

Productivity Commission,

I am a resident of Hamilton city and I am concerned at the way Hamilton City council makes decisions. A lot of what they do is a farce, they go out and consult ratepayers but then they completely ignore the response. Or they conduct a survey, and the options are selected to give the council the answer they want. This is not democracy it is dictatorship.

Rates keep going up to fund non-core projects that councillors think would be nice but forget that a lot of their ratepayers are on fixed incomes that are not keeping up with all the increases in basic costs.

Councils should only be responsible for providing core facilities not investing in hotels and other buildings or facilities.

In recent consultations re the 10-year plan we were given 6 options all increased our rates by around 25% there was no option for a lower increase. They forget some people are on fixed incomes and cannot afford these increases.

A question about investing a large amount of money in community projects which are not core facilities had an overwhelming no response 86% but the council chose to ignore that and included many of the projects in their plan. This is not democracy.

I hope you can bring some common sense to local government and get local government concentrating on their core responsibilities.