

Tukuna mai ōu whakaaro

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You may send your submission:

By mail (no stamp required): Freepost 1201, Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345, CHRISTCHURCH 8140

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Long-Term Plan

2015-2025

2025	EC - HIGH	
FILE REF: COMM PLAN 1525		
DOCUMENT No.:		
	26 MAR 2015	
	38462	
CHURCH 8140	M Koo	

Please fill in your contact details below

Your name Donald George FOSTER

Your organisation and role in it (if applicable) D & P Foster Family Trust (Trustee)

Date _____

23/3/15

Tick the box if you wish to discuss your submission in person

I do not wish my contact details to be made public

All submissions are public documents. Copies will be published on the Environment Canterbury website.

Your submission

What do you want Environment Canterbury to do?

See attached

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Continue your submission on additional pages if necessary.



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SUBMISSION ON ECan LONG TERM PLAN 2015-2025 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

March 2015

Introduction:

There are many initiatives set out in the long term plan that are commendable in principle, but over-zealous in detail. Over-zealous equates with avoidable cost, and the proposed programme of rate increases to cover costs is the central concern of this submission. For example, the clean-air provisions relating to wood-burners and essential burning of tree and hedge foliage in rural areas away from the urban limits is unnecessarily heavy handed. On the other hand, the proposal to give up on containment of possums and rabbits is clearly foolhardy.

Continued rate increases by local governmental agencies above the projected inflation rates is unsustainable for ratepayers on restricted incomes:

1. Demographic projections show an increasing proportion of retired folk in the community with limited capacity to increase income levels. They have to plan their wish lists in accordance with limited income and defer or prioritise to balance the budget.

When local bodies levy rates continuously above the inflation rate, they are in effect increasing the proportion of many ratepayers' disposable/discretionary income they absorb and this is unfair, unreasonable and unsustainable, particularly for those who might have high classifications on, say, river drainage rates.

ECan must also be aware that due to irresponsible under-insurance of city assets, CCC is looking at a long-term programme of rate increases well above the inflation rate, and cumulatively the impact of local body rate increases is daunting.

I can see no evidence in the ECan long-term plan that any cognisance has been given to these issues.

2. ECan needs to start with the discipline of zero rate increases in real terms and developing a programme of works within that budget, just as we ratepayers on limited income have to do.

However worthy the wish list may be, we require our elected representatives (oh dear, there's another thing) to act responsibly and cut their pattern according to the cloth.

Donald Foster

23/3/2015