SUBMISSION FORM PUKA TĀPAETAKA KŌRERO

HOW DO I MAKE A SUBMISSION?

Freepost to
Freepost 230444
PO Box 94
Ashburton 7740

In person by dropping it off at Ashburton District Council reception, 5 Baring Square West

Online at
ItsOurPlace.nz

Email to
submissions@adc.govt.nz

YOUR DETAILS

First name: Paul Last name: Dixey (as agent)

Organisation *(if appropriate)*: 65 individual

Stree

Subu

Phor

Sign

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF YOUR SUBMISSION AT THE HEARING?

○ **YES:** Council Chamber 131 Havelock Street on 11 May 2021. The hearing will be live-streamed through our online channels.

I am able to attend:
- ○ Morning
- ○ Afternoon
- ✓ Evening

I intend to present:
- ✓ In Person
- ○ Virtually

○ **NO:** I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following written submission be fully considered.

(If neither are ticked, it will be considered that you do not wish to be heard)

DO YOU AGREE WITH OUR PREFERRED OPTION OR DO YOU SUPPORT ANOTHER OPTION?

1 **Drinking water meters:** ○ Spread over 3 years – *our preferred option* ○ All in 1 year ✓ Don't install meters

Let us know why: Details as per Attached Pages

SUBMISSION FORM TO THE ADC LONG TERM PLAN.

This is not a single submission, but sixty five individual submissions, and should be recorded by the ADC as such. At the public meeting held on the 24th February all the names at the bottom of this submission of individual ratepayers signed forms nominating us as representatives to submit on their behalf. We all feel the following items included in the proposed LTP are contributing to the 14.88% Methven rate increase . We are not against progress but feel this LTP is lopsided toward hugely expensive Ashburton projects while Methven has struggled to obtain the basic's.

1/ DRINKING WATER METERS;

We are opposed to water meters being installed, for the following reasons.

1/ We believe installing meters is designed by the council to charge for water in the future and water loss is a convenient plow. We understand the ADC have already issued letters to some ratepayers reducing their daily water allocations and charging for additional water. This is purely altering the goalposts.

2/ we believe any water lost between the property entrance (where the meters are placed) and the house is insignificant .Where such loss is suspected this can be tested for with a portable meter at the street at minimal cost

3/ It's well known water loss in Methven occurs in the streets due to ageing infrastructure. The Methven Community board have records of when and where water leaks are which the ADC could use at no cost. To our knowledge the greatest loss of water is in the councils own infrastructure .

4/ There are other far less expensive methods of finding water loss. Council should extend their use of temporary strap on metres where water loss is suspected

5/ $5.2 m allocated to meters would go a long way to fixing Methven's water storage problems or off setting Methven's waste water costs. This cost exceeds the benefits and brings with it unbudgeted replacement, service and management costs.

6/ Even if at a later date the ADC decides too charge for excess water use, this will not pay for the cost of the meters which have a limited life of five to six years.

2/ OTHER PLANS AND PROJECTS.

METHVEN RESERVOIR

We understand a new holding tank is planned in this financial year, which is great news, and a further tank planned in year four of the LTP.

$609 k is the cost of the second tank. We understand Pleasant point built its water tank which has a far larger capacity than the two Methven planned tanks cost them around $700 k.

Have all options been looked at, it seems there could be better and more cost effective options .

Would one tank with even greater holding capacity such as P/Ps Be better than two smaller ones.

Methven's water supply is inadequate and fragile at present. Council have been negligent in delaying repairs and failing to expand the capacity to meet the town's needs

- We submit that ADC modify the plan to expand the Methven water supply to reduce summer water restrictions, ensure adequate winter season supply for expanded visitor numbers expected with the Hot Pools and cater for current and future growth.

3/. DEVELOPMENT & FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Methven new builds)

We see these are proposed to increase for Methven by $448, from $6,929.00 to $7,377.00. Its the makeup that's intriguing, Community infrastructure, which the ADC quotes as going to - Ashburton art gallery, Heritage centre, Ashburton library, civic centre and EA networks centre will increase from $2875.00 to $4892.00 .

The ADC also granted the Arts centre 2019/20 $385,600.00 and as stated in the plan will grant more this time.

How much more rate payer money is this council going to throw at this over valued white elephant . The Ashburton Trust Events centre received $298, 860.00, from the ADC 2019/20 in grants, its our understanding the ADC don't actually own the building, but they do own the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall which expenses pail in comparison.

At the public meeting we were told our 14.88% proposed rate increase was in the main for waste water. Yet the waste water component of the development contribution has gone down from $336.00 to $303.00. There seems to be conflicting signals here. Community infrastructure is a totally different animal and it seems we are being charged for the ADCs big toy list. We are opposed to this proposed development and financial contributions increase as it goes right against what the mayor and deputy mayor told us the rate increase was for. The question was asked at the ADC LTP meeting why this is so, which on the night they were unable to answer. To date we still have no explanation.

We also think development contributions should be meet by the developer, not the ratepayer. We understand Ashburton are one of the only, if not the only council that charge the rate payer. (source ADC, Mr McCann)

At an earlier meeting with the ADC it was explained the reason for charging the rate payer was to encourage developers to the region. Surely the responsibility of the council is to the rate payer and not developers .

We realise the developer will add this cost to the section price, but we feel this completes the rate payers financial obligation rather than the shock of a bill from the ADC at building consent stage.

