

TAKING TAUPŌ DISTRICT FOWARD

OUR ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR RECOVERY

IN SUMMARY



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
Taupō District Council

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TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL **OUR APPLICATION**

16 PROJECTS

2298 FTE

\$316.35 MILLION

FULL 12-MONTH CONSTRUCTION PERIOD

MEET THE FOUR WELLBEING TARGETS
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**SOCIAL, ECONOMIC,
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
CULTURAL.**





THE WAY WE WERE

GDP \$2.3 BILLION

18,781 FTES

TOURISM AT A DIRECT IMPACT OF

\$371 MILLION

EMPLOYING APPROXIMATELY A THIRD
OF OUR WORKFORCE (6404 FTES)

CONSTRUCTION

SECTOR AT DIRECT IMPACT OF

\$174 MILLION AND 2195 FTES

KNOWN NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY AS THE

**‘EVENTS CAPITAL
OF NEW ZEALAND’**

OUR STIMULUS PROJECTS

Priority	Category	Name	Value (GST exclusive)	Employment (estimated FTEs)
1	B	Ensuring Safe Drinking Water	15,650,000	80
1	A	Water and Wastewater – Reticulation	53,546,000	254
1	A	Ensuring Safety Through Telemetry	14,063,000	34
2	B	Taupō District Community, Service and Emergency Centre	38,600,000	460
2	A	District Wide Recreational Improvements	15,189,450	188
2	A	Shared paths, Kerb and Channel and Accessible Paths	10,555,000	60
2	A	Taupō Town Centre Transformation	20,600,000	92
2	A	Taupō Bike Trails	10,040,000	55
3	A	Building Upgrade Package	17,390,236	214
3	B	Road Safety and Rehabilitation	10,300,000	50
3	C	Social Services and Community Youth Hub	10,300,000	55
3	C	Social and Community Housing	20,000,000	80
4	C	Turangi Recreation, Events and Cultural Centre	14,586,000	180
4	C	Turangi Wastewater Treatment Plant and Disposal Field Relocation	30,000,000	57
5	C	Great Lake Centre Refurbishment	13,200,000	163
5	C	Taupō Museum	22,359,000	276

OUR TOP PRIORITY AREAS

ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER

In response to the Havelock North drinking water contamination issue, Central Government has provided local government with the very strong directive that all New Zealanders should be able to access safe drinking water, no matter where they live.

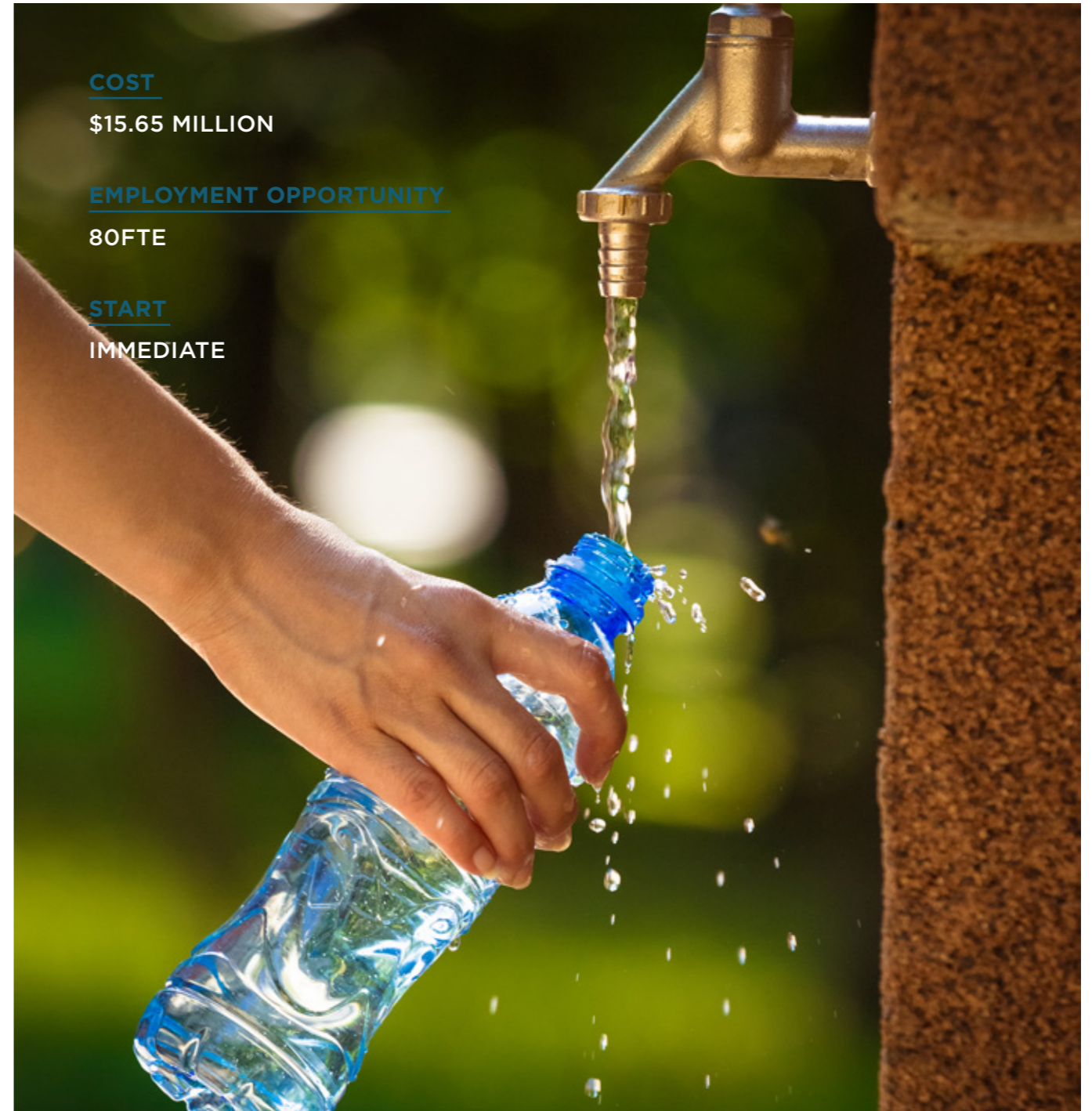
Of all the services we provide, this is the most pivotal to get right, as it can immediately and directly impact on people’s health and wellbeing. Residents and visitors to our district, including international and domestic tourists, expect to be able to access safe drinking water. Completion of this project will enable us to bring forward upgrades required to ensure we can provide water that meets the required standards and uphold our district’s reputation, and New Zealand’s, as a clean, safe travel location.

