

Kia Ora Ashburton District Council ,

**RE: Submission to the 2022.23 Draft Annual Plan**

YES – I would like to speak to my submission

- (1) Do you think we should decrease our day-to-day levels of service to reduce the average rate increase? Yes / No - Why / why not? If so, what should we do less of?

**NO** – this question has a high level of political “SPIN” – implying, that the only way to reduce rate rises is to “decrease our day-to-day levels”. That is **NOT** the only option. In our business and household budgets, we must look at increasing income, reducing expenditure, selling off surplus items, looking at greater efficiencies or cost sharing options. I request that Council investigate similar options.

Ashburton District Council received government funding to the tune of \$ 33 million for “Shovel ready projects” \$ 20 million new Civic Centre and \$13 million Relief Sewer – I for one had anticipated that ratepayers should have benefitted from those funds to offset the aforementioned rateable activities - where did the \$ 33 million go? I suggest, that if the \$33 million from Central Government had been used against the intended projects, then we should not be facing a 12.2% rate increase.

- (2) Do you agree with using \$1.7 million from our forestry reserve to pay for major roading repairs? Yes / No - Why / why not?

**NO** – As “One in 100 Year Events” are becoming more common and occurring with greater frequency than their naming suggests. It seems an exercise in futility to reinstate roads that are prone to be washed away and damaged. On top of that to use forestry reserve funds, which were set aside to reinstate forestry (a Climate Change benefit) to pay for roading (infrastructure for a Climate Change exacerbator) seems to smack of duplicity.

Ashburton District Council has the fourth largest roading network in New Zealand, with just a few of those roads being state highways. Ashburton District Council should investigate reducing their network or OPEX reductions.

- (3) General Comments:

- + Would you like to be added to our database to provide feedback on future consultations – Yes / No?
- + speak to submission?

**YES** – I would like to be added to the database – if not already

**YES** – I would like to speak to my submission