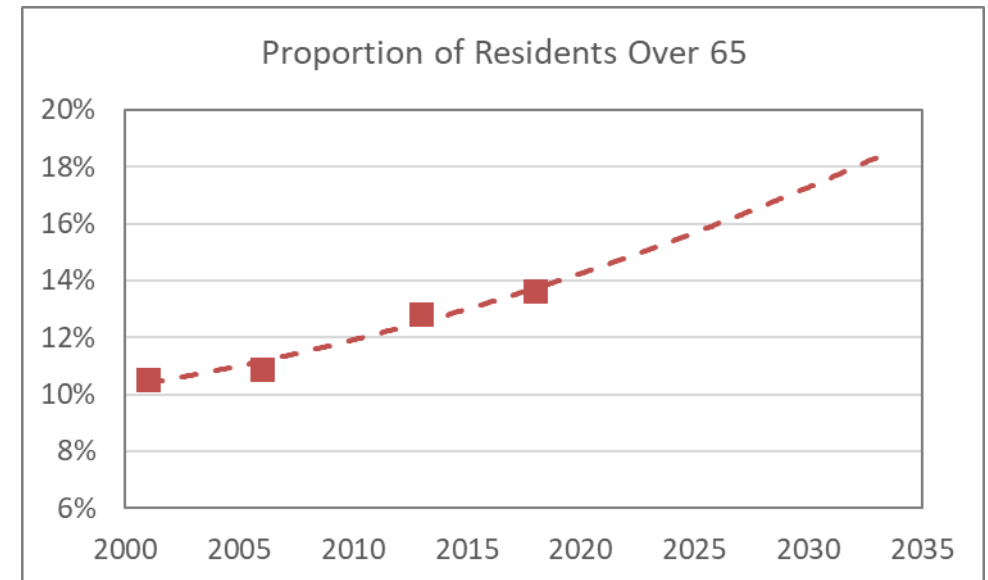
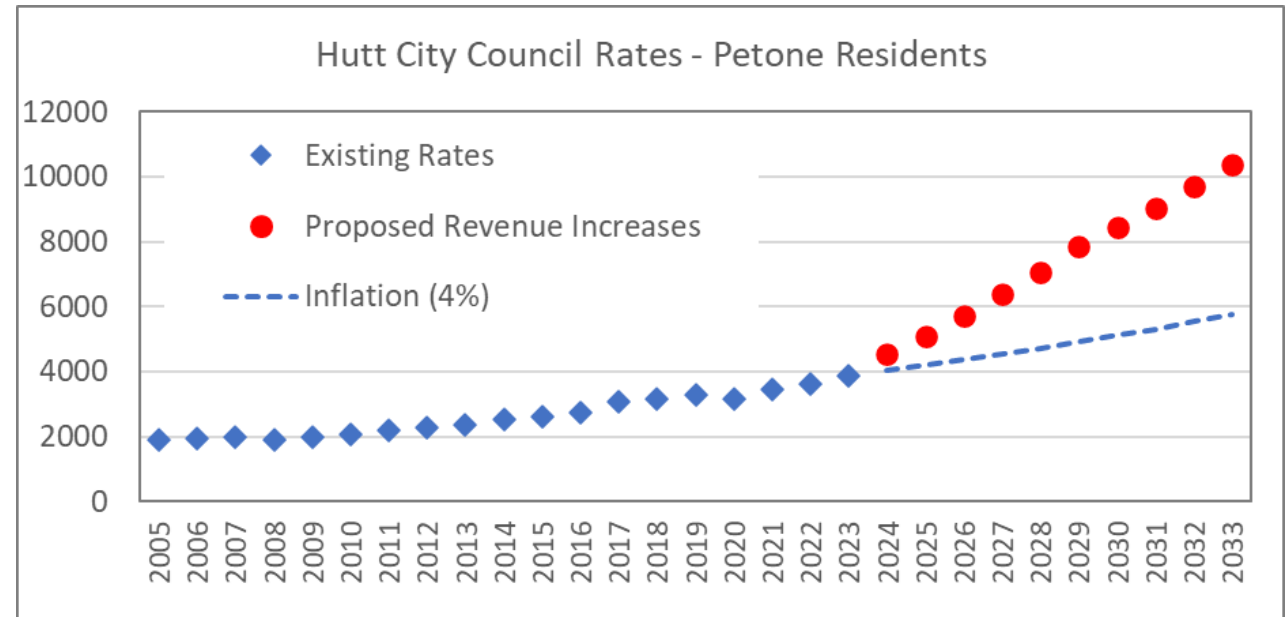
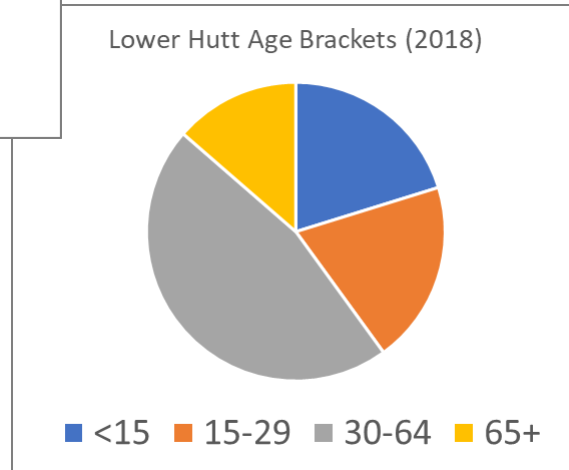
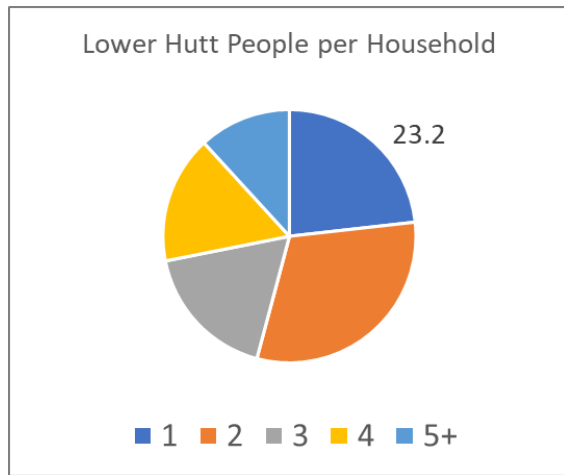


