

Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council

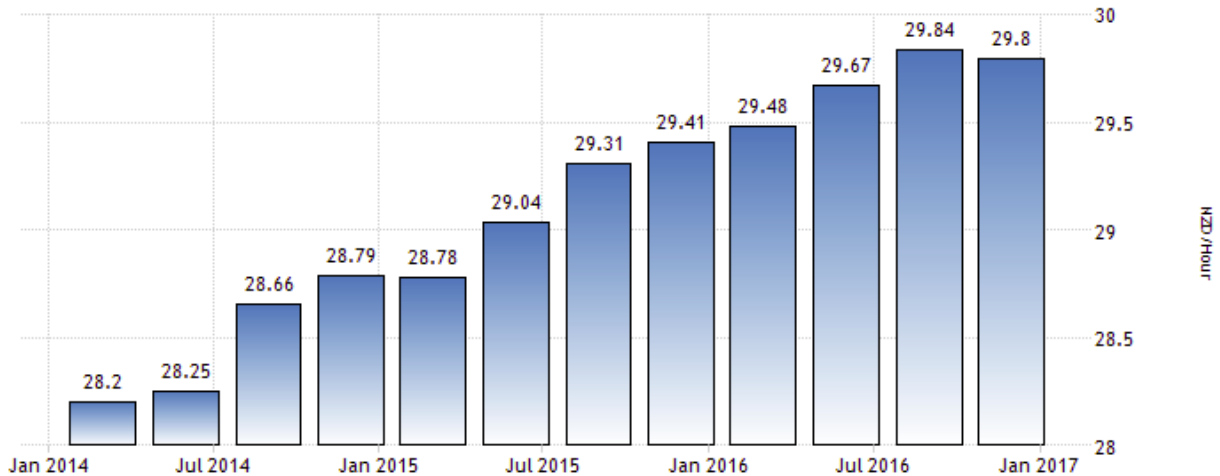
A Voice For Our Community

INFORM - ADVOCATE - EMPOWER

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council is concerned that the average 5.9% increase in rates for this year exceeds the 5.5% indicated in the Long Term Plan 2015-35. It accepts the modest proposals to reduce services outlined in the FutureKāpiti consultation document, and is generally supportive of the proposed changes for this third year of the Long Term Plan, while supporting Kāpiti Grey Power's submission on depreciation'

However we are not grasping the nettle. The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council understands that the Kāpiti Coast District Council has little room to maneuver on the vexed and pivotal issue of rates rises, however the basic concern of affordability remains, and is getting more concerning. We are looking at a rate increase of 5.9% this year, 4.3% last year, up to 8.5% the year before, 6.9% the year before that - over 20% in four years.

NEW ZEALAND AVERAGE HOURLY WAGES



SOURCE: WWW.TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | STATISTICS NEW ZEALAND

In contrast, the income of your ratepayers has been constrained in that time, with very modest wage growth as reported by Statistics New Zealand - just 5%.

Of particular concern to the Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council is that many of your ratepayers are on fixed incomes with the rate for couples being based on 66% of the average wage after tax. The affordability gap is increasing and becoming more concerning, and the Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council urges the KCDC to more seriously explore the other sources of funding suggested in its submission last year.

Town Centres

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council remains uncomfortable about the Town Centres project, while understanding the motivation of retaining vital and enjoyable village hubs. As the first stage of the expressway is now in place the Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council asks if there been an economic evaluation of the impact of the expressway and its possible implications for the Town Centres project, and if so what was the outcome? If there has not been an an economic evaluation, why not?

These Town Centres must include adaptations to reflect the Kapiti Coast demographic, including adequate disability parking - not just the minimum as set by national guidelines, but adequate to reflect the age and disability profile of this area. In addition the Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council advocates having some designated “Elderly Preferred” parking in a similar fashion to Porirua.

Economic Development

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council also asks if there has been an economic evaluation of the investment made in the Kāpiti Economic Development Strategy 2015-2018 as we are now well into the period that strategy covers. The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council asks what benefits have resulted, and do they justify an extra \$95,000 investment?

Housing

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council supports the mayor's initiative of setting up a Housing Taskforce, which will be reporting to the Mayor shortly, and believes that the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity provides the impetus to investigate alternative ways of managing the KCDC housing stock. The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council does support the KCDC proposed approach to the National Policy Statement, and urges the KCDC to not ignore the deteriorating housing situation that the Housing Taskforce is likely to outline. The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council supports Kāpiti Grey Power's submission on strategic land purchase.

Parks

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council notes and supports the proposed enhancements of Haruatai Park, and submits that any upgrades include the required “Disabled Persons” adjustments – level entry, disability toilets with door handles at the appropriate height and that open easily. Disability designated car parking will be necessary.

However the Older Persons' Council asks why once again there is no proposal to including in playgrounds exercise equipment suitable for use by senior citizens. This would enhance intergenerational opportunities, and mean that grand parenting duties could produce well-being benefits for all generations. The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council supports a well developed proposal by Maurice Broome for Seniors' Parks and urges the KCDC to support the proposal when it is submitted.

Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council does support the aspirations of this draft waste minimisation plan. It follows the work of this council in working to a more sustainable and affordable future. Some older people have an issue with larger items that have reached the end of their owners financial ability to maintain them, and there would be benefits if provision could be made for the collection and recycling of such waste, particularly e-waste.