There are 18 drinking water schemes across the Taupō District supplying a permanent population of approximately 40,000, and an estimated holiday population of around 100,00 over peak periods. Each scheme has its own treatment plant and water reticulation network. There is a significant capital investment and operational cost associated with operating and upgrading so many plants across a relatively small ratepayer base. In 2019, Council adopted a Water Supply Strategy, which provides a strategic direction for Council’s drinking water supplies over the next three years. This programme would accelerate that strategy.

Our intention would be to work very closely with our regional partners, both through the Bay of Plenty (given that we share contractors, proximity and drinking water assessors), and the Waikato to deliver this work. We would undertake joint procurement and sharing of technical expertise with both regions and their Local Authority Shared Service companies.

Upon completion of the project, we would achieve DWSNZ compliance for 87 per cent of our district’s population. The remaining schemes require more complex upgrades which are not yet “shovel ready”, so will continue to be funded through other means. However, by relieving the financial pressure by funding the schemes subject to this application, there will be a consequential benefit that we will be able to also bring those schemes forward from their current positioning.

While there would be significant social benefits to our communities, they would be even more significant to the communities of Waihi, Five Mile Bay, Lower Motuoapa and Forest View - Whakamaru, which are not currently connected to a Council reticulated supply. Some of these communities have high levels of deprivation. Construction work across the water and wastewater network in these more remote settlements will provide additional economic benefits through employment opportunities and the purchase of food, accommodation and fuel by construction workers. Waihi is of course the



COST

\$15.65 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

80FTE

START

IMMEDIATE

home of the Ngati Tūwharetoa Paramouncy, and as such regularly hosts dignitaries such as visiting Royals. This is a joint opportunity with Tūwharetoa and the Trustees of the Village.

In addition, the footpath connecting Acacia Bay to Taupo, which would be done at the

same time as the installation of the water pipe connecting the two settlements would bring significant social, environmental and health benefits to our communities. This would make it easier for those who wished to walk and cycle between the settlements, including school children.



COST

\$53.546 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

254FTE

START

IMMEDIATE

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

WATER AND WASTEWATER - RETICULATION

This programme of works is targeted at the replacement of water and wastewater pipes that are beyond their useful life, likely to be leaking, and at high risk of failing. Failure has high environmental, cultural and social consequences as demonstrated by the wastewater event that occurred in June 2019, where due to the break of a water pipe and subsequent landslide, a wastewater main also burst, eventually sending approximately 800,000 litres of untreated wastewater into Lake Taupō, and eventually down the Waikato River.

