From: info@hairyfeetwaitomo.co.nz

Sent: Thursday, 16 May 2024 4:31 pm

**To:** haveyoursay

**Subject:** Long-term plan submission

Importance: High

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Dear Waitomo District Council,

As a resident and tourism operator in the Waitomo District, I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed reduction in budget for Hamilton Waikato tourism as outlined within the partnership/grants budget in the long-term plan.

Hamilton Waikato Tourism is a vital part of our tourism landscape, attracting international and domestic visitors and supporting local businesses. Any significant reduction in funding could have negative impacts not only on tourism operators like myself but also on a wide range of businesses and employment opportunities in our area. From accommodation providers and restaurants to retail shops and transportation services, many local enterprises rely on the influx of tourists drawn to our region by Hamilton Waikato's attractions and promotional efforts.

A decrease in tourism funding would inevitably lead to fewer visitors coming to our district, resulting in reduced revenue streams for these businesses. This, in turn, could lead to job losses, decreased spending in the local economy, and a general downturn in business activity. Ultimately, it would undermine the vibrancy and livelihood of our community.

I urge the Council to consider very carefully the implication of reducing funding and prioritize investment in tourism promotion to ensure the continued success of our region. Your support is crucial for the growth and sustainability of our businesses and the overall attractiveness of our district.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I look forward to hearing your response on this matter.

Sincerely, **Suzie Denize Owner operator** 

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