



# WHAT'S THE FUTURE FOUNDERS SITE?

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**Hamilton and the wider region will have access to a modern riverfront theatre when the Waikato Regional Theatre opens in late 2022. The new theatre will be owned and operated by a trust on behalf of the community.**

The West Town Belt Masterplan adopted by the Council in September 2019 sees the Founders site as part of the "heart" of the West Town Belt, so what happens on that small piece of land influences the whole area. It's vital we get the next step right – and we need your input.

- We're asking for community feedback from 7 October to 3 November 2020.

- You can present your submission verbally to the Hearings and Engagement Committee on 20 November.
- Council will consider a report on the future of the Founders site, including feedback from our community, at the Council meeting on 8 December 2020.
- Council's draft budget for the next 10 years will be agreed in December 2020 then confirmed when we adopt the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan next June.
- Now's the time to decide on the future of the Founders site.



# The Options

## ◀ OPTION 1

### Remove the theatre and create a basic park

Key features include:

- ① New flat lawn space (~5,000m<sup>2</sup>).
- ② Dame Hilda Ross Memorial Fountain repaired and activated.
- ③ Existing vegetation retained. No new planting.
- ④ Existing minimal park furniture retained.
- ⑤ Half of existing car park retained.



## OPTION 2 ▶

**OUR PREFERRED OPTION - WE NEED YOUR IDEAS ON HOW THIS WOULD LOOK.**

### Remove the theatre and create a multi-purpose community park

Key features include:

- ① New flat lawn space (~5,000m<sup>2</sup>).
- ② Accessible paths for walking and cycling to connect the park to the rest of the West Town Belt. New street crossing points.
- ③ Outdoor performance space (like an amphitheatre, canopy structure etc).
- ④ Dame Hilda Ross Memorial Fountain repaired and activated.
- ⑤ All-ages play space.
- ⑥ Natural, quiet spaces for respite and enjoying nature.

**THROUGHOUT:** Engaging, playful public art that celebrates the site's history. Park furniture such as seating, cycle racks, drinking fountains and lighting. Wayfinding, safety and interpretive signage. New vegetation and trees.



## ◀ OPTION 3

### Create something new from the theatre building and area around it

We are inviting submissions with funding proposals from interested parties for a potential third option that partly or fully retains the Founders Theatre building for an alternative purpose. Estimates to restore the building range from \$12M to \$20M.

Key features include:

- ① Building (partly or fully) and surrounding spaces retained (e.g. car park, areas of lawn, garden and vegetation).
- ② Dame Hilda Ross Memorial Fountain repaired and activated.



**SHARE YOUR VOICE AND SHAPE YOUR CITY!**