

TALKING POINTS FOR HEARING TO GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT 2021-2031

Southland Federated Farmers appreciates the opportunity to provide a brief summary of its submission to Council.

We acknowledge the myriad challenges Council is both facing, and seeking to address at present.

Federated Farmers summary of submission points:

- We do not agree with the 8.22 % rates increase in Year 1 of the LTP. More detailed work should have been undertaken to lessen the impact. The greater concern we have is that there is no clear or detailed logic between the current year's budget and a 3.22% increase and next year's 8.22% increase. Ratepayers deserve greater clarity rather than vague comments like " funding depreciation "
- We don't support the proposed policy of maximising the UAGC at 25%. The UAGC provides for an equitable mechanism for all ratepayers to contribute to the general and public good components of council. It is unfair to provide for UAGC at less than the maximum of 30% set out in the Local Government Act, and means greater cost contribution falls on a smaller number of people.
- We do support Council undertaking a review of its rating system. However we note that Council needs to ensure that principles of fairness and equity are included in any review. We do not support a simple one rating area without the maximisation of the UAGC, targeted rates where applicable and the ability for clear and effective rating differentials to be applied.
- The Special Rural Fund. We are concerned that the option provided by council has not provided enough background information on the current process around the fund for effective consultation. We would like a dedicated process to occur where the rural community can come to a meaningful conclusion on the best use of this fund.

Other issues

- We support Council requiring property owners to undertake and fund their own works for the separation of stormwater and wastewater pipes on their own property.

- We support maintaining the current dog registration fee system
- We would like to ensure that Council is effective in its expenditure on rural roads and recognises the important contribution they provide to community wellbeing. We wish to see 100% of projects on rural roads that are budgeted for completed in each year of the LTP

If Council has any questions it would like to put to Federated Farmers, we are happy to respond within a prompt turnaround.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.