

Long-term Plan 2024–34



Respondent No. 216

Response ID 5669766

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Personal information

First name Phil

Last name Clark

I'm providing a submission (choose one): as an individual

Please let us know what ward you live in Raumati

Do you want to speak to Council about your submission at our public hearings on 2 May? No

Are you happy for your name to be published with your feedback: My name can be published with my feedback

Submission

Proposal 1: Three waters funding
Which option should we choose? (select one option)

Option 1: Fund \$4.7 million shortfall with an additional 5% rates increase in Year 1.

Would you like to expand on your answer for option 1?

It does not make practical business sense for KCDC to increase debt for this water operating cost shortfall, with the aim to increase rates to reduce debt for proposal two below. There is an alternative option that hasn't been proposed whereby some debt and a modest rate rise is used to fund the shortfall over the term of the elected representatives.

This stress of rate increases for Kapiti residents on fixed incomes will negatively impact on the mental health of many in the wider Kapiti region requiring low cost, high impact help such as a community wellbeing centre where individuals can flourish while living with financial hardship.

Proposal 2: Proactively reduce Council's debt
Which option should we choose? (select one option)

Option 2: Apply average rates increases of 7% per year from 2025/26 to 2033/34

Would you like to expand on your answer for option 2?

It is prudent to provision for unexpected events the future, but emphasis needs to be placed on costs for known issues and the overall economic conditions residents are living under.

A high rate increase will impact on the potential of delivering a thriving community as there will be a high barrier to entry for commercial development in the region, and it will also increase the start up cost for small businesses within the region. The vibrancy of Kapiti social life needs new entrants to add diversity and entertainment for all demographic groups in our community.

Proposal 3: Transfer Council's housing for older people

Which option should we choose? (select one option)

Option 1: Transfer our older persons' housing assets to a new Community Housing Provider

Would you like to expand on your answer for option 1?

This is a good concept, but to be viable it needs to be completely independent from the council and the elected representatives. There should be no seats at the table for standing councillors.

However, given the focus of the current central government does local government have a moral responsibility to ensure the provision of reasonably priced housing for the elderly who have been long term residents and ratepayers to the KCDC?

New climate action rate

Which option should we choose? (select one option)

Option 2: Make no change to how we allocate funding our climate change activities

Would you like to expand on your answer for option 2?

This seems like window dressing, if there is no net change to rates. Given the difference in capital value versus land value as a proportion of individual property rates it would be a very difficult change to cleanly implement to maintain a zero change for individual rates.

Climate change will impact on land before it does on capital improvements, so it doesn't make a lot of sense to change how the rate is charged.

It would make a lot more sense to charge all for climate activity, with targeted weighting of the cost to locations that are most likely to benefit from climate action.

If you have any views on these policies, please comment here:

no passionate views on these proposed changes.

If you have any views on these other items, please comment here:

What will the net benefit of the implementation of an alcohol licensing bylaw be? I would not want there to be a change unless there will be a tangible benefit in these times of ageing infrastructure and impending climate related costs rather than occur an unnecessary expense.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about this LTP?

This LTP is very hard to take seriously with propositions such as increasing rates for the 2024/25 year by an average 17% (how can it be an average of 17% when the table on page 44 of the LTP shows the '% change' for each region being higher than 17%), and then a straight line 7% increase for each of the subsequent years until 2033/34. There is no reference to other plans for subsequent years to provide any justification for such a large rate increase in the 2024/25 year.

The LTP states an aim that the district remains liveable for all with a connected, resilient community. Yet these is no plan for the marginalised community members to be able to continue to have access to services or feel connected within their community.

The top 10 priorities includes people having access to affordable healthcare services, yet there is nothing to support this in the LTP. There is a wonderful service with a very low entry cost for participants with a high success rate of returning people wellbeing and creative classes for individuals in our community that require support with their mental health, and those with intellectual disabilities to being a productive member of the community, Te Ara Korowai. This charitable organisation is having its major source of funding terminated from 30 June 2024, and would benefit immensely from council contributing to their

annual running costs to enable them to continue to deliver much needed community service. Te Ara Korowai have a high success rate assisting the recovery, and transition many members back into their place in the community. It is the only form of support for circa 500 registered members and without it many have nowhere else to go and feel safe and productive. They provide support, opportunities for connection and inclusion for all in our community without requiring a referral from medical professionals or being required to go on a stand down period or waitlist. The participants come from all across the wider Kapiti area, benefiting themselves as well as giving their wider families and support groups a much needed break.