

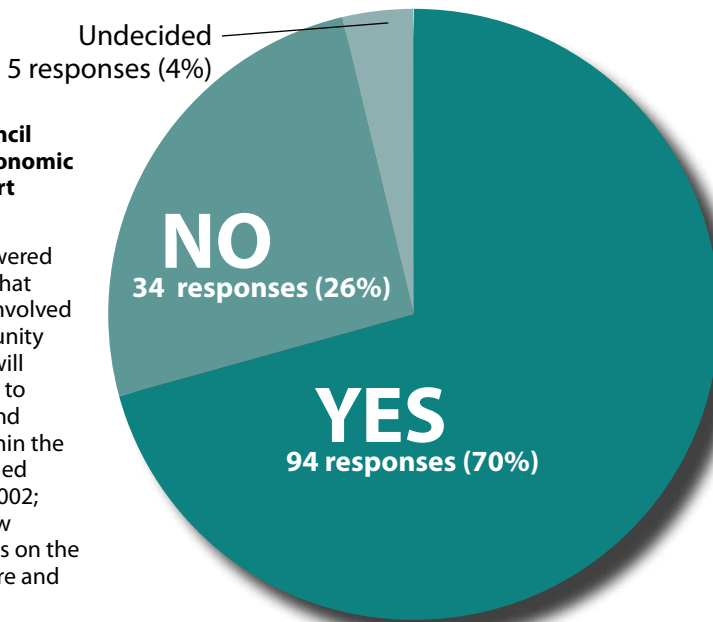


WHAT DID YOU SAY South Waikato

In its Draft Annual Plan 2013-14 consultation process last month Council asked the community a number of specific questions relating to various things from funding, focus and capital projects. This is a summary of what you told us:

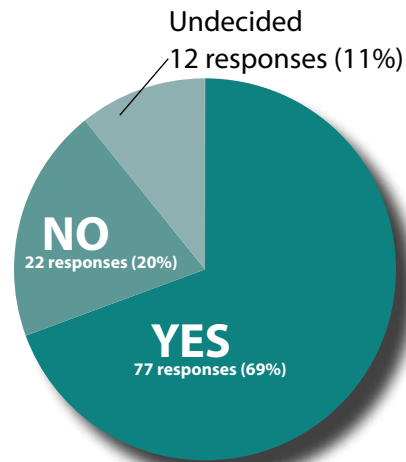
Do you agree that Council remains involved in economic and community support areas?

70% of people who answered this question indicated that Council should remain involved in economic and community support areas. Council will continue to look at ways to best deliver economic and community support within the boundaries of the changed Local Government Act 2002; even though the Act now requires councils to focus on the provision of infrastructure and regulatory activities.

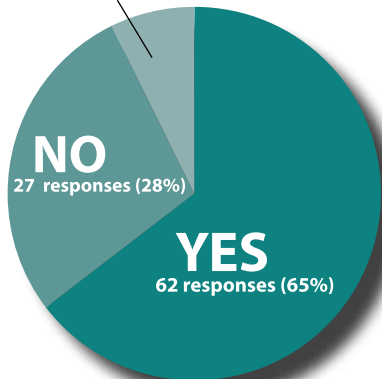


Should Council change its Investment Policy so that it includes more investment classes as recommended by BNZ?

69% of people supported Council changing the Investment Policy to reflect the changes recommended by our investment advisor, BNZ Private Bank. The new Policy is designed to spread our investment more widely and therefore reduce the risk of fluctuations. To minimise the risk of fluctuations and losses in the value and earnings of these investments, it is necessary to invest across a range of different investments and in different parts of the world.



Undecided
7 responses (7%)



To make savings and reduce the rate increase, Council is proposing to cut and stagger funding committed in the LTP for improvements to Glenshea Park. Is this acceptable?

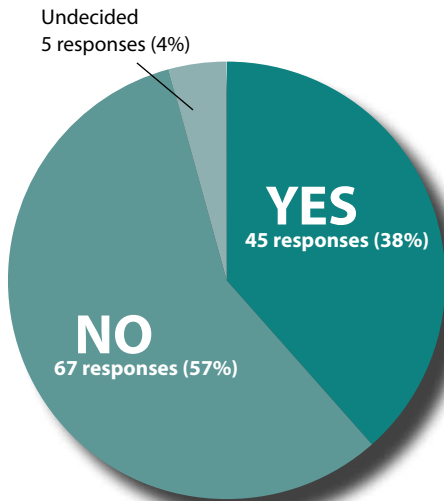
65% of people supported cutting and staggering the funding for improvements to Glenshea Park, with only 35% suggesting that the full amount should be put back in the budget. Council will therefore continue with the proposed approach, which means that in 2012-13, Council will repair the toilets and replace the grandstand roof at a cost of \$75,000. In the 2013-14 year, Council will replace the floodlights (\$16,125), and repair the showers, changing rooms and kitchen (\$80,000).

