



ATTACHMENTS

**Ordinary Council meeting
Separate Attachments 1**

Monday, 29 May 2023

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TCC User Fees and Charges 2023/24 Submissions

Submission #	Name	Do you wish to speak to Council?	Attachment	What is your view on these changes?
1	Fee O'Shea	No	No	I would like to see the non-profit organisations that are currently using your facilities be exempt from any increase. Any new bookings would be under the new prices.
2	Bronwyn Mary Copeland	Yes	No	It is crazy. Nz already has a really high rate of drowning. The average middle class family will no longer be able to afford swimming lessons for their children. Is the council proposing these changes to cull the population and ease the pressure on housing in Tauranga? It is madness.
3	Daniel	No	No	Quite an increase, looks like our booking cost will double. Considering we just use the space to practice music for non-profit we will likely have to look at other options
4	Sheryl McLay	Yes	No	I am talking specifically about the charges for the Tauranga Swimming Pools. It concerns me that BayVenues/TCC are justifying the proposed charge increases (some as much as 200%) by stating the desire to meet national benchmarks. In other words raising prices because others charge this much. Sounds silly doesn't it Surely a full analysis of costs, benefits and social responsibilities needs to be done before simply raising prices just because you can. Swimming is a life skill that is becoming more and more out of reach for young families in particular. The programmes offered by user groups such as swim squads and clubs are a public service, and in no way a get rich quick scheme. That is why they are all struggling. I suggest a good look at staffing structures, get rid of the deadwood and the ridiculous bureaucracy that has been allowed to grow. BayVenues is over staffed and a top heavy organisation which doesn't not put its customers and public interest ahead of self interest.
5	Julie Batten	Yes	No	I'm a regular user at Elizabeth St Community Center running dance classes on a weekly basis. If our charges are nearly doubled as proposed I don't think that I can carry on running my classes in to the next year. I don't believe that I can absorb the increased costs or pass them on to my dancers making the the classes financially viable. If our charges were to be increased as proposed I would expect a much higher standard of service. More regular and better cleaning of the floor and the air conditioning included in the price of hire for example.
6	Justin Copeland	No	No	Unbelievable. New Zealand has horrendous drowning statistics as it is, and these are getting worse. People should be encouraged to become competent swimmers, but given these proposed hikes in prices, the complete

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				opposite will happen. As always, those with the least financial means will be impacted the most. My understanding is that these facilities, which are inferior to those in many other NZ cities, are paid for by rates. Why then is there all this double dipping going on? I can understand to some extent the user pays philosophy, but my belief is that in this era of ever increasing physical inactivity (and the associated health impacts), every effort should be made to encourage people to partake in physical activity. These proposed price increases will do just the opposite.
7	CAMILLA MAY	No	No	I run weekly drama club for children at the Papamoa Community Centre which I've done for many years since the facility opened. Looking at the PDF of proposed fee increases, my room hire will increase 62%. For the Aihe Room as a Regular Adult user I am currently charged \$20.80 per hour. This appears to be going up to \$33.70 an hour, an increase of \$12.90. I'm uncertain I can afford this increase so will have to look for other options. An increase of 62% is outrageous. As a small business owner trying to stay afloat it's these kinds of cost increases which make life stressful & difficult. I know my opinion counts for nothing & sadly the decision has already been made.
8	Wendy	No	No	I hire rooms regularly at Papamoa Community Centre. I am a small business who just about hung on and survived COVID. Any price rise impacts my business, the large price rises proposed by the council will have a negative impact on my business. It is not always an option to continue to increase my customers fees. They cant afford it. If the huge rises intend to go ahead I may not be in a position to continue hiring the rooms regularly like I do. This is \$10 Tauranga not flash Auckland or Wellington we are being compared to. Also are the facilities comparable? Be careful, you might price us all out of your facilities. Keep it fair.
9	Laurence Milton (Parkinson's New Zealand Charitable Trust)	No	No	Dear Council I work for the Parkinson's New Zealand Charitable Trust, a registered Charity CC55231. Our local Tauranga clients utilise the Papamoa Sport and Recreation Centre and the seashell and beachside rooms on a regular basis for Exercise Classes for people suffering from Parkinson's in the Bay of Plenty region. Exercise is extremely important to people with this condition as it is the only way to slow its progression and it can also have a significant impact on the individual's ability to live their lives as normally as possible. We try and hold these classes free or for a minimal cost for those attending. Like all charities in New Zealand, we struggle for funding and although our charity supports people with a serious and debilitating incurable

