

Comments

LTP 2021-31

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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? No

What do you feel are the significant challenges and opportunities we face?

It seems that priority has been given to trying to conform to the governments EFW when ECAN has already spent \$60M on regional & sub regional plans. ECAN should be demanding recognition from the government for both the investment that's been made as well as the benefits of theses plans. ECAN's priorities should be water & land resource management, flood protection, biodiversity protection & bio security.

Which of the proposed options would you like to see us progress with? Other option (please specify)

ECAN should focus on it's core responsibilities within a sensible budget. To do this rate rises should be limited to no more than 10% and non essential programs should be dropped, or scaled back to fit

within its budget. A 25% rate rise is irresponsible and puts an unfair burden on high value property owners.

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?

Priority should be given to the management of land & water resources, flood control/protection, biosecurity, protection & enhancement of biodiversity, biosecurity.

Programs such as youth engagement, enviro schools, climate change resilience, leading community resilience & me uru rakau cost the rate payers a lot of money & don't deliver any tangible outcomes, these projects should be dropped or scaled back to fit within a responsible budget based on rate rises of 10% or less.

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

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

Water and Land portfolio comments:

By having to redo plans to align with the EFW it suggests that ECAN has little or no confidence in the \$60M of rate payers money it's spent or the quality of the plan's that have been developed.

ECAN should be obliged to protect the investment rate payers have made to develop regional & sub regional plans.

It should demand recognition from central government for work to date.

Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio comments:

I support continued work in biosecurity and parts of the biodiversity plan such as the restoration of wetland's and the protection & enhancement of other at risk habitats.

I believe that me uru rakau and braided rivers projects are going to be very expensive to maintain in the long term and should be either dropped or delayed for several years to reduce the burden on rate payers.

The EFW may end up putting wetland restoration work at risk & ECAN should be pushing back at some of these rule.

Climate Change and Community Resilience portfolio comments:

I support continued flood protection control & resilience work.

I oppose leading community and climate change resilience, they will cost the rate payers a substantial amount of money and it's unclear whether there will be any tangible benefits delivered.

Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development portfolio comments:

I support targeted rates funding urban transport, as a rural rate payer who doesn't use public transport I strongly object to having to contribute to this.
ECAN has continued to allow urban sprawl which goes against the recommendations recent Climate Change Report,. This sprawl seems to be worse in the Selwyn district and I am concerned that there seems to be little regard for how the pollution is going to effect Te Waihora.

Regional and Strategic Leadership portfolio comments:

Programs such as youth leadership & enviro schools should be funded by the Ministry of Education.
Resourcing runanga to allow them to advise in the EFW should be done by central government.
These and a number of other projects aren't the core responsibility of ECAN & shouldn't be funded by ratepayers.

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

Any further comments on affordability for your household?

Either option will result in a rate increase of over \$5k for me. When coupled with having to invest in good management practice and the increasing number & fees and the cost of environmental compliance it combines to make an unaffordable burden on rural ratepayers. The proposed rate rise isn't coming in isolation of other costs.
I note that the Chair of ECAN commented that the proposals are affordable for urban rate payers as most of the burden falls on the rural rate payers.
A 25% rate increase will have a severely negative impact on rural communities.

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

Any further comments on affordability for the community?

ECAN should focus on producing an affordable sensible budget that limits rate rises to no more than 10%. It needs to get it's priorities right and drop any projects that aren't at it's core and fail to deliver tangible results.
It has a responsibility to be fiscally responsible with it's rate payers money.

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?

The UAG should be increased to at least \$100 per household to better reflect where the benefits for these programs accrue.
I am supportive of UAG's to fund projects that deliver benefits to people rather than property.
I feel that the costs of running ECAN have been disproportionately paid for by rural & high value rate payers and that the burden should be more fairly shared across both rural & urban areas.

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?

If the rise in rates is unaffordable then you need to spend less money. Develop and stick to a budget that focuses on core issues.
Borrowing money will increase costs in the mid to long term.

Do you support the rationale and proposed changes in the draft Fees and Charges Policy? No

Any further comments on the Fees and Charges Policy?

In principal I support the changes, however if they are accompanied by excessive rate rises as proposed then I strongly object as farmers & businesses will have to pay twice.

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 . Other initiative/s

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

I am strongly in support of a targeted rate for MAR.
I feel this is essential to the management, protection & enhancement of the resources in the district and those living in the area should decide whether to pay a targeted rate for this project.

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?

In summary I think that ECAN has a responsibility to all rate payers to form a sensible budget that limits rate rises to no more than 10%. To do this it needs to focus on core responsibilities and use UAG & targeted rates so that those who get the most benefit pay the most. It also needs to demand that central government acknowledges the \$60M and 10 years worth of work & effort that has gone into developing regional & sub regional plans and that it shouldn't have to redo those plans to meet EFW.

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? . 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