

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? 65+ 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?

- 1) Environmental risks (as called 'sustainability' by some,) having to be balanced with individual and regional and national financial (economic) stability.
- 2) The equitable distribution of proposed charges, and issues of property rights.
- 3) The real risk of creating a bureaucracy costing more, than the cost to progress remedial environmental restoration, (i.e. compliance costs limiting the funding of on and off farm remedial measures).
- 4) Venturing into 'feel good' policies and slogans (such as "Climate Emergency Declaration"), rather than science based action.
- 5) The opportunities are there (recognition of environmental problems, catchment communities, science initiatives, realistic targets and simplifying compliance management etc), however as a farm consultant (who is a city resident), I feel we are on the brink of; miss-information, raising false hopes, and driving a wedge between the rural and urban communities.
And a 'blame game' is going to get us nowhere.

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

An option 3 with funding costs less than option 1 & 2

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?

DELETE

- 1) In general, remove funding for matters more appropriately funded by central government.
- 2) Specifically delete funding to deliver the Enviroschools programme to the 40+ schools.
 - a) We already have a National (Ministry of Education) education system and funded school curriculum in NZ.
 - b) If each Regional Council sets up its own in Enviroschools system, who decides and monitors the curriculum?
 - c) Will the curriculum include environmental economics?
 - d) Is it targeting the right age groups? I find many in middle age with poor or mis-informed environmental information (both 'for' and 'against').
 - e) Do other regional organisations also set up school programmes? (City roading and water supply?, community parks management?).
- 3) In general, seek government funding (refund) for the \$60m spent to date on regional plans, that (as I understand it), have to be rewritten. (NB: It would appear Regional Councils who have done little to date will be financially better off.)
- 4) Reduce the proposed rates increase per se.

In that regard your ECAN chairperson should rescind her statement reported in the press recently that a "24% increase in rates was less than a cup of coffee". Simple maths tells me that if every bill I pay goes up 24% on the same logic, ('or less than a cup of coffee'), (coffee which I already limit to save money any way), the end result will be significant effect on my household budget, (ability to access medical care etc)

Putting on my farm consultants hat, and using your on line rates comparability calculator, I find the rate rise is significantly more than the city household increase mentioned in the 'press'. For the farmer that increase comes on top of increased ECAN application fees, environmental consultancy fees, audit fees, and on farm costs, loss in farm value in some instances, etc, already imposed in recent years.

NB: Using your on line before and after rates comparability calculator I find that one of my clients is facing a 91% increase in rates, (I hope that is in error).

NB: Your page 17, and the on line calculator do not show the percentage increases in the proposed rate rises.
- 5) Fees policy - Staff charge out costs should not be based on inflation and/or minimum/maximum increases. The should have some commercial reality and reflect the safety and security of the staff tenure, and the lack of competition. As a private consultant I cannot just increase charge out rates, otherwise I loose clients/business.

ADD

- 1) A portfolio called "Unforeseen Consequences" (some might call it risk management).

(At the start of my career, scientists showed us scree stabilisation exotic tree planting - now wildling pines. Dairying in Canterbury was encouraged by banks, government et el. Alternative land use plantation tree planting around ChCh is now a fire hazard. This week we have Myrtle rust in Manuka).

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	Unsure
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):

- . Biodiversity and Biosecurity
- . Climate Change and Community Resilience
- . Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development
- . Regional and Strategic Leadership

Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio comments:

- Wet lands need management
- Exotic weed ingress.
 - Flooding from stream diverting in flood events (fallen trees et el), over nearby developments

Climate Change and Community Resilience portfolio comments:

Agree with coastal sea rise planning zoning

Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development portfolio comments:

Years ago an international traffic management expert while visiting NZ, said "every one supports buses, so that the other person takes a bus, to free up the traffic so they can keep on driving". I suspect little has changed.

Regional and Strategic Leadership portfolio comments:

I do not know what this means, is it just another name for facilitating, chairing, regulating? What is 'strategic' leadership?

Is the proposed increase in rates affordable for your household?

Neither option is affordable

Any further comments on affordability for your household?

Refer my comments earlier in this submission

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?

No

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

No

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:

Christchurch city including Banks Peninsula

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? . Email

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