

12/5/2006

Kapiti Coast District Council

Read Sir/madam,

Community Plan

We would like to make submissions on two aspects of the rating proposals.

1. Motels.

In view of the very large increase in rates in 2003 for this sector of business and the proposal which indicates a typical; increase over 30% the Kapiti Coast Chamber of Commerce believes it is necessary for Council to reconsider its current proposals to a much more moderate increase.

The marketplace for tourism in the Kapiti district has only average occupancy rates and is in a sector which needs more development and promotion. We are a backwater when it comes to Tourism as a whole.

The development of the tourism sector along with increases in tourism has benefits for the whole community. Indeed the Horowhenua and Kapiti Councils have recognised this in the formation of the Enterprise Coast of which Tourism is an important goal.

The development of this sector needs also to be considered as a special area for development of the region as a whole when applying rate increases.

2. Home stays

Most of the above tourism comment also applies to home-stays as well.

Additionally home-stays are very small businesses and the industry in the Kapiti area is in a very fledgling state. You can compare these small business's to a lot of other very small home based business's such as hairdressers, beauticians, child minders, various teachers (music etc).

It will impossible to identify all these business's unless we are to turn NZ into a Hitler style police state and we would submit that the cost of being equitable and fair to this sector will cost a large percentage of the extra rate received.(if not more than the rate itself.)

We believe it is better to let them grow and develop then consider rating when the need to expand. Their users would be very small users of Community assets and less than a larger family would use due to only using a portion of those assets.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Olsen. Chairman.
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