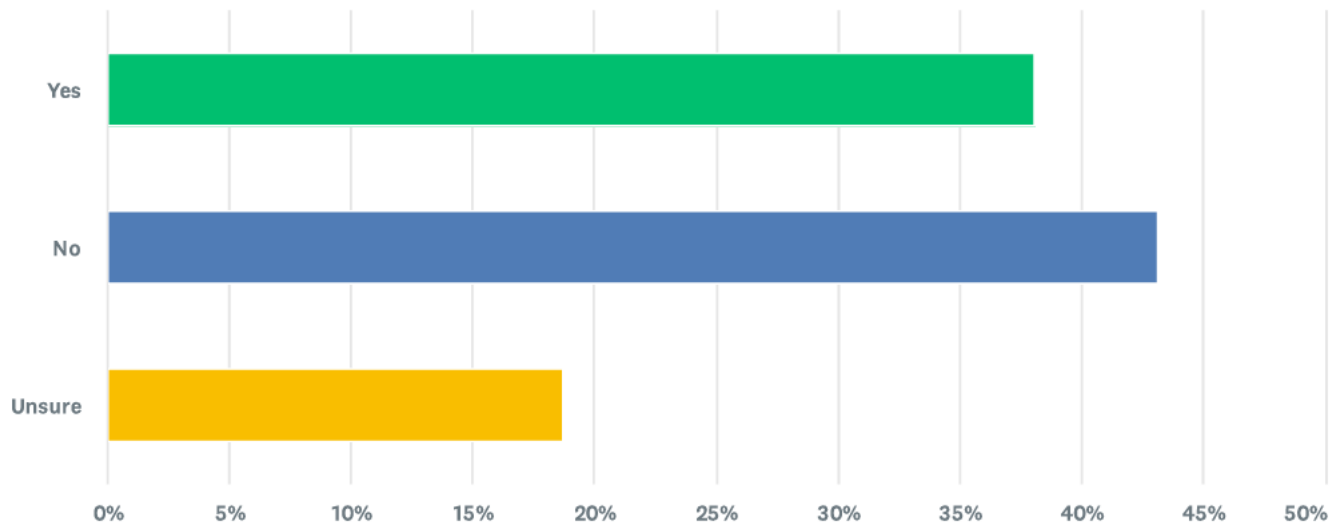


Q1 315 responses

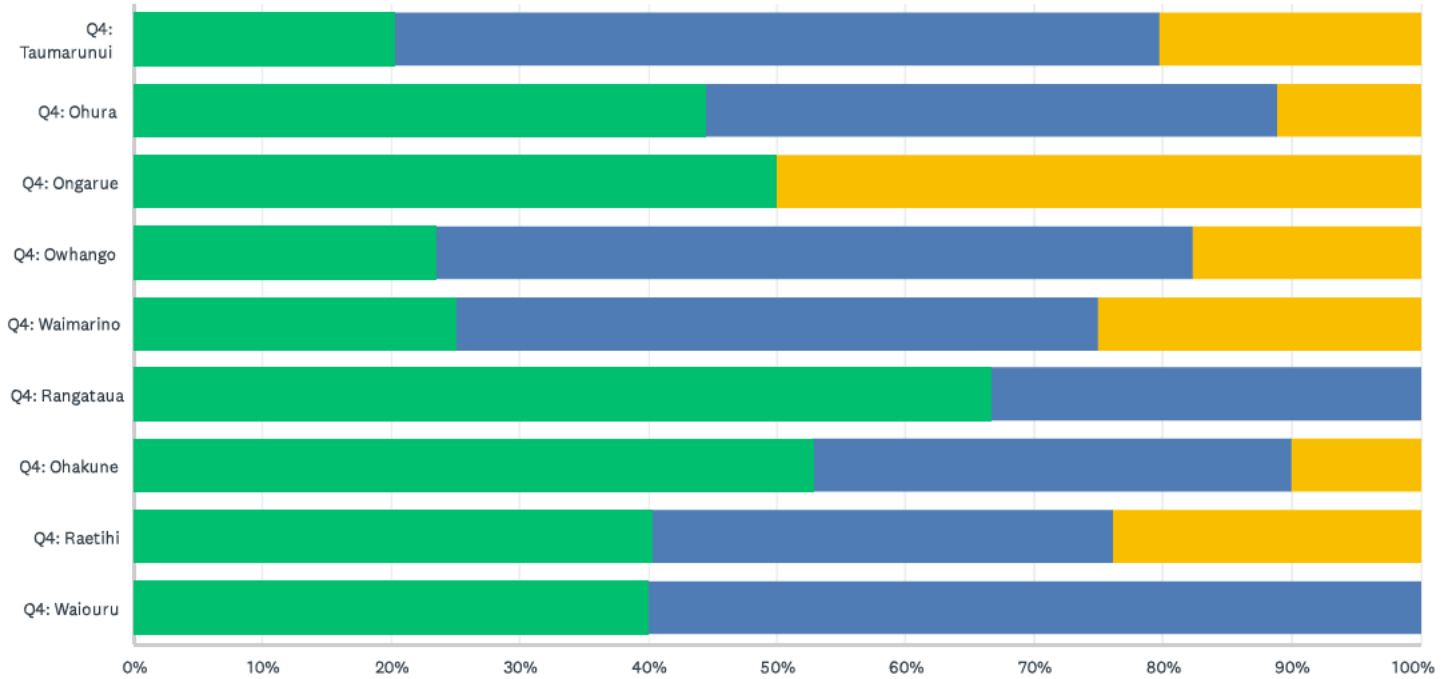
Do you support Council continuing to fund economic development by contracting in specialist skills?



