

# District Plan Review - Progress Update

In October 2016 the Council released a Draft District Plan for community feedback that proposed a few format with new objectives, policies and zones.

The draft also reached over 60,000 people via social media, plenty who provided comments via the Council's Facebook page.

The Council received a total of 98 written comments, covering 300 individual submission points on a range

The main themes relating to the Top 4 Issues for the District Plan Review are shown in the following table.



*The District Plan can reinforce the central city as the economic hub of our district and region and support the growth of local centres*

## Central City and Local Centres

There was general support for a new framework of zones and policy direction, especially reinforcing the importance of the City Centre and encouraging new business and residential living. There were many suggestions on how to create vibrancy and vitality in Centres. There was also support for Large Format Retail zones provided the scale is managed, as well as public amenity outcomes.

*Strengthening and managing our rural economy, industry, port and airport.*

## 3 Managing Industry

There was general support for the policy direction in the Industrial and Rural Production Zones. General comments related to ensuring adequate future industrial land supply, protecting versatile soils and primary production activities. Avoiding conflict between different industry/rural land use and residential properties was also a common theme.

There was both support and opposition to the energy provisions, i.e. oil and gas activities. Common submissions related to the location of oil and gas activities near houses, the coast and natural features; notification of resource consents and involvement of affected parties; and the cumulative effects of multiple sites.

There was also support and opposition for the Major Facilities Zone. Submissions related to the ongoing operation and further development of major facilities.

## Residential Growth



There was general support for the approach the Draft took in managing future residential growth, especially making sure future growth is well planned, in the right places and able to be serviced. There was positive support for a new Medium Density Residential Zone and Rural Lifestyle Zone with various submissions advocating for inclusions of rural lifestyle blocks in rural areas. There was also strong support for managing new development so that it does not impact on established activities - whether that be homes, businesses or industrial activities.

*Our district population is projected to grow at a rate over 10 years of 1,000 people per year. We need 350 new dwellings per year to meet this demand.*

## 4 Coastal Management

*Our coastal environment has important landscape, historical, cultural and ecological values.*

There was general support for introducing a new Coastal Overlay Area to manage the impacts of activities locating in the coastal environment through the resource consent process. There were some suggested changes to clarify points or strengthen policy position, especially in relation to the NZ Coastal Policy Statement. Several submitters sought better recognition of certain activities in the coastal environment (i.e. farming, network utilities). It was suggested that climate change and sea level rise could be given more acknowledgement.

**The next stage of the review process is to assess the feedback provided to confirm and refine the Plan.**

