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Q1

Your details

Name	Neil Pluck - Chairman RCA.
Company / Organisation (if submitting on behalf of)	Rakaia Community Association
Address	[REDACTED]
Address 2	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

Q2

Do you agree with our three areas of focus and their associated goals?

Living, working and learning here - Our residents are engaged and invested in our community	Agree
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Doing business here - Our businesses are thriving, innovative and resilient to change	Agree
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Visiting and playing here - Our district is a destination of choice for locals and visitors, with great leisure, entertainment and recreational activities	Agree
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Please explain why	We agree with the three goals, as we think this is pretty much how Ashburton district people see ourselves and enjoy our lifestyle of good employment and supportive community groups, even though a person could travel to make a lot more income personally, we think our people stay in, and or come back to, Ashburton district because of a very well-balanced lifestyle of, good enough income with room for growth (if wanted),very short distances to most consumer things needed, and plenty of leisure things to be enjoyed within our district.
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Q3

Do you agree with our draft action plan on pages 12 - 17?

Yes,
Please explain why:
Yes, for the most part.

Q4

Does the strategy and action plan address what you see as the key issues facing economic development in our district?

Yes,

Please explain why:

We think the plan does address a lot of things with what looks like a load of work to do and some very good expertise to drive things along for the next decade or so. But we think some important things have been missed, they are as follows.- Goal 1: We have concern around there being no options for locals to retire in Rakaia with the lack of any retirement units. Goal 3: We would like to ensure Rakaia is included in this plan as Rakaia is the main gateway into the Ashburton District. We are very proud of, and very grateful for, the finished product of our beautiful Salmon and Public Loos site and know this now sets a fantastic standard for our visitors to notice and expect of Ashburton district as they travel about, and we are sure they will look at this site and others around our district and think that this is clearly a district, and people, that are proud of their area and themselves. But we would like to suggest that a feasibility study and group formed to explore the opportunity of a cycle trail, starting in Rakaia (or Ashburton) and linking to Methven and Ashburton along the Rakaia river terrace and RDR and Ashburton river stop banks. Some work has been done on this in previous years and we believe there is still some funding held at the ADC for this purpose. Cycle trails are very popular, and we believe this would bring new visitors and income to our district and will positively impact our whole district. We feel that Ashburton district is lagging behind on this product and has a huge amount of infrastructure already in place that only needs a few mods and extensions to have an outstanding, unique to NZ, trail working all year round for our greater good.

Q5

The strategy outlines the role Council will play in economic development. Do you agree with this and / or are there any other areas you think we should include?

Yes,

Please provide comment:

We agree for the most part but wonder if all of this work is not Councils roll, as councils roll is to look after the proper functioning of important infrastructure and future proof this infrastructure and growth of our district, not get bogged down and have to employ extra staff and processes to do what businesses and groups should be doing, and are capable of doing, for themselves. Council should support these things, but not lose focus of what council is charged with doing.

Q6

Do you have anything else you'd like to mention?

Respondent skipped this question

Q7

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

No - I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that my written submission be fully considered.
