Response ID	5657258
Date of Contribution	19/04/2024 08:23:20 AM
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Your contact details

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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?	Prefer not to say

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

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?	All options propose increases in spending. I would expect a cost neutral option to be available to us as rate payers for ECAN.

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?	No
Tell us more about why you support / don't support this biodiversity rate?	I don't want to have to pay any more in the rates. I would like ECan to operate a budget across the board that has no rate increases or at the very most an increase in line with the CPI

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?	I have chosen the least expensive spend option and want ECan to stay with budgets and seek effiecncies and cost cutting so as to avoid rate increases

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?	No
Tell us more about why you support / don't support this river rate	From what I have seen of this river it does not need any additional spend to manage floods.

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	Option 3: PT Futures delivery as the only service improvement, removing our ability to respond to changes in the network. ($155.5m 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 Public Transport?	I want ECan to operate with a minimum funding here so as to align with a no rating increase

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?	I guess ECan knows best how to operate this aspect of their organisation so as to maximise efficiencies and reduce overall costs

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?	I cannot see the link between property value and services provided. This strategy is a pretty blunt tool with which to access citizen funding. ECan must be able to do better here - perhaps accessing socio-economic data so as to rate according to means coupled with service used and property size.

Strategies and policies

Question	Answer
We'd value your feedback on any of these strategies and policies	Financial Strategy
Tell us what you think about the Financial Strategy	I believe ECan ought to revisit the concept of rating increases and consider the current national financial circumstances that those on fixed incomes (including wage earners unable to gain even CPI increases to income) along with the cost of living (supermarket... fuel etc etc) that have any additional financial burden beyond their control ie rates to be a significant hardship that ECan live with tight budgeting itself.
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	

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