

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?: No

I am able to attend: Evening

I intend to attend: In-person

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

Your Details

Full Name: Kristina Louise Sheppard

Ethnicity:

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

Drinking water meters: Don't install meters

Let us know why: The council have been negligent in providing an adequate water supply and this would be a further insult by penalising the Methven community by the installation of water meters.

Elderly Persons Housing: Status quo - inflationary rent increases + general rate

Let us know why: Elderly persons housing should only be reflective of the inflationary rent increases and general rates as these are meant to be for more vulnerable residents who do not need anymore stress with added increases for the maintenance of the properties.

What do you think about our plans for our other projects and activities?: The proposed rate increase in Methven is an unacceptable and unreasonable rise. The residents of Methven appreciate an increase is unavoidable but this is over and above and there is no real reason given that reflects other areas within the Ashburton district having to pay an increase anywhere near that of the proposed Methven area. Both Ashburton District Council and the Methven Community Board have behaved in an underhanded and unscrupulous manner regarding this proposal.

Additional submission

Kristina Louise Sheppard

I have submitted online as a homeowner as well as my husband as a business owner paying rent. Please accept this submission regarding the rate increase.

Myself and my husband who have been residents and business owners paying rent in Methven for 9 years do not feel we are unreasonable in our objection to the proposed initial 14.88% which in fact will be significantly higher over the course of a few years. We do understand a rise in inevitable but it should be relative to other towns within the Ashburton District region. We feel that we in Methven are playing catch up regarding drinking water and waste water and we are only now starting to get what should have been a priority years ago above other projects that have taken precedence. We have been for far too long the poorer relatives. Comments made about how grateful we should be that Ashburton District Council collects our rubbish was inappropriate, unreasonable and unnecessary as well as ill prepared and ill informed representation at the initial resident council meeting in March where it was clear that both the Mayor and the Methven Community Board did not spend time nor had the answers to give the residents concrete evidence for this rise or show that they handled the situation in a professional manner. Rate payers expect and should be provided with the basics first and foremost as well as an up to date reliable water system. We feel that the LTP proposed by the current council contains several very expensive projects including the Civic Centre which should not be a burden to rate payers. Methven residents feel that we are financing Ashburton's empire while we have to beg for the basics. We will at this point mention the personal unfairness regarding how Ashburton has benefitted from projects in particular lighting, events and a Christmas tree installed in the Ashburton town. Lighting of trees along the roadway which cost a considerable amount which Methven has requested and been refused or expected to complete paperwork and jump through so many hoops without the support of either Ashburton District Council nor Methven Community Board. We also believe it's the duty of our council voted representatives to keep a watchful eye on bureaucratic spending to question it and not just sign it off blindly without fully understanding the implications. For myself and my husband and we are sure the Methven community the 14.88% rate increase is totally unreasonable and the reasons given by Ashburton District Council not only do not stack up but make a mockery of fairness and reasonable behaviour.