphasis on trees. rather than grass. There must be a largescale increase in tree nurseries. Not enough trees are available already. Aboriculture can be taught in prisons.

The largescale changes in land use adaptation to climate changes means rural areas would get much needed investments and jobs.

All this will help NZ regain its' clean green image. Martin Toop, March 2020.

## **What NZ Govt. can do to get urgent nationwide tree planting**

PM to make a speech pointing out UK will have only electric cars by 2040. What about NZ? Electric cars only, adapting to climate change and water storage reservoirs means decades of unbelievable changes. The next speech will build on this.

PM to make a speech saying it will get Govt. departments working with City and Regional Councils to get tree planting for all reasons under way. The issues of carbon absorbing link with major changes in land use and the need for reservoirs for water storage.

At present the Green Party and the Labor Party, are seen as putting climate change action far away behind poverty and in equality. The scheme billion tree planting by 2028 is unlikely to see NZ having another billion trees more than, it has at present. More trees will have been cut down. There will be another 664 million more people on earth in 8 yrs. time.

If the National Party promotes tree planting nation wide for all reasons it will get many more votes. The Green Party will not get into parliament.

Government must have the Education Department helping schools with guidelines to get many more trees in school grounds. More schools to have horticultural facilities including tree nurseries. Starting with this will get all voters waking up to the need for urgent action on changes nationwide.

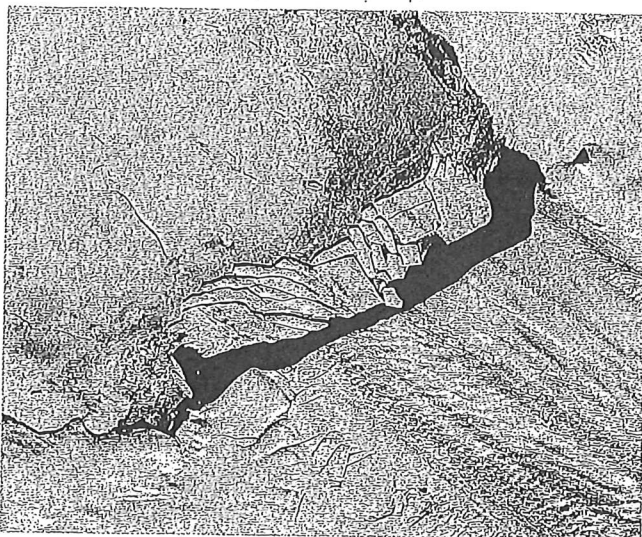
The 9 government ministers who will work on the changes that are necessary are :-

Urban development, Research, Education, Health, Environment, Trade and Export Growth, Agriculture, Forestry and Climate Change.

Martin Toop, March 2020.

# Antarctic glacier at risk of unpredictable collapse

Michael Marshall



Pine Island glacier is a weak point in the Antarctic ice

A MAJOR Antarctic glacier is at risk of disintegrating irreversibly if it passes a key tipping point, which could trigger the collapse of the entire West Antarctic ice sheet – and we can't say when it might happen.

Pine Island glacier is one of two glaciers flowing into Pine Island Bay, part of the Amundsen Sea off West Antarctica. The other is Thwaites glacier. Both have retreated rapidly due to climate change, contributing to rising sea levels.

"Of all glaciers around Antarctica, we believe Pine Island glacier has contributed most, so far," says Sebastian Rosier at Northumbria University in the UK. "People are very concerned."

Worse, the two glaciers are the weak point of the West Antarctic ice sheet, which sits on bedrock below sea level. A dramatic glacier retreat could let water get under the ice and thus collapse the entire ice sheet, leading to more than 3 metres of sea level rise, over centuries.

The main reason the Pine

Island glacier is retreating is a current of warmer water that now periodically flows under its floating tip, melting it from below. Because the main part of the glacier sits on rocks that are below sea level, there is nothing to stop this warmer water getting ever further under the glacier.

Rosier and his colleagues simulated the glacier's behaviour as the ocean water at its tip slowly warmed. They

## 1.2°C

Amount of ocean warming that could trigger a last tipping point

found that it passed through not one but three tipping points. The first two both led to rapid ice loss, even if the ocean was later cooled. The third caused the glacier to collapse entirely. This couldn't be stopped by cooling the ocean (EarthArXiv, doi.org/dstt).

"Tipping point three is sort of game over," says Ted Scambos at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

In the model, the third

tipping point occurred when the ocean water had warmed by 1.2°C. A 2014 study found that the Amundsen Sea is warming by 0.1 to 0.3°C per decade.

However, Rosier says the 1.2°C threshold is only "a rough ballpark". He emphasises that the simulation deliberately warmed the ocean slowly, to tease out the tipping points.

"It's highly likely that things might happen over a quicker period of time," he says. Rapid ocean warming could even

trigger a cascade, in which the first tipping point caused enough melting to unleash the second, and then the third.

