

Submission Form: Have your say

This submission form allows you to provide feedback on the draft Rating Policies Review. Please fill out all sections so we can formally record your submission. Tell us what you think before 15 October 2023, there are a number of ways you can make a submission:

Online - <https://swdc.govt.nz/rating-policies-review/>

Paper copy -

- Email it to us at submissions@swdc.govt.nz
- Post to PO Box 6, Martinborough 5741
- Hand deliver to Council office or any of the South Wairarapa libraries.

Privacy Statement

What we do with your personal information

All submissions (excluding contact details) will be made available to the public and media via the Council website.

Your Details

Full name

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Organisation (if applicable)

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Postal address

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Phone

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Email

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Would you like to participate in the hearing process?

Hearings are currently scheduled for Thursday 26 October.

Yes (in person) / Yes (online) / No

Feedback: Rating Review Consultation

Question 1: Remission of Rates Policy

Under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, land owned or used by a society or association, for games or sports, should pay no more than 50% of their general rates. Participating in sporting activity has known benefits to community wellbeing and Council are interested in hearing your thoughts on the rates remission for community games or sports grounds.

a. Do you think that the rates remission on general rates for community games or sports grounds should change from 50% to 100%?

Yes / No

Comments

b. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Remission of Rates Policy?

Comments

Question 2: Remission and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land Policy

Council notes that an addition to the proposed Remission of Rates Policy, enables remissions to sites of significance to Māori, as described in the Combined District Plan, that are not on Māori Freehold Land.

a. Do you have any feedback on the draft Remission and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land Policy?

Comments

Question 3: Revenue and Finance Policy

3.1 Capital Value or Land Value?

Council is proposing a change from rating on capital value instead of land value. No system is ideal, however on balance, Council believes that capital value is fairer than land value. Considering the overall rating impacts across different groups of ratepayers and individual properties, Council considers capital value represents a better correlation to ability to pay than land value.

What is the difference between capital value and land value?

Capital value is the total value of the land and improvements, i.e. the land and any buildings on the land. Land value is the value of the bare land.

a. Do you agree with Council’s proposal to change the general rate to capital value from land value?

Yes / No

Comments

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3.2 Who should pay for footpaths?

Footpaths help our communities stay connected locally and support us to move around without relying on vehicles. Council is proposing a change to the way footpaths are funded. This change recognises that urban people benefit more from footpaths than those who live rurally.

a. Do you agree with Councils proposal that 90% of the costs of footpaths should be paid by urban ratepayers and the remaining 10% by the district as a whole?

Yes / No

Comments

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3.3 Should we replace our Rural Road Reserve with an Infrastructure Emergency Resilience Fund?

Over the past two years, we have had many significant weather events that have impacted our communities. Council is proposing changing the Rural Road Reserve to an Infrastructure Emergency Resilience Fund. This is an expansion of the current Rural Road Reserve to cover more than just rural roads and would be collected from everyone, not just rural ratepayers.

Currently, the Rural Road Reserve is funded by rural ratepayers to cover emergency road repairs and has been used up. Council proposes to replace it with the Infrastructure Emergency Resilience Fund that would be collected from all ratepayers through a targeted rate based on capital value and would be used to repair infrastructure in an emergency that was not funded by central government. This amount would be set through the long-term or annual planning process.

This change recognises that rural roads have benefits for the whole community through tourism, recreation, and farming. This means that all ratepayers would be contributing to this fund, which would more fairly reflect the contribution from the whole community.

a. Do you agree with Council's proposal to create an Infrastructure Emergency Resilience Fund through a targeted rate to all rates payers?

Yes / No

Comments

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3.4 Should dwellings used for short-stay accommodation e.g. Airbnb, Bookabach or similar, contribute to the economic development rate?

Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the South Wairarapa and has an impact on the wellbeing of our communities. To support tourism in the district, Council has an economic development targeted rate that is used to promote the region, its activities, and events. This is currently paid for by commercial and industrial properties.

Dwellings used for short-stay accommodation also benefit from the investment in economic development. Council is interested in hearing from the community if short-stay accommodation properties should therefore contribute to the economic development rate.

a. Do you believe that dwellings used for short-stay accommodation should be included in the economic development rate?

Yes / No

Comments

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b. How would you recommend that Council define and identify these dwellings, for example through self-identification or registration (fees may need to be collected to cover the administration costs)?

Comments

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3.5 Further Feedback

Council is interested to hear any other ideas you may have on the proposed rating model that may not have already been captured.

a. Do you have other further feedback on the draft Revenue and Finance Policy?

Comments

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