

Chairmans Report

August 2021

Noteworthy events in the last month to think about....

1. Rates Increases
2. 3 Waters Govt takeover
3. Local Democracy
4. Rates Protest

1. Rates Increases as a result of the Long Term Plan decisions.

You have now received your latest rates demands. This is just the start, rates are projected to double in the next 10 years. And for no real improvement in the quality of life for ratepayers.

What can you do about this -- not a lot individually. Collectively there may be chance to reduce the rate proposed rate increases for the next years. Already we have people saying the elderly on fixed incomes and can't afford the increased rates should sell up and leave Tauranga. Why, these are the people who have supported Tauranga for years by paying rates and have invested their lives into Tauranga. Desn;t the commissioners know about "social contracts" built up over generations.

REFRESH: Proposed Rates for the next LTP.

- Based on the percentage rises, start at say \$100 of rates:-
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 - Year 1 22% of \$100 becomes \$122
 - Year 2 13% of \$122 becomes \$138
 - Year 3 11% of \$138 becomes \$153
 - Year 4 18% of \$153 becomes \$180
 - Year 5 12% of \$180 becomes \$202
 - ie on these figures the rates will **double** by year 5
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- Regardless of who pays what, residential or commercial, the increase is too much for local ratepayers !!!!

Auckland Rate Rises = 5%

2. 3 Waters takeover by central govt.

Main Points:

1. Central govt will take over all water, fresh water, waste water (sewage) and stormwater. Someone in Hamilton will decide for Tauranga.
2. WHY -- it can only be centralisation and state control.
3. And an increase in water charges

What does it mean for Tauranga....

Tauranga has a very high grade water and waste water setup and as ratepayers we have invested billions in it and carry the debt for it. We already pay water charges. There does not appear to be any benefit for Tauranga

The govt claims their control will make it cheaper – the HOW is not obvious.

Tauranga City Council Response

Commissioner Anne Tolley stated “in our view the reform process offers an opportunity to create an effective delivery model while ensuring that the required national investment is available to build a better water future”. Appears she has single handedly decided Tauranga is signing up. And as a sweetener, the govt recently gave TCC \$110million. This has not been accounted for.

The questions are

1. Make the ratepayers part of this discussion and debate.
2. Provide all the facts so the ratepayers can make an informed decision.
3. Tell us, Commissioners, what happened to the \$110 million sweetener recently promised by the government to Tauranga City Council to agree with 3 Waters.
4. And the suggestion to Commissioner Tolley is “Ask the ratepayers what they want to do “

See PRRA website front page for more information and articles on the 3 Waters Government Takeover
www.papamoaresidents.co.nz

Local Democracy Representation Decision

As you know, Tauranga does not currently have local democracy. The government has appointed Commissioners to run Tauranga.

When local democracy is restored, ???? we need to decide on method of representation. Amazingly the Commissioners are now going to decide over how we vote for our councillors in the future. Ward councillors, community boards, at large councillors???

Have your say in the process, TCC has an online survey which only lists the options they consider important. Please take part in this survey. Go to the TCC website and follow the links.

Rates Increase Protest March

The TRA sponsored Rates Protest was held in the foulest weather you have ever seen – heavy rain, high winds and fantastically over 200 people attended and made a lot of noise, enough to be heard loudly in the council chambers.

The council had assembled police and security to monitor the assembly but they were not needed. Protests can be made civilly.

