

T.C.D.C. 2020/2021 Annual Plan Submission 1st April 2020.

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Attachment.

UNIFORM GENERAL ANNUAL CHARGE.

Keep UAGC at 20% of total rating value.

INCREASE TO RATES.

WE **OPPOSE** the proposed 9.98% increase in Rates.

Other District Councils have to contend with the same increase in costs of waste disposal and infrastructure as T.C.D.C. and yet their proposed rate increases range from 3.6 to 6.4%.

There can be no excuse for T.C.D.C. to raise our Rates by a huge 9.98% which will cost us an additional \$300/annum and some other Ratepayers much more.

A high proportion of Ratepayers in the Coromandel are retirees on a low, fixed income and this extra financial burden will mean that many of these will have to cut back on the basic necessities of life, food and heating. This will put their health at risk and some will be forced to sell their homes.

Covid-19 is already having a serious impact on the lives of many people in the Coromandel. Many businesses and wage earners are completely reliant on the Tourist and Retail Trade and it is clear that many will be faced with loss of jobs for some time to come.

The Government and Banks are taking extraordinary measures to try and protect people's jobs and enable them to stay in their own homes.

Other District Councils in the Waikato are now seriously considering reducing or completely halting any Rate increases. Waikato Regional Council has halted its proposed 8% increase completely.

All these Councils have acknowledged how serious the impact Covid-19 will have on our economy and are taking positive steps to help alleviate the financial situation Ratepayers are going to be in.

It appears that T.C.D.C. are not accepting the reality of how bad things are going to get for a long time to come.

THEY SHOULD BE DECREASING RATES NOT INCREASING THEM.

CAPITAL PROJECTS.

T.C.D.C. should concentrate on providing essential services. DRINKING, WASTE AND STORM WATER, INFRASTRUCTURE, WASTE DISPOSAL etc.

Only capital projects that are needed to prevent illness, loss of life or expensive damage to property should be carried out in the coming year.

SERVICES.

As well as the above essential services, we value our Parks and Reserves.

WHAT SERVICES SHOULD BE STOPPED, CHANGED OR REDUCED?

The current waste collection system needs to be managed differently to reduce costs and provide better service to households

We suggest considering using our existing re-cycle tipper bins for recycle waste including glass containers one week and putting bagged household waste in the same tipper bins the following week and so on. This would reduce labour and travel costs plus prevent the ongoing problem of seagulls/animals from ransacking rubbish bags, leaving residents to have to clear up.

Putting Drinking, Waste and Storm water under one management structure within T.C.D.C. would eliminate the costly inefficiencies of separate compartments which appears to be the current situation.

Can we extend the responsibility of our local Veolia team, who do an excellent job of managing our drinking water systems, to include our storm water systems maintenance?

INCREASING REVENUE.

Council should try and get more financial support from Central Government generated from Tourism tax take to help offset the huge costs Council incurs in maintaining infrastructure and services directly attributed to Tourism.

DECREASING OPERATING COSTS.

Like all other businesses in New Zealand, now is the time for T.C.D.C. to take a serious look at their own organization's operating costs to provide a more cost effective way of providing efficient service to Ratepayers.

Thank You.

Susan and Anthony Jacobs.

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