

Long-term Plan 2024–34



Respondent No. 101

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Personal information

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I'm providing a submission (choose one): as an individual

Do you want to speak to Council about your submission at our public hearings on 2 May? No

Are you happy for your name to be published with your feedback: My name can be published with my feedback

Submission

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about this LTP?

I'm not sure why I keep sending in these responses, maybe one day I hope it may make a difference, but so far all I get back is the council's opinion on what they thought they should do, and therefore what they will do.

One day I hope we will have councillors who will have the balls to put a stop to spending and starting living within our means.

I don't want to blame the current council members, as they have essentially inherited a \$185 million debt from previous council spending. *This number is from <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/en5bwudh/performance-report-9-february-2023.pdf>

However, the problem remains, we have a debt of \$185 million. Perhaps \$110m of this debt is due to previous spending on water supply, wastewater management and stormwater management. I was unable to find any indication of how the council is planning to reduce this debt. Is there anybody who is willing to stand up and ask "Why aren't we looking for options to pay this off?"

What if we could pay off \$25 million each year for the next 5 years?

Options:

a) Raise rates 25% (for a 5 year period) This would provide an additional \$25 million but you would have lots of unhappy customers.

- b) Raise rates 5% (forever) and continue to pay off this debt at a very slow rate.
- c) Cut back on all non-essential council services (for a 5 year period) This would provide the additional \$25 million. No additional increase to rates!
- d) A mix of cutting back on non-essential services, and a smaller rates increase, although the rates increase provides a relatively small amount, so it may not be worth it.

What are the essential services of council?

- a) Water supply
- b) Wastewater
- c) Storm water
- d) Road maintenance (repairing damaged roads only)
- e) Rubbish removal (I consider this to be an essential service, however it is currently funded by home owners separately)
- f) Services like licensing and building approvals are operated by the council, however these should all be self-funding.

Everything else is therefore non-essential.

Perhaps non-essential services might include these capital expenses:

- a) The transport hub and link road (\$6.8m)
- b) Seawall replacement (\$3.2m)
- c) Mahara gallery and Waikanae library (\$5m)
- d) Kapiti Gateway (\$3.1m)
- e) Parks and open spaces (\$4m)
- f) There is currently \$74m budgeted for operating expenses, but there is no breakdown of this amount, so it is hard to say how much could be saved by closing the swimming pools, libraries, galleries, and other non-essential services.

At the very least we could save \$22.1m, probably a lot more.

Swimming pools, libraries, galleries, parks, housing and new roads are lovely, but we can live without them. Certainly if we knew it was only for a period of 5 years. In some cases the swimming pools, libraries, galleries and parks could operate a self-funding model, where they raise their own funding to cover their salaries through user-charges, advertising or sponsorship.

In summary, I'm sorry I don't support either of your proposed options. I do support cutting all non-essential services for a number of years in order to reduce debt.

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