

GARY MCGUIRE

Rates

We acknowledge that Regional Council rate increases have been amongst the lowest in our region, however, local government rates are increasing in excess of CPI. Ratepayers are in a cost-of-living crisis. Growth cannot be an excuse as it is simply a factor you will have to deal with.

How will you manage Rates increases?

1. Rates Control Team intends to cap rates at no more than the rate of inflation
2. We will cut costs & drive efficiencies & spend on core business only.
3. Return \$2.5m to reduce the current rates increase to 4%

Comments (200 words max):

The Rates Control Team tried to return the \$2.5m but were voted down in yet another 7/7 vote with the Chairperson casting vote 8/7.

GARY MCGUIRE

Debt

Debt has been the easy option for local government entities to resort to in order to hold rates down in the face of inflation, growth, and a need to be re-elected. Councils such as Hamilton and others have had rating downgrades pointing to a failure by Councils to prudently manage their finances.

How will you deal with debt?

1. Reduce costs such as the excessive use of consultants.
- 2.
- 3.

Comments (200 words max):

GARY MCGUIRE

Amalgamation

The amalgamation of some or all of Waikato Councils has been an issue the Chamber has been canvassing for some years. Auckland has been amalgamated, and the net result is seen as positive for their community with little diminution of democracy.

"For the 2025/2026 rating year, Auckland Council has announced a total rates increase of 5.8%, equating to approximately \$223 per year for the average residential property."

What is your considered position on Amalgamation?

☐

For amalgamation

☐

Against amalgamation

If in favour of change, how would you implement it?

1. We support the reform of local government & in particular the role of Regional
- 2.
- 3.

Comments (200 words max):