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Yes Yes	38.10%	120
No No	43.17%	136
Unsure Unsure	18.73%	59
Total		315

Q1 Do you support Council continuing to fund economic development by contracting in specialist skills?

Answered: 282 Skipped: 1

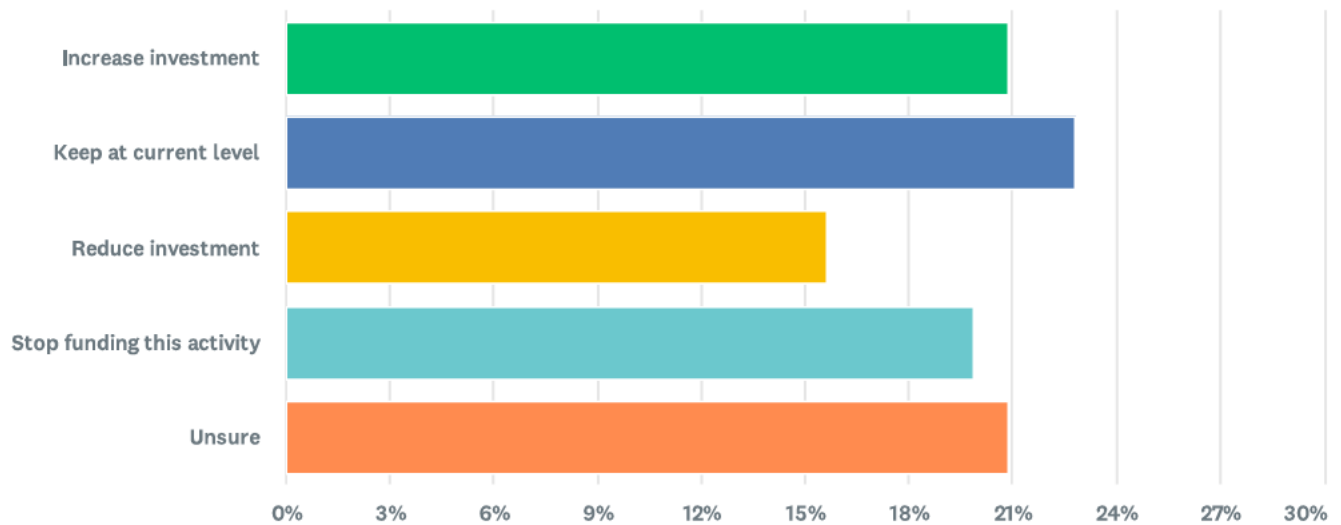


Yes No Unsure

	YES	NO	UNSURE	TOTAL
Q4: Taumarunui	20.20% 20	59.60% 59	20.20% 20	35.11% 99
Q4: Ohura	44.44% 4	44.44% 4	11.11% 1	3.19% 9
Q4: Ongarue	50.00% 2	0.00% 0	50.00% 2	1.42% 4
Q4: Owhango	23.53% 4	58.82% 10	17.65% 3	6.03% 17
Q4: Waimarino	25.00% 2	50.00% 4	25.00% 2	2.84% 8
Q4: Rangataua	66.67% 2	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	1.06% 3
Q4: Ohakune	52.86% 37	37.14% 26	10.00% 7	24.82% 70
Q4: Raetihi	40.30% 27	35.82% 24	23.88% 16	23.76% 67
Q4: Waiouru	40.00% 2	60.00% 3	0.00% 0	1.77% 5
Total Respondents	100	131	51	282