Submission: Laura Skilton

Unsustainable Rates Increases



- Rates increases far exceeds inflation
- 23% of households have only 1 occupant
- Portion of over 65 is increasing

Organic Collection Cost will be an Extra

Rate	2023-24 Rates	2024-25 proposed Rates	Alternative Rates
Refuse 80 litre – per SUIP*	\$115	\$128	\$100
Refuse 120 litre – per SUIP*	\$175	\$192	\$180
Refuse 240 litre – per SUIP*	\$350	\$384	\$450
Recycling – per SUIP*	\$128	\$130	\$100
Green waste – per SUIP* for those that opt-in to the service	\$105	\$115	Optional

- **No compulsory additional waste collection cost**
- Annual cost per litre of wheelie bin = \$1.60
- To reduce waste at landfill, the cost per litre should increase for larger bins
- High waste users should subsidise low waste and recycling

No to Rates Relief for Low Income

- Lower valued houses already pay lower rates
- Government already gives \$750/year to lower income
- Lower incomes also receive
 - child subsidies
 - Power subsidies in winter
- People with no cars still contribute 18% of their rates to roads
- No one can afford the higher proposed rates

Government Policy Statement on Transport

The Minister expects NZTA to ensure that RCAs are following the Ministerial expectations in GPS 2024

The NZTA has a significant role to play in improving the performance and quality of our infrastructure. To deliver on this it will need to have a tight focus on its core statutory roles.

The NZTA will be required to find efficiencies in the delivery of its services.

Work on programs which are not aligned with NZTA's core purposes or with the GPS should be discontinued.