We also realise these costs are on the ADC website, but believe the majority of people , particularly first home builders are unaware of the development contributions. They receive an initial account for inspections levies etc ,then when the consent comes through are slammed with another.

4/ Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

This is another item mentioned as adding to the proposed rate increase. As explained by Martin Nordqvist, (Hall chairman) Methven ratepayers pay targeted rates for the hall , so in essence the ADC are just a collection agency , paying this money back to the hall. The ADC do contribute $10 k, for the hall toilets, but compared to their grants to other community infrastructure items, this is a pittance.

Annual hall expenses are in line with other years and contrary to council reports no major work is planned for the hall.

The hall is not only used by Methven people. Weddings and functions are held here by Ashburton parties and further afield.

We fail to see how the hall can be used as an excuse for rate increases. Perhaps a portion of the generous grants given out in Ashburton should be channeled to our hall.

WASTE WATER- METHVEN

This was the big ticket item raised by both mayor and deputy as being the major reason for Methven's proposed rate rise. We are joining this "club", page 26 LTP, mentions waste water spends in Ashburton NW & Ashburton relief sewer, but there's no mention of Methven. Can we also assume that the reduction in waste water on development contributions (new builds) is proof that this is not a reason to raise rates, and in fact the ADC has the funds already salted away by way of past contributions. If not where has this money gone if not to waste water.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

POPULATION GROWTH.

" ADC bases its growth forecast on statistics NZ medium growth projections "

WHY IS THIS ? Methven has five new subdivisions on the go at present , with approx 220 sections, The ADC will know this as its them that give the planning consents. This information will not yet be known to Statistics NZ who will probably learn it from the ADC. So Statistics NZ projections are already behind . So in fact any ten year plan will already be out of date.
At the ADC meeting, 25th March , this question was raised and answered by the CEO He agreed we were somewhat correct but new residents would help spread costs.
Like the CEO we think he is somewhat correct, But, the prediction of Methven's population being only 470 up In the year 2048 on our current number is ludicrous.
We know and so do the ADC that there are over 220 new sections underway here. Using the 2.5 persons per house that's 550 extra people in the nest two to three years.
Our point is future infrastructure planning has not and will not keep pace based on the draft LTP figures .

Major Projects, Civic Centre / Library

We submit that this project be reviewed to ensure that it is built within the funding available. To ensure this the scope should be revised to instruct the builders to seek efficiencies and reductions in costs to beat the budget.

The community ARE CONFIDENT that if carried out as planned the costs will blow out and long term funding, maintenance and operating cost blow outs will follow, council has an admirable track record on this from previous projects, which needs to be broken. This record is evidence of systemic management failures

Reduce the scope to fit the budget

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLANNING AND BUDGETS

LTP budgeting is based on a depreciation schedule for budgeting maintenance and operating costs. Wile this may be an effective check on budgeting it is inappropriate.

Before finalizing the LTP each expenditure class should be shown on a revised LTP with planned cost shown alongside historical actuals to ensure a reality check.

Budgeting needs to be revised to reflect continuation, and hopefully reduction in operating and maintenance costs based on historical costs, with depreciation as a check, not the reverse

STAFFING AND STAFF COSTS

LTP should adopt a sinking lid on administrative and overhead staffing costs

reflecting the impact of efficiencies in administrative technologies
Reporting should show staff costs, especially management costs, with staff numbers in each salary bracket, as is universally adopted by all public businesses.

CONCLUSION

We in Methven don't feel we are being unreasonable in objecting to the proposed 14.88% rate increase, which will in fact be larger than this figure. We do understand a rise is inevitable, but should be relative to other towns within the ADC region.

We feel that we in Methven are playing catchup regards drinking water and waste water and are only now getting what should have been a priority Years ago above big ticket projects that have taken precedence.

Ratepayers expect the basics first , and a reliable up to date water system is one of these.

We feel the LTP contains several very expensive projects including the civic centre which should not be a burden to ratepayers.

The feeling in Methven is we are financing Ashburton's empire while we beg for the basics.

We also believe its the duty of our council voted representatives to keep a watchful eye on bureaucratic spending , too question it and not just sign off without fully understanding.

The feeling of the Methven people is 14.88 % rate increase is totally unacceptable and reasons as highlighted by the ADC for it do not stack up.

Signed ;
P & D Dixey.
S Stockdill.

D Callaghan.
R & K Wijesingle
S Grieve.
M & J Markillie.
Sharon Bree.
Keith Middleton.
P Johnson.
P Harper.
B Duffy.
D Tapp.
T, H, & K Clement.
Nathan Dickson.
C Mentor.
R Holmes.
J & E Barwell.
C Clemens.
D Boswell.
W Lill.
B Walls.
Dame Lynda Topp
S Lock.
P &R
Swain.
V Fleetwood.
P Elliot.
J Nordquist
M & U Feiss
A & R Grieve.
S Stewart.
D & V Mangin.
F & G Mangin.
M McTigue.
T Robertson.

J McKay.
M Watene.
L Blackwell.
S Williams.
J Burmester.
J Fitzpatrick.
H Alves.
C J Middleton.
M Hawkes.
K & R Shepard.
C Isherwood.
L & P Paterson.
J Cheney.
G Currie.
L Spittal.
F Furndofler.
J McAndrew.
E Hale.
Liam Shepard.
Carrol McAndrew.
C den Baas.
" "
F Warmerdam.
J Jackson.
R Masters.
S Thrupp.
C Kiamtia.
K Wilwert.
A Simonett.
S & L Allred.
M & S Gazzard.
J McConnell.