Q2 307 responses

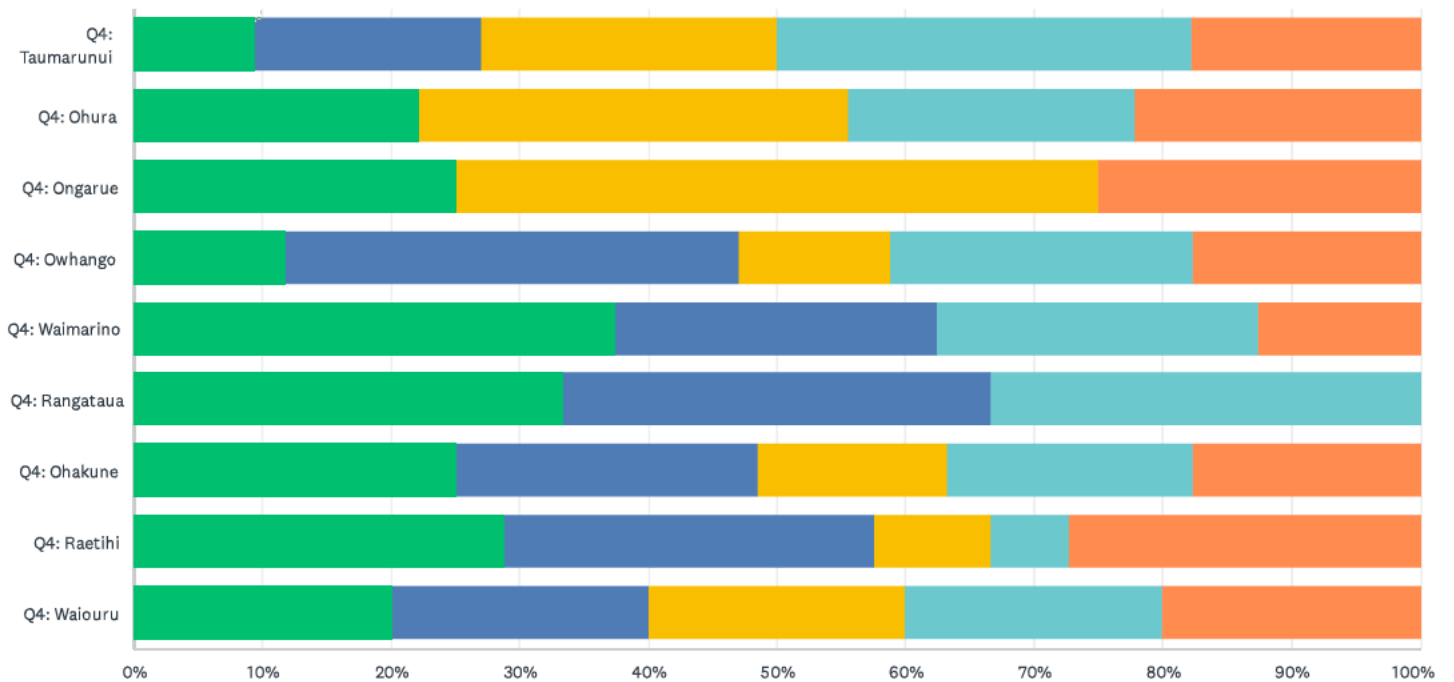
Which best reflects your view of the current level of investment in economic development?



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Increase investment	20.85%	64
● Keep at current level	22.80%	70
● Reduce investment	15.64%	48
● Stop funding this activity	19.87%	61
● Unsure	20.85%	64
Total		307

Q2 Which best reflects your view of the current level of investment in economic development?

Answered: 276 Skipped: 7



■ Increase in...
 ■ Keep at cur...
 ■ Reduce inv...
 ■ Stop fundin...
 ■ Unsure

	INCREASE INVESTMENT	KEEP AT CURRENT LEVEL	REDUCE INVESTMENT	STOP FUNDING THIS ACTIVITY	UNSURE	TOTAL
Q4: Taumarunui	9.38% 9	17.71% 17	22.92% 22	32.29% 31	17.71% 17	34.78% 96
Q4: Ohura	22.22% 2	0.00% 0	33.33% 3	22.22% 2	22.22% 2	3.26% 9
Q4: Otago	25.00% 1	0.00% 0	50.00% 2	0.00% 0	25.00% 1	1.45% 4
Q4: Otago	11.76% 2	35.29% 6	11.76% 2	23.53% 4	17.65% 3	6.16% 17
Q4: Waimarino	37.50% 3	25.00% 2	0.00% 0	25.00% 2	12.50% 1	2.90% 8
Q4: Rangataua	33.33% 1	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	1.09% 3
Q4: Ohakune	25.00% 17	23.53% 16	14.71% 10	19.12% 13	17.65% 12	24.64% 68
Q4: Raetihi	28.79% 19	28.79% 19	9.09% 6	6.06% 4	27.27% 18	23.91% 66
Q4: Waiouru	20.00% 1	20.00% 1	20.00% 1	20.00% 1	20.00% 1	1.81% 5
Total Respondents	55	62	46	58	55	276

Q3 Do you have any other feedback about Economic Development?