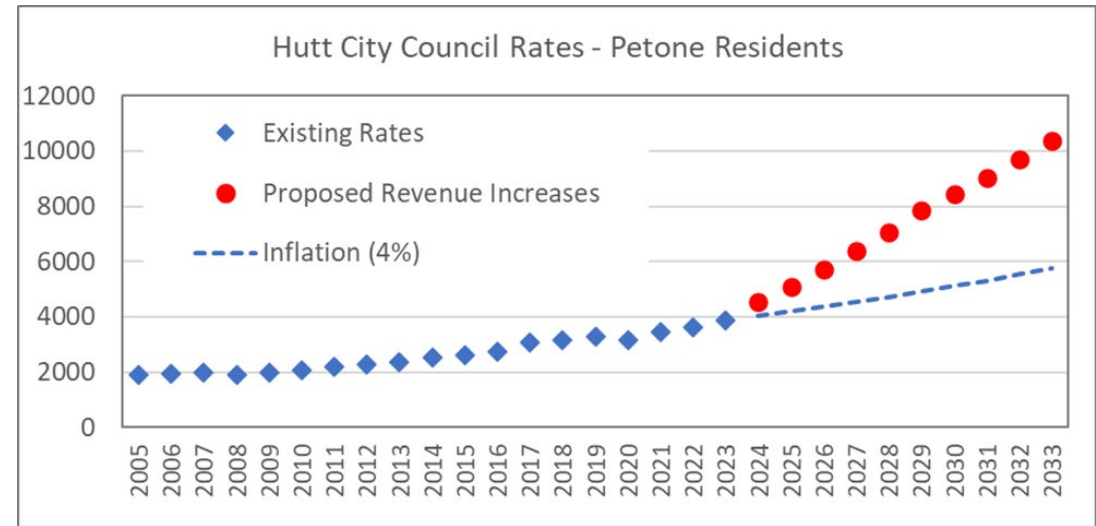
Focusing on providing services that meet the needs and expectations of users.

Keeping costs under control and identifying savings that can be reinvested back into maintaining or improving the network.

The NZTA needs to maintain a tight control on project scope and cost. Project specifications should take a "no frills" approach, focusing on delivery of the primary transport objectives that most cost-effectively deliver on the strategic priorities in this GPS.

This is not the way to run a business

- Any other business could not just keep increasing fees



- Council needs to better manage income and expenditure
- Learn to say “no”
- Stick to core requirements
- No frills, no “nice to haves”

- Tough decisions need to be made – can you make them?
- You can't spend money you don't have

This is not the way to run a business

Councils are limited in the ways they can generate revenue to cover their costs. Rates are our main source of revenue. Water services (38%) and transport (18%) make up more than half of our operating spend. Although savings were applied to budgets through previous plans, high costs and inflation are being identified across all our activities, which are outstripping savings made.

- But they are not limited in how they spend money ... stop spending it!

This is not the way to run a business

We've gone through the budget line-by-line to find savings, revenue opportunities and propose spending cuts which have informed the proposals included in the draft plan. These equate to \$35M over the next 10 years and these have an ongoing effect to reduce the rating impact on ratepayers.

- These savings are not enough
- A business would become bankrupt if they charged 250% more to their customers over a 10 year period

Birmingham City Council - Bankrupt

- Unable to balance its yearly budget
- Borrowed too much, can not repay
- Spending more than residents could afford

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has accused Birmingham City Council of huge mismanagement of its finances, after it declared itself essentially bankrupt.

'Need a fundamental overhaul'

"Those are the areas that we're having to cut today because of [the] broken care system that a number of prime ministers have said that they will fix.

a fundamental overhaul so... areas with higher levels of deprivation, receive a reasonable amount of money from the government.

Birmingham City Council has asked the government for permission to increase council tax by up to 10% each year for two financial years. Permission is granted it would mean a total potential 21% overall increase for April 2025.

'Isn't sustainable'

The Conservative council opposition were critical of the figures and said they would get worse in the near future.

Opposition leader Robert Alden said: "Ultimately all the debt the Labour council are incurring will need to be repaid – and of course, by selling off assets, some of which currently produce an income, that could land residents with footing an extra bill."

"This whole situation quite frankly, isn't sustainable."

The council is due to set its budget next month.

The BBC recently revealed the council had asked the government to raise council tax by up to 10% each year for the next two years.

The council has since ceased all non-essential spending, issuing in September a Section 114 notice - formal admission it could no longer balance its books and was effectively bankrupt.

