

Normandale Residents Association

*c/o 301 Normandale Road
Lower Hutt*

SUBMISSION

To Greater Wellington Regional Council
on

Proposed Annual plan 2008/9

The Normandale Residents Association wish to make the following submission on the proposed annual plan.

Overall comment

We support the emphasis given to the improvement of public transport within the region, including the long overdue improvements to infrastructure. We believe that this should receive increased emphasis and that investigations should be started into the double tracking of the Paraparaumu line in its entirety

We would question however the differential in funding increases between rates and fares. We believe that the reduction in road vehicle miles that the current and future improvements seek provide a public good that benefits the entire region, both directly in reduced road maintenance costs and indirectly via reduced health costs from accidents and pollution. We therefore submit that the funding increase ratio should be equally borne by ratepayers and users.

Specific sections of the plan

Environment

We support the objectives of the key projects noted and the changes from the LTCCP. In particular, we support the increased funding for research and information gathering for water table interaction and landscape character assessment.

Transport

As noted above we support the general thrust of the Key projects noted for the forthcoming year. We are particularly pleased to note the accelerated work on signaling, double tracking and electrification, but are concerned that the work on integrated ticketing has been deferred for further investigation. We consider integrated ticketing a major benefit to passengers, and a that it would result in the removal of a potential barrier (perceived convenience) to increased usage of the public transport network.

Changes from LTCCP

As also noted above, we consider that the increased revenue sought should be obtained by an equal percentage increase from rates and fares, and are also concerned that proposed service improvements have been removed. In view of the cost savings in the forthcoming year from deferred expenditure noted, we do not believe there is any justification for deferring service improvements to retain consistency with the LTCCP on a financial criterion.

Water supply

No comments

Parks

We wish to note our concern at the continued delay in the completion of the management plans for Battle Hill and Belmont Regional Park.

As Belmont Regional park provides the backdrop to Normandale we are particularly concerned that the plan for this Park is completed and that this plan provides adequate protection for the visual and amenity values by prohibiting any commercial usage that leads to private profit, or the amendment of the visual panorama. We consider that the continued operation of Waitangirua farm falls outside this as it provides an essential landscape management tool.

Changes from LTCCP

We are bemused as to why any costs associated with renewable energy projects are assigned to the Park budget. We submit that these costs should be removed and attributed to an appropriate cost center.

Safety and flood protection

We note and support the key projects mentioned.

We submit that greater use of flood plains and flax swamps are made to control flooding, sediment capture and water quality improvement rather than hard engineered solutions.

Land

No comments.

Community

No comments.

P. Matcham
President