Answered: 97 Skipped: 220

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I am not sufficiently qualified to answer these questions. Do the benefits to the region justify the costs to the Council? If they don't, the Council should withdraw from funding this activity.	8/13/2026 11:36 AM
2	Put it into the tourism development fund or call for tenders to quote project. You do not know what skills already exist in the community.	8/11/2026 9:25 AM
3	1. it should be a targeted rate 2. how much is currently invested what return has it brought	8/10/2026 4:25 PM
4	um is this not in Whanganui district. Ruapehu is not whanganui	8/10/2026 4:24 PM
5	engage community and gather suggestion on run to grow the economy in our district. there will be a lot of individuals who are capable to help rather than specialists	8/10/2026 4:23 PM
6	Local people have enough communal knowledge about economic development. it would take more time, and way more meetings, but would not necessitate the payment of outside advisors and publicity materials. it would bring the active community members closer to coordinations with council	8/10/2026 4:20 PM
7	It would be helpful to know the current level of expenditure for this activity and the benefits (measurable) to the community. This maybe needs more publicity	8/10/2026 4:18 PM
8	Overhaul council, councillors cost. [REDACTED] We hear there are managers working from home. [REDACTED]	8/10/2026 4:14 PM
9	Work with iwi partners - settlement and influence with central govnt	8/10/2026 4:08 PM
10	central govnt should be all over this with regional development and local councils as small as ours should not have to feel compelled to sink money into this	8/10/2026 4:07 PM
11	we need some	8/10/2026 4:03 PM
12	it is important to encourage economic dev within our region, and that council be involved! needs to be recognition from council that forestry is important as is farming	8/10/2026 3:58 PM
13	are we paying for consultation or is money going for actual work. surely if we have staff in council; surely they are able to advise	8/10/2026 3:53 PM
14	Need more info	8/10/2026 3:48 PM
15	Raetihi is going backwards	8/10/2026 3:45 PM
16	Not really understanding this	8/10/2026 3:40 PM
17	insufficient information	8/10/2026 3:37 PM
18	we have enough local experts to manage this type of work. we should need to hire specialists	8/10/2026 3:35 PM
19	it is not in ruapehu	8/10/2026 3:34 PM
20	everyone benefits both directly, indirectly so yes its important	8/10/2026 3:34 PM
21	economical development needs to grow this town investments are good for this town	8/10/2026 3:32 PM
22	Taumarunui does that for our business - support each other and our community	8/10/2026 3:22 PM
23	Leave it to the influencers	8/10/2026 3:22 PM
24	Council should not contract at all. You have managers being paid to do this work. Or do they not have the skillset for the roles they are managing. They are employed as managers not supervisors.	8/7/2026 10:47 AM
25	As ratepayers we have absolutely NO idea or oversight pertaining to what this even means??? How much are we paying Whanganui & Partners? are they performing better than previous staff efforts? I run a small business and not once ever got a call [REDACTED] and in Covid, despite Councillors being assured all small businesses had been called by	8/7/2026 9:43 AM

Economic Development

iSite staff dare I suggest this was only the business on THEIR books???? again how are you expecting us to answer these questions without any actual information?

26	How much has it cost the council by removing the 3% rates reduction now having to increase staff levels to monitor the extra rate payments. I for one have now gone to quarterly payments instead of annual and refuse to get rate demand online as I am not getting the 3% off my rates. Where's the saving to the council there. Might even start paying weekly to increase the staff hours to process the additional payments. Think about it council.	8/7/2026 9:37 AM
27	These questions are more complex than a simple yes or no answer. Economic development is important, but more community engagement is needed to understand what support people and businesses need, what should be prioritised and how Council's investment should be directed.	8/7/2026 8:27 AM
28	Not sure how much you spend, or on what, but if it benefits the local economy then keep going	8/6/2026 9:44 PM
29	This short survey is worded as if you would like the community to agree it is important. I'm not sure it is.	8/6/2026 8:29 PM
30	Work scheme training in Raetihi be good	8/6/2026 6:49 PM
31	you need to develop, and assist the local economy or we will fade into oblivion	8/6/2026 12:19 PM
32	we have not gained anything over the last five years	8/6/2026 11:47 AM
33	Visit Ruapehu should do this alone.	8/6/2026 5:50 AM
34	You bureaucrats don't know how to create wealth. You need to be talking with people like myself who know science engineering and manufacturing.	8/5/2026 5:01 PM
35	No	8/5/2026 10:48 AM
36	Work alongside with other community organizations and Iwi PSGEs to create a common difference and bond within the communities.	8/5/2026 8:47 AM
37	Not tourism businesses its a joke this is not queenstown or taupo.	8/5/2026 8:37 AM
38	I support initiatives that genuinely help local businesses and create jobs, but Council needs to focus on value for money. Any investment in economic development should have clear, measurable outcomes and be regularly reviewed to ensure ratepayers are getting good value. Where possible, funding should leverage partnerships and external grants to minimise the impact on rates	8/4/2026 12:09 PM
39	Council should utilise the in house expertise of its officers to promote economic development in the district, and cease using outside consultants.	8/4/2026 11:39 AM
40	I can not give you an informed opinion. When I do not know what these services are. A report would need to be shared to discuss the benefits of each "specialist skills, business networks, and programmes".	8/4/2026 9:56 AM
41	I support increased investment in economic development, but it must produce visible and measurable results for Ruapehu—not simply fund a contract administered outside our district. As a Taumarunui business owner and tourism operator, I see businesses struggling, shops closing and our town centre losing activity. This is exactly when Council should increase practical economic support, not withdraw it. Cutting economic development during a downturn risks accelerating decline and weakening the rates base Council depends upon. Any agreement with Whanganui & Partners must include transparent Ruapehu-specific targets and public reporting. Ratepayers should be told how much is invested, what services are delivered locally, which businesses receive assistance, how many jobs and enterprises are created or retained, and what measurable benefit Taumarunui and our smaller communities receive. Economic development staff also need a regular presence in Taumarunui. Local businesses should not have to navigate a distant agency to receive assistance funded through their own rates. Investment should prioritise locally owned businesses, Māori and hapū enterprise, tourism, agriculture, food production, town-centre revitalisation, workforce development and opportunities that keep money circulating locally. I support increasing investment—but with stronger local delivery, accountability and measurable outcomes. Economic development should be something our businesses can see, access and benefit from, not merely a contract listed in Council's budget. [REDACTED]	8/3/2026 11:12 PM
42	Waste of money we have had no support	8/3/2026 8:18 PM
43	Not something I see any benefit from, despite funding it.	8/3/2026 7:31 PM