Transport

- Any project that does not receive FAR subsidy needs to be cancelled
- Cross Valley Connections is a RONS – no HCC money for this
- No changes to speed limits
- No streets for people
- No cycle projects
- No Local Area Traffic Management
- Only renewals and maintenance

Capital projects		
Transport	2023/2024	2024/2025
Project Description	Forecast \$000	Draft \$000
Capital projects to meet additional demand		
Cross Valley Connections - Growth	65	46
Cycling Micro-mobility Programme Growth	-	46
Minor Safety Works Growth	1	1
Traffic Safety Improvements Growth	21	21
Local Area Traffic Management Growth	2	2
Pedestrian Crossing New Growth	1	1
Road Network Improvements - Growth	188	188
Subdivisions Road Improvements	-	3,500
Capital projects to replace existing assets		
Area Wide Pavement Treatment	3,363	7,568
Pavement Surfacing	4,216	2,698
Footpath Resurfacing And Replacement	686	446
Minor Road And Footpath Construction	78	81
Road Reconstruction	316	327
Wainuiomata Hill Rd Safety Seal	1,341	753
Traffic Signal Replacement	179	185
Minor Safety Works	53	54
Pedestrian Crossing Renewal	33	34
Streetlight Lantern Replacement Programme	185	256
Streetlight Standard Replacement	232	321
Carpark Resurfacing	54	56
Bridge Renewals - Norton Park Ave / Nelson Cres	-	-
Estuary Bridge Corrosion Protection	-	-
Pay & Display Extension	-	140
Transport Resilience Projects	-	1,313
Slip Remediation	3,460	-
Capital projects to improve level of service		
Cross Valley Connections	1,165	84
Reconstruction Improvements	84	84
Broadband Ducting	22	22
Land Purchase For Roads	11	11
Substandard Rds Upgrade	583	300
Cycling Micromobility Programme	10,108	10,108
Tupua Horo Nuku - Eastern Bays	18,800	18,800
Traffic Safety Improvements	1,828	1,828
Local Area Traffic Management	103	103
Pedestrian Crossings - New	27	27
LED Streetlighting	-	27
School Speed Zone Programme	63	63
Road Network Improvements	700	700
Bridge Seismic Strengthening Cuba St. Overbridge	1,338	1,338
Network Resilience - Eastern Hutt Road	3,599	3,599
Streets for people Program- Micromobility	1,584	1,584
Wainuiomata Coast Road Rehabilitation	1,500	1,500
Transport Speed Review	-	1,000
	55,988	68,502

City Development

- Residents should not be subsidising business growth
- Targeted rate for businesses to cover this
- **No to Riverlink**
 - No pedestrian bridge
 - No streetscape
 - No riverbank park/promenade
 - No “revitalisation”

Capital projects		
City Development	2023/2024	2024/2025
Project Description	Forecast \$000	Draft \$000
Capital projects to meet additional demand		
Urban Growth Strategy Improvements	1,560	1,560
Wainuiomata Town Centre reserve development	500	500
Capital projects to replace existing assets		
Civic Events Centre Renewal	-	-
Capital projects to improve level of service		
Petone 2040	565	565
Naenae Town Centre Improvements	3,038	3,038
Wainuiomata Queen Street Development	1,085	1,085
RiverLink - Strategic Property Purchases	450	450
RiverLink - Streetscapes	5,860	5,860
RiverLink - Replacement riverbank car park	380	380
RiverLink - Intersections	2,890	2,890
RiverLink - Riverbank park	4,580	4,580
RiverLink - Bridge	7,000	7,000
	27,907	34,151

Community Partnering and Support

- Renewal costs must come from user charges
- No new furniture
- No improvements until rates reduce