Building a more resilient network comes at a considerable cost. For that reason, it has been programmed over a long period of time. The success of this application would see that work commence immediately.

Modelling in some of our water networks show up to 49 percent of our treated water is lost before reaching the customer. Replacement of these pipes would result in significantly less water lost through the network and a reduction in what we need to extract from our lakes, rivers and bores, and the cost of treatment e.g. chemical use. Most of our water is extracted from Lake Taupō and the Waikato River catchments which is fully allocated for agricultural and power generation uses, meaning any loss prevention here has a positive impact on the nation's economy through the availability of water for these other uses.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

ENSURING SAFETY THROUGH TELEMETRY

An upgrade of our telemetry systems is a key priority in our Water Supply Strategy.

One of the of the unique challenges of water and wastewater network is the dispersed nature of many small schemes, separated by distance. While these schemes have been constructed over the years for environmental reasons (to protect lake water quality – a national priority), it brings difficulties in manging multiple small schemes and responding to issues at those plants in a timely way. This makes monitoring and undertaking simple tasks remotely incredibly important.

The upgrade of the electrical and telemetry equipment is an essential part of achieving compliance with the DWSNZ. It enables up-to-date information to be monitored, so that Council staff can be sure that the water they are treating and providing to users is safe.

It is also essential from an environmental perspective. It allows water treatment plant operators to understand how much water is being extracted and minimise the take if necessary to reduce any environmental and economic impact.

The upgrades are also essential for the safe operation of our wastewater treatment plants. If electrical and telemetry components associated with our wastewater network were to fail, it would result in the incorrect and unsafe treatment of wastewater and bring with it high reputational risk.

The installation of the new electrical components will result in electricity savings. The new start-up motors will bring the added benefit of reducing impact on other users of the electrical network, for example, domestic houses experiencing dimming of lights when the motors are turned on.

COST

\$14.063 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

34FTE

START

IMMEDIATE



A WELL-SERVED RESILIENT COMMUNITY

TAUPO DISTRICT COMMUNITY, SERVICE AND EMERGENCY CENTRE

This project will see the construction of a new Administration Building for Taupō District Council, Waikato Regional Council's Taupō operations, and our economic partners (Chamber of Commerce, Town Centre Organisation, Regional Tourism Organisation and Economic Development Agency, on TDC-owned land in the Central Business District. The building has been designed not just to be an office building for its occupants, but a meeting space and resource for all community and Non Government Organisations in the Taupō District. It will be a community hub, where meetings, gatherings and thinking for the district is done. The \$38.6 million construction project is significant and will be one of the biggest new building projects within Taupō for some years, creating significant stimulus to the local and regional economy.

The project is shovel-ready, with final RFP for construction underway at the time of the Level 4 shutdown. Based on economic multipliers provided by PwC, the project will result in direct and indirect employment of 460 FTE, regionally and nationally. It therefore has significant public benefit from an economic standpoint.

The resulting building will help rejuvenate

the Taupō CBD. The presence of construction workers will help reduce the downturn of surrounding shops and cafés within the CBD in the short term, with Council Officers being in the CBD, in the long-term. The project will keep more people employed, including engineering and design consultants, local contractors and sub-contractors, workers within supply chains of construction materials and service authorities. As the project includes an integrated fit-out, employment within supply chains that manufacture internal furniture and associated systems will also be positively impacted. It should be noted that in the procurement process significant weighting has been given to 'Local Content' to make sure that economic benefits remain within the district.

The project will be an exemplar building for the use of mass timber and a demonstration of New Zealand technologies in the construction sector. Other local and New Zealand materials will also be used in the construction of the building based on the TDC's 'Local Content' directive and through the NZ Green Building Council Greenstar rating scheme, which is proposed for the project.

The building would be constructed to Importance Level 4 as defined in NZS1170

COST

\$38.6 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

460FTE

START

START WITHIN SIX MONTHS



as the building will contain a regional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). This is considered a fundamental item of infrastructure that will benefit the district and surrounding regions and is key to community resilience in the event of natural disaster. As a result of Government inquiries into disasters such as the Christchurch Earthquakes, the need for emergency management to be undertaken on a regional scale is clear. This building will become the emergency operating centre for the entire central north island region, drawing from our proximity of within 1.5 hours drive from many major population areas (Hamilton, Tauranga,

Rotorua, Napier/Hastings). Given that Taupō is located on the volcanic plateau and is considered vulnerable to a range of natural events, including earthquakes and eruptions, the EOC has a level of importance to the community that is considerably greater than equivalently sized towns across the country.