Economic Development

44	NA	8/3/2026 3:25 PM
45	Make any funding given to be spread evenly across the board per capita in stead of it being very one sided.	8/3/2026 2:32 PM
46	Unsure - not clear on how much it costs and how much benefit	8/3/2026 11:43 AM
47	I'm not exactly sure what the term economic development means. If it means greater richness I'm all for it. But if it simply involves periodic reviews of potential from external contractors I'd be looking for a new definition.	8/3/2026 11:24 AM
48	Let the private sector do what they do best. Let them make a \$	8/3/2026 10:12 AM
49	I feel that the council don't really support local businesses. If anything they put up to many barriers that stop new and local businesses.	8/3/2026 10:09 AM
50	contractors need to show and prove their results so that RDC isn't just another contributor	8/2/2026 8:35 PM
51	Economic development should be to call on a National Specialist agency for optional advise when required.	8/2/2026 11:41 AM
52	Suggest approaching owner of Benneydale Freezing Works to relocate to Taumarunui with the free use of land (20yrs). Such as saleyards or abandoned area between oxidation ponds and the river. Currently, people are having to travel to Benneydale Freezing Works for work. Located in Taumarunui it would give the opportunity for greater employment (one example only).	8/2/2026 11:00 AM
53	This is the key component that should take priority. As creating a multitude of income streams, from viable proven businesses or ventures, where the profits provide revenue to assist council is vital for sustainability. Instead of using rate payers as the sole source of income. Growing this will take time but it's benefits will be fruitful for future generations.	8/2/2026 9:54 AM
54	ED should be done regionally. And IT skills always result in more jobs	8/2/2026 12:13 AM
55	The council should work with and enable initiatives that promote economic development but should not directly fund any such initiative. Any initiative worth investment can gain private or community support. Council role should be to remove barriers. If council need to bring in external specialist contractors for economic advice it indicates that council are not equipped with suitable personnel resource to fulfill their primary role and indicates a systemic HR deficiency.	8/1/2026 10:49 PM
56	Its up to business who profit from the community to look after the development that is serving them.	8/1/2026 12:04 PM
57	Listen to what the businesses are saying. They know the landscape better than anyone else	8/1/2026 10:30 AM
58	No	8/1/2026 7:33 AM
59	While Council can't create employment, it can inform and advocate	7/31/2026 8:59 PM
60	It's important to bring in new opportunities for job creation. Extremely important activity.	7/31/2026 7:51 PM
61	To the point, the whole community benefits from a stronger economy and when times are tough economically, it's even more important	7/31/2026 7:01 PM
62	Everything rests on this. Any extra funding should be going here, always.	7/31/2026 6:57 PM
63	Would prefer less investment in marketing and more in increasing/improving the attractions for visitors	7/31/2026 6:17 PM
64	What economic development? There is no economy here. Stop contracting to expensive, external providers often out of region. Find jobs for our own people instead (ie people living here)	7/31/2026 5:33 PM
65	There has to be a strong case between expenditure and benefits. Is the current strategy working? Taumarunui does not appear to be getting ahead - so is the strategy not working, or is it working to reduce the rate of decline?	7/31/2026 5:28 PM
66	Too many lies about current involvement in businesses not promising what they say they will do	7/31/2026 5:13 PM
67	Economic development is the cornerstone of the population's willingness to live and contribute to the region. (Population will flee if no economic development)	7/31/2026 4:59 PM
68	Promote cycle trails more aggressively	7/31/2026 4:48 PM
69	More houses bring more work for local tradie aloud more business to come in a matter what	7/31/2026 1:35 PM

