

Kia Ora Ashburton District Council ,

RE: Submission to the 2022.23 Draft Annual Plan

Ashburton Citizens Association Chair – Greer Rickett would like to speak to the submission please

- (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 – Ashburton Citizens Association do not want to see Ashburton District Council “decrease our day-to-day levels of service to reduce the average rate increase”. We instead request that Council consider rationalisation where possible and investigate greater efficiencies in other ways.

We do note that prior to consultation being completed, Ashburton District Council have already reduced the opening hours of the pool area at EA Networks, which seems premature as consultation is still currently underway. Will this result in reduced membership fees, as the pool is now available 10 hours less per week?

We are opposed to the proposed 12.2% rate increase for the Ashburton Area. Such a significant increase is insensitive and lacks empathy for those on fixed incomes, reduced employment hours, and increasing cost of living as we enter the COVID 19 recovery phase.

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

YES – Ashburton Citizens Association “agree with using \$1.7 million from our forestry reserve to pay for major roading repairs” - the money has to come from somewhere and we would like the roads to be fit for purpose.

- (3) General Comments:

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

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

YES – we would like to speak to our submission

Finally, the Ashburton Citizens Association wish to make a couple of comments:-

We were disappointed to hear that Councillor John Falloon stated to the room that evening:-

➔ “budgets are a waste of time and I don’t know why we do them”

➔ “there is no point submitting as we’ve already decided on the budget”

Constituents have few very opportunities to formally share their views with Council and such statements are discouraging to say the least. The purpose of the Ashburton Citizens Association is ***“To ensure that the voice of the Citizens is heard in the process of consultation and engagement so as to achieve the best outcomes for the Citizens”*** we therefore request, that for transparency, future Council lead presentation are treated as other Council meetings and live streamed, to ensure residents are aware of what their elected members views are on important matters such as democracy and engagement.

We respectfully request, that Ashburton District Council standardise the submission closing times. As we prepare this submission, there are two rounds of submissions open – 2022.23

Annual Plan and Draft Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy. Annual Plan closes Friday 5.00pm – while Sport Strategy closes Sunday 5.00pm. In truth, we imagine that little if any work will be occurring on submissions over weekends. Conversely, allowing submitters weekends to give a final polish to submissions, will hopefully result in a more considered and professional submission. We suggest that closing midnight Sunday or 6.00am on a Monday, will still have all documentation received prior to the commencement of the new business week.

In closing the Ashburton Citizens Association wish to thank the Ashburton District Council for the opportunity to submit and speak to the submission.