

Comments

LTP 2021-31

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First name	Joe
Surname	Butchard
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?	65+ years old
Which suburb or area do you live in?	
Do you think we've prioritised the right issues and opportunities?	Don't know
Which of the proposed options would you like to see us progress with?	Other option (please specify)

In my case the proposed rate rise is 28.5% for option 1. No other enterprise except Local Body Authorities like ECAN has apparently unlimited power to increase revenue at the stroke of a pen. Businesses that tried such exorbitant price increases would soon fail. Unfortunately ECAN apparently has a free hand to charge what they like with no accountability.

ECAN needs to work a lot harder to reduce costs and so limit rate increases To the rate of inflation. Options 1 and 2 target the rural community because we don't have the voting numbers to get rid of profligate councillors but we end up doing the paying.

If you must have more money, get it by increasing the UAGC so that all rate payers equally carry the load, and can vote appropriately at the next elections if they don't like it.

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?

You should be working a lot harder to get the NZ Government to accept the current Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan which was developed at great cost but with useful local input and understanding of local conditions.

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

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

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

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

Any further comments on affordability for your household?

In the real world we can not just pass the cost on. That is the real issue.

The proposed rating increase falls almost exclusively on the rural community and the Chairperson was quoted recently in the Press to the effect that many Chch residents would have a very small increase but unfortunately that is where there is a lot of votes. It is a classic case of tyranny of the majority over the minority.

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

Any further comments on Uniform Annual General Charges?

This seems to be a way of more fairly ensuring all ECAN voters pay a share of the costs

Would you support the use of borrowing for operating expenditure to offset some of the first year rates? Don't know

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

Expenditure must be cut to match present rate revenue.

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: 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

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 realise this submission is very late and not well researched and for this I apologise. You probably tried hard to publicise the Consultation Documents and the need to make Submissions but I only became aware of the process very recently. However I felt it was important to make a hurried submission because as I hope I have made clear above Ecan should work much harder to balance the books and not arrogantly treat the rate payers as an unlimited source of funds.

Do you wish to speak to your submission? No

How did you find out about giving feedback? . Newspaper

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There is personal information/contact details in my submission I do not want disclosed: No