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				medical condition, we receive minimal financial support from government. We rely on donations, grants and fundraising for 90% of our costs. An increase in costs for the use of your facilities of 80% - 115% would be a major blow to us. At the same time, we understand the need for the Council to increase pricing. It would be extremely useful to charitable organisations like ours if the Council would consider instituting a discounted charitable rate for registered charities using your facilities. Ngā Mihi Laurence Milton Operations Manager Parkinson's New Zealand
10	MURRAY GUY	No	Yes	'... our approach is to reduce the burden on the ratepayer by utilising a 'user pays' approach.' I would prefer as being more 'fair' a policy of 'beneficiaries pay'. For example, the dog registration fee unreasonably has the responsible dog owner seemingly significantly subsidizing the community benefit of animal services. I cannot fathom the rational of Council that imposes ALL MAUAO expenditure on to the ratepayer when there are opportunities to place 'information/donation kiosks strategically at Mount Maunganui (income specifically to be allocated to Mauao, Surf Live Saving, Coastguard). I cannot fathom the rational of Council chooses NOT to apply a 'user pays' principle to it's boat launching and associated infrastructure, so easily put in place with 'parking meter' type technology. I cannot fathom the rational of Council that imposes NO fee to beneficiaries of the Art Gallery, yet increases fees that restrict access to 'learn to swim' opportunities for the at risk, vulnerable. I reject as irrelevant fees and charges in the private sector and or other local authorities being used at validate a fee - COST RECOVERY with no inflated cost structure.
11	Clare Pearson	Yes	No	I understand there have to be some fee increases to stay in line with inflation plus to help keep up with the maintenance costs of the pools; however, the 195% cost increase for the lane hire for user groups seems ridiculously excessive, as does the 35% increase for Aquatic Memberships. We need to encourage children to be able to swim confidently and be fit and healthy, but these massive cost increases are going to put extreme pressure on swim clubs that struggle to keep members as it is with the ongoing rises in the cost of living. Families may choose to stop their children swimming on a regular basis if costs increase by too much. Are there any extra benefits/discounts for those high-user groups who keep swimmers coming into your centres??
12	Karen Meikle	No	No	I am concerned the increase in charges to the local pools will make them unaffordable for people in the lower social economic bracket. This is not acceptable in a modern society in which equality is an important value.

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				Affordable access to pools enables people to exercise reaping the long term health benefits associated with it and decreasing long term health costs particularly for the many people who through injury or disability struggle to exercise in other ways. The facilities are not as great as other council pools which charge \$8. I have visited both Cambridge (8\$) and whakatane (6.5\$) pools. I was happy to pay. However, Greerton, Memorial and Otumoetai Pools appear run down and do not offer as much variety as Cambridge or Whakatane.
13	Stacey Whalen	Yes	No	I think it is outrageous! We live right by the beach and the drowning stats in New Zealand are terrible. Everyone should be able to access a community pool at an affordable price. The prices were increased not even 12 months ago, inflation is at an all time high. Rates have just had an increase for WBOP this is NOT the right time to increase fees for a much needed community space.
14	Mamie Li'Wagener	Yes	No	As a resident of Tauranga. I am very shock about these decisions that the council made. The living costs keep gaining and everything are super expensive. Our families enjoy these public support facilities. If the prices are going to change, I don't think we are going to afford them anymore. The kids will have to dropped their swimming lessons. We are all very disappointed about these. How are we going to afford everything, food, fuel, housing, renting all sorts. Now the insurances of house, cars keep rising. The water, the power, the council fees of everything, too much for a normal family to handle.
15	monique beattie	No	No	Seriously Tauranga city council!!! We need kids learning to swim, making facilities like Baywave out of range for some people to be able to afford! You should be ashamed, just when we thought TCC couldn't get any worse!
16	Jason Li'Wagener	No	No	Swimming pools/baywave price rise. Even though only a single aspect of the changes the proposed fee rises for baywave if they go through will see me moving our kids to other venues or organisations for their swimming lessons. The cost of living is getting worse and while everyone is feeling the pinch costs are rising far faster than wages meaning it will no long be a viable option for us to continue should this go through. Between rate rises insurance food etc we will have to make cuts. It's sad as the kids love their swim lessons and playing at the pool. The staff have been fantastic and it would be a shame to have to move on. Like I said only one small part of the changes but it makes a good example of my position to all aspects.

