

Response ID	5651443
Date of Contribution	15/04/2024 10:53:32 PM
First Name	
Last Name	

### 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?	

### 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 1: Effective Environmental Regulation and Protection services with significant investment towards community funding (\$140.4m 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?	I think there should be even more money invested because the environment is vital. Ecan's role is to protect the environment, not to cut back investment in essential communities.

### 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?	I believe the rate should be even greater.

### 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 1: Effective and efficient Community Preparedness and Response to Hazards services with significant increase in investment. (\$52.4m 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?	More money needs to be invested in it. It is absolutely essential for these things to be thorough because otherwise future generations won't be equipped to respond to hazards and emergencies.

### 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
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Do you support a new river targeted rate in Selwyn?	Yes
Tell us more about why you support / don't support this river rate	River resilience is extremely important for the future. As the climate crisis worsens, more and more flooding will happen; the sooner we invest in it, the cheaper it will be to fund it, so a targeted rate for flood resilience now is cheaper for Selwyn residents than a flood response in a decade's time.

## 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 1: (Council's preferred option) Full investment to our committed work programme of service improvements (\$160.8m 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 think even more money should be put into public transport. I think more routes should be implemented, and there should be more capacity to bring bikes aboard. Buses should run more frequently, and bus drivers should be paid more. They're some of the most effective climate action available; it's cheaper to flood the city with buses now than it is to deal with floods of water in 20 years! Flat fees should be kept, or better yet, all fares should be free. Tag on-tag off is not a user-friendly system, and it is far better for Council that more people bus. Every bus should be electrified by 2026.

## 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?	Don't know
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?	(Council's preferred option) 8% of total rates (amounts to \$58.38 in 2024/25, Year 1 of the Long-Term Plan)
Tell us more about the option you chose. What would you suggest we change or do differently?	Ideally, the UAGC should be even lower, and more money should be raised by targeted rates or general rates. This is a inequitable way of rating properties that causes poorer people to proportionally pay more, and richer people to proportionally pay less.

### Strategies and policies

Question	Answer
We'd value your feedback on any of these strategies and policies	Financial Strategy, 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy 2024-54, Engagement, Significance and Māori Participation Policy
Tell us what you think about the Financial Strategy	Get more money by doing more rates rises. Target rates on petrol stations, car dealers, garages, car parks; they contribute more costs to the region so they should pay more in fairness. Ecan's work is critically important, especially without central govt support.
Tell us what you think about the Revenue and Financing Policy	
Tell us what you think about the 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy 2024-54	More infrastructure is important; front-load the costs to as soon as possible, because construction costs will only increase in the future and there is no cheaper time to build infrastructure than now.
Tell us what you think about the Engagement, Significance and Māori Participation Policy	Ecan needs to do far more for engagement. It needs to ensure that all documentation is in clear and accessible language, and that they proactively consult communities such as youth by proactively going to high schools. Māori participation needs to be at every level, not just the local rūnanga, because Te Tiriti is signed with every hapu.

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