There are material social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits demonstrated in the Project Information Form, and TDC will be significantly more efficient working within a single building, rather than be spread around eight separate sites as is the current status quo.

COST

\$15.189 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

188FTE

START

IMMEDIATE



HEALTHY, ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

DISTRICT WIDE RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

Taupō District Council manages a range of facilities and open spaces. Easily accessible facilities and open spaces provide active and passive recreation, play and social opportunities for both residents and visitors. Council's activities in this area aim to assist in the development of healthy, active, functioning communities.

Our district is in a relatively unique position. While the usually resident population is relatively small and is spread out over a large district, our central location means we are easily accessible from several larger metropolises and we are a highly visited tourist destination with a range of spaces and potential greater than would normally be found in similarly sized districts.

This provides opportunities and issues for the district. There are opportunities to capitalise on the location and accessibility to cater for larger events, but the low rating base can make it difficult to fund facilities at a such a scale. There is also an ongoing tension between provision of facilities for visitors sometimes being at odds with the provision of facilities for locals.

Approximately 40 per cent of our houses are used as holiday homes. This puts pressure on our facilities when those people come to spend time in the district, particularly over summer. Having a district population that can swell from 40,000 to close to 100,000 at peak times places real stress on our facilities.

The development of our facilities are therefore carefully managed to meet both the basic needs of the local community while at the same time seeking to promote the district as an events and tourism centre.

The goal for facilities should be to take advantage as much as possible of the inherent benefits of our location and the natural environment of the district; and to pitch any facilities at an appropriate scale that provides opportunities for the community and appropriate scaled events.

Our events industry brings substantial economic benefits, but it is at risk if we cannot maintain the quality of the facilities that the industry relies on. On average we have 420 events each year bringing \$34m in direct spend. We need those jobs and to keep them we need support to keep the facilities going.

KEEPING CONNECTED

SHARED PATHS, KERB AND CHANNEL AND ACCESSIBLE PATHS

This 12-month programme of work is labour intensive and requires low-moderate skills which will provide employment opportunities for a range of locals. The programme can be expanded and extended easily as required. A multi-year programme would provide short-medium term employment and economic stability for the area.

This is a low risk and sensible investment which will support inclusive access, improved walking and cycling choices, and reduce whole of life costs. Previous work as part of this multiyear programme has been approved and granted funding by the NZ Transport Agency.

The programme of works includes two key components.

The first component is \$6.6m kerb and channel (road gutter) replacements. Turangi has about 30km of kerb and channel (road gutters), constructed around 1960 that is

now starting to fail. It requires replacing to avoid failures resulting in water undermining the road, causing erosion, pavement failure, and potential flooding. The programme will also be combined with improving identified accessibility barriers, like creating smooth road crossing ramps in central Turangi.

Lastly, a total of \$4m for walking, cycling and accessibility improvements across the district is proposed. We have identified several gaps in the walking and cycling networks. Gaps include poor horizontal connections that traverse hills, creating uphill barriers to walking and cycling. Priority areas are attractive, inviting and safe, connections between residential areas and local shops, schools and kindergartens, local playgrounds and recreational areas, and Lake Taupō. These barriers need to be removed to achieve the Government's desired land transport outcome of healthy and safe people, inclusive access, environmental sustainability and the investment priority of creating better travel options (Draft GPS on Land Transport 2021).

COST

\$10.6 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

60FTE

START

IMMEDIATE



COST

\$20.6 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

92FTE

START

IMMEDIATE



A WELL-SERVED RESILIENT COMMUNITY

TAUPŌ TOWN CENTRE TRANSFORMATION

This project has been part of Council's strategic planning since 2004 and two structure plans have been designed for the Taupō Town Centre.

The community is hugely supportive as a result of two years of engagement and the retailers and businesses in the town centre, also wanted to see this happen. Now they need to see it happen. We just need the substantial capital injection from Government to kick start this transformation. We have anchored the changes to the town centre in the Taupo District Plan and there are no impediments other than finances.

State Highway One carved along the Taupo lakefront and then through the middle of the town centre. It dragged regional traffic through town and separated the retail and hospitality areas from the Lake and the main recreational event space, Tongariro Domain. Council and Waka Kotahi (NZTA) took the first step to address these issues with the construction of the East Taupo Arterial. It redirected the heavy regional traffic to the east of the town and freed up Council to manage the local roading network.

The community and Council took the next step with the preparation of the Taupo Urban Commercial and Industrial Structure Plan (2011), which laid out an ambitious plan to transform the town centre. Communities need to have vibrant, attractive, liveable places to attract a skilled workforce. Taupō is blessed with outstanding natural assets but these need to be balanced with a quality urban environment.

