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Mayor's introduction

This has been my first Long Term Plan as Mayor, and it comes at such a key moment in Christchurch's history.

More and more we see our city as the best place to attract new businesses and new residents from around both New Zealand and the world. Our tertiary education is attracting record numbers of students and our role as the world's gateway to the South Island is seeing us welcome visitors from many different countries.

It is no wonder we were recently given the title of New Zealand's happiest city!

But this opportunity does not mean we are immune from the choppy financial waters New Zealand is facing right now. By all accounts this is one of the toughest financial environments we've ever seen in over a decade.

It all boils down to what we're calling 'The Three I's' – inflation, interest rates, and insurance costs. Those

three factors alone are responsible for the lion's share of the rates increase we hit on this year, and my fellow councillors and the team at Christchurch City Council have done a pretty incredible job of navigating these these uncertain and difficult financial times.

Late last year, we were staring at a projected rates increase of nearly 20%. After a lot of work, and a lot of close conversations with the community, we got it down to a 13.24% overall increase for all ratepayers – and that's what we went out with in the Draft Annual Plan in March.

What we've done since, with your help, is drive it down to 9.90%. This has been a massive effort.

This increase remains under 10% and includes the Three I's, covers the cost of Te Kaha, allows us to accelerate our response to climate change, invests more into our events ecosystem and all without cutting any of the services you've come to expect from the Christchurch City Council.



This proposed increase also provides additional support for community organisations like the Arts Centre Te Matatiki Toi Ora, Orana Park and the Santa Parade, as well as extending funding to support film in Christchurch.

This result was made possible in part by dividends from our holdings company, Christchurch City Holdings Limited, applying subvention credits towards debt repayment and by tapping into things like our Capital Endowment Fund and the Strengthening Communities Fund.

That said, we all understand that a rates increase of 9.90% still means a big chunk of household income that many of you will feel.

If there's one consistent theme to the feedback we received on the Draft Long Term Plan 2024–2034, it's that the community cares deeply about the future of our city.

We read through more than 7,000 submissions and heard directly from the more than 350 people who took the time

to come speak to us during two weeks of hearings. There was a lot to weigh up, and a lot of competing priorities, but we heard loud and clear – you want an LTP that's affordable but that doesn't forget the things you care about.

Some people wanted us to find more savings, while others wanted us to provide additional support, or speed up work on some projects. We've been saying all along that one person's must-have is another person's nice-to-have, and the LTP submissions only reinforced this.

That meant we had a lot of tough calls to make as we finalised this LTP. For the first time, we had most of these discussions in a public forum, with many of our workshops livestreamed.

And here's the result – a plan for the next decade of our city that's ambitious, affordable and achievable. 'The Three A's', if you want.

I'm always saying Christchurch is the best city to live, raise a family and do business in.

I believe this LTP is a solid roadmap for the next 10 years, continuing to deliver the services our community wants, supporting efforts to improve our environment and reduce emissions, all while taking advantage of opportunities to support our city's economy in the future.

This is something we should all be proud of. Thank you to everyone who played a part.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Mauger". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Phil Mauger
Mayor of Christchurch



Mayor and Councillors

The Elected members

Back row (from left):

Councillor Jake McLellan, Councillor Aaron Keown, Councillor Victoria Henstock, Councillor Mark Peters, Councillor Dr Melanie Coker, Councillor Yani Johanson, Councillor Tyrone Fields, Councillor Tim Scandrett.

Front row (from left):

Councillor Sara Templeton, Councillor Andrei Moore, Councillor Tyla Harrison-Hunt, Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter, Mayor Phil Mauger, Councillor Kelly Barber, Councillor James Gough, Councillor Celeste Donovan, Councillor Sam MacDonald.