



April PRRA Meeting Chairman's Presentation

Good evening

Tauranga ratepayers are facing a large rate increase to fund the next 10 year Long Term Plan. This plan will be available for community comment for just one month from 7 May to 7 June. This is an extremely short amount of time for ratepayers to be heard. Will anyone really listen? It is all a little too late for any meaningful changes.

The Long term 10 year Plan -- what do you know about it?

Most people know very little – which shows the effectiveness of council communications and consultation with the ratepayer. A large part of the plan is based on the extension of the Tauranga City boundaries to provide thousands of new houses. This has been decided by council staff, with I suspect large amounts of input from housing developers and prodded by the government. More housing of this type means urban sprawl, more traffic congestion, longer travel times, inefficient public transport systems, the need to spend more and more on providing the additional infrastructure.

The government is becoming very tetchy about the supply of housing and is cajoling and threatening local authorities to supply new housing at the lowest cost. Here in Tauranga they got so worried, they removed local democracy and replaced the councillors with four commissioners to push through the next 10 year Long Term Plan.

As a ratepayer, I do not remember any invitation from the council to be part of the conversation as to the whether this **continual expansion of the city boundaries is good for Tauranga** and definitely have never seen any other options for housing the expected population growth. I am sure this could be

accommodated inside the existing city boundary. The costs for extending the boundaries are too much for the Tauranga ratepayer.

Consultation and Information

The council staff are very entrenched, we all have recent stories of once they make a plan, public feedback is just ignored, batted away, and it appears they are working on the principle the ratepayer will give up before the council staff change their minds. Their plans come from left field at times and with no acknowledgement to the requirements of local communities.

The task of going in to bat against the council is too hard, they do not listen to ratepayers, any consultation is done after the project is signed off. In the past we could talk to our councillors. Now with local democracy suspended, the council staff are off the lead and moving on regardless.

The PRRA knows that the only way forward to supply any credible input is to be able to match expert v expert in the battle with the council. No individual ratepayer input is good enough. We need funds to employ experts.

PRRA is applying for funding in the Long Term Plan



TCC Expert

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PRRA Expert

Therefore the PRRA is writing to the council to request an additional line be added to the Long Term Plan.

This is **Community funding for PRRA of \$150,000 per annum.**

PRRA will provide a business case to support the application.

You may think this is wacky idea, but this is a council that can raise their wage bill by around \$20 million in the next year to employ more staff to come up with more concepts and confuse the ratepayer with the volume of new projects.

One example why PRRA needs funding to employ experts,
you will remember Plan Change 27

which applied a theoretical rain event to Tauranga and showed flooding around many of your homes. Your property file was then tagged with this information without any explanation.

This study and subsequent results may have a major problem in that the work is based on an incorrect height of the datum point used for the analysis.
PRRA needs to employ experts to check this.

Some other local issues are the continual delay in upgrading Papamoa Beach Road, unwarranted planting in Palm Beach reserve, chipsealing over hot mix paving in our streets, the council is now paying for the interchange from the expressway to Te Tumu, very bad road designs, a rubbish collection system with no PAYT option and change to a fortnightly rubbish collection, not weekly as at present, very slow installation of Tsunami Sirens.

Community consultation is not happening, it is only a tick box affair. The debate on the cost of continual extension of the Tauranga city boundary must be made public.

Thankyou

And now the Commissioners. Please welcome them to the microphone.

