

From: Emma Barton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 May 2024 3:29 pm
To: haveyoursay
Subject: Strong Opposition to Proposed Roding Rate (Forestry Exotic) Increase

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Dear Waitomo District Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed increase in the Roding Rate (Forestry Exotic) by nearly 1,200%, which would take effect on 1 July 2024. As part of Greenplan Forestry and a resident of this area for over 20 years, this proposal is deeply concerning to me on multiple levels.

My family and I have lived in this community for decades, and our farm has been an integral part of the growth of the town. We have used the local roads daily, and I have personally witnessed their deterioration over time. Despite paying for road maintenance through our rates, the road has only been properly fixed twice in my lifetime. These repairs were merely small preventative fixes that inevitably collapsed within a couple of years. The council has had ample time to plan and maintain the roads effectively, yet this has not been done. Now, it seems the burden of their lack of planning and maintenance is being unfairly placed on us.

This drastic increase in rates from approximately \$4 per hectare to \$48 per hectare is not justifiable and would place an excessive financial strain on my family and other families who are already struggling to make ends meet. The proposed increase would escalate our District Roding Rate from \$653.80 to \$8,325.74 annually, which is unsustainable.

To add to our difficulties, my mother recently passed away, and we are navigating through an incredibly challenging time. Implementing this rate increase would only exacerbate the hardship for my family and many others in our community. We are all striving to manage our expenses and maintain our livelihoods, and this proposed increase is simply not feasible.

I urge the Waitomo District Council to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative solutions that do not place such an overwhelming financial burden on forestry block owners and residents. Please consider the real-life impacts this decision would have on families like mine.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Kind regards,

Emma Barton
[REDACTED]