Good community infrastructure along with quality commercial activity contribute to the "look and feel" of the community. This balance of natural assets and a quality town centre is important when it comes to attracting permanent residents and encouraging visitors to stay longer in Taupō.

The foundation of the transformation is a reorientation of the street network. The streets and lanes that connect the town centre provide the places where people meet to do business and enjoy the social atmosphere. Turning them into quality places is a critical part of attracting people to spend time in the town centre with the associated social and economic benefits.

PLAYING TO OUR STRENGTHS

TAUPŌ BIKE TRAIL

There are few better ways to enjoy Taupō's epic natural landscapes than from the saddle of a bike. From the Great Lake Trail to family-friendly Craters Mountain Bike Park, Taupō offers some of the best mountain-biking in New Zealand on a network of internationally recognised, purpose-built trails to suit every kind of rider. For over a decade, Taupō District Council has been working alongside tireless community organisations, namely Bike Taupō and Waikato River Trails Trust to create, maintain and develop these trails.

Taupō's riding experiences range from grade 1-2 family and e-bike tracks to epic overnight adventures, grade 5 downhill, mountain bike and BMX jump parks. There are a wide variety of long scenic trails, and the Great Lake Trails, Timber Trail and Waikato River Trails are all part of Nga Haerenga - The New Zealand Cycle Trail network. Taupō is now an internationally recognised riding destination. In 2012, Taupō received silver level Ride Centre status from the International Mountain Bike Association. Taupō is one of only five silver level ride centres globally and the only one in the Southern hemisphere.

This application contains a mix of upgrades to our already well utilised Craters of the Moon MTB Park and Rotary Ride, an extension to the Puketapu Road and Waihaha trails as well as two proposed extensions to the Waikato River Trails.

In addition, this application includes the completion and extension of the Great Lake

Shared Path. This project widens the existing narrow footpath along the Lake Taupo foreshore area, to create a 3-metre wide, smooth surfaces shared path suitable for pedestrians, bikers and scooters of all abilities. This pathway is the Jewel in the Crown of the Taupo tourist destination and is also used extensively by locals on a daily basis. This project completes the already commenced (but staged) widening and interpretation project, and takes it all the way to Wharewaka - which will create one of the most scenic sealed paths in the country.

The projects will have short to midterm employment contribution as a result of project delivery including project management and construction. This is estimated at 55 FTEs over the course of the projects, from six to 12 months. The ongoing employment is via the supply chain and services delivered to the trail's consumers including food and beverage and accommodation, bike hire, services and supply. As the trails all improve and grow the employment opportunities also grow.

Our communities are seeing an enormous increase in trail usage during these unprecedented times. With the closure of schools, health clubs, gyms, and many traditional parks and recreational facilities, people are flocking to outdoor spaces in massive numbers, and biking offers social distancing easily while still exercising. A significant number of these visitors are experiencing, for the first time, the mental and physical well-being that trail experiences provide.

COST

\$10.4 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

55FTE

START

IMMEDIATE



COST

\$17.39 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

214FTE

START

IMMEDIATE

**MAINTAINING WHAT WE HAVE**

BUILDING UPGRADE PACKAGE

We operate a wide range of facilities from pool complexes to housing for the elderly members of our community. Most of these are critical pieces of infrastructure to ensure services can be delivered.

This programme of work focuses on bringing forward and delivering maintenance and upgrades to existing buildings. It is work that can start immediately and is supported by business cases. As such we are ready to deliver it in a timely manner using local contractors.

It addresses a range of issues including the removal of asbestos in some buildings and earthquake strengthening of others, including social housing for the elderly. We believe that there are real tangible benefits for those residents if we can progress that work as part of this programme. Without it, the provision of some services or the operation of some buildings will need to be reassessed.

SAFETY FIRST

ROAD SAFETY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

As the main centre in the Central Plateau, we support a large number of surrounding areas, many of which are characterised by high levels of deprivation (New Zealand Index of Multiple Deprivation). Taupō District Council is the major employer for the area and our infrastructure programme is a major source of income for Taupō and surrounding areas.

This 12-month programme of road safety and rehabilitation works could begin at short notice. The work is labour intensive and requires low-moderate skills which will provide employment opportunities for a range of locals. The programme can be expanded and extended easily as required. A multi-year programme would provide short-medium term employment and economic stability for the area.

This is a low risk and sensible investment which will support safety, efficient freight movements, and reduce whole of life costs. Previous work as part of this multiyear programme has been approved and granted funding by the NZ Transport Agency.

