

Comments

LTP 2021-31

Comment ID	389
Response Date	6/04/21 6:38 AM
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.4
First name	Hamish
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Email address	
Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?	No, I'm submitting as an individual
Are you willing to tell us more about yourself?	Yes
Which age category are you in?	40-64 years old
Which suburb or area do you live in?	
Do you think we've prioritised the right issues and opportunities?	Don't know
Which of the proposed options would you like to see us progress with?	Other option (please specify)

The rates increases are totally unfathomable and unacceptable in our current world situation. Cap the rates increase at 3%. Provide an option that can work within this budget. With the upheaval caused by COVID, we cannot risk burdening our community with the extraordinary aspirations and rates increases proposed in this consultation document. Prior commitments only and incremental adoption of statutory work aligned with a realistic rates increase.

It is important that we hear what you would like to keep in the plan, what you think should be removed, and anything that you think we have missed?

Ecan have made good progress in water quality issues, biodiversity and regional environmental matters. We are well ahead of other regional authorities in this space. Continue with the status quo where input and management of these initiatives is locally managed (zone committees, in conjunction with the private sector).

Do you generally support the activities proposed in the following portfolios:

Water and Land	No
Biodiversity and Biosecurity	Yes
Climate Change and Community Resilience	No
Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development	No
Regional and Strategic Leadership	No

Do you have any further comments on the activities proposed in specific portfolio/s (please select all those you wish to comment on):	<input type="checkbox"/> Water and Land
	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change and Community Resilience
	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional and Strategic Leadership

Water and Land portfolio comments:

Continue to support and enhance the current work programmes in our districts. Eg MAR and local zone committee activities.
These are much more efficient and outcome based programmes that relate to the communities that live in these areas.
DON'T centralise it and pay consultants extraordinarily high fees to develop reports and plans that are unworkable and won't relate to the community that we live in

Climate Change and Community Resilience portfolio comments:

The budget for this should be cut to ~25%. We can't think that throwing away \$35m per year will make any significant difference to climate change.
We all have a part to play in climate change but using our ratepayers money in this way is a totally unacceptable burden on them. Continue to provide education on how we can help only.

Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development portfolio comments:

Be realistic and don't expect to solve transport problems by throwing large amounts of ratepayer funds at it.
Agree that urban development needs attention

Regional and Strategic Leadership portfolio comments:

The budget is already excessive for this and should be capped at it's current level.

Is the proposed increase in rates affordable for your household? Neither option is affordable

Any further comments on affordability for your household?

We face uncertainty for jobs, income, housing. Covid has meant even sourcing products from overseas is challenging (freight issues).
House prices have skyrocketed and inflation of costs are happening everywhere. Please be sensible

with your rates increases! We are desperately trying to save money everywhere and we can't expect our households to suffer the expenditure increases proposed

Is the proposed increase in rates affordable as a whole for the Canterbury community? Yes

Any further comments on affordability for the community?

We need to be supporting our communities not beating them up! Encourage the primary sector to flourish not put unrealistic expectations on them to reduce production and fund taxes that do nothing for our local community.

Do you support the changes we're proposing to how we apply Uniform Annual General Charges? No

Any further comments on Uniform Annual General Charges?

If it is the general community that is benefiting from the expenditure - then the general community should pay.
Don't lump costs on e.g. rural communities to meet aspirations from urban dwellers who are not in the community who often end up paying.

Would you support the use of borrowing for operating expenditure to offset some of the first year rates? No

Any further comments on the use of borrowing for operating expenditure?

Be prudent with expenditure in the first place. It will cost more in the long run to pay back borrowing (often doubles the up front cost).

Do you support the rationale and proposed changes in the draft Fees and Charges Policy? Don't know

Where do you live in Canterbury? Select your district below: Ashburton district

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Kaikoura

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Hurunui

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Waimakariri

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Christchurch

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Selwyn

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Ashburton

The Hekeao Hinds Managed Aquifer Recharge is a pilot of environmental infrastructure to address water quality. To continue enhancing this infrastructure, the project would require ongoing targeted rates from the Ashburton district. Find out more [link]. Do you want to see this project continue?

Yes

Any further comments on Hekeao Hinds Managed Aquifer Recharge? Yes

The local affected community should be making decisions on it's funding and implementation

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Mackenzie

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Timaru

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Waimate

Would you like to see us investing in the following initiatives in your area? Waitaki

Any further comments?

The proposed rates increases are unthinkable. I plead with you to be sensible and cap the rates increase at 3%.

Our communities simply cannot afford this extravagant expenditure. We face very uncertain times in the wake of COVID, dramatic housing cost increases and increased cost of living.

The Canterbury Regional Council have a duty of care to stop this proposal in it's tracks and reconsider. We must focus on the core infrastructure work i.e. roading, infrastructure, drainage and urban development planning.

Do you wish to speak to your submission?

No

Would you like to be kept up-to-date with the outcome of this consultation?

Yes

How did you find out about giving feedback?

. Newspaper

Your information is held and administered by Environment Canterbury in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020 and Environment Canterbury's Privacy Policy.

There is personal information/contact details in my submission I do not want disclosed:

Yes

Tell us which information you do not want disclosed:

Email address