



SUBMISSION ON THE ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN 2021-2031

Date: 19 April 2021

To: Draft Long Term Plan
Ashburton District Council
PO Box 94
ASHBURTON 7740
Email: submissions@adc.govt.nz
Ph: (03) 307 7700

SUBMISSION

This is a submission on the Draft Ashburton District Council Long Term Plan (LTP) by Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua (Arowhenua). Arowhenua is the representative body of the Tangata Whenua and who hold Manawhenua in the traditional takiwā that includes the area between the Rakaia River in the north, the Waitaki River in the south and from the coast in the east to the main divide in the west.

This submission should be read in support of any other submission made by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and any of the Rūnanga in Canterbury.

Arowhenua Rūnanga largely supports the LTP as drafted but makes the following comments for consideration:

Relationship with Arowhenua

Arowhenua are disappointed that the LTP is silent on the relationship Ashburton District Council (Council) have with Arowhenua as the local rūnanga and the legal entity Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Limited (AEC). Council has a valuable and positive relationship with Arowhenua that should be encouraged and nurtured. The role and relationship of Arowhenua with Council as Treaty Partners should be clear that this is distinct from other relationships the Council has with the community and local interest groups.

Climate Change

Arowhenua are disappointed to see the LTP is silent on climate change and the challenges the district will face over the next 10 years. It was anticipated by Arowhenua that Council would have attempted to keep climate change at the front and centre of decision making and that the Council, as a business, ensures its own house is in order.

In the Ashburton District, climate change will have a variety of impacts; from higher sea levels to more intense rainfall, warmer temperatures and droughts potentially changing what food and crops that can grow in the district. Arowhenua are already seeing some of these effects through increased frequency of flooding and coastal erosion. Some of these impacts may be positive, (e.g. warmer winters, a longer crop growing season), but other impacts will challenge how Arowhenua and the general public currently live.

There are also increasing legislative requirements on local authorities to report climate change related information such as Council's planning for impacts and managing risks.

In the future, it is expected that Council will be expected to act and show leadership on climate change. This is, in part driven by the national climate change and zero carbon programme, but also in recognition that the effects of climate change will be felt in a very local way. Our local environment, assets and communities will be impacted.

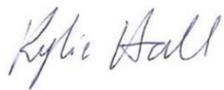
Council will need to show progress on reducing emissions and to demonstrate steps that are being taken to work with the community, and provide local education on climate change effects, impacts and opportunities for reducing the district's carbon footprint. Work will also need to be undertaken with climate change affected communities to plan for any adaptation or mitigation needed as a result of climate change.

Stockwater

Arowhenua are of the opinion that Council should acknowledge the role of stockwater races within the district. The recent creation of a dedicated role indicates the importance of this. Arowhenua seek that over the next 10 years that Council ensure that all proposals relating to stockwater shall include consultation with mana whenua.

Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Signature of person(s) authorised to sign on behalf of persons making submission:



Kylie Hall

Principal Planner

Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Ltd (on behalf of Arowhenua)