

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?: Yes

I am able to attend: Evening

I intend to attend: Virtually

Would you like to be added to our database to be notified of future consultations?: Yes

### **Your Details**

Full Name: James McKenzie

### **Do you agree with our preferred option or do you support another option?**

Drinking water meters: Don't install meters

Let us know why: It was stated at a recent Methven community forum, by the ADC Mayor, that the primary driver for meters is to identify and eliminate leaks which account for up to 50% of water usage. Water meters will absolutely not help identify leaks. Defer installation of meters, install isolation valves at regular locations in the reticulation network and then undertake hydrostatic pressure test each section of the network for leaks with property supplies shut off. This will facilitate the identification of faulty sections of the main network. Water meters are like the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff!

Elderly Persons Housing:

Let us know why:

What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?: Base rate increases (to cover council services/salaries) should be capped at CPI. If this is not possible, then there should be a review of costs - including staffing. Clearly summarise and communicate all funding options considered. It may well be that options like borrowing equity to fund essential infrastructure projects or system upgrades to spread capital expenditure over a longer period of time (allowing rate increases to be capped at an affordable level as opposed to the proposed 28% rate increase over the next 3 years) would be far more palatable to ratepayers. Once financing for specific projects have been completed, rates should be reduced accordingly. Our council should budget like regular commercial businesses that genuinely care about their customers as opposed to a monopolistic cartel. The proposed rate increases in a town that has been significantly impacted by the downturn in tourism resulting from the closure of our borders could mean only one of two things. 1) Our elected councillors have received ill-conceived financial advice/guidance from senior management or 2) our elected councillors have lost sight of the fact that they should be doing everything in their power to fairly represent the hard-working kiwi families living in Ashburton District. Many families/ratepayers in Methven have seen their incomes reduced in 2020/21 and have needed to find alternative solutions to reduce costs/meet their financial

commitments. The council represents this group of people and should be acting in the same manner.