

Long-term Plan 2024–34

Respondent No. 115

Response ID 5651838

Date of contribution Apr 15 24 10:13:22 am



Personal information

First name David

Last name Cousens

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

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

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

I have the following comments regarding the proposed rates increase:

1. Why is Kapiti Council \$221m in debt? Poor management like this is not acceptable and the ratepayers shouldn't have to pay for this. Why is it necessary to have a high increase for 1 year to pay this off? How did you get \$221m in debt and who has been responsible for this debt?
2. Why is the council implementing Maori Wards (which will soon be going to a vote according to ACT - noting that the majority of people voted against it) and giving a living wage to all contractors when we are in a tough economic climate and the rising cost of living is making life difficult for people. So you are not trying to reduce expenditure when you have already created so much debt. Poor management again.
3. You are proposing a 17% rates increase when the Hutt valley is 16.9%. The Hutt Valley requires major repairs to water and stormwater systems and the seaview wastewater treatment plant. Kapiti does not have these problems and people pay for the water they use. We have no justification for high rates. So why are our rates so high? To pay off high debt which you caused.
4. Three waters shortfall applies to all councils so you cannot use this as an excuse for high rates.
5. There are a lot of older people in Kapiti who will find it hard to pay this huge increase in rates. You should not be making life harder for these people.
6. The Kapiti Council should focus on reducing unnecessary expenditure in order to reduce the debt over a period of time, not passing it to the ratepayers in one year.

I have no confidence in the Kapiti Council and strongly object to the proposed rates increase

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