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Requirement

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

No

The future of Waitomo District Landfill

I agree with Option 1 - Continued disposal of waste and expansion of the landfill

My comments on the Landfill

I do not support Option 2 – Waste disposal outside the district – as the preferred approach. While I understand the Council’s concern about falling waste volumes, particularly from commercial and out-of-district sources, I find it short-sighted to suggest that we must now abandon our own landfill in favour of outsourcing waste disposal. These challenges have been developing over time and should not be framed as a sudden crisis. I am also disappointed in what appears to be a shift toward treating essential public services as opportunities for revenue generation. Waste management is a core community service, not a profit-making venture. We should not be trying to make money off our own ratepayers by outsourcing waste handling to private, and potentially overseas-owned, operators who will charge whatever margins they see fit. While reduced landfill volumes present financial pressures, they should also be seen as a sign of environmental progress. Rather than penalising this improvement, Council should encourage further sorting and resource recovery at the weighbridge. These initiatives deserve investment and recognition – not rejection based on cost concerns. Council’s suggestion that we cannot have both a local landfill and a resource recovery centre is concerning. There is no reason we cannot pursue both in tandem. Local control over waste operations allows us to ensure accountability, environmental standards, and cost stability. Another serious concern is the increase in illegal dumping within the district – particularly around the Viaduct area, which is upstream of the town’s water supply intake. Reducing local access to waste facilities or increasing costs may only worsen this problem, creating environmental and public health risks that outweigh any perceived financial savings. The current consultation appears to present only limited and one-sided cost information. Ratepayers deserve a fair and transparent evaluation of both options, including long-term implications for pricing, infrastructure, emissions, and local employment. For instance, shifting to out-of-district disposal will increase truck traffic and infrastructure wear – costs that are not always visible in gate fees

but will certainly impact our community. I urge Council to reconsider its preference for Option 2 and to give full consideration to a locally managed, sustainable approach that combines landfill expansion with improved resource recovery. A balanced solution is possible – one that supports environmental goals without sacrificing local autonomy or transparency.

The future of the Council Owned seawall at Mōkau

Option A - Rate Option 2 : Renew the Mōkau seawall with General Rate /UAGC District Wide

My comments on the Mōkau Seawall

Reduce the District Wide Benefit Rate for water and wastewater

Option 2: Status quo - Continue to charge the District Wide Benefit Rates

My comments on reducing the District Wide Benefit Rates for water and wastewater

If the preferred option goes thru do septic tank owners still get a discount for disposal at wastewater plant?

Do you agree with our amendments to the Rates Remission Policy?

Feedback

Do you agree with our amendments to the Revenue and Financing Policy?

Any feedback?

Would you like to make any further comments?

The council is raising pensioner housing by \$40 a week, asking those already doing it tough to somehow find an extra \$5 just to keep a roof over their heads. It's hard to watch, and even harder to justify. At the same time, council services are being cut. The library is no longer open on Saturdays, the pool closed a month earlier than usual – services that matter to families, kids, and older residents alike. These aren't just "nice-to-haves" – they're essential parts of a strong, connected community. We're told the cuts are to save money, but the savings aren't clear, and the community is the one paying the price. Now there's talk of closing the dump and privatising water – handing off essential core services to private hands. If we're truly in a time of financial strain, then that responsibility should be shared fairly. It's time to take a hard look at

executive salaries and overhead before cutting services that directly impact people's daily lives. The basics — housing, water, waste, libraries, pools — these are not luxuries. They are the foundation of a livable, fair community.

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