



# Summary of 2024-34 Long-term Plan pre-engagement

Thank you to those who took part in the pre-engagement for the 2024-34 Long-term Plan. We received a total of 153 submissions during the four weeks it was open in August and September 2023.

This was the first time that Horizons has undertaken pre-engagement. The objective was to sense-check the three priority areas councillors had identified, see what people considered most important in relation to activities to help achieve them, and ask if there were any other priorities the community wanted them to consider.

One of the key take-aways councillors took from the feedback provided was that the pre-engagement showed they were on the right track with their priority areas – no others were put forward for consideration.

Councillors said the feedback will be useful for planning and decisions still to come prior to the formal consultation next year, although also recognised this feedback is only a small sample size. They noted they would certainly look to do this process again prior to another long-term plan, with some adjustments taken from learnings with this round.

Below is a summary of each priority area that shows the top three activities people ranked and commentary around each one.

## **Priority 1: How would you like Horizons Regional Council to build resilience within our communities and environment to the impacts of climate change?**

1. Be ready to respond to emergencies and have a clear plan of action for different scenarios.
2. Restore the environment to what it used to be including planting trees, controlling pests, re-establishing wetlands and protecting waterways.
3. Provide flood protection where the risk is highest.

### **Further comments**

The main theme of the answers was “communities’ involvement”: enabling community readiness to respond. Other comments included:



- Being open with community providing clarity on data/info and achieving local solution for local problems.
- Working with communities and encouraging them to learn and make a difference themselves
- Long-term view considering/minimising costs and impacts
- Regional Council link between various community initiatives in the biodiversity space

### **Priority 2: What would you like Horizons Regional Council to consider when taking a holistic approach to caring for the environment?**

1. Restore the environment to what it used to be including planting trees, controlling pests, re-establishing wetlands and protecting waterways.
2. Implement more solutions that work with nature, rather than against it eg. giving rivers a bit more space to move.
3. When considering what happens within a river system, to take into account everything from the top to the bottom.

#### **Further comments**

Take a holistic approach and developing partnerships with all of community (not only with iwi and hapū). More needs to be done.

### **Priority 3: How would you like Horizons Regional Council to strengthen partnerships with tangata whenua?**

1. Build partnerships with iwi and hapū, at a local level, across the region.
2. Support the aspirations of tangata whenua for the environment and communities.
3. Apply Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles across all of Horizons' business.

#### **Further comments**

All of community approach. Many did not agree with funding iwi and hapū to build their capacity. Supporting iwi and hapū can be seen as discrimination and foster division in the community.

### **Open question: Is there anything else that is important to you that we should consider when determining our priorities?**

Feedback included taking a long-term view rather than short-term decisions, delivering core services at the lowest cost to ratepayers, working with and supporting the community and providing tangible insights to help understanding Horizons' work.

*We look forward to hearing more from our communities as part of the formal 2024-34 Long-term Plan consultation – stay tuned for more information to come about this in early 2024.*