

22 March 2022

To: Environment Canterbury (ECan)
Subject: **Draft Annual Plan 2022/2023**
From: **Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board**
Jackie Watson, Chairperson
Contact: Kay Rabe, Governance Adviser
C/- Waimakariri District Council

The Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board (the Board) thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Annual Plan 2022/2023.

In essence the Board would like to support the Waimakariri District Council's submission on the Environment Canterbury's ECan) Draft Annual Plan 2022/2023.

The Board believes that ECan is requesting an unrealistic increase when the average resident is struggling to keep up with inflation.

In regards to the review of bus fares the Board strongly believe that there is no such thing as free bus services as the cost is transferred to the ratepayer, many of whom find a bus service impractical in our rural district. However the Board urges the formalisation of the current community run shuttle service between town centres, as this is a service that is needed and popular and would be utilised by many residents throughout the district.

The Board has no real view on the proposed river rating of Ashburton and therefore chooses not to comment on this item.

The Board is strongly opposed to a levy being included in the rates for an unspecified climate change, however should there be criteria and scope added to this levy, the Board may re-evaluate this point.

The Board believes that ECan has not been transparent in its dealings with rate increases, giving little or no detailed information on the actual per ratio costs per household.

Striking a balance between 'action and affordability', to quote ECan's Consultation Document, is indeed the issue here. The current plan is unaffordable, if residents are asked to pay a 25% increase in rates. The Board suggests that prioritisation of the key initiatives planned for the next 10 years be seriously considered.

The Board thanks you once again for the opportunity to comment.

Jackie Watson
Chairperson
Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board