



9 December 2022

Manawatū District Council
By email: public@mdc.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam,

How is your council saving money?

1. Formed in 2013, the *New Zealand Taxpayers' Union*, along with our sister group, the *Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance*, is a politically independent advocacy group campaigning for *lower taxes, less waste, and more accountability*. Our 200,000 subscribed members and supporters have a wide range of political views but are united by a belief that public money should be used wisely.
2. The *Taxpayers' Union* is currently compiling a list of policy initiatives and cost-saving measures that local governments across New Zealand have taken to ease the burden on ratepayers. In 2018, we released a report titled '*102 Ways to Save Money in Local Government*', and we are planning to release an updated version for 2023.
3. We invite you to contribute to this list by informing us of any actions, large or small, that your council has taken to save money or reduce costs by making your council more efficient and delivering services in a different way. We would be grateful if you could include an estimate of how much money each of these initiatives has saved. We would also be keen to know of any future plans you have to save money for ratepayers.
4. This is an opportunity to demonstrate to your ratepayers and other councils that you are responsible managers of their money and demonstrate best practice to other councils across the country.
5. Any councils that contribute will be featured in our report and their policy initiatives showcased as examples from which present and future councillors can learn.
6. By contributing, your council will also be helping to develop a useful resource to reduce waste in local governments throughout the country, leading to a more prosperous New Zealand.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,
New Zealand Taxpayers' Union Inc.

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