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17	Kathryn Ison	No	No	I agree with user pay fees . Swimming pools in particular are highly used as we have a poach of good facilities these are taken over by the various clubs and should be centralised. So more lane space is available to the public. Often in Baywave only one public swimming lane is available after paying the cost to enter. Holiday rentals should also be paying a bed tax fee. These are homes turned into commercials operations charging \$1000 a night and paying residential rates. We need greater operative but bylaws around noise and protection of adjoining residents . Imposing this tax will allow council to set up a taskforce to regulate this growing industry . Currently it's a totally integrated industry. Visitors to other areas accept bed tax this should be imposed here.
18	Sally Cooney	No	No	I am a frequent user of the Baywave facilities as an adult and with my young family. I understand costs are increasing but we have only just had an increase last year. We have a problem as a country with drowning rates but it is not affordable for families to use our facilities so how can we can bring those drowning rates down. Make swimming more affordable and get more people/children learning to swim. The council have indicated one of the reasons is to keep up with market prices in other cities. Firstly why do we have to be the same as other cities - why can't we be unique? Secondly, you can not compare your prices to Auckland because most of their pools are FREE to swim in. I also use the lane hireage for coaching waterpolo - and this increase in cost will have to be past on to families meaning less families will play sport. Mount Maunganui Swim club is an excellent club and will they pass this on to their members? Have you thought about including cost of entering the pool as part of hiring lanes as it does feel like the council is double dipping. Finally there has been a recent upgrade so we are yet to see what has been done. But moving forward if the prices increase what are going to offer the future in terms of facilities? If I sign up for a membership what new things will you offer? In summary, the council needs to be asking a lot more question before lifting the costs.
19	Jack Keepa	No	No	As a university student at the University of Waikato Tauranga campus who is also a high-performance swimming and surf lifesaving athlete, these changes were very sad to hear. I would usually access Baywave 7 times a week for the pool and 2 for the gym. I am already tight on my money, living away from home and juggling both full-time university and a high performance training program there is little to no time or opportunity for me to work to combat these proposed changes. I really hope that the Draft User Fees and Charges

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				2023/24 are reassessed to make it easier for our swimming clubs to continue bringing through young talent in Tauranga and retaining them and also attracting talent from other regions like myself and unfortunately these proposed changes make that extremely difficult to do so.
20	Bex Sutcliffe	No	No	Hearing that swimming lane hireage is going up by 40% & kids entry free's going up by 30% is just ridiculous. My daughter who squad swims 3 times a week will now be forced to stop as we will not be able to afford this. I don't know how swimming clubs are going to survive and would imagine they will loose many swimmers to this extravagant price increase. Swimming is already only for the families that can afford it and this segregation of rich and poor will just be made bigger. These are community spaces and should be accessible to everyone rich or poor but that is not the case here.
21	Amanda Richardson	No	No	I was horrified to hear of the large increase in swimming pool charges which are going to be passed onto swim club members . This is really going to decrease the number of people who are able to afford to swim. With the large drowning rates every year it is so important that children learn to swim but you are making it unaffordable for so many with this price increases.
22	Debbie Gillbanks	No	No	I am against the exorbitant cost increases of some of the Baywave Aquatic fees. My children currently belong to a swim club, surf club and water polo club that all train at Baywave. Increasing the lane hire by 40% is far too high. This is going to increase costs for all children undertaking the above sports as the lane hire costs will get passed on to the children/athletes in their sports club fees. Also increasing the Aquatic yearly memberships by 35% again puts additional financial strain on these same families. Children currently pay their swim club, surf club and water polo fees, lane hireage fees and then additionally pay Baywave entry fees on top of these charges. It feels like Baywave are "double dipping" with these costs. If the clubs are already paying lane hireage fees, why are the children charged an entry fee to use the lanes they are already paying for? The current high costs have already made it near impossible for a lot of families to participate in these sports. Adding these large costs will definitely mean people will no longer be able to afford for these children to have swimming lessons etc. With NZ drowning rates one of the highest in the world and living on the coast, TCC should be helping to make it possible for all children to participate in water based activities, not contributing to making it a financially non-viable option for most people. TCC should be supporting the local clubs that utilise their aquatic