Economic Development

	it is	
70	Where are the measureable benefits/outcomes for Ruapehu? We are just helping fund something that benefits Whanganui DC. Don't know any businesses that have got anything out of it.	7/31/2026 11:11 AM
71	Cannot see any measurable benefit - if this could be demonstrated would support it	7/31/2026 9:10 AM
72	Stop funding visit Ruapehu entirely at the end of rating year and wind down the entity. Close all the I sites as people use oyer sources. Sell the Ohakune I site building and pay down debt which is excessive for a small council	7/30/2026 8:54 PM
73	How does this tie in with tourism?	7/30/2026 8:50 PM
74	Although this is a very important part of the future we arent in a position to finance further development unless it was potentially very advantageous to our region and employment.	7/30/2026 6:30 PM
75	Consultants out, council staff in.	7/30/2026 1:03 PM
76	The initial beneficiaries of these services should fund them. Trickle down to the average ratepayer does not happen.	7/30/2026 1:01 PM
77	Maori Purpose Zones for zoning needs to be activated please.	7/30/2026 8:41 AM
78	We need this to be run by locals for locals with realistic budgets and timelines in place	7/30/2026 7:21 AM
79	It could be managed by outside experts, government entities or groups	7/30/2026 1:33 AM
80	How much did this cost. [REDACTED]	7/29/2026 9:16 PM
81	Is the service that has been offered through councils discretionary funding, worked and if so how? Hence why I have answered "unsure" to both questions, as I don't know how well it is working at present or how well it has worked in the past 🤔	7/29/2026 8:17 PM
82	Employ a dedicated person	7/29/2026 6:42 PM
83	The council should concentrate on what rates are for. Infrastructure!	7/29/2026 9:00 AM
84	I truly think there has to be a high investment in somehow bringing primary industries back to our area, we need to have facilities that bring employment, I think the future of our area is really going to pivot on work and who we can attract and retain. With that, the economic development seems a worthy way to use the money , but with clear budgets and conflicts of interest of works done publicly visible so we can see our money is being spent wisely.	7/29/2026 8:53 AM
85	While not core to council, economic growth will contribute to rates into the future. But like most things, council need to reduce the investment/cost to the ratepayer.	7/29/2026 8:23 AM
86	Economic development is key to growth, but dont just have loose plans. Make sure you are articulate in what you want to achieve. Do you even hold community think tanks to take advantage of big brains in area or just use outside consultants to decide every decision. Perhaps hire a smart brain for a 360 overview of all areas for decelopment vs spending on consultants that really are not always that good.	7/28/2026 9:22 PM
87	rates are not to fund economic development which benefits a few - business people...	7/28/2026 8:26 PM
88	Rather than bringing overly paid consultants from out of the region create a forum of business operator's to drive the economic growth. They know more about what is needed than any outsiders	7/27/2026 4:47 PM
89	This is an important core service... no economic development and support = no businesses and no jobs	7/27/2026 4:44 PM
90	Since the closing of the mills and the problems with the ski fields, it feels very shaky in the south of the district in terms of job availability and stability. Supporting job creation is vital to retaining and attracting people to live in our area	7/25/2026 9:11 AM
91	Too much is being spent on consultation.	7/24/2026 2:54 PM
92	I believe Visit Ruapehu provides partly in this area, for the Ruapehu region and through this, maintained.	7/24/2026 12:28 PM
93	Its not a core council function, use this money on the infrastructure	7/23/2026 6:58 PM
94	Business's should pay for their own economic development. The government would not assist the sawmills to stay open because they would not subsidise privately owned companies, so why should us ratepayers effectively subsidise private business.	7/23/2026 2:38 PM

Economic Development

95		7/22/2026 6:53 PM
96	There's been no significant development in this area in over 20 years	7/22/2026 12:45 PM
97	I believe economic development starts with investing in our people and communities. If we want Ruapehu to remain a thriving place to live, work and do business, we need to support local residents, community organisations and businesses so they can succeed. Strong communities create strong local economies. By investing in community facilities, attracting and retaining families, supporting local businesses and creating opportunities for young people, we can encourage growth and help keep people living and working in the district. Economic development should not only focus on attracting visitors and new businesses; it should also ensure that existing residents and businesses are supported. Encouraging local employment, training opportunities and community wellbeing will help build a more resilient district for the future. I support initiatives that help Ruapehu remain an attractive place to live and invest. If we invest in our people and communities now, we will be better positioned to retain our population, attract new residents and businesses, and support sustainable growth into the future.	7/22/2026 11:36 AM

