

From: [Allie Dunn](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to request for information regarding rate increases
Date: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:09:00 am

Kia ora

I refer to your official information request dated 11 February 2025 seeking an explanation as to why your mother's rates are so high.

The Council recently consulted with the Tararua District community on its proposed Long Term Plan. The Long Term Plan is a roadmap that outlines what the Council wants to achieve and how it will be funded over the next ten years. It outlines the activities, services and projects that Council intends on delivering, and determines when, where and how these will be delivered. Every three years, the Council reviews the Long Term Plan in consultation with the community. Following last year's review, the Long Term Plan was agreed to which sets out the programme of expenditure for the three years from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027, and as a result, the level at which rates need to be set to achieve the works that have been planned for those years.

The main driver in the increase in rates is the work required to be done in the three-waters space (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater). Council is taking a conservative approach of doing the minimum to achieve compliance for the lowest impact on rates and to ensure capacity for future growth.

The information document used in the community consultation explained that the hardest part of developing the Long Term Plan was keeping rates affordable during a cost-of-living crisis. Council's focus is on delivering essential infrastructure services in the most affordable way. Council acknowledged it had to do more with less, and sought feedback from the community to ensure the Council was on the right track. The Council received 503 submissions from the community providing feedback on the proposals in the draft Long Term Plan, and the Council found this input from the community invaluable in guiding the Council's decisions.

The end result was that the average rates increase for the 2024/25 year was set at 11.09%. This compares to an average rates rise of 15% for ratepayers across New Zealand.

There is a Rates Rebate scheme that provides a subsidy to low-income homeowners on the cost of their rates, which is provided by the Government. If your mother has not already registered for rates rebates, it could be worthwhile visiting our Council offices to collect an application form.

The Council will be soon be reviewing its budgets for the 2025/26 year, and will again be seeking community feedback on its proposed rates levels. There will be a media release advising when this consultation starts, where people in the community can pick up consultation information, and how people can have their say. Your contribution to that process will be welcomed.

Ngā mihi

Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services

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-----Original Message-----

From: Allie Dunn
Sent: Friday, 14 February 2025 2:16 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CM: Acknowledgement - request for information regarding rate increases

Kia ora

This email is to acknowledge receipt of your request for information, regarding rate increases.

We will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible and in any event no later than 11 March 2025, being 20 working days after the day your request was received. If we are unable to respond to your request by then, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.

As part of our commitment to openness and accountability, we are now proactively publishing copies of requests for information and the responses provided to these requests, on our website. In doing so, we will ensure we comply with the provisions of the Privacy Act 2020 and redact any personal / identifying information from any response published.

If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

Ngā mihi

Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 February 2025 9:07 pm
To: Info - Tararua District Council <Info@TararuaDC.Govt.NZ>
Subject: Rate Increases

EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT: Caution advised. This message is from an external sender. Verify the sender's identity and use caution with attachments and links.

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming rate hikes in Woodville.

My mother [REDACTED] Street, has been a resident since the 70's and is now a pensioner. I am really disgusted at how you (The Woodville Council) plan on increasing the rates to an amount that is ridiculous for even a pensioner to afford.

How can you justify your actions and expect pensioners to pay this ridiculous amount.

I am very disappointed at the way you treat the elderly people that have contributed to the growth of the Woodville Community for decades.

The Woodville Community have obviously trusted you by voting for you, only to be dealt a low blow with the rate increases, that most people can't afford.

I am very disappointed and ask that you respond with an answer to why and how you can justify your actions.

Regards



Sent from my iPhone