

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?:	No
<b>Your Details</b>	
First Name:	David
Last Name:	Watson
Organisation:	Retired ratepayer
<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?:	Council rates have been well above inflation/cost of living every year for decades making it increasingly difficult for those on fixed/low incomes to keep up payments, especially for those retired and living on superannuation.
If so, what should we do less of?:	The one place cut backs should not occur is roading maintenance, which, in Mid Canterbury, is below par in comparison with other parts of the country. I am supportive of parks, gardens and similar areas but believe these can be kept at a good level with less regular mowing and switching to more easy care garden beds etc. Whilst fully supportive of libraries and evening/weekend opening for working residents this does not have to be every evening and some daytime hours could also be curtailed with savings in overheads and wages [around the country librarians are complaining of overwork!] I do not believe that fresh water supply is an area for cutbacks as this service is essential. Without being able to specifically identify cut backs in waste water or storm water there may be some possible economies there. In building and similar areas there may be scope for moving further to user pays. As a CD volunteer, I am unable to identify and reductions possible in Civil Defence [we seem to be already running at a minimum], indeed I would like to see a more active training regime. Rubbish disposal service is good and although I can see no specific proposals, some economies may be possible. Other areas of the council's work are so far outside my experience that I can offer no valid proposals.
<b>2</b>	
Do you agree with using \$1.7 million from our forestry reserve to pay for major roading repairs?:	Yes

Why / why not?:	Reserves exist for 'rainy day' scenarios and should be used when appropriate but without leaving enough in the 'pot' for unforeseen events.
<b>3</b>	
General comments:	Already covered.