

## Our Draft Annual Plan 2023/24

### Submitter Details

**First name:** Pat **Last name:** McIntosh

**If you are responding on behalf of a recognised organisation please provide organisation name:**

Redcliffs Residents Association

**Your role in the organisation and the number of people your organisation represents:**

Secretary - for approx 3000 residents of Redcliffs

**Postal address:** 35B Beachville Road

**Suburb:** Redcliffs

**City:** Christchurch

**Country:** New Zealand

**Postcode:** 8081

**Daytime Phone:** 0274274772

**Would you like to speak to the Council about your submission? Hearings will be held in late April/ early May 2023 (specific dates are to be confirmed). If yes, please provide a daytime phone number above so we can arrange a speaking time with you.**

Yes

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

### Feedback

1.1

What do you think of our proposed average rates increase of **5.68%** across all ratepayers (which is **higher** than the 5.42% signalled in the Long Term Plan 2021–31) and an average residential rates increase of **5.79%**?

Acceptable.

1.2

Do you have any comments about our proposed changes to revenue, spending and borrowing?

Revenue could be improved by encouraging the sale of the farmland in Otago purchased by CIAL for their speculative out of area airport project which is not in the interests of local residents.

1.3

We want your feedback on our proposed alternatives for how we set the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) – what do you prefer?

The alternative (B): Setting the UAGC at a lower value of \$50, reducing the overall rates on properties with a lower capital value, but leaving a \$17 million shortfall in the Council's rates take, which would need to be made up by other ratepayers.

Comments

1.4

We're proposing some changes to our rates policies – do you have any comments?

A proposed differential on business properties of 2.22 to maintain the contribution that business properties make to general rates from 1 July 2023.

Support  
Comments

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1.5

We're proposing some changes to our rates policies – do you have any comments?

Extending the use of City Vacant Differential rating in the commercially zoned areas of New Brighton, Lyttelton, Sydenham and Linwood Village from 1 July 2024.

Comments  
no comment

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1.6

Do you have any comments on our proposed changes to fees and charges?

no comment

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At the moment residential properties have an allowance of 700 litres of water a day before we start charging for their excess water supply. We're proposing increasing this average daily allowance to 900 litres from 1 July 2023. This proposal is already included in our proposed 5.68% rates increase, and accounts for 0.10% of it in 2023/24. If the proposal doesn't go ahead and the limit stays at 700, the overall rates increase would decrease.

1.7

Do you support increasing the allowance to 900 litres of water a day for residential properties?

No  
Comments  
700l is high enough

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1.8

We're proposing a change to how we use our Capital Endowment Fund (CEF) to fund community grants in 2023/24 - which option do you prefer?

Option 1: Using \$1 million from the CEF for one year only to fund grants, and reduce the overall average rates increase by 0.16%.

Comments

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1.9

Do you have any comments about our capital programme (for example, our roads and footpaths, our water, wastewater, surface water and waterways, our facilities and our parks)?

1. Redcliffs. The Main Road Master Plan has apparently now been effectively abandoned. There is a tiny amount of 25,000 allocated for Redcliffs Streetscape Improvements (34237) in 2025. This is

entirely inadequate and in any case it would make more sense to spend it earlier so as to be ready for the opening of the final section of the Coastal Pathway project, which will bring many more people through the area.

2. The Estuary Green Edge Pathway. (532000) The RRA considers this to be a poor use of resources and requests that the project be abandoned. Council's apparently preferred route is highly contentious and threatens the wildlife reserve and estuarine birds.

3. Wheels to Wings cycleway. (25611) The RRA supports improved cycle connections in general and this one in particular as some residents commute to the north of the city for work. It has already been extensively consulted upon and should not be delayed.

4. Park maintenance. While recognising the budget is tight and money needs to be found to cover inflation and the new Stadium, the Redcliffs Residents Association wishes to plea for the Operations Budget for Urban and Regional parks to be increased to at least cover the rise in inflation but ideally by a more significant sum to ensure the ongoing delivery of these vital services. The Ranger Operational Budget needs to grow to match increased demands from steadily increasing areas of native plantings on the one hand and the growing incursion of weed species on the other . The budgets for Park Ranger staff and their contractors are stretched and accordingly there is insufficient work on the ground insufficient to maintain our parks for current use for safe and enjoyable recreation and for carbon absorption. The work required of these hard working teams exceeds their available time and contractor support budgets.

Add to this the still considerable back load of work to stabilise earthquake damaged slopes in the Port Hills parks and remove persistent weed species that 'got away from us' after the earthquakes, the operational budgets are just not sufficient to do the work the is needed.

One local example is Barnett Park where banana passionfruit is acknowledged as a widespread and spreading threat to the emerging native seedlings and blackberry is becoming rampant. Local volunteers are working hard alongside rangers but it is a discredit to the Council that it needs to rely on volunteer labour to maintain the public parks.

5. Dog park development - we would like to see more money allocated to this, alongside much better public education and signage to educate dog owners and actually enforce the Dog Control Policy (one prosecution in the past year despite thousands of complaints).

6. Safer Speed Neighbourhoods. this programme is progressing extremely slowly and plainly needs more resources or a Council wide approach.

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1.10

The Council has a small number of properties which are no longer being used for the purpose they were originally acquired for. Do you have any feedback to help us decide the future of these properties?

Cannot comment without more detail.

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1.11

Any further comments?

Why is there a time limit for completing this form?

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