The programme of works has three components. The first is a \$1.8m roundabout

to address urgent and unexpected safety concerns: Taupō has a high-risk intersection (previously one of the top 10 worst intersections in the country), where recent safety works have not achieved the desired safety outcomes and created an urgent safety concern. The intersection is on a main walking and cycling corridor that connects nearby residential areas to local primary, intermediate and high schools.

The second is \$3.0m for rural road seal widening and seal extensions. The Taupō District has several narrow rural roads, which have seen strong growth in freight movement following the growth and development of lakeside settlements, primary industries, and large rural industrial activities using secondary geothermal energy. These same roads have also seen a strong growth in use by recreational cyclists in recent years. The existing roads were not designed and built for current levels of use and has resulted in several deaths of cyclists over the years.

Lastly there is \$5.5m for road rehabilitation. Several roads have suffered unexpected early deterioration as a result of strong growth in freight movement and Taupō's unique pumice soils.

COST

\$10.3 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

50FTE

START

START WITHIN SIX MONTHS





COST

\$10.3 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

55FTE

START

WITHIN 12 MONTHS

CREATING A SOCIAL HEART

SOCIAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY YOUTH HUB

For many years, the old maternity hospital in Taupō was used by a wide range of our social service organisations as a shared home - housing offices, work spaces, clinics, meeting rooms and storage facilities. The building was owned by Taupō District Council, and managed by a Trust, operated via a grant from the Council. The benefits of having these social service agencies together was significant, and the envy of many parts of the country.

However, as a result of fire, and subsequent extensive friable asbestos contamination, the main building had to be demolished with some urgency in 2019, displacing the tenants so they are now being housed in various office locations, paid for by Council. The organisations, and the community, have lost a lot of connectivity by this separation, and there is a real desire to create a new social service, one-stop hub.

Additionally, we have a gap in our network of facilities for youth. We have been developing a project to create a Community and Youth friendly facility to enable our community to thrive. This is well progressed following work with many stakeholders and service providers.

A new, purpose-built facility on the same site for our community and young people would give them somewhere to engage and participate in community-led and organisation activities and services. In addition, grassroots Maori, Social and Youth organisations and agencies can tenant, collaborate, share information and resources to assist young people and our community to reach their full potential.

MAKING HOUSING AFFORDABLE

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY HOUSING

As a district with a significant housing affordability issue, we are seeking support to bring forward a significant greenfield residential subdivision, with the intention of building affordable housing.

A recent housing affordability study undertaken by BERL on behalf of our Economic Development Agency, Enterprise Great Lake Taupo, showed a large gap between house prices, and income in our district. Our council owns a sizeable amount residentially zoned and consented land on the periphery of the town which was acquired when the East Taupo Arterial highway was built. This land is not currently serviced or developed, and to date Council has been disposing of development blocks to the private sector, which have then been developed and sold at market rates.

This proposal would instead have Council undertake the physical works to create and service the residential sections (roads, water, wastewater etc). Once complete, Council would transfer a proportion of the developed sections to an independent Community Housing Trust, that we would initiate, at a peppercorn rate. This will enable the Trust to borrow against the land and build affordable houses on the sections, that they can then choose how to manage (rent, rent to own, sale etc). Council would sell the balance of the sections to get to a break even position, thereby having cost the ratepayer only the opportunity cost of commercial sale.

The project will see a significant amount of activity through the construction of the subdivision, and then the subsequent house building exercise. It has the benefit of providing economic stimulus, as well as addressing some of Taupo's housing affordability issues, and meeting the Government's housing agenda.

