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**Subject:** Proposed Roding Rates increase of 1173%

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2024 4:36 PM  
**To:** MxInfo <[mx.InfoClass@waitomo.govt.nz](mailto:mx.InfoClass@waitomo.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** 'Greenplan Forestry Limited' [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Proposed Roding Rates increase of 1173%

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The Town Clerk & Councillors  
Waitomo District Council,  
Te Kuiti

Matt Barton  
Managing Director  
Greenplan  
Te Kuiti

Dear Town Clerk and Councilors,

I have read you're 'The Shape of things to come' Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Consultation document.

I am an investor in Greenplan Forestry, hence I have an interest in your proposal/s via the rates we pay.

It is clear the District has much to do.

I understand the proposed roading (Forestry exotic) rates increase is 1173%.

You will of course know that many Councils are suffering, as nearly all households are, under the effects of the last Governments mis-management leading to severe inflation, and other issues. Some of the other issues are the lack of investment Councils have themselves undertaken to 'keep up with greater capacity' required due to a bigger population, even with wider base on which to levy rates.

In my view your rating increases are neither fair, nor equitable.

They are not fair, because Council will have known for sometime that rates were not covering your required investments in infrastructure (ie sludge in sewage) One historical issue that needs addressing is the build-up of sludge (solid component from sewage) in our Te Kūiti wastewater treatment ponds.

It is not fair as Some property owners who benefit from the network are not contributing to its operation or maintenance. (water)

Your proposal is not equitable in terms of the overly increased weighting for Roding charges. (forestry exotics) You will be aware of the changes to RUC in relation to electric vehicles. This is another example of prior inequity, which is now being addressed for National Highways, which roads pass through your District, and which forestry logging trucks already pay a significant contribution to. You are getting benefit from this industry.

What is inequitable in your new rates roading increase is that Council is proposing a 1173% increase on this rateable item, but is proposing much lessor rate increases on other rateable items.

It is unfair that with the knowledge you have had for nearly 30 years of this forestry industries investment in to your District you are now proposing to slam the industry in one foul swoop, while previous Councils have sat on their hands and ignored it. It is unfair that you are 'dealing this industry a body blow' at the eleventh hour, without better

and ongoing consultation historically and a gradual increase process over the years, and it is inequitable to consider applying a disproportionate increase on this rateable item, viz a viz others.

Sure, nobody likes an increase, and I trust the increasing and larger rating base has been levied wisely and equitably. Seemingly that hasn't happened (viz Some property owners who benefit from the network are not contributing to its operation or maintenance) Accordingly, to propose to try and obtain recovery of poor past levying, by whacking one industry, just as it comes to maturity seems to be a rates grab, placing undue pressure on this industry.

My view is people (ratepayers) do understand there are increasing demands on Councils, not all of which should be met by the way (District Halls...?? – in my day in the rural community, volunteers did this work, and if the community is not prepared to do it, then maybe they don't want the hall badly enough, and Council can save that possible investment), but given some increases are needed then these need to be gradual, and in the case where you are proposing a 1173% increase, then any increase (certainly not 1173%) should be discussed well before it is introduced so those affected can plan for it and put it into their budgets, and then increased gradually over time. A 1173% immediate increase absolutely does not comply with this sense of reasonableness.

I strongly oppose the manner in which, and the extent of the proposed roading levy increase. If it were to be applied equitably to all rural land owners, how do you think pastoral famers will handle this per hectare levy? Because you have made this a targeted levy, you need to talk with representatives of the target, and agree a proportionate increase which is relative to all other levy increases, and introduce this over a reasonable time period (ie the thirty years growing period). It is not the industry's fault that Council didn't do this earlier, so Council should live and die by the consequences of its own action/inactions, and not kill an industry through an abrupt shock due to past Council inaction. Please get around the table and agree a gradual and long-term rate change, relative to all other rate changes.

I OPPOSE the Roothing Rate (Forestry Exotic) increase.

Sincerely

Brett Tawse  
Multiple Unit Holder Greenplan Forestry  
[REDACTED]