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				facilities as it is these clubs that bring in the swim meets and water polo tournaments that bring in revenue to Baywave.
23	Emma Jones	No	No	Any fee changes will have a hugely detrimental effect on the community with the flow on leading to more people not safe in the water, and probably more drownings. Tauranga desperately needs a new pool, a new 50 meter pool to cope with the huge demand for this facility. We have thousands of kids doing aquatic sports, a no 50 meter pool. It is an embarrassment to our region. Any fee increases at this time is actually cruel, families are struggling, it's unaffordable as it is especially for the kids that play waterpolo. It just means these kids won't play - other sports can use fields and courts for free, waterpolo costs of pool entry are already prohibitive.
24	Courtaney Frank	No	No	The proposed increases to lane hire and pool access for school and club water sports teams will have a significantly negative impact upon children's access and participation in these sports. In terms of waterpolo (both school and club) there is limited pool space available in the Tauranga region as it is. Prices to hire for training and tournaments are already high and preclude membership for children - and the increases will be passed onto parents inevitably. Resulting in further children being eliminated from the sport. The monopoly that TCC have over available pool facilities means there is little alternative for schools and clubs. The council should be supporting these local clubs instead of forcing economic difficulties upon them.
25	Roxanne	No	No	Can we please have a discount for dog rego? Like how Palmy does it. If your dog is good, hasn't been impounded etc then you get off instead of paying the same as someone who has a problem dog.
26	Amanda Hunt	No	No	Water polo is already an expensive sport, while I can understand an increase in charges why the 40% increase for schools and clubs to hire the lanes, seems like these groups are to be impacted greater than other users of the facility. The participants already also then pay on top of that to swim with a charge for every time they enter the facility. The 40% seems too steep and is not fair to those groups. I believe that a fairer increase would be more conducive to community groups who don't have another option to use.
27	Perry	Yes	No	The cost of venue hire at popular locations such as the Tauranga Waterfront and Soper Reserve can be a significant budgetary concern for event promoters. Paying \$4k for these venues can result in high ticket prices for attendees or make it challenging for events to be financially viable. The event industry has been facing challenging times recently, and it would be helpful to explore the possibility of reducing venue hire fees while we work towards

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				recovery. One idea to consider is adjusting the base ticket price to \$60 to align with inflation, which could make events more accessible to attendees while also helping to cover venue hire costs. I am happy to discuss this further if you would like.
28	Nicki Jane Carran	No	No	These changes will impact the community greatly as families are already struggling with increasing costs of living. The proposed increases for the Aquatic Centres are ridiculous! Only the rich will be able to afford to go to swimming lessons, learn to swim etc. This also impacts users who hire lanes at Baywave eg. TGA waterpolo - the proposed lane hire cost has increased 40% and 195% respectively - how do you even justify this?? Again this will become a sport for the rich and this is very sad. I just can't get my head around any of this - TCC are ineffective at best and then you make decisions like this that negatively impacts the community you are meant to be serving. You are a disgrace.
29	Shiree McGillivray	No	No	My concerns and considerations are: 1. Many youth use the pools via sports clubs. The cost to their entrance fee and the club fees for lane hireage discourages participation. Our youth need to stay active and be involved in clubs. Please consider discounts for club bookings in order to promote youth activity. It keeps kids busy, off the street and out of trouble. It is so obvious that club participation and being active through use of the council facilities should be encouraged and barriers should not be put up. 2. Our population needs to swim. There are so many drownings so as a public health initiative the swimming pools should be accessible.
30	Crystal Barnard	No	No	These changes will hurt our community financially. The fact that a user of Baywave has to pay to enter into the venue and then pay fees to the club or many cases clubs to help pay for lane hire seems really unfair. I suggest regular users (clubs) have a separate price for lane hire at a lower price than what has been proposed.
31	Kyla	No	No	I highly discourage the proposed increase in lane hire and access to our swimming pools. It is already evident from school swimming events that we have such a low participation rate in swimming and a lot of this is because of the costs involved. Increasing fees is only going to make it harder for children to practice and attain confidence in the water. Our drowning rates in NZ are increasing and rather than make safe swimming attainable to all we are proposing an increase in price rather than a discount - no sense!
32	Brooke Smith	Yes	No	Hi There I am a regular hall user of the Papamoa Sports and Recreation Centre. I offer dance and fitness classes to children from ages 2 - 16. Our

