

SUBMISSION - COMMUNITY PLAN

My comment on the draft 10year Community Plan is simple - the projected rate increases are unacceptable.

In recent times Council governance has embraced a culture of extravagance. A glaring example is the \$500000 for lighting up the Cathedral.

I am sure it would serve little purpose to list the many other examples of wastage, foul-ups and failed and overcost projects that have attracted adverse public comment. All involved appalling waste and constitute gross ineptitude. Indeed every time I travel down Tennyson Street I cringe at the sight of the roadworks that no doubt represent someone's pet project.

The use of ratepayers' money for projects that are said to provide features that will be the envy of other cities or will impress overseas visitors or are largely to massage Council's ego are not, in my view, an acceptable use of resources. Similarly expenditure on roadside 'artworks' is not meeting either public needs or wants.

Instead, the Council should concentrate on providing core services that are required to meet the needs of Christchurch citizens. Also, and most importantly, 'Social Engineering' is a Government responsibility, not a part of the Council's role. Expenditure should not be authorised for this purpose.

Council should produce a 'no rate increase budget'. Cost increases should come from wiser, common sense governance and much greater efficiency by Council and staff.

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