



## Submission Form

### Statement of Proposal

# Draft Exceptions Annual Plan 2014/15

The following information is required to enable us to contact you and advise you of Council's decision

Mr    Mrs    Ms    Other   \_\_\_\_\_

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For Council Use: Sub No	
File No:	A05-0152
Date Stamp	
Do you wish to speak in support of your submission?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, number of speakers (max 2)	<input type="text"/>
Where do you wish to speak to your submission?	<input type="checkbox"/> Taumarunui <input type="checkbox"/> Ohakune
Time required	<input type="text"/> Mins

### Want more information?



Telephone 07 895 8188 or 06 385 8364



Write to Freepost 492, Exceptions Annual Plan 2014/15, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946



Email: [consultation@ruapehudc.govt.nz](mailto:consultation@ruapehudc.govt.nz)



Fax to 07 895 3256

### Submissions Close: 5.00pm Tuesday 22 April 2014

#### Your Comments

Note: Your comments are part of Council's consultation process and will therefore be available for public inspection.

LIANZA recognises that Local Governments face tough economic times and supports the choice that Ruapehu District Council is offering its rate payers between the level of service provided and the cost of rate increases for the 2014/2015 year.

However, we do have concerns around the impact of some of the proposed budget cuts to community services. As evident in the district plan the funding for Library Services will drop from \$452,000 as forecast in the long-term plan to \$289,000 with the current library purchasing budget of \$50,000 being cut by 41% or \$21,450. The Ruapehu District currently has (per capita) the third lowest purchasing budget for public libraries in New Zealand.

While use of the Ruapehu District Libraries have been relatively high, with 51.4% of the population holding memberships, and over 20,000 internet and 18,000 wi-fi sessions last year, book loans have remained low due to the charges levied to borrow books. The decision to remove these charges in the new financial year means book loans are likely to spike putting increasing demand on the collection - in other libraries usage has tripled within one month after the removal of fees. Because of this it is more important than ever to ensure a robust collection management and procurement policy.

It is also important to consider the value public libraries bring to the community in the widest sense – both in services and place. The Kiwis Count survey, carried out by the State Services Commission since 2012, shows New Zealanders are visiting public libraries more often and rated their service higher than any other public service.

The International Federation of Library Associations/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994 states:

***The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups.***

***This Manifesto proclaims UNESCO's belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women.***

***UNESCO therefore encourages national and local governments to support and actively engage in the development of public libraries.***

While we understand the need to pursue aggressive cost reductions in order to achieve the budget savings targeted by council, we would recommend reinstating the purchasing budget for the Ruapehu District Libraries.