Capital projects		
Community Partnering & Support	2023/2024	2024/2025
Project Description	Forecast	Draft
	\$000	\$000
Capital projects to replace existing assets		
Community Halls External and Internal Renewal	105	-
Belmont Memorial Hall Renewal	-	0
Eastbourne Hall Renewal	-	18
Epuni Hall Renewal	-	34
Wainuiomata Memorial Hall Renewal	-	1
Maungaraki Hall Renewal	-	55
Walter Nash Centre Renewal	242	3
Stokes Valley Hub Renewal	98	1
Wainuiomata Hub Renewal	6	15
Community Hubs - Furniture & Equipment Replacements	5	5
CCTV Replacement	90	33
Community Houses Building Renewal	53	72
Moera Community Hall Renewal	-	74
Treadwell Community Hall Renewal	-	33
Hardwick-Smith Lounge Renewal	-	137
Hutt Art Society Renewal	-	5
Capital projects to improve level of service		
Community Halls Improvements	105	5
Walter Nash Centre Equipment and Fitout	95	5
Walter Nash/Taita Centre Furniture	53	5
Community Hubs - Building Improvements	5	5
Decarbonisation Energy Conversion	-	5
Community Panel Projects	336	5
Community Houses	-	-
	1,192	490

Open Spaces, Parks and Reserves

- Sportsgrounds should be 100% paid by users
 - Changing rooms
 - Renewals
 - Tracks
 - Cemetery upgrades
- No Petone Grandstand
- Re open Petone Wharf, as it is, with warning notice
- No new development until rates reduce
- **Minimum maintenance only**

Capital projects		
Open Spaces, Parks & Reserves	2023/2024	2024/2025
Project Description	Forecast	Draft
	\$000	\$000
Capital projects to meet additional demand		
Reserve Developments	-	1,275
Bell Park Development	500	500
Black Creek reserve development	270	270
Tree Planting City Wide	30	30
High Street Pomare reserve development	200	200
Delaney Park	400	-
Capital projects to replace existing assets		
Seats & Bins	63	63
Parks Buildings Capital Renewals	2,105	1,600
Avalon Park Pavilion Renewal	95	95
Parks Hard Surfaces Renewal	263	263
Sportsground Buildings Renewal	232	232
Playgrounds	216	216
Track Renewal	207	100
Parks Signage & Interpretation	32	32
Korohiwa Bus Barn Renewal	-	1
Hutt Rec Artificial Turf Renewal	-	1
Hutt Rec Sand Carpet Renewal	-	1
Petone Grandstand Renewal	-	150
Other Renewals Projects	20	20
Naenae Bowls Renewal	-	1
Ricoh Sports Centre Renewal	-	1
Parks & Reserves Drainage Renewals	-	1
Capital projects to improve level of service		
Parks & Gardens Protection Bollards	5	1
Avalon Park Development	-	1
Williams Park Improvements	447	447
Car Park Development	-	1
Wainuiomata Garden Of Remembrance	225	225
Jubilee Park Drainage	-	1
Meadowbank Reserve Development Belmont	225	225
New Tracks & Track Upgrades	-	1
Percy Reserve SH2 Development	-	1
Valley Floor Review Implementation	640	640
Mountain Bike Park	211	211
Minoh Friendship House Improvements	-	1
Toilets Upgrade	-	1
Naenae Park Changing Rooms	-	1
Sportsville Artificial Playing Surface	-	1
Memorial Park Synthetic Turf & Changing Rooms	-	1
New Cemetery Development, Akatarawa Road	895	1,275
Decarbonisation Energy Conversion (Parks)	-	1
Taita Cemetery Improvements	-	1
Percy Scenic Reserve Boardwalk	-	1
Wainuiomata Garden of Remembrance Improvement	-	1
Parks & Reserve Drainage Improvements	-	1
Parks & Reserves Security Improvements	-	1
	7,284	13,479

Connectivity, Creativity, Learning and Recreation

- These are “nice to have” but **not essential**
- Upgrades to be paid by users of the facilities
 - Swimming pools
 - Fitness centres
 - Library stock replacement
- Relocate Petone Historic data and keep library

