

Response ID	5649631
Date of Contribution	14/04/2024 10:33:17 PM
First Name	Martin
Last Name	Wheldon

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	None of the above options
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?	With the current level of funding there should already be efficient and effective environmental management, regulation and protection, if not then ECAN needs to ask its self why not, before seeking additional ratepayer funding. I do not have trust or confidence in ECAN to deliver what current obligations there are nor what is proposed. For e.g., look at the appalling state of our rivers which are nothing better than dried up gravel roads for the pleasure of ATV and motor cycle users. Similarly the indiscriminate use of beaches and dunes by hoons on atv's etc. This is an utter disgrace and an embarrassment in a 21st century society that purports to treasure and protect its environment and wildlife. The debacle over consent water bottlers is another example of a lose of connection to the environment and the wishes of local people. The degradation of much of our environment can be stopped by simple measures, i.e. stop destructive activities, focus on people and quality of life and not private profit. Do better with what you have, enforce the existing regulations and build trust and confidence then i may well approve of additional funding.

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?	How does this align with what is already being done by CCC and is there some competing for the 'higher ground' going on here?

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	None of the above options
Tell us more about the option you chose. What would you support and what would you suggest we change or do differently for	There seems to be a well know practice of land owners adjacent to major rivers encroaching on river beds (and much ambiguity around where the river bed is) changing the course of the rivers and

Community Preparedness and Response to Hazards?	attempting to turn rivers to land drains. This needs to be reversed with river banks moved 100's of metres back to give rivers the opportunities to move within historic natural boundaries. this its self will reduce the incidence of flooding and threats to life and property. The cost of this should fall on those land owners who have encroched on the river beds and caused the current issues and heightened risks of flooding.
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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?	Don't know
Tell us more about why you support / don't support this river rate	Do not live within the Selwyn area.

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	None of the above options
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?	While I fully support improving, expanding and enhancing mass transit options, transport options and choices are woefully under financed in Christchurch and Canterbury as a whole by central government agencies compared to Wellington and Auckland. This needs to be rebalanced by central government and not further burden rate payers.

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?	No

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?	This implies that if there is an over run of costs then this excess will fall to the general rate payer? I do not agree with this. The entire cost of processing a consent should site wholly with the applicant.
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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?	What is this money used for?

Strategies and policies

Question	Answer
We'd value your feedback on any of these strategies and policies	Revenue and Financing Policy
Tell us what you think about the Financial Strategy	
Tell us what you think about the Revenue and Financing Policy	24% rate rise is not acceptable and greater support needs to come from central government.
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	

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