

Response ID	5651618
Date of Contribution	16/04/2024 08:45:36 AM
First Name	Hugh
Last Name	Turnbull

Your contact details

Email Address	
Post Code	
Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation, association or community group?	No, it's my personal submission
Name of organisation, association or community group	

Supporting your submission

Anyone can make a submission. All submissions will be considered by Council in accordance with our submissions policy before they make a decision.

You can upload documents to support your submission. Please make sure each page includes your name. The maximum file size is 200MB	See Upload File 1 section.
You can upload documents to support your submission. Please make sure each page includes your name. The maximum file size is 200MB	See Upload File 2 section.
If you would like to give feedback via a video, add a link to YouTube or Dropbox file below	See Upload File 3 section.
If you wish, you can also come to talk to Council about your submission at public sessions that are known as 'hearings'. Do you want to speak to Council about your submission at the Long-Term Plan hearings?	No
Please provide your phone number so we can contact you to schedule a hearing time	
Which age category are you in?	65+

Environmental Regulation and Protection

We are Canterbury's environmental regulator. We are responsible for managing natural resources including air, soil, water and land. We work with mana whenua, stakeholders, and communities to promote the sustainable management of these natural resources, and protect and enhance the health of our natural environment.

Question	Answer
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We are proposing three options for funding our Environmental Regulation and Protection services. Please indicate which option you prefer	Option 3: Reduced investment for Environmental Regulation and Protection services (\$132.5m in 2024/25, Year 1)
Tell us more about the option you chose. What would you support and what would you suggest we change or do differently for Environmental Regulation and Protection?	ECAN needs to sharpen its focus back to its three core functions and ensure time and money is spent wisely. Spending time and money passing motions arising from the Israel/Gaza mess to satisfy some staff/Councillors (while a stream in Ashburton dries up that farmers tried/wanted to save, losing a lot of aquatic life is not a good look) is not a core ECAN function.

Targeted rate for Christchurch district biodiversity

We are proposing to fund more work to improve indigenous biodiversity outcomes in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula through a new targeted rate to properties in those areas.

This would be in addition to the work already funded through the existing regional rate. \$1million for this additional work is already included in Council's preferred option for Environmental Regulation and Protection services.

This equates to rates of 72 cents per year per \$100,000 of your property value.

If there is sufficient support for this new targeted rate, Council could decide to include this targeted rate regardless of whether Option 2 is ultimately accepted.

Question	Answer
Do you support this new biodiversity targeted rate?	Yes
Tell us more about why you support / don't support this biodiversity rate?	

Community Preparedness and Response to Hazards

We support the community to be prepared for, and be able to respond to hazards, and to be prepared for changes in the natural environment.

Question	Answer
We are proposing three options for funding our Community Preparedness and Response to Hazards services. Please indicate which option you prefer	Option 3: Compromised Community Preparedness and Response to Hazards services through reduced investment in flood and river resilience. (\$47.9m in 2024/25, Year 1)
Tell us more about the option you chose. What would you support and what would you suggest we change or do differently for Community Preparedness and Response to Hazards?	Spend money wisely and efficiently.

Targeted rate for Selwyn district for river resilience

We are proposing a trial in the Selwyn district to carry out additional flood and river resilience activities.

Existing schemes do not change.

The cost for this additional work will be through a targeted rate to all properties in the Selwyn district. \$200,000 for this additional work is already included in Council's preferred option for Community Preparedness and Response to Hazards. This equates to rates of \$7.08 per rate-paying property in Selwyn district in 2024/25 (Year 1).

Question	Answer
Do you support a new river targeted rate in Selwyn?	
Tell us more about why you support / don't support this river rate	

Public Transport

We provide urban bus services within the Canterbury region, and ferry services in Christchurch.

We do this because public transport increases accessibility, connects communities and contributes to significant environmental benefits such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, better air quality, and improved travel times across the transport network.

Question	Answer
We are proposing three options to fund Public Transport services. Please indicate which option you prefer	
Tell us more about the option you chose. What would you support and what would you suggest we change or do differently for Public Transport?	

Fees and Charges schedule

In order to make our consent-related costs more transparent, we are proposing a move towards a fixed-fee approach for some of our consenting work.

There are a number of benefits to this for our community including certainty of invoice amount, more timely invoicing, removing the need for a deposit and standard site visit costs will be built in.

Question	Answer
Do you agree with this new fees and charges proposal?	Yes
Tell us more about why you support / don't support this approach. What would you support and what would you suggest we change or do differently?	

Uniform Annual General Charge / Uniform Annual Charge (UAGC/UAC)

UAGC/UAC are flat charges that are applied at the same amount for every property, no matter the value of your property. We currently charge ratepayers \$54.49 (in the 2023/24 year) for a range of services funded by UAGC or targeted UAC. This income represents approximately 8% of the total amount of money we collect from rates.

Council's preferred option is to set the UAGC and UAC charges to approximately 8% of total rates each year of the Long-Term Plan. This means as rates rise in the future, the value of the UAGC/UAC component of rates will also rise.

Question	Answer
Which Uniform Annual General Charge/Uniform Annual Charge (UAGC/UAC) rate increase would you support?	Neither of the above options

Tell us more about the option you chose. What would you suggest we change or do differently?	% should be much higher. ECAN can obtain up to 30% of its rates by UAGC. Presently higher valued properties pay a disproportionate percentage of the rates, for very limited benefit. Higher value property does not automatically equate to higher liquidity/free cash. There is a rates relief scheme for those with serious financial hardship. The 10% rates affordability benchmark ECAN is proposing is exorbitant - just a licence to print money. It should be rate of inflation (plus 1-2% max). The table on p90 of the D LTP comparing the proposed rate increases for 2025-2027 with the 2021-31 is diabolical. A cumulative 8.36% increasing to 46.1% rise. Who did the budgeting in 2021? How can it be so far wrong? Once rates go up they never come down. ECAN needs to focus on its three core functions and do them efficiently and economically.
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Strategies and policies

Question	Answer
We'd value your feedback on any of these strategies and policies	Engagement, Significance and Māori Participation Policy
Tell us what you think about the Financial Strategy	
Tell us what you think about the Revenue and Financing Policy	
Tell us what you think about the 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy 2024-54	
Tell us what you think about the Engagement, Significance and Māori Participation Policy	There is no point in having a policy if staff ignore it. In dealing with ECAN over several years, there has been a lack of genuine participation, equity, integrity, respect, mutual benefit and honesty. The culture of an organisation starts at the top. Councillors need to ensure it does.

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