



NEW ZEALAND - June 2017

RATES INCREASE OF 5.46 PER CENT AS CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL PASSES ANNUAL PLAN 1

Rates increase of 5.46 per cent as Christchurch City Council passes annual plan

Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel says the city council still aims to complete "essential" projects within their scheduled timeframes.

Christchurch ratepayers face an average rates increase of 5.46 per cent this coming financial year.

The 2017-18 annual plan, finalised by the Christchurch City Council on Tuesday, sets out projects and services the council will provide from July 1 to June 30 next year, how much they will cost and where the money will come from.

The rates increase settled on is slightly lower than the proposed 5.5 per cent rise.

More than half of the council's \$520 million works programme was already committed to major projects, including the Christchurch Town Hall, the new central library and the metro sports facility.

"Following public feedback we've set some new priorities and, in some cases, adjusted when we plan to spend money on projects in our works programme – but we are still aiming to complete essential projects within their scheduled timeframes," Mayor Lianne Dalziel said.

Changes to the final plan included additional budgeting for the Port Hills fire recovery, employing extra staff for upkeep of urban parks and trialling a free-entry scheme for pre-schoolers visiting council swimming pools.

An extra \$4.4m was budgeted in the final plan to account for the changes.

The council said it would work with Regenerate Christchurch to fast-track regeneration planning for Southshore and South New Brighton, with the intention of addressing concerns over estuary flood protection in Southshore as quickly as possible.

The final version of the plan would be made available on the city council's website and at libraries and service centres in July.