

Subject: FW: LTP 1073% Rates increase for forest owners

From: Paul Clarke [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 18, 2024 11:15 AM
To: Mayor <Mayor@waitomo.govt.nz>
Subject: LTP 1073% Rates increase for forest owners

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Your Worship,

As I was appalled to read as a forestry investor who invested in forests over 20 years ago in your district to read of your 1,073% rates increase for forestry owners.

I only heard about it the day after submissions closed.
Can you please use your authority to accept the following submission to council.

Kind regards
Paul Clarke

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Waitomo District Council Target Rooding Rate increase (1,173%) for Forest Owners For Logging Trucks.
As you will aware forestry plays an important part in the New Economy creating many jobs and being one of our largest export earners.

Because of the very long-term nature of forestry investments one of the things that investors need is certainty that things won't get changed by government over the several decades that the trees take to grow. One of the areas of certainty that investors need is the area of local authority rates. Although it is well published that local authorities are squeezed for cash, it is important that these demands for cash are not put onto the forestry industry. Growing trees don't consume tap water and they don't create sewage and they don't use civic services etc.

So as a forestry investor I was shocked to hear that the Waitomo District Council are imposing one thousand and one hundred and seventy three percent (1,173%) rates hike on forestry land. The basis of this was that logging trucks to contribute to the repair of roads in the area.
The problem I have with this is that logging trucks are already charged RUC based on their weight and that they should then not be effectively double taxed by local authorities for their road use.

If more money is needed it should be addressed via the existing RUC system and a start there would not to siphon off road taxes for things like public transport and cycleways -but to actually use that money on the roads and not other things. Local authorities should require money to maintain roads for things like logging trucks from the NZTA who collect the RUC taxes from the truck owners and that a fit and proper use for RUC tax would be paying local councils for the damage caused by logging trucks.
It sets an extremely dangerous precedent of using rates to fund roading work on top of the already very high RUC fees collected from truck owners. New Zealand investors need long term certainty when investing and massive and unpredictable rate rises are only to cause severe damage to the economy as investors move their money overseas instead of investing it in New Zealand.