



Media Release

16 April 2010

Draft Annual Plan out for Consultation

Public consultation on the Central Otago District Council's Draft Annual Plan 2010/11 is now open.

Consultation will run for four weeks, with the submission period closing at 12 noon on Thursday 13 May 2010. Public hearings will be held on Wednesday 9 June, before Council considers feedback and adopts a final plan at the end of June for the next financial year.

Mayor Malcolm Macpherson encourages residents to get involved and tell Council what they think about the projects and services being proposed in the draft plan. "Our Draft Annual Plan 2010/11 reflects the decisions made for the Long Term Council Community Plan 2009 -19 (LTCCP) last year, and highlights activities and service levels that differ from those previously forecast," he says.

"Council has carefully considered the need to balance the pressures of the current economic environment with its long term obligations to provide continuity of service and infrastructure to future generations."

The Draft Annual Plan proposes a rates increase of 7.08% or \$1.35m for the next financial year, which is slightly lower than forecast in the LTCCP.

Key issues that have been considered for this annual plan are our continuing growth in infrastructure, and increasing asset values. These have placed pressure on our future expenditure, as we set depreciation funds aside for future replacements.

In addition to this, we are face increasing standards and compliance requirements from central government, which ultimately drive up costs, coupled with dramatic increases in such things as power prices are factors which make it difficult for Council to balance its budget.

Copies of the draft plan and summary document are now available from Council Service Centres, and website www.codc.govt.nz The submission forms are attached to the Draft Annual Plan document. Submissions close at 12 noon on Thursday 13 May 2010.

For any further information contact:

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