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				classes are popular and we are proud to be able to offer affordable dance classes (cheapest in the Bay of Plenty) for youth in the local community. I find these price hikes absolutely ludicrous! I understand that prices on certain things increase from time to time, but the amount in which these prices will drastically rise is unreasonable. This will sadly result in myself not being able to continue to offer youth dance classes at the Recreation centre and many families in the community will no longer be able to afford to attend, due to the amount in which we would need to hike operation costs to break even. It is very sad and I imagine lots of elderly people in the local community will no longer be able to contend with the new proposed prices. Kind Regards Brooke Smith
33	Janine Bollee	No	No	100 % Disagree with your increases. They are horrendous. AS a mother of twins who play waterpolo and do SQUAD we literally would most likely have to give up both. The lane Hire increases AND Membership increases would put it out of our reach. The in-school lane hire is far from encouraging schools to take tamariki swimming, to have swimming sports. Even your proposed entry fee for a swim is insane! The most expensive in the country! Please, Please, Please do not increase by this much As a organization you have to have a social responsibility model. A responsibility to make swimming affordable, it is already out of the reach of many tamariki, now they wont be able to go to Baywave to play swim.
34	Katy McCullough	No	No	Pool prices are too much. Especially for those that use the pool regularly for swimming lessons, squads, training, tournament or games. There should be a bigger discount for the high users. Being a pool down for most of 2022 and for q1 2023 is not acceptable. Having another pool for all the watersports as well as teaching kids survival skills is an absolute must. A deep (2m+) 50metre pool with the ability to turn into 2x25m pools is needed in Tauranga asap. The income raised from having tournaments will generate a bigger income and not piss off the regular users. There are so many sports/clubs/individuals that will be affected including Underwater hockey Waterpolo Competitive swimmers Learner swimmers Surf life savers Triathletes Syncro swimmers Pool therapy Do the right thing for the community and the growth of Tauranga now!!
35	Penny Harrison	No	No	It is too expensive for clubs to hire the pool like waterpolo
36	Jolene Hellund	No	No	Tauranga City Councils proposed changes to fee structure for their Aquatic Centres will have a huge impact on our clubs and the wider aquatic sports

