

## Comments

### LTP 2021-31

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<b>Surname</b>	Coles
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<b>Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?</b>	No, I'm submitting as an individual
<b>Are you willing to tell us more about yourself?</b>	Yes
<b>Which age category are you in?</b>	40-64 years old
<b>Which suburb or area do you live in?</b>	
<b>Do you think we've prioritised the right issues and opportunities?</b>	Don't know
<b>Which of the proposed options would you like to see us progress with?</b>	Option 2: statutory work and prior commitments

**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?**

Many of the aspects of the plan are business as usual - water monitoring and protection; pest management; flood protection; regional planning and compliance; public transport etc - so i don't have a problem with them being in the plan. What I do have a problem with is the poor level of engagement from Ecan in many of those areas I have experienced up until now as a ratepayer, and the way I am now being targeted to pay for a great deal of services in the future I will never have reason to use/engage with or am already paying for directly under a user-pays model!

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

<b>Water and Land</b>	Yes
<b>Biodiversity and Biosecurity</b>	Yes
<b>Climate Change and Community Resilience</b>	Yes
<b>Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development</b>	Yes
<b>Regional and Strategic Leadership</b>	Yes

**Do you have any further comments on the activities proposed in specific portfolio/s (please select all those you wish to comment on):**

- . Water and Land
- . Biodiversity and Biosecurity
- . Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development

**Water and Land portfolio comments:**

It's good that you plan to invest more in this area, as clearly things aren't working too well with river protection when a farm I own that is located 9km from the nearest river ends up under water when the stop bank upstream, fails...

**Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio comments:**

I've never had any engagement from Ecan with regards to pest management on my property, so would love to know more about what they are doing to help me in this area, over and above what I pay for and manage myself.

**Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development portfolio comments:**

I'd love to know more about how you work out who to target the rates to for this!

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

**Any further comments on affordability for your household?**

A 25% increase in the first year of this plan is absolutely scandalous!! Do you even realise that there is a global pandemic with far reaching effects on our nation's economy happening currently?!!

**Is the proposed increase in rates affordable as a whole for the Canterbury community?** No

**Any further comments on affordability for the community?**

Why on earth are you targeting so much of the rates increase into one year? Let-alone the first year of the 10-year plan?!

**Do you support the changes we're proposing to how we apply Uniform Annual General Charges?** Don't know

**Would you support the use of borrowing for operating expenditure to offset some of the first year rates?** Yes

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

With interest rate as low as they are, has there ever been a better time to use borrowing to help fund investment in infrastructure?! I'd think not.

**Do you support the rationale and proposed changes in the draft Fees and Charges Policy?**

Don't know

**Any further comments on the Fees and Charges Policy?**

Many of your fees seem exorbitant as it is - e.g. \$260 a year per irrigation consent, to simply receive electronic water metering information on a daily basis from an independent contractor and file it away for analysis once a year. Compliance can be viewed by a few-seconds-long glance at a graph onscreen - how is this cost justified?!

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

Timaru 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**

**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**

Other initiative/s

**Should we continue investing in MyWay by Metro, Timaru's on-demand public transport service, after the trial period is completed?**

Yes

**Any further comments on MyWay by Metro? Yes**

It seems the best way to monitor and match the use of the service to demand rather than having large busses running for 1-2 people.

**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?**

As a farmer, I am sick and tired of being used as a cash-cow for funding of services and developments throughout the rest of the region, that I get no direct benefit from.

So many of the initiatives you spout on about are things I fund myself for my own property with no guidance or assistance from yourselves - pest management; water quality management and monitoring; biodiversity enhancement; climate change resilience. And I am happy to keep doing that, because it's the right thing to do - working together we will achieve meaningful change and improvements for our region and beyond.

But what really grates me, is constantly being targeted (through both a loaded general rate based on capital values, and targeted rates which seem to have no consistency throughout the region based on the variance displayed across the many properties we own) for a bunch of things I will never engage with - the most obvious example being \$88-89M being thrown at public transport in Christchurch and Timaru cities! This one project makes up 96% of your proposed Public Transport spending, with a large chunk of the funds coming from targeted rates - \$2736 of an approximately \$4200 proposed increase from my farm alone!!

To be clear - I am not some old, stick-in-the-mud anti-government stereotype you may be picturing about now - I am a progressive farmer only just into my 40s with a two-decade-long history of leading by example when it comes to environmental stewardship and community engagement. Our farms have been accredited through Lead With Pride for years; we consistently get A-grades on our FEP audits; we plant natives on our land every year to protect water quality and enhance bird and insect life; we have years worth of data to show that you could confidently drink the water straight out of the creeks that run through the middle of our farm; working to measure and reduce our Nitrogen and GHG footprint; recycling to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill... the list goes on.

I am happy to keep paying for the services I use - granting and monitoring of consents etc - and make a reasonable contribution towards region-wide projects - but I don't consider almost \$3000 added to my rates bill next year for a public transport system 200km away from where I live to be a reasonable contribution!!

I imagine mine will not be the only submission to express these sentiments from the rural sector, and hope you get the message loud and clear this time, that it is time to work with farmers, not just use them mercilessly - as I truly believe, we are doing way more than our share to improve the environmental outcomes for our region with our own funds, and it's about time our urban counterparts stepped up to the plate too!!

**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?** . Other (please specify)

*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:** My contact details