Capital projects		
Connectivity, Creativity, Learning, & Recreation	2023/2024	2024/2025
Project Description	Forecast \$000	Draft \$000
Capital projects to replace existing assets		
Dowse Carpets and Soft Furnishings Gallery and Office	-	10
Dowse Office Furniture and Equipment	42	2
Dowse Museum Renewal	-	2
Dowse Gallery Lighting	21	4
Petone Settlers Museum Building & Plant Renewal	158	4
Other Pool Projects	440	290
Huia Pool Fitness Suite Equipment Replacement	-	2
Stokes Valley Pool Roof Replacement	679	-
Furniture and Equipment Replacement Programme Libraries	116	10
Replace Library Shelving	53	120
Libraries Stock Replacement	711	10
Libraries Interior and Exterior Renewal	84	-
Huia Pool Boiler Replacement, Hydro/LTS Pool	-	2
Petone Settlers Museum Exhibition Furniture and Fittings	-	-
Little Theatre Renewal	-	28
Petone Library Renewal	-	-
Moera Library Renewal	1,214	22
Eastbourne Pool Renewals	-	10
Stokes Valley Pool Renewals	-	43
Naenae Pool Renewals	-	-
Naenae Library Renewal	-	1
Wainuiomata Library Renewal	-	24
Capital projects to improve level of service		
Dowse Collection Storage Upgrade	213	2
Dowse New Artworks	47	34
Dowse Heat Pump	890	-
Little Theatre Improvements	-	-
Little Theatre Sound and Lighting Improvements	-	-
McKenzie Pool Renewals	-	50
Pools Other Improvement Projects	-	136
Naenae Pool & Fitness Rebuild	28,949	271
RFID Robotic Returns Sorter	165	20
Libraries Buildings Improvements	47	50
Civic Events Centre Improvements	212	50
Eastbourne Library/Community Hub Building Improvements	-	28
Naenae Fitness Suite Equipment Purchase	158	-
Petone Settlers Museum New Lighting and Furnishings	-	2
Wainuiomata Pool Renewals	-	8
Self Scanning Machines Purchase	-	-
Stokes Valley Pool Heat Pump	-	-
Decarbonisation projects	248	90
War Memorial Library Renewal	-	1
	34,447	5,117

Sustainability and Resilience

Operating projects		
<u>Sustainability & Resilience</u>	<u>2023/2024</u>	<u>2024/2025</u>
<u>Project</u>	<u>Forecast</u>	<u>Draft Budget</u>
<u>Description</u>	<u>\$000</u>	<u>\$000</u>
Waste Minimisation Projects	1,140	700

- This is a nice to have, but **residents do not care about climate change**
 - Rubbish in our streets
 - Increased use of cars
 - Wasting water

Corporate Services

- Why Administration building renewal?
- Why pavilion improvements?
 - These were already upgraded
- Already defibrillators everywhere
- Vehicle purchase seems high
- Is “Go digital” needed at \$6.5m?
- Can we reduce staff?

Capital projects		
Corporate Services	2023/2024	2024/2025
Project Description	Forecast \$000	Draft \$000
Capital projects to replace existing assets		
Pavilion Renewal	-	33
Civic Administration Building Renewal	11	7
System Renewal	-	150
Hardware – IT Infrastructure	500	532
Contingent Facilities Management Fund	1,538	1,088
Defibrillators	43	11
Petone Clock Tower Renewal	-	-
Capital projects to improve level of service		
Other (IT) Projects	105	57
System Upgrades	74	-
Facilities Seismic Strengthening	1,713	-
Vehicle Purchase	726	828
Internet Online Services	-	200
The Pavilion Improvements	257	11
	4,967	2,877

Operating projects		
Corporate Services	2023/2024	2024/2025
Project Description	Forecast \$000	Draft Budget \$000
Go Digital Program	3,972	63
Total	3,972	4,463

Parking meters in Jackson Street



Ratepayers 'carry the burden' of cost

The opening line in a December story about rate rises should read "ratepayers face increase" not residents because there is a big difference between residents and ratepayers. Ratepayers are the ones who carry the burden. And in most cases we are retirees who have worked 50 years without handouts and now are asset rich and money poor with no income.

Fawltly thinking
It's hard to rank the number of stuff-ups our Fawltly Towers council makes: the ongoing saga, the town hall and library streetlights that's not he of p

RATE RISES
I agree with Margaret Stevenson-Wright about the Māori ward, indicating that the council seem no longer to believe carrying out the wishes of the majority ratepayers.

I am also concerned about suggesting ratepayers may be in for a rates rise in this in spite of the council chief executive's intention to slash service levels so on.