Council thanks you for your feedback 

Investment Fund (\$25 million) Options, A, B or C

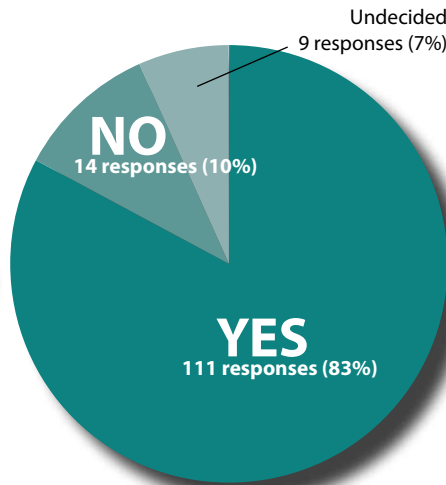
Option A: Should we retain investment funds in Council for economic and community development?

57% of people did not support Council retaining the investment funds in Council. We will therefore continue with developing the reasonable options available for safeguarding the money in an independent organisation. Once this process is complete, and a preferred option identified by Elected Members, further consultation will occur so the community is able to have their say about the options.



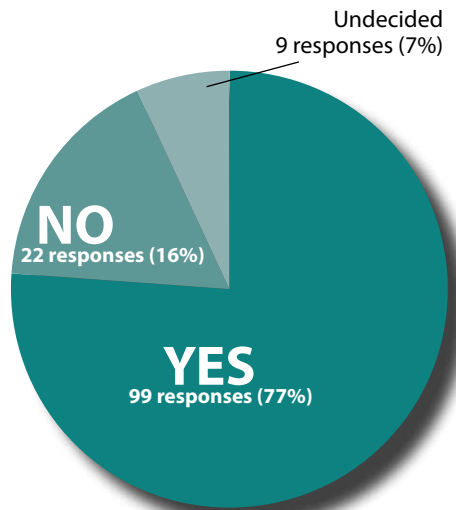
Option B: Should we establish an independent organisation that would safeguard the \$25 million, in the case of amalgamation, for the use of economic and community development?

83% of people indicated that they supported establishing an independent organisation to safeguard the \$25 million, or supported a combination of options that included Option B. Council will continue to develop the options available and will obtain legal advice on the best structure to use. Again, Council will consult further with the community before any final decisions are made.



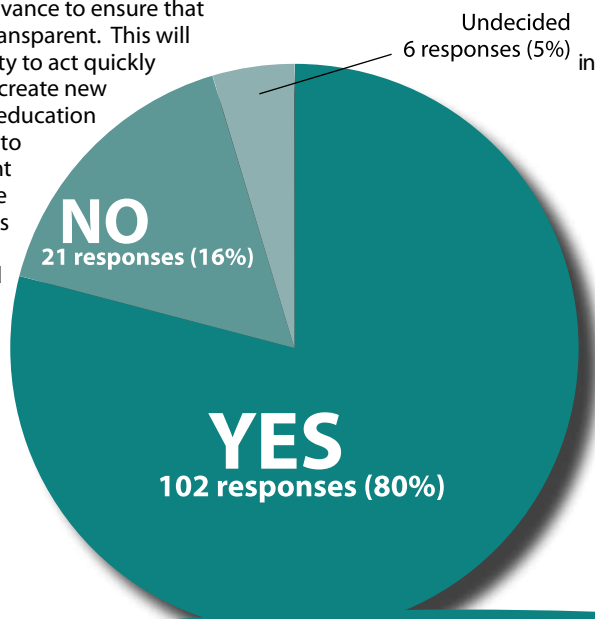
Option C: Should we spend some/all of the money on district development projects?

76% of people thought that Council should spend some/all of the money on district development projects. Council believes there will be more benefit for using this funding to develop more jobs and promote our district over the long term rather than subsidising rates. Council will consult with the community further on the kinds of projects that could be undertaken.



Do you think we should form a group of well-respected business people to help businesses grow in the South Waikato?

80% of people supported the idea to form a group of well-respected business people, with 65% of people supporting funding the group with \$1 million from the investment fund. Council will therefore form a group that is led by experienced business people who have demonstrated their success already in their business lives. As of yet we don't know who these people are, but the focus will be on national, regional or locally recognised business leaders who are experienced, well-respected and effective, and who have national industry contacts. In the long run, it is anticipated that this group will become a semi-independent organisation. The organisation will have clear ground rules and objectives set up in advance to ensure that accountability is rigorous and transparent. This will provide the group with the ability to act quickly response to opportunities or to create new ones. The group will work with education providers, Council and business to promote economic development in our district. It will develop the district's competitive advantages and look for investment opportunities, link investors and businesses together and look for promotional opportunities to attract business to the district.



Do you think we should fund this group with \$1 million from the \$25 million (no increases in rates) to enable this work to happen?

64% of people supported giving \$1 million from the investment fund to the group of well-respected business people. Once this group has been established, Council will provide it with \$1 million so that it can get established. \$1 million for the first year should be enough as it will take some time for the group to establish. Without this monetary support, the group would be hamstrung to do any work - for example, it is planned that the money will be spent on setting up and running the business group, establishing a few lead projects, and providing administrative support.

