

# Long-term Plan 2024–34

Respondent No. 245

Response ID 5673093

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## Personal information

First name Annabel

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I'm providing a submission (choose one):  
 on behalf of an organisation

Write organisation name here Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora National Public Health Service (Health NZ)

Do you want to speak to Council about your submission at our public hearings on 2 May?  
 No

## Submission

**Proposal 3: Transfer Council's housing for older people**  
**Which option should we choose? (select one option)**

Option 1: Transfer our older persons' housing assets to a new Community Housing Provider

**Would you like to expand on your answer for option 1?**

Health NZ fully supports Council's Top 10 priority number six toward improving access to affordable, warm, dry and safe housing as part of building a resilient community. Health NZ agrees with Council's preferred Option 1, transferring ownership of Council's housing for older people to a new community housing provider. This is a sustainable way of ensuring continued access to housing for older people in Kāpiti, particularly for the area of Ōtaki which has the highest housing need.

As is well described in Council's Housing and Social Needs Assessment 2022 and Housing Strategy 2022, equitable access to affordable, warm, dry and safe housing is a significant determinant of health and wellbeing, both physical and mental. Local government plays an important role in enabling access to affordable housing with secure tenure. This is especially important for the key groups identified in the needs assessment. Those who are more likely to suffer health impacts related to poor housing quality, lack of access to housing or inability to maintain a house include older people, Māori, and tāngata whaikaha/disabled people.

Continuing to supply affordable rental housing is an important action to support the increasing number of renters in the 65+ age group in Kāpiti, in the context of low housing affordability and decreased home ownership rates. Health NZ suggests Council takes the opportunity to centre mana whenua and Māori aspirations for housing as part of establishing a new independent community housing provider. Health NZ encourages Council to make the most of all avenues outlined in the Housing Strategy for increasing the

supply of high quality affordable housing of mixed typologies. These include the growth strategy Te Tupu Pai, District Plan changes, partnerships with mana whenua and other organisations.

**If you have any views on these policies, please comment here:**

Health NZ acknowledges the financial challenges Council is currently managing and the high demands on the limited funding sources available. If decisions are taken to fully fund water services and debt reduction via rates increases, Health NZ recommends that Council reviews the potential wellbeing impacts on those in the community who might be most disadvantaged by this. For example, Māori hapū and whānau, low-income and large households, tāngata whaikaha/disabled people and the elderly. Health NZ notes Council has a rates remission policy in place, and supports any work toward ensuring mitigations are in place to support those most disadvantaged by rates increases.

**Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about this LTP?**

Health New Zealand supports the strategic priorities outlined in the consultation document. This includes the key priority of partnering with mana whenua through Te Rōpū Hononga ā-lwi and the Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti Partnership agreement.

Health NZ would also like to acknowledge Top 10 priority number seven around health access, and the development of the Kāpiti Coast Health Strategy which has recently been consulted on. Health NZ supports Council's actions on public health and prevention as part of local government's unique role in influencing local wellbeing and prevention of ill health.

**Upload any related files**

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