



Compiled Date	02/08/2024
File Number	24.25.12

LGOIMA

When releasing responses to previous LGOIMA requests, names and contact details of individual requestors will be withheld to protect their privacy.

Information requested by the media, lobby groups, public sector organisations and MPs will always be published, while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

Request from:	Private Individual
Information requested:	Rating information for South Westland
Response by:	Scott Baxendale, Acting Chief Executive

02 August 2024

Private Individual

Via Email:

Dear Private Individual

Official information request for rating information

I refer to your official information request dated 22 July 2024 for rating information.

You have asked for the following information:

We appreciate the adoption of the request to continue to strike the rate over our local rating base to \$35,500 per community. We have not had feedback/had conversation to date on any of the other points raised in the submission.

- 1. The main ones being the request for three years confirmed funding and the change of the mechanism for raising the rate over the rating units.**

This did not pass resolution. We are unable to change the process for striking the rate otherwise the amount of revenue required cannot be met.

- 2. Our request was for an equal rate over all rating units for Fox and Franz. For the villages to be rated separately so that Franz is not funding Fox CDO and that the item for the CDO roll line be separated out on the rates invoice.**

This did not pass the resolution as it is impossible to rate the same for all ratepayers. The rate is based on the number of ratepayers in a community rating zone and how much revenue is required to be raised by that rate, rating is also based on differentials for Residential, Commercial, Rural, Rural Residential.

If council were to rate an equal amount per each ratepayer, with the daily changes in the Rating Information Database, the amount requested (\$35,500) will not be able to be met.

- 3. At present we have no way of knowing how much is being collected to fund the CDO's position.**

\$35,500 is being rated as per the request and the resolution for Fox and the same amount for Franz through the Community rates plus \$13,000 rated district wide through the tourism promotions rate.

- 4. The information which pulled together was vague at best. I suspect the existing formula, whatever that is, is in use again.**

The rating mechanism is very complex and has been explained to Ann numerous times.

5. **Do you think it is a fair goal for me to be able to understand the funding mechanism to the point that I could explain it when asked by a ratepayer?**

This is not something we can comment on. As per question 4, the rating mechanism is very complex.

6. **I understand that other South Westland Communities would like to explore striking a similar rate. Until we get the existing funding sussed I could not recommend it to them. (it sure would be good to be able to discuss a successful community building, interlinked model)**

Further rating types are not recommended, further staffing would be required to manage this which would result in an extra cost to ratepayers.

7. **The description of the residential rates includes:**

- a. **Uniform Annual General Charge of \$738.00 (What does this contribute towards?)**

This information is explained in in the Funding Impact statement in the Annual Plan on the website.

- b. **Non-Commercial Tourism Promotions Rate of \$12.37 (where does that come from in the system, is it new? Is it related to the GCTG roll that is funded through the Tourism Promotions Rate?)**

This is not new. \$13,000 as per above relates to GCTG, it is not possible to have this separated as it is a district wide rate which includes other activity funding.

- c. **Residential General Rate of \$1111.00 'Capital Value' This obviously covers the main grunt work but where is the line between it and the Community rate that covers the mowing of the lawns, street cleaning, footpath maintenance.**

This information is explained in the Funding Impact Statement in the Annual Plain on the website.

- d. **Franz Josef Residential community Rate of \$452.84 as this figure looks too large to fund the CDO alone, I guess it funds township/footpath/beautification?**

This information is explained in the Funding Impact Statement in the Annual Plain on the website.

8. **We have all acknowledge he desire to increase transparency and make rating bills easier to follow. My feeling is that most rate payers would struggle to understand the above break down.**

All this information is explained in the funding impact statement in the Annual Plan on the website. This information is also provided on the rates assessment that is sent

with the first rates instalment of a financial year. The first rates invoice that is sent out each financial year includes a rates assessment and explains the rates invoice.

The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 determines what should be shown on a rates invoice and assessment notice. Rates invoices can only be provided with the rate types relevant to each community rating district, it is not possible to break it down by cost only rate type.

The activities that the rate types fund are explained in the Funding Impact Statement in the Annual Plan on the website.

- 9. Is there some work we can do now to be in a position to improve the process for the next rating years? Could the charged of the attached rating bill/Commercial and Rural bill be explained in a simple 1-page letter. We can put it together if you can supply the facts.**

This information is explained in the funding impact statement in the Annual Plan on the website. This information is also provided on the rates assessment that is sent with the first rates instalment of a financial year.

- 10. Can you confirm that the Draft Annual Plan submission process occurs at approx. the same time each year?**

The annual plan process is carried out annually at approximately the same time each year of an annual plan year, every third year is a long term plan which may mean that the plan is started earlier.

- 11. If it does, can you confirm the dates that you would expect the draft plan to be circulated? We will get the dates of the next process up on the year planner and make sure we have the right minds together to submit for the 25-26 process.**

Potentially April/May 2025. This is dependent on the audit process and timelines.

- 12. Is there/should we identify a month when we, as a community, meet with our town reps to have input into the draft annual plan's creation process? Items like the Township Development Fund have not been discussed for some time.**

Your Southern Ward councillors should be your point of contact for this. It is only when the plan goes out for consultation that submissions are taken

- 13. Can we suss a better link between community and the future Annual Plan document before it goes out for consultation?**

Your Southern Ward Councillors should be your point of contact regarding this and for any consultations. It is only when the plan goes out for consultation that submissions are taken.

The Annual Plan can be found on the Council's website here: <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/annual-plans-and-reports/>

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Council has adopted a Proactive Release Policy and accordingly may publish LGOIMA responses on the Council Website at <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses>. The collection and use of personal information by the Westland District Council is regulated by the Privacy Act 2020. Westland District Council's Privacy Statement is available on our website [here](#)

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Business Analyst at LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz, 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,



Scott Baxendale | Acting Chief Executive

SB/MB