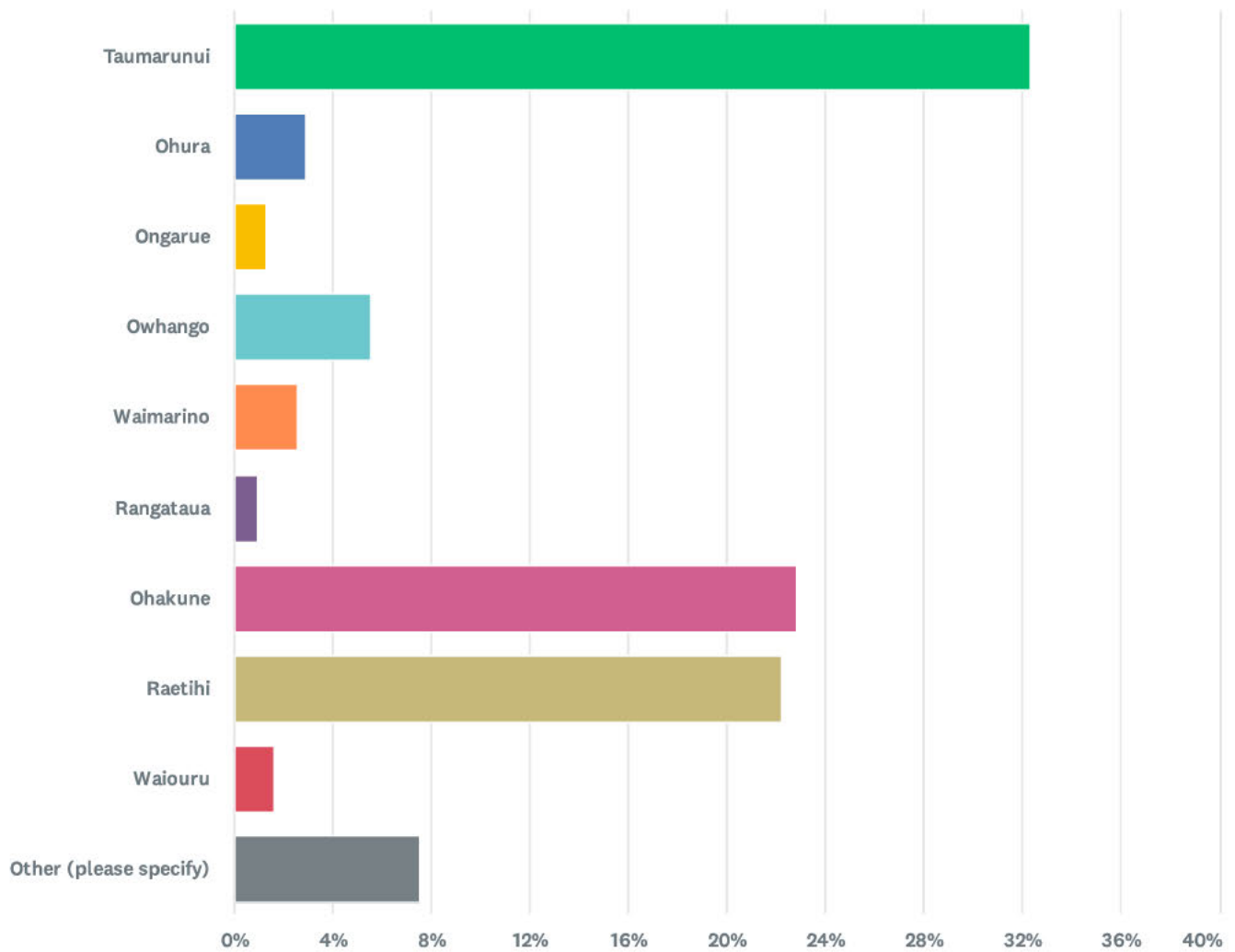
Q3 Do you have any other feedback about Economic Development?

Answered: 86 Skipped: 197

	DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER FEEDBACK ABOUT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT?	TOTAL
Q4: Taumarunui	100.00% 31	36.05% 31
Q4: Ohura	100.00% 5	5.81% 5
Q4: Ongarue	100.00% 1	1.16% 1
Q4: Owhango	100.00% 6	6.98% 6
Q4: Waimarino	100.00% 5	5.81% 5
Q4: Rangataua	100.00% 1	1.16% 1
Q4: Ohakune	100.00% 18	20.93% 18
Q4: Raetihi	100.00% 18	20.93% 18
Q4: Waiouru	100.00% 1	1.16% 1
Total Respondents	86	86

Q4 306 responses

Where do you live?



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Taumarunui	32.35%	99
● Ohura	2.94%	9
● Ongarue	1.31%	4
● Owhangō	5.56%	17
● Waimarino	2.61%	8
● Rangataua	0.98%	3
● Ohakune	22.88%	70
Total		306

