

Comments

LTP 2021-31

Comment ID	1125
Response Date	12/04/21 1:36 PM
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.3
Files	
First name	Kay
Surname	Rabe
Email address	
Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?	Yes, I'm submitting on behalf of an organisation
Which organisation are you submitting on behalf of?	Rangiora-Ashley Community Board
Which age category are you in?	-
Do you have any further comments on the activities proposed in specific portfolio/s (please select all those you wish to comment on):	
Where do you live in Canterbury? Select your district below:	-
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

How did you find out about giving feedback?

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

From:
To:
Subject: Submission from the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board on Environmental Canterbury's Long Term Plan 2021-2031.
Date: Friday, 9 April 2021 2:50:48 pm
Attachments: [FINAL Rangiora Ashley Community Board submission to Ecan 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon

Please could you accept the attached submission from the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board on Environmental Canterbury's Long Term Plan 2021-2031.

Kind regards

Thea Kunkel | Governance Team Leader
Governance



+ April 2021

To: Environment Canterbury (ECan)
Subject: **Draft Long Term Plan 2021/2031**
From: **Rangiora-Ashley Community Board**
Jim Gerard (QSO), Chairperson
Contact: Kay Rabe, Governance Advisor

The Chairperson does not want to be heard in regard to this submission.

The Rangiora-Ashley Community Board (the Board) thank Environment Canterbury for the opportunity to comment on its Draft Long Term Plan 2021/2031.

The Board supports the Waimakariri District Council's submission on Environment Canterbury's Draft Long Term Plan 2021/2031.

The Board rejects both Option One and Two laid out in the Consultation Document.

The Board would like to express grave concerns regarding the proposed rate increase and the affordability for people with **fixed incomes** in the District. Those who are affected the most would be the elderly and people already struggling with day to day living expenses, especially in the aftermath of Covid-19. To this end the Waimakariri District Council has, by careful financial and project management, kept its rates as low as practically possible.

The Board has done research and note that the District is disproportionately affected by the proposed rates increase. Environment Canterbury's Chairperson has stated publically that the average rate increase in Christchurch is approximately 3%, however most Rangiora urban households will be experiencing a 33% raise in their rates and the rural areas even higher increases. In the case of the Board Chair the proposed increase would be \$127.90 which is not an insignificant amount.

Environment Canterbury has also stated that further work on stop banks will need to be addressed, however the Board disputes this as the stop banks were all remediated and strengthened after the earthquakes and this work has been completed.

The Board also takes exception to the comment made that a change of mind set needs to be made and that rates are not a burden. To those on fixed incomes any increase in expenditure is a burden.

The Board would urge Environment Canterbury to review their funding options, considering longer debt funding periods so as to lower the immediate funding required by rates and make this a true intergenerational cost. The Board would also note that in the present financial climate the low lending rates makes debt funding a more attractive option.

The Board would also urge that the programme of work be reassessed and prioritised rather than attempting to achieve all objectives simultaneously. While the Board understands the changes required by the Government and climate change it cautions against haste as there are likely to be further legislation which could compromise work already started. Considered prioritisation of projects could spread the employment costs as staff could be redeployed when projects or work streams have been achieved rather than employing additional staff, or considering short term contracts for specific skills. The Board notes that the employment of staff does not add any specific value to the District counterbalance the disproportional increase in rates.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment.

Jim Gerard QSO
Chairperson
Rangiora-Ashley Community Board