

Your Details	
First Name:	Lynnette
Last Name:	Bridge
1	
Do you think we should decrease our day-to-day levels of service to reduce the average rate increase? :	No
Why / Why not?:	There is already a reduction and less than satisfactory supply of service from the council, whether it be answering the telephone or arranging for issues to be dealt with. The budgets that are formed should concentrate firstly on the service and maintenance needs of the community before any budget is allowed for new building wants.
If so, what should we do less of?:	
2	
Do you agree with using \$1.7 million from our forestry reserve to pay for major roading repairs?:	No
Why / why not?:	This is a maybe, depending on the availability of funds in this account. If funding accounts have a surplus to needs, why has this not already been re-allocated to reduce the increase in rates to the community. If there is not a surplus of funds then why is this particular fund being withdrawn from and not put back into forestry activity. Does the withdrawal from this fund affect the carbon credits that we should be earning from forestry?
3	
General comments:	Over the last 2 decades that I have resided in this beautiful area, I have seen funding allocation being disproportionately allocated and huge budget overruns made by the various council members. I struggle that the council makes decisions on purchasing and big projects when they are lay people with no experience in accounting and feel as a general rate payer that all that is wanted is to have their name attached to a project to say they were involved in the future. In this period of uncertainty financially for many of the country including the Ashburton district, I consider that the council should be making decisions to ensure maintenance is a priority over new projects. The roads are in terrible condition and even recent repairs are dangerous to drive on or walk over and that as ratepayers we see large council buildings being erected and longer term loans applied for the future generations that will also have to pay increased

	<p>maintenance costs. At some point the council needs to listen to the rate payers, we do not have a never ending open purse to pay for projects that are wants not needs. The town centre looks great but at what cost and overruns did this cost, not only in physical cost but also loss of income for businesses.</p>
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