

# #41 Submission form



This form can also be completed online at [www.mackenzie.govt.nz](http://www.mackenzie.govt.nz)

## YOUR CONTACT DETAILS (these must be provided for us to consider your submission)

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## HEARINGS (submission hearings will take place on 3 May 2018 in the Council Chambers in Fairlie and on 4 May 2018 at the Events Centre Community Lounge in Twizel.)

Do you wish to present your submission to Council in person?

Yes

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No

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Fairlie 3 May or Twizel 4 May (please circle)

Do you wish to present your submission to Council by telephone conference call on 3 May?

Yes

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No

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If you answered 'yes', the hearings will start at 9am on 3 and 4 May. You will be allocated 10 minutes to speak. You don't need to read out your written submission as councillors will have read it prior to the hearing. If you plan to present your submission by phone, we will make every reasonable effort to contact you at the number/s you have provided. If you're unable to speak due to unavailability or technical issues, we may not be able to allocate you another time.

Would you prefer to present your submission in the morning or afternoon?

Morning

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Afternoon

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Note: We will do our best to give people their preferred time to present, but we can't guarantee everyone will get their preferred time.

## SUBMISSION TO THE MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S LONG TERM PLAN (LTP)

When I first learned of the council's recommendation to increase rates by 8% (four times the current rate of inflation), to enter a period of borrowing and considerable debt, my reaction was very negative. Historically the policy of no debt and medium rate rises had served the district well.

I have studied the consultation document and supporting papers and I am pleased to say I generally support the thrust of council's recommendations.

There is no doubt the district is enjoying unprecedented growth driven not only by tourism, but by new and enterprising businesses, alongside farming which with irrigation and new methods and technology continues to be the major contributor.

Borrowing: With borrowing comes added responsibility and discipline, although there are total limits (% of rates etc.), each project must be scrutinised for justification and cost. It is fortunate that interest rates are very low, but may not be that same in 10 years.

Roading: It is essential that roads be well maintained and improved. I support option one as it gives flexibility and a reasonable amount of discretionary capital with the discipline of a 300K cap. This should encourage the selection of projects that are really justified. Council must continue to gather information and statistics re. traffic flows, tourist numbers, produce produced, and tonnages of freight in and out of the district. Substantial evidence must be provided to argue the case for increasing the N.Z.T.A's 51% contribution. There must be some way found to "snip the ticket" of the tourist. If Government will not come to the party it should give council the ability to make its own decisions.

Tourism: Tourism is a two edged sword and there is no doubt there are large benefits, but the ongoing cost to the ratepayer is an unreasonable burden. Council has been lobbying Government for a border levy or tax, but I doubt whether that will happen. So Council must take the initiative to look to where they can levy the tourist and raise revenue. They should not feel embarrassed or hesitant. Co-funding is helpful but ratepayers are wary about ongoing costs of projects like the cycleway.

I strongly support the six aspirational outcomes of the township and community. Essential services such as water, waste-water and storm-water must be maintained and improved where appropriate. Amenity improvements are desirable but there must be a clear need and confidence that the expenditure will benefit the residents. It is important that the general ambience and tidiness of the township are maintained. The residents can be part of this.

Legislation: We are often told of the huge and unreasonable demands this imposes on councils. I accept this but believe that there is a danger of interpreting it in the most conservative way, which can result in a restrictive outcome. There must be a balance, but perhaps at times take some risks.

The challenges ahead for Council are significant and will require effort, financial discipline, innovation and enterprise. A key to success will be the ability of the Mayor and Council to show strong united leadership in setting policy and working with the Chief Executive with openness and trust. It will be also very important the way you communicate your actions to the ratepayers in a way that they understand and hopefully will support.

This LTP signals a fresh approach by council and it could be a template for other small councils to realise smaller councils can be very successful and lead the way. It is in your hands.

I wish you well. Bruce Anderson.