

## TDC Annual Plan Consultation - May 2025

### Do you support our approach to achieving the proposed rates increase for 2025/2026?

Yes, we support the approach in principle—*provided that the budget decisions reflect a clear commitment to climate mitigation, climate resilience, intergenerational equity, and long-term wellbeing*. As the impacts of climate change intensify, Council must invest not only in core infrastructure and compliance but also in systems, relationships, and community capabilities that contribute its fair share of mitigation, reduce long-term risks and avoid higher future costs. Decisions that appear fiscally prudent in the short term may expose the district to greater vulnerabilities if they underfund adaptation, emergency preparedness, ecological resilience, and climate-responsive infrastructure.

### Do you have any feedback on the proposals (1–15)?

Yes. The following feedback highlights where Council could more explicitly integrate climate change and resilience thinking into each proposal:

#### 1. Catchment Enhancement

Support this fund as essential for ecological resilience, water quality, and buffering the impacts of climate events. Recommend prioritising co-benefits such as flood mitigation, carbon sequestration, and drought resilience in project selection.

#### 2. Information Technology

Support prudent IT cost-saving by extending the useful lifespan of devices. In procurement consider the qualities of easy repairability and durability. We flag the importance of digital capacity to enable remote operations during extreme weather events, cyber threats, and emergencies.

#### 3. Engagement and Communication

Concerned that reductions could weaken Council's ability to communicate climate risks and engage the community in resilience-building. Recommend retaining capacity for unplanned climate and emergency communications, as well as guidance in mitigation activities.

#### 4. Community Funding

Note that events and shared spaces foster social cohesion—a key ingredient of disaster resilience. Consider how grant funding can also support climate-focused community action and local recovery capacity.

#### 5. Roading and Public Transport

Support maintaining transport infrastructure, but recommend prioritising investment in low-emissions, climate-resilient networks. Flag concerns about cuts to footpath and cycle path maintenance, which undermines safe, active, low-carbon transport. Bus use needs public message boosting.

#### 6. Urban Stormwater Networks

Commend the increase in catchment management planning to meet new climate modelling and flood risk requirements. Suggest Council communicate this as a key climate adaptation investment.

#### 7. Waste Management and Minimisation

Support use of the waste levy for infrastructure upgrades. Waste operations must also support emissions reduction goals and be resilient to disruption (e.g. storm events increasing litter and illegal dumping). Ensure continuation of the Construction and Demolition waste management programme.

## **8. Library Services**

Recommend framing libraries as climate resilience hubs—providing community access to trusted information, digital tools, and safe spaces during disruptions. Libraries are very front-facing, publicly popular services. We urge great caution in considering any cuts to these services.

## **9. Water Supply Operations**

Support increased investment in monitoring and maintenance to safeguard public health and service continuity in the face of climate change. Reduced modelling capacity is a concern—this is essential for climate adaptation planning.

## **10. Emergency Management**

Strongly support. Emergency readiness is increasingly vital due to climate-related extreme events. Commend the integrated approach across councils and recommend further iwi and community preparedness investment.

## **11. Iwi Partnerships**

Support this investment—mātauranga Māori is critical for place-based climate resilience. Recommend continued commitment to co-design and shared governance on climate-related decisions.

## **12. Regulatory Services**

Support internalisation of this function. Compliance, especially on environmental and land use matters, is increasingly important under climate stress and population growth.

## **13. Wastewater Schemes**

Support routine maintenance increases. Concerned about reduced capacity for condition assessment and infiltration management—critical as sea level rise, high-intensity rainfall and groundwater changes increase risks of overflows and failure.

## **14. Parks and Reserves**

Support budget increase. Green spaces provide cooling, flood storage, biodiversity habitat and psychological resilience—all vital under a changing climate. Recommend highlighting these co-benefits in communications.

## **15. Governance and Strategy (if applicable)**

All decisions should be aligned with the Tasman Climate Response and Resilience Strategy and climate adaptation and emissions reduction goals set out in Council's Climate Action Plan and national direction. Recommend Council embed climate-related risk and resilience considerations across all LTP and AMP.

### Further concerns:

We are very eager for you to continue your wonderful initiative in supporting the teaching of the Climate Change Learning Programme. We think this has been a most significant contribution to climate action, and has inspired many enthusiastic young learners.

We are concerned to see no mention of the \$20,000 per annum to be allocated to Warmer, Healthier Homes. This is a very small amount, but at least is aiming in the right direction of increasing well-being, health, heating costs and carbon emissions.

We saw nothing of the planned beginning of a climate adaptation plan for Motueka, as detailed in TDC's Climate Action Plan.

NTCF Submission Group