Since 2019, my rates have increased about \$300 per year, but a 12% increase will double that. I understand that councils have many urgent issues but they must

A perilous state
So RiverLink is too expensive. Good heavens, who would have thought? It is amazing to me that such a ridiculously grand project ever got past the discussion stage at council. Perhaps the mayo could tell us how many tens of millions ratepayer dollars have so far been wasted on this lunacy? RiverLink is unaffordable in any form. It is a dead duck and costs needs to bury it now and save money.

A cunning plan?
Mike Jarvis is not the first concerned about the \$30 of the stretch of reclaim Wellington to Petone & future cycleway (Letter that will

I am a long-time ratepayer of Porirua and freely admit to my own pleasure of seeing the greenery of parks and garden areas in the Porirua region being well maintained. However, when I see what appears to be ratepayers' money, recklessly wasted on parks that are rarely used, such as two in the Papakowhai area, I can't help being very angry. Some time back, I did some work done on the Moray Park off Eskdale Rd. A week later, an adult with a pushchair entered its park. Since then it has come up for discussion.

Bit of a stink
I note that Nicholas Boyack, in his piece *Wellington approves extra \$8.3m for leak repairs* (April 19) states that the main benefactor is the Taranaki St main

Surely no council could be that brainless?

There was an article about Hutt City Council's proposed 10-year plan and how they hope to spend \$2.4 billion over that time on water infrastructure. The story said the rates increases could be 16% every year for the next decade. Surely this is just crazy reporting? If the council thought they could do that, there would be no one left living here in Hutt.

Waste of money
I heard a 21-gun salute at Government House recently. I was intrigued to find out why this was being conducted. After some research I discovered that it was a welcome to the Governor-General of Australia, David Hurley. As it happens he is due to retire on 1st July.

Broken rates model
It is well publicised that Upper Hutt is proposing a major increase in rates, averaging 9.22% over the next 10 years. What is not mentioned is that the material is cumulative. It's \$3600 a year on a \$40,000 property. By 2030, it will be \$40,000 a year.

Eye-watering costs
The projected rate forecast outlined on the front page of *The Post* is certainly eye-watering (April 27). Rates trebling in the next six years will place a heavy load on family budgets, not to mention the business.

Wrong priorities
Not a lot of positive feedback for the tripartite government in the letters to the editor or written articles, it seems to be a regular theme out there. The letter about the Wellington tunnel (April 20) is very the way government put a tunnel in the head of a mule.

Redress the imbalance
Why are we being asked to pay more local body rates? And they have been rising more than cost of living increases over the last 10 years. Councils have been asked by the government to take on more responsibilities without recompense or subsidy by the government, and it doesn't matter which political party is in power. Isn't it the government's responsibility to fund to each steppe council? You report (May 2) that the council states the Rating Act prevents it from revealing details about ratepayers. In fact, the Act (section 226) requires the council to disclose the details of the Rating Act to ratepayers.

Essentials first, please
Again, headlines in the papers about it being time to revamp Welly's "must do" list, and other such issues. Recently, when driving to Eastbourne I had to admire the beautiful cycleway. Later when driving into Wellington I saw the huge development for another cycleway. Both of these developments come at a huge cost and are a great luxury. In the meantime, water mains are bursting, wrecking roads; land slips are causing more damage.

Costly fixes
Re: \$1.2 million for one new bus shelter! The council's \$1.2m bus stops costing more than \$1.2m before they were even built.

PAYING FOR POTHOLES

...ing to Matthew O'Byrne's letter... will agree with

Down-sizing the way to go
It seems a mega-tunnel is being considered for Wellington. Tunnels and their new infrastructure are probably cancelled on price. Tunnels are probably not a good idea for a city like Wellington. So if congestion is the problem, let's remove the congestion, not build a tunnel to the empty air.

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Costly fixes
Re: \$1.2 million for one new bus shelter! The council's \$1.2m bus stops costing more than \$1.2m before they were even built.

No more ridiculously expensive rate increases. Awesome. And lastly, how much better off would the rate payers of both Lower Hutt and Wellington be, if every councillor was independent?

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RiverLink, unaffordable!