COST

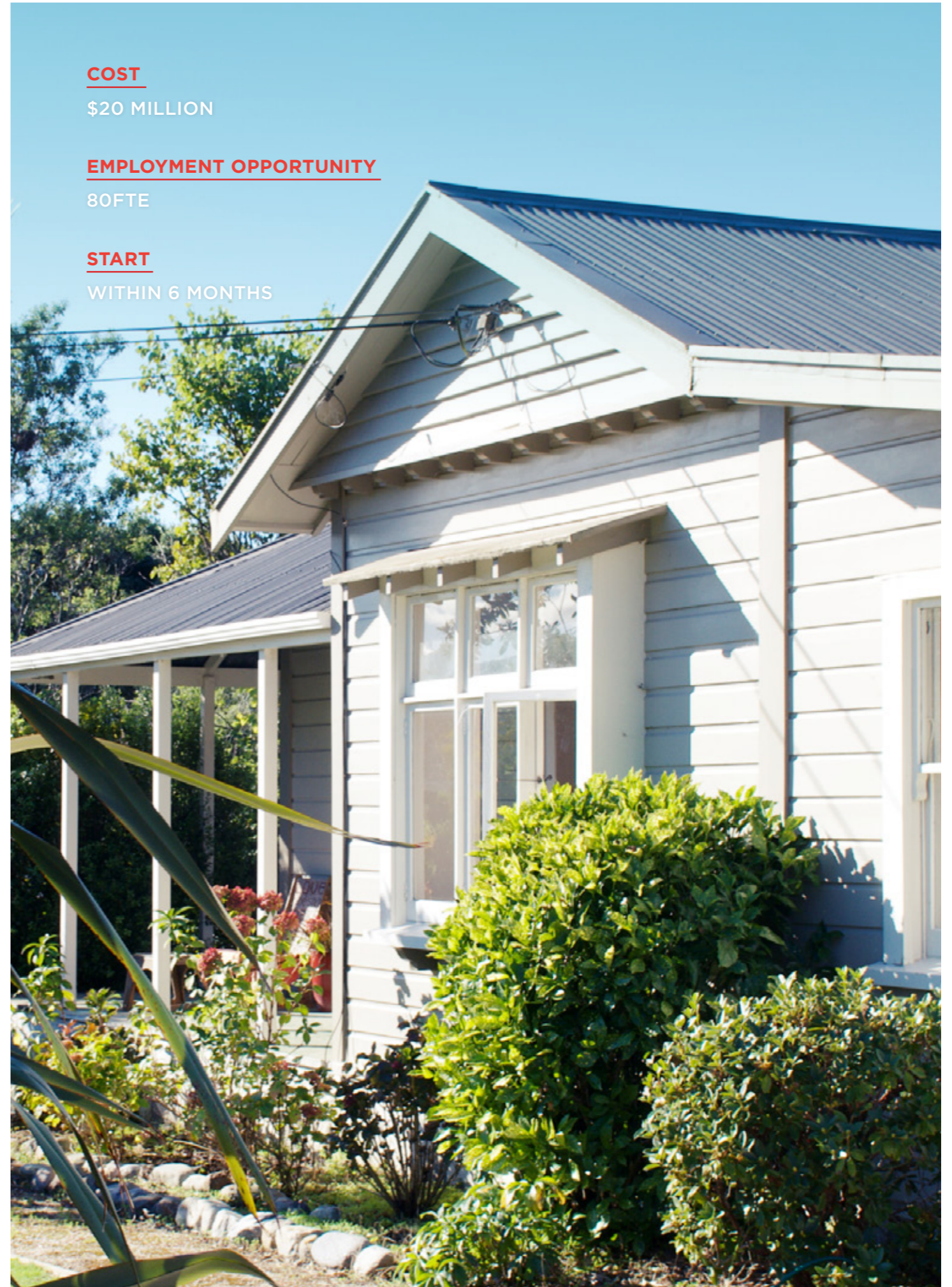
\$20 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

80FTE

START

WITHIN 6 MONTHS



COST

14.58 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

180FTE

START

WITHIN 12 MONTHS



HEALTHY ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

TURANGI RECREATION, EVENTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

Turangi is a deprived area, in fact it is in the list of most deprived (Q5) areas in the Lakes DHB area. Along with that deprivation, comes a raft of economic issues which flow on to create social issues. They can hit young people the hardest.

The local community board has highlighted this need to address youth issues and identified a recreation and events centre as a key opportunity to deliver a range of social and health benefits.

Council has been working alongside its project partners Ngati Turangitukua, the Turangi Tongariro Community Board and user groups to progress this project. Ngati Turangitukua play a significant role given the high proportion of Maori in the Turangi population. It is important that their history as mana whenua is woven through the design to enhance the cultural and aesthetic appeal of the facility.

This is a fantastic project for the local community with multiple social and economic benefits for a highly deprived part of New Zealand. Unfortunately, it is also a discretionary project which Council cannot afford to progress in the medium-term without Government funding support.

CULTURALLY COGNISANT

TURANGI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: DISCHARGE AND PLANT RELOCATION

The Turangi Wastewater Treatment Plant sits on land acquired in the 1960s from its Ngāti Tūrangitukua owners by the Ministry of Works. The forced taking of land under the Public Works Act, and the establishment of wastewater treatment and disposal activities on this land and adjacent waterways/wetlands and ultimately Lake Taupō, has had lasting social, cultural and environmental impacts.

