

Comments

LTP 2021-31

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First name	Elene (Helen)
Surname	Anderson
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?	Yes
Which of the proposed options would you like to see us progress with?	Option 1: statutory work, prior commitments and accelerating key initiatives

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?

Whilst I generally support going with Option 1, the "acceleration of key initiatives" that is part of Option 1 needs to be carefully managed, as the financial difference between Option 1 and Option 2 is \$6.4 million, yet the scale and broad scope of some of the works outlined in Option 1 would seem to me to have the potential of going significantly over budget. Would like to see active management and capping of activities so that ratepayers are not having to pay any more than what is forecast over the next 10 years. I also think that an allowed inflation rate of 2.5% is a tad high in this current climate. Inflation rate for 2020 was 1.4% and 0.58% is forecasted for 2021.

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

Water and Land	Yes
Biodiversity and Biosecurity	Yes
Climate Change and Community Resilience	Yes
Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development	Yes
Regional and Strategic Leadership	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
☐ Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development

Water and Land portfolio comments:

I am concerned at the number of private plan changes that are being lodged with Selwyn District Council by developers seeking to rezone productive rural land - most of these proposed developments are outside of the recently updated ECAN CRPS and outside of the specified Future Development Areas. SDC is assuming it has to push these through under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development. We may be heading for uncontrolled and sprawling urban development in areas outside of ChCh city that will negate some of the priorities outlined (Eg further degradation and depletion of water resources, loss of productive land, loss of biodiversity as rural land is gobbled up for urban development, etc).

Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development portfolio comments:

I am concerned at the number of private plan changes that are being lodged with Selwyn District Council by developers seeking to rezone productive rural land - most of these proposed developments are outside of the recently updated ECAN CRPS and outside of the specified Future Development Areas. SDC is assuming it has to push these through under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development. We may be heading for uncontrolled and sprawling urban development in areas outside of ChCh city that will negate some of the priorities outlined (Eg increased rather than decreased reliance on cars, degradation of productive land, loss of biodiversity as rural land is gobbled up for urban development, etc).

Is the proposed increase in rates affordable for your household? Option 1 is affordable

Is the proposed increase in rates affordable as a whole for the Canterbury community? Don't know

Any further comments on affordability for the community?

Due to the uncertain times we are currently in, many ratepayers have been affected by reduced hours, loss of jobs, needing to retrain as jobs in hospitality and tourism have been lost. This level of rates increase may not be affordable for the Canterbury community. I note also that rural landowners are already making improvements and having to comply with increased regulation - will their contribution to increased rates therefore be proportionately lower - as it is generally the urban and suburban ratepayers that are actually using more of the resources?

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?

I do not support the proposed Option 1 UAGC addition for regional parks, youth engagement and education as I believe this is the responsibility of each district council rather than ECAN. Especially as ECAN is proposing to charge for use of regional parks!

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?

The very low interest rate environment is ideal for borrowing to improve infrastructure and to offset rates rises. Additionally, there is not much point in building up reserves in bank accounts or fixed term investments that do not attract any interest whatsoever and ECAN should be using this opportunity to progress works by judicious use of borrowing at favourable rates.

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

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

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

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?

- . Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)
- . Postcard
- . Meeting, hui or event

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: No