The real challenge is that the Amundsen Sea isn't warming as if a thermostat were being turned up, says Scambos.

Instead, warmer water that used to be kept out by currents and winds is entering in pulses, controlled by shifts in winds across the Pacific Ocean.

Could we see the tipping point coming? In the model, the researchers were able to spot warning signs: Pine Island glacier became slow to respond to perturbations in ocean temperature. But they needed 300 years of data for this to work. Detailed records of the glacier only go back to the 1970s, with a smattering of older ones. That is a problem, says Rosier.

It may be possible to find out how the glacier behaved earlier in its history by studying sediment cores from the ocean floor just off Antarctica, says Scambos. This could reveal when the ice was grinding over the seabed, and when the seabed was exposed to water. ■

# UK facing 'unnatural' heatwaves unless we cut carbon emissions

By John Ingham

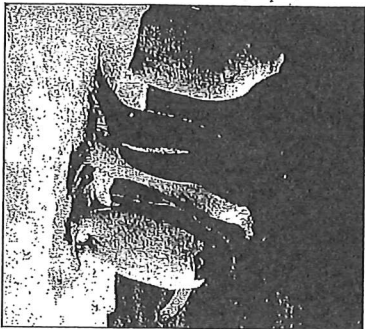
BRITAIN could face extreme and unnatural heatwaves by the end of the century unless the world cuts carbon emissions, experts warn.

The Met Office said the chances of seeing temperatures rise past 104F (40C) are now 10 times higher than if man had not affected the climate. This would pose severe health problems for millions across the country and could be unbearable for some.

The UK record temperature is 101.6F set in Cambridge in July last year. But this could soon be the norm for a British summer, researchers claimed.

The Met Office said the chances of extreme high temperatures in parts of the UK could "increase significantly" by the end of the century.

Currently, the chances of recording 104F are "extremely



**EXTREME:** Heat could become a regular occurrence

low". But it could occur every three to four years by 2100 if the world continues to pump out high levels of greenhouse gases, it was said.

If the world honours the 2015 Paris climate agreement to limit temperatures to 2C above pre-

industrial levels the chances would be "considerably lower".

The major climate study said the South Pole has warmed at more than three times the global rate since 1989. It argued this was probably intensified by increases in greenhouse gases.

Lead author Dr Nikolaos Christidis said: "We found the likelihood of extremely hot days in the UK has been increasing and will continue to do so during the course of the century.

"Climate change has already influenced the likelihood of temperature extremes in the UK.

"The chances of seeing 104F days in the UK could be as much as 10 times more likely in the current climate than under a natural climate unaffected by humans. The likelihood of exceeding 104F in the UK in a given year has also been rapidly increasing and, without curbing

greenhouse gas emissions, such extremes could be taking place every few years by 2100."

Dr Mark McCarthy, co-author and head of the Met Office's National Climate Information Centre, said: "This research shows human-caused climate change has set us on course to see temperature extremes in the UK that would be highly unlikely under a natural climate."

He said "urgent action to reduce emissions" was required immediately.

The Committee on Climate Change - which advises the UK Government - said it has a "once in a lifetime chance" to turn the coronavirus crisis into "a defining moment" in the fight against climate change.

It called for a green economic recovery to accelerate the transition to a cleaner economy. The findings were published in the journal Nature Climate Change.

Met Office Express 8-7-20



# Siberian Arctic records off-the-charts warming

**Russia**

WT 9/7/20

June 2020 tied for the planet's warmest June on record, closely matching the anomalously toasty temperatures observed globally during June last year. But one region in particular saw heat virtually off the charts – Siberia.

Uncharacteristically warm weather thawed vast stretches of the Arctic, contributing to a flare-up in wildfires and melting away permafrost in a process set to accelerate the pace of human-induced climate change.

It was Siberia's hottest June on record, beating the previous record holders, 2018 and 2019, by a significant margin, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service, a science division of the European Union.

Across the entirety of Arctic Siberia, June temperatures averaged about 1.2 degrees C above normal. A few places bordering the Laptev Sea in northeast Siberia spent the month 8C above normal.

The town of Verkhoyansk

reached 38C on the afternoon of June 20. The World Meteorological Organisation has preliminarily accepted the reading as legitimate, making it the hottest temperature ever observed in the Arctic.

Climate scientists have long concerned themselves with Siberia and the Arctic, zones that are outpacing almost everywhere else in the world when it comes to climate warming by a factor of almost three.

Less ice in the Arctic means there is less ice to reflect sunlight, allowing the surface to absorb more of the sun's rays and heat up disproportionately faster than the rest of the world.

That's also triggering the same positive feedback mechanism on land, by melting Siberia's snowpack and even thawing its previously untouched permafrost.

Scientists with the climate monitoring service Copernicus reported a record minimum in snowpack across Siberia during June, increasing the region's ability to heat up.

*Washington Post*