Over the past 18 months, Taupō District Council has been working collaboratively with Ngāti Tūrangitukua, Ngāti Karauia and the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board to find a new, long term and enduring solution for the treatment and disposal of wastewater from the Townships of Tūrangi and Tokaanu.

Turangi and Lake Taupo This process has led us to collaboratively consider a wide range

of possible options. Considering cultural, environmental, social, technical engineering and economic criterion, we have identified a new preferred site and disposal method which would see treated wastewater irrigated onto pasture, forestry or newly planted native trees. We have commenced engagement with landowners. We have reached out to interested and affected Hapū. We have assembled technical experts. We are on the cusp of resolving a decades-old hurt.

While we are aligning with our partners and stakeholders on a solution for the future of the Tūrangi WWTP, funding for capital works to realise this outcome remains the final hurdle.

The Taupō District is well known both domestically and internationally as a tourist destination and we have many business

COST

30 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

57FTE

START

WITHIN 12 MONTHS



and residents that rely on this sector. Some parts of our district were already struggling pre-COVID-19, with higher deprivation levels than some of the traditional “surge regions”. The fallout from COVID-19 will hit us hard, and Council is meeting shortly to consider a proposal for a minimum zero per cent general rates increase as part our response to these challenges.

Resolving the ongoing issues with the Tūrangi Wastewater Treatment Plant will bring a multitude of benefits. It will not only allow Council to restore and return land taken from its former owners and begin the process of healing for hapū, it will also help to protect

the iconic Lake Taupō, create new jobs both directly through the construction phase and in the ongoing management of the land-based irrigation system, and support locals and local business.

We cannot achieve this project alone, yet it is vital for our local economy, our communities, and our hapū and Iwi partners, for us to achieve it.

Funding for this project would allow design to commence immediately, and physical construction commence within 12 months. Without such funding, this project will be some years away.

COST

13.2 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

163FTE

START

WITHIN 12 MONTHS

**TAKING THINGS NEXT LEVEL**

GREAT LAKE CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

Built in the late 1980s, the Great Lake Centre plays a major role as the Taupo District’s “town hall” and in the delivery of events and conferences hosted in the Taupo District from international sporting events to community group fundraisers.

The centre is in near original condition and is in desperate need of an upgrade. It is “tired” through overuse, and with the changing requirements of the way that the facility has been used due to changing industry demands there are several elements that need improving (such as the kitchen facilities).

This project would allow us to not only retain the current conferences and events we host but to attract higher yield conferences that require a higher level of facility. Given research indicating the average conference spend is \$440 per person, this would provide a much-needed boost to our accommodation, hospitality and retail sectors and would also provide employment during the project delivery across a range of trades.

Most importantly, this upgrade will allow the community to continue to have a place where they can come, celebrate or grieve, protest, show their talents and be creative. This are things that as communities we will all need post COVID-19.

The upgrade would use a number of local subtrades from plumbers to electricians, sound experts and builders. Many of these trades will be those that will be otherwise displaced by impacts on other parts of the construction sector.

TAKING THINGS NEXT LEVEL

TAUPŌ MUSEUM REBUILD

Taupō's current museum is an older style wooden building, tucked away at the back of Tongariro South Domain. Its design means that it is limited both in terms of availability of space, and its ability to safely house our stories due to fire risk, security and environmental control issues. It's location and humble nature means many visitors (and locals alike) never know that it is even there.

For many years the need for a new museum has been identified – creating a purpose-built building linking with our other cultural facilities such as the library and Great Lake Centre. The ability for this building to store and display our taonga, tell our stories, include our I-site to be our gateway for visitors, and to be multi-use for events and functions has long been a desire of the Taupō community. To this end, a museum has been central to many strategies and studies over the years, and is a key part of the CBD revitalisation strategy (the Commercial and Industrial Structure Plan), and our Economic Strengthening Strategy.

Additionally, through the settlement of the Ngati Tuwharetoa Treaty of Waitangi settlement process, it was noted that many taonga are currently scattered through various museums around the world, around New Zealand, and in fact under beds and in wardrobes closer to home. This project will build on this work through co-governance and co-management arrangements to ensure that it is a Whare Taonga, a place for Tuwharetoa to protect their heritage.

The Taupō District has an internationally significant story to tell. Its placement on the edge of the most frequently active productive rhyolite caldera volcano in the world, which was created by the most violent eruption known in the last 5000 years, lends itself to be of both deep historic and educational value. These stories are of national importance to tell the world, and we need a place to tell those stories.

COST

22.35 MILLION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

276FTE

START

WITHIN 12 MONTHS





GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
Taupō District Council

