

<b>Your Details</b>	
First Name:	Verity
Last Name:	Jackson
<b>1</b>	
Do you think we should decrease our day-to-day levels of service to reduce the average rate increase? :	Yes
Why / Why not?:	There are areas of Council that are over funding and providing very little return on investment, such as Economic Development. By contrast tourism provides an excellent return on investment for considerably smaller investment. EA Networks Centre is turning into the districts "white elephant" by being grossly underutilised and poorly managed.
If so, what should we do less of?:	<p>Economic Development should have the budget reduced to the equivalent of the district tourism budget, rather than wasting time and resource creating a new strategy, thorough KPI's (similar to that with Christchurch NZ) should be established with the Economic Development Manger reporting back to Council on progress against these. The tourism model provides an excellent example of expected outcomes and measures, and their detailed quarterly reporting gives rate payers an actual return on investment and shows that funding is being well utilised.</p> <p>Throughout the entire covid-19 pandemic tourism has had a high profile on social media, local and national news media, with the borders reopening this presence has increased noticeably. Where is the Economic Development presence? - There is nothing on any social media channel, Mid Canterbury Open for Business was a great channel but seems to have been overlooked for months, instead Council wasted money on the Guardian shop local campaign, what did the ratepayers get out of this? The Guardian is a subscription based paper with a small circulation base. - New businesses are coming to the district, e.g. K-Mart, Rebel Sport, there is no mention in any newspaper article of Councils involvement in any of these, one could easily assume that the growth in the district is more attributed to tourism promotion than Economic Development - What ever happened to events? With the lifting of all event restrictions surely Council should be announcing the return of Council events, promoting its support of community events and publishing a local event calendar. Ashburton Event Centre were the quickest to start promoting they were back in business and their upcoming and future shows, even Wheels Week have published a full calendar of events. The Business of the Year Awards seems to have died when late last year there was something being published/promoted on a daily/weekly basis. How is rebranding a website a good use of Council funds? EA Networks Centre needs to look at how it is</p>

	<p>managing staffing levels, not cutting the facility hours. The gym could cut back on staff, in the short term, there are 24 hour access gyms that do not have staff members present all the time. Group fitness instructors could also be scaled back with more classes going virtual. Also why not take classes out to the wider community, such as Rakaia, Mayfield, Hinds, utilise the many community halls and charge a nominal fee to attend. Why is the centre management/staff not out there bidding for and chasing local, regional and domestic sports teams and tournaments?</p> <p>Management should be reporting back to ratepayers on how they are intending to increase utilisation of the stadium, who they have approached and what we can look forward to. The school holiday programme is another example of taking activities away from the centre and the district, why are activities and activations not being bought in to the centre, these could be used not only for the school holiday programme but also in the evenings for youth that do not attend the programme. Showcase what can be done at the centre and how versatile it is.</p>
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**2**

<p>Do you agree with using \$1.7 million from our forestry reserve to pay for major roading repairs?:</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Why / why not?:</p>	<p>The roads need to be repaired, there is no point in waiting and putting it off.</p>

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<p>General comments:</p>	
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