

Economic Development



To help lower future rates and keep services sustainable, Council is reviewing whether services should stay the same, change, be reduced or stop.

Economic development is about making the most of what Ruapehu has – our land, climate and people – to create opportunities and a stronger future. Council contracts Whanganui & Partners to deliver economic development services for Ruapehu through an agreement with Whanganui District Council.

This gives Ruapehu access to specialist skills, business networks, and programmes that would be difficult and more expensive to provide on our own. Tourism promotion is handled separately, by our Regional Tourism Organisation, Visit Ruapehu (covered in a separate set of questions).

Why is Council involved?

Although councils are expected to consider how their decisions affect the local economy, they are not required to fund economic development specifically – it remains a discretionary activity.

In a small rural district like ours, where the economy rests on tourism, agriculture and small business, contracting a specialist agency gives Council access to skills, knowledge and networks that would be difficult to build ourselves.

Who benefits, and how is it funded?

Local businesses benefit most directly, but the wider community gains too – through jobs, local services and a stronger local economy.

Economic development is paid for in two ways; by businesses who pay through their rates because they benefit most, and every property pays a small flat amount because the whole district benefits from a stronger economy.

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

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

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

- ☐ Increase investment
- ☐ Keep at current level
- ☐ Reduce investment
- ☐ Stop funding this activity
- ☐ Unsure

3. Do you have any other feedback about Economic Development?



4. Where do you live?

☐

Taumarunui

☐

Ohura

☐

Ongarue

☐

Owhango

☐

Waimarino

☐

Rangataua

☐

Ohakune

☐

Raetihi

☐

Waionuru

☐

Other