

From: Ryan and Jeni Duffy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 May 2024 12:45 pm
To: haveyoursay
Subject: Roding rates for forestry

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Dear madam / sir,

NAME: Ryan Duffy

ORGANISATION: Te Ruru Family Trust

PHONE: [REDACTED]

EMAIL: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] Kerikeri. 0295

INTEREST: Ownership of two units in the Greenplan Stockyards planting.

I have just been advised of your desire to implement the proposed Differentiated District Roding Rate. I am very much in favour of user pays, and don't believe any sector of the road transport economy should be subsidised. My understanding is that it is the heavy trucks that are responsible for the damage to the surface of our roads, and that this is cumulative. Obviously there is intensive use of a road when a forestry block is harvested, but this surely must be considered in the context of the total time from the planting of the trees, to the harvest. A loaded logging truck is no more destructive to a road surface than a milk tanker and trailer, or any other loaded truck. During the 25 - 30 years that a forestry block is growing there is virtually no trucking activity. A dairy farm will have a large truck unit pulling in and out once a day, say 250 times per year, for 25 years. This is 6,250 milk truck visits while the trees are growing in a forest and there are virtually no truck visits. Obviously the forestry impact happens all at once and is therefore highly visible, however it surely needs to be considered in a 25 year context as rates have been paid but the roads have not been used for those 25 years. I don't know what the roding rate for other users of heavy transport units, such as farmers, is, but the rate charged should be equitable across all users over relevant time frames. The fairest way to achieve this would likely be through the Road User Charge tax, but this is a nationwide system and an individual council needs another mechanism to adjust for local requirements. If you wish to use a property rate to fund roding costs then this should be applied to all users of heavy transport equally, otherwise it is no more than a bias against the forestry sector.

I completely support any measure that will reduce the amount of exotic forest development - which I see as having a hugely negative impact on our backcountry areas in many different ways, but the application of this rate cost needs to be fair and equitable across all the industry sectors that use heavy transport, not simply a punitive 'tax' to penalise and punish a single sector that the Waitomo Council wish to discourage in their region. I have no problem paying any charge that can be shown to be fair and equitable across all contributors/users.

Yours sincerely

Ryan Duffy
For: Te Ruru Family Trust