
From: Michele Laurie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 May 2024 8:25 am
To: haveyoursay
Subject: LTP2024-2034 - Proposal: Introduce a targeted or differential rate on the District Roding Rate

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Kia Ora

I wish to submit on the above Waitomo DC proposal to the LTP in support of the submission by Greenplan Forestry Ltd.

While I acknowledge Council's concerns over how to pay for roading maintenance, I feel the proposal seeks to remedy the issue by unfairly targeting the forestry sector in your district by increasing the District Roding rate by 1,173%. This is a cruel blow to many of the mum and dad investors who invested in forestry in the early 90's.

While the trees have grown and been managed well by the forestry company for 30 years, we have watched rising costs and compliance costs quickly erode any projected returns we may have had. Landowners have been paying their share of the rates for all of that time and I do not feel it is fair to whack a huge targeted rate increase on them now the trees are ready to be harvested.

The increased rate will be a huge disincentive for Kiwis to invest in well managed forests with negative environmental, economic and social impacts for the district. Think of the all the people employed in the district who are associated with the forestry industry. They may decide to take their specialist skills elsewhere if there is no work in Waitomo DC. That will shrink the ratepayer base even further and have a negative social impact on communities and businesses.

While I favour Option 1, I do feel Council needs to work with the affected parties to find a more equitable solution. I appreciate this will take longer than a blanket rate increase but it will ensure a more sustainable future for the roads, the forests and the people of Waitomo district.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit; I do not wish to speak to my submission

Kind regards

Michele Laurie

[REDACTED]
Te Aroha 3320
[REDACTED]