



19 April 2024

Long Term Plan Submissions  
Matamata-Piako District Council  
PO Box 266  
Te Aroha 3342

Via online portal

Dear Mayor Adrienne Wilcock and Council members

**SUBMISSION: MATAMATA-PIAKO LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Matamata-Piako Long Term Plan 2024-2034.

**1.0 About Us**

- 1.1 This submission has been prepared on behalf of Richard and Sharon Grayling. The Grayling's are residents of Te Poi who have farmed in the area for over 20 years. In this time, they have made significant investment into developing a sustainable farming operation and are prominent figures in the Te Poi community.

**2.0 Submission Comments**

**2.1 Te Poi Recreation Reserve / Te Poi Tennis Club**

The Te Poi Recreation Reserve and Tennis Club is the sole public open space in Te Poi and is currently severely underutilized as a Council asset. It has had no significant investment in recent decades and has generally relied on the local community for maintenance and upkeep. The grassed area of the reserve (behind the tennis courts) has been used for grazing as part of the adjacent Grayling Farm at 13 Te Poi Road. However, as the farm is now being developed into much needed housing for the Te Poi community (subdivision consent granted: March 2024), there is no clear path for the continued maintenance of this area.

- 2.2 With the recent inclusion of the Settlement Zone provisions within the District Plan and ongoing need for housing in the community, it is expected that there will be further residential development in Te Poi in the coming years. As the Te Poi community continues to grow, there will only be greater need for investment and maintenance of local public open space.

- 2.3 The draft LTP proposes a reduction in spending on parks and playgrounds. While it is recognized that this reduction is largely a reflection of a lesser need in the larger centres of the district, as these areas received significant investment through the previous LTP cycle, it fails to recognise the growing demand and historic under-investment in smaller centres such as Te Poi. Without

any clear provision for investment and maintenance in the LTP, it is feared that these historic trends will only continue.

### 3.0 Relief Sought

- 3.1 At a minimum, funding needs to be included in the LTP for the maintenance and upkeep of the Te Poi Recreation Reserve. This includes regular mowing of the field and general repairs for the existing infrastructure.
- 3.2 In addition, it is recommended that the LTP includes provision for improvements of the reserve, which may include elements such as landscaping, walkways, a playground and/or community court/facilities. These improvements should be designed to integrate and support the growing community surrounding the reserve.

We appreciate the opportunity to make a submission on the Matamata-Piako Long Term Plan 2024-2034. We do not wish to present this submission.

On Behalf of Richard and Sharon Grayling,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shanan Mowatt'.

Shanan Mowatt  
Director