

Comments

LTP 2021-31

Comment ID	986
Response Date	11/04/21 7:37 PM
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.1
First name	Kerry
Surname	Harmer
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 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"/> Biodiversity and Biosecurity <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change and Community Resilience

Water and Land portfolio comments:

I don't support raising rates to simply add another amount of office work and layer of bureaucracy to water and land reform. If more money is required it should be being used to get genuine action on the ground, not just do more scoping reports etc. Ecan has just spent a lot of time and money producing a plan which addresses a lot of the freshwater regulations, issues and problems already, there is already buy in by all sectors for change and it is a waste of time and resources to stop what is starting to work and turn around and waste more money on new reports etc. Spend the money on community collaborative approaches which need funding to assist them to get stuck in and follow up the changes , source the help/data and whatever else is needed.

These areas affect all parts of the community so should be funded from general rates, not just based on land value as this makes only a small portion of ratepayers pay most of the amount for something that benefits everyone.

Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio comments:

The same comments as above for land and water, a lot of work has already been done, Ecan has been a leader nationally, don't make the mistake of having to do more paper based reports to tell you what you already know, just get on and help your ratepayers to make a difference.
Rate increases should be fair and not just based on land value which distorts the balance of who pays for the benefit for everyone.

Climate Change and Community Resilience portfolio comments:

This is critically linked to land and water and biodiversity and it is critical that the resilience of communities is addressed by looking at all of these issues together not in separate areas because they overlap and solutions need to be able to work for all areas not just one at the expense of another. The resilience of communities is one area which ecan needs to invest some time and money in understanding the full impacts of all the issues we face moving forward in the future, for every part of the region.
Rates must be fair so that everyone contributes for something that affects everyone

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

Any further comments on affordability for your household?

both rate rises will be significant because the bulk of it is based on land value which has no relevance to cost/benefit of there the money goes, and is not linked to profitability or cash situation, simply asset base.

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

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

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?

We already pay for ecan staff with rates, and are then hit again with commercial rates for time spent on ecan work so are paying twice for work done, there is very little ability to question/dispute costs and it is often not broken down well enough to justify or question. The use of commercial rates when we have already contributed through rates is unfair, yes there is a need to recoup some costs, but the full cost is unaffordable as there continues to be more and more requirement for consents etc, which are doubling up work.

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

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?

I wish it to be noted that I support the submission provided by Federated Farmers, as well as Catchments Collective South Canterbury.

Do you wish to speak to your submission? Yes

We may use your phone number to contact you to arrange attendance at a hearing. This information will be kept private.

Phone number

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

How did you find out about giving feedback? . Word of mouth

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