

# Have your say

## Submission form

Waitomo District Council  
Draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034  
Consultation

Send us your feedback  
by 17 May 2024

You can share your views by:

### Completing this submission form and returning it to us by

- **Visiting our main office**  
at 15 Queen Street, Te Kūiti
- **Visiting our Customer Service Centre**  
at 160 Rora Street, Te Kūiti
- **Emailing to**  
*haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz*  
(scan and pdf or take a photo)
- **Posting to**  
FREEPOST 112498  
Waitomo District Council  
PO Box 404, Te Kūiti 3941
- **Visiting our website**  
*waitomo.govt.nz/council/LTP 2024-2034*  
and completing the online form

The Local Government Act 2002 requires submissions to be made available to the public. Your name and/or organisation will be published with your submission and made available in a report to elected members and to the public. Other personal information supplied (such as address/email addresses) will be removed from the public copy.



### Your details

Full name

Mark + Jenny Bradbury

Organisation (if responding on behalf of)

White Ridge Contracting

Phone (home/mobile)

[Redacted]

Email

[Redacted]

Address

[Redacted]

Piopia

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

Yes

No

Hearings will be held on 28 May 2024. If you tick Yes, Council will contact you to arrange a time

\*

Feel free to call us

anytime if you would like to discuss





# WHITE RIDGE

## EARTHWORKS - DRAINAGE - METAL

767 Aria Road, RD 2, Pio Pio | Ph/Fax: 07 877 7788 | Mobile: 021 929 665 | Email: whiteridge@xtra.co.nz

15<sup>th</sup> May 2024

To : The Mayor and Councillors  
Waitomo District Council

**We are writing to strongly oppose the introduction of targeted rates towards landowners harvesting trees.**

As background, White Ridge Contracting has been in business in the Waitomo District (Aria) for 22 years and we currently employ 26 staff. We started with predominantly farming clients but as regulations changed, ie regarding dairy conversions and environmental factors, we continued with farming clients but also moved into doing forestry roading for small woodlots in this area. This then turned into us putting our own Forestry Crew together to harvest woodlots. We also have three logging trucks, metal trucks and a quarry. As with any business, Covid 19 hit us hard, the logging downturn also hit hard, six years of Labour/Greens have hit us hard – the economic consequences are still being felt.

Since September last year we have been employed by FMNZ to work in the Greenplan Estate as a Roadline Crew and also to build roads. This has been a Godsend in that we have been able to keep our logging and earthmoving staff on steady hours and income since then. This is work that will provide security for many over the next ten years and if re-planted for harvest will continue that cycle.

To put in targeted rates to forestry landowners you are looking at the probable result that forests will either not be re-planted or will be locked up for carbon and not harvested. You just need to look at the social consequences of this in the Wairarapa and East Coast with towns, schools etc having to close because people move away. Our 26 guys with their families have a positive outlook on life – they have money to spend money in this area, have houses and pay rates in this area, go to social events, play in sports teams, have kids that keep our schools going. Obviously we are only one business who will be affected by this – the roll on is huge with all businesses in town, the mills, other forestry and earthmoving companies being affected. Without the forestry to support our business there is a high chance the business would not remain viable and would have to close.

A few years ago we were involved with Professional Harvesting Systems to do the earthworks for harvesting a block of trees on Takiri Road in Mokauti for Tony Alcock. The Council was extremely helpful and let us close this road for three months while the harvest



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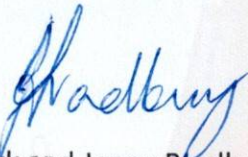
was being done. As part of the agreement the road was maintained and left in the same condition (actually better) as it was when the harvesting started. This harvest system was extremely successful for all parties. We also did a similar style of harvest on Kohua Road where the road was closed for harvest (except for residents) and the road was left up to standard when harvesting finished. The road obviously doesn't need to be fully closed for this scenario to work effectively.

We understand the Council's predicament with trying to find money for ensuring services in the Waitomo area are met. This includes rates rises that we are all having to bear if we own a house or land. The temptation to lift rates for forestry blocks is high due to the roading argument but is this really going to be a positive resolution?

Our suggestion is that instead of targeted rates which will surely have a detrimental effect to many, look at the system the Council used at the Alcock block and allow the forestry companies to maintain the roads around their blocks while harvest is being done, leaving it in an acceptable state after harvest. The forestry companies can use their own contractors at their own cost which will also allow the Council contractors to keep working on other roads in the area which they are struggling to keep up with anyway.

We hope that this Council doesn't just become a group of people making decisions from Offices in Queen Street to make the numbers fit. We hope that the Council looks at this situation in another way to guarantee continuity of work and success for the people of our area rather than driving them somewhere else for work or becoming a statistic of unemployment.

Regards.



Mark and Jenny Bradbury  
White Ridge Contracting