Economic Development

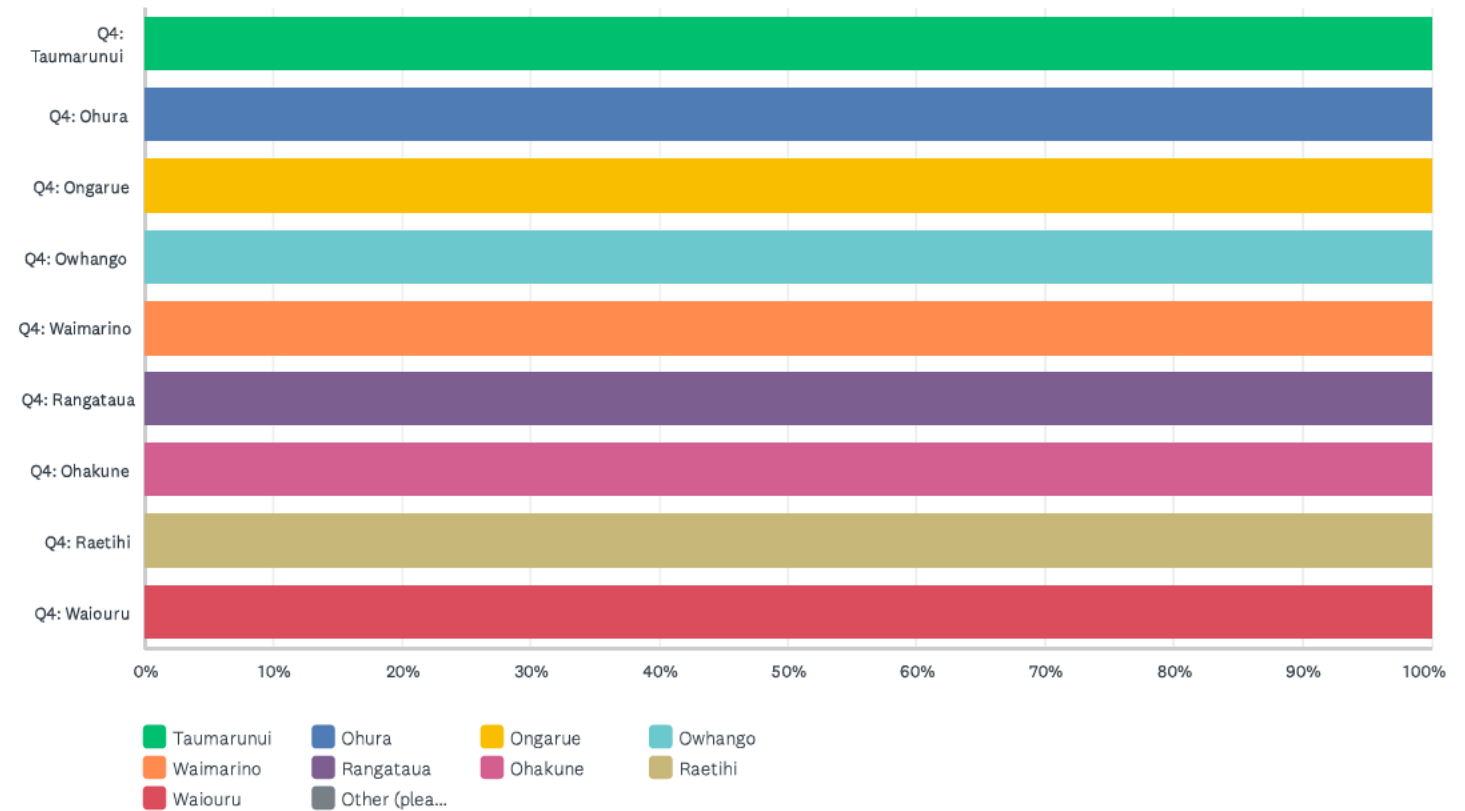
Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
 Raetihi	22.22%	68
 Waiouru	1.63%	5
 Other (please specify)	7.52%	23
Total		306

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Kakahi	8/10/2026 4:16 PM
2	Horopito	8/10/2026 3:51 PM
3	Orautoha	8/10/2026 3:38 PM
4	did not specify	8/10/2026 3:28 PM
5	Kakahi	8/7/2026 11:15 AM
6	Pipiriki	8/5/2026 5:01 PM
7	Piriaka	8/5/2026 10:48 AM
8	Rural Taumarunui	8/4/2026 6:15 PM
9	Ohakune ratepayer who lives out of town	8/3/2026 11:43 AM
10	and Upper Hutt	8/3/2026 11:24 AM
11	Auckland, bach in Raetihi	8/3/2026 8:41 AM
12	Auckland	8/2/2026 5:08 PM
13	Raurimu	8/2/2026 11:47 AM
14	Coromandel	8/1/2026 10:40 AM
15	Auckland	8/1/2026 10:30 AM
16	Pipiriki	7/31/2026 7:51 PM
17	nemingha	7/31/2026 6:25 PM
18	Raurimu	7/31/2026 4:56 PM
19	Raurimu	7/31/2026 4:48 PM
20	Horopito	7/31/2026 2:02 AM
21	Raurimu	7/30/2026 1:03 PM
22	Kaitieke	7/29/2026 8:53 AM
23	Raurimu	7/23/2026 2:38 PM

Economic Development

Q4 Where do you live?

Answered: 283 Skipped: 0



	TAUMARUNUI	OHURA	ONGARUE	OWHANGO	WAIMARINO	RANGATAUA	OHAKUNE	RAETIHI	WAIOURU	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	Total
Q4: Taumarunui	100.00% 99	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	34
Q4: Ohura	0.00% 0	100.00% 9	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3
Q4: Ongerue	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1
Q4: Owango	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 17	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6
Q4: Waimarino	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 8	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	2
Q4: Rangataua	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1
Q4: Ohakune	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 70	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	24
Q4: Raetihi	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 68	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	24
Q4: Waiouru	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 5	0.00% 0	1
Total Respondents	99	9	4	17	8	3	70	68	5	0	