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				community. There is expected to be an increase of 40% for lane hire and 35% increase for aquatic memberships. This increase will impact the ability for parents to sign their children up for water sports like water polo and swimming lessons. It will prevent schools from being able to cost effectively run swimming sports if they don't have an onsite pool at school. Water sports are incredibly important for a sea side town such as Tauranga and I urge you to reconsider this increase.																
37	Miranda Horan	No	No	I understand that costs must go up over time but feel that the key to community assets is that they need to be accessible for the community and many of these fee changes are affecting people that can barely afford to use the facilities as it is. In particular Baywave and other pool fees are becoming prohibitive especially for families. We are a beachside community and it behooves us to have our community being proficient swimmers. Likewise sports such as water polo are already paying astronomical fees and raising these costs make the ability for children to participate very hard to afford. Please do NOT raise the costs at our local pools .																
38	Marilyn Robinson	No	No	The increase in percentage column cannot be correct. Some charges have increased over 100%?. That is way above the 7.2 % annual inflation rate																
39	Andrea Wirihana	No	No	I strongly disagree with the planned fee increase. I am a user of Baywave gym and my daughter does squad swimming for waterpolo. This sport is ridiculously expensive already. If the fees increase for her squad swimming and lane hire to train (which will flow on to us parents) she will no longer be able to continue with this sport. Please consider that everyone living in Pap / Mt arent all multi millionaires and the cost of living is through the roof already. It may only seem like a few dollars to you, but this is the difference between a young talented Maori girl playing a sport or not.																
40	Sam	No	No	I have read in the media that children costs to go swimming has increased by 50%, I have come to this site to confirm. Unfortunately your data is either incorrect, or misleading, for example the data in the proposed draft document states: Senior CURRENT \$5.70 PROPOSED \$5.70 RATE INCREASE 139% <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>116% Child</td> <td>\$5.70</td> <td>\$5.70</td> <td>139%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child 2-4</td> <td>\$2.40</td> <td>\$4.30</td> <td>115%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family</td> <td>\$22.80</td> <td>\$25.20</td> <td>120%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hydroslide</td> <td>\$5.90</td> <td>\$6.40</td> <td>71% Can</td> </tr> </table> you please correct the information in the document and allow people to review and respond accordingly. I also strongly disagree that any child	116% Child	\$5.70	\$5.70	139%	Child 2-4	\$2.40	\$4.30	115%	Family	\$22.80	\$25.20	120%	Hydroslide	\$5.90	\$6.40	71% Can
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				should have even more obstacles that prevent them swimming and undertaking healthy activity.
41	Justin Scholes	No	No	Good morning I find it hard to believe the council is considering increases aquatic facility rates by as his as they are. You only have to review the drownings statistics in New Zealand which is far too high. One water related fatality is too may and we have hundreds. New Zealand kids need to learn to swim full-stop. This is going to drive the cost of swimming lessons up even more and make even more uneconomic for more New Zealand families. This will push up the number of drownings even more! Please re-think your decision of increasing aquatic facility rates and keep the current rates the same.
42	George Swanepoel	No	No	Hello I am not in favour of any increases in service fees. TCC has already increased the property rates significantly, making TCC one of the cities in NZ with the highest level of rates increase in NZ. On top of the rates increase, the property market has gone down, with no relief for home owners, as the property values should also have dropped in value. It is likely that in most cases the property rate values are more that the property market values. The cost of living has gone up, the morgage rate interest rates has gone up and salary increases were in most cases below the inflation rate. All these factors will lead to people having fewer available spending money. By increasing the council fees for services, might lead to fewer people using the council facilities, which might lead to a loss of income for the council. I oppose the suggestion of service fee increases.
43	Frances Wilcockson	Yes	No	On behalf of the Matua Majors Leisure Marching team, I write to express our disappointment at the Council's updated venue user fees and charges for 2024 (relating to the venue we use) as outlined in the recent spreadsheet we received from Bay Venues. Currently, we practice once a week for 1½ hours at the Mount Sports Centre as we have done for a number of years. As well as having the floor space required for a team's marching display, we chose to use the Mount Sports Centre for cost value as alternative venues (e.g., Community Halls) at a more reasonable cost do not suit size wise. I envisage that if the cost remains at what is proposed (\$29.20 p/hour) I would recommend to the team that we only practice for 1 (one) hour which sadly, would be detrimental to our progress as we prepare for local, regional and national events. We are a team of ten (10) superannuitants and therefore an affordable and prudent financial outlook is of the utmost importance to us. The current charge of \$16.30 p/hr is affordable as would be a more realistic

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				price increase for what that facility offers, however not a 79% increase. This is an indoor sports facility that has taken the biggest increase in charges (79% & 91%) and that seems excessive to the extreme when the facility lacks basic comforts like adequate heating in the winter and air conditioning in the summer months. It is a basic, bare facility that is unduly cold in the winter and hot in the summer and has very limited kitchen facilities and/or comfort in that area. We ask that the charge increase for the Mount Sports Centre be re-considered to be more realistic to reflect what the facility offers and hope our submission will be looked at favourably. We look forward to a positive outcome. Kind regards Frances Wilcockson Coach 021 297 3407
44	Innes Cate	No	No	As Treasurer I am writing on behalf of the Bay of Plenty Bonsai Society which has received the proposed Cliff Road Community Hall Hire 90% price increase to take effect January 2024. Such a horrendous increase of this magnitude in times of inflation of over 7% and the country facing recession is totally unacceptable. The reason given - being based on benchmarking around the country is rejected by us as T.C.C. has been happy to take the current hire rates without complaint. Additionally Cliff Road is marked for demolition with no money being spent on it - the toilets are below standard and our storage locker lock has been left unrepaired after being damaged. In general the building interior is way below parr with the exterior carpark being unkept.
45	A Lee	No	No	Acquatic general entry fees especially for seniors, increase from \$2.60 to \$4.60, will certainly discourage seniors from using the pools. Seniors have already paid their rates and taxes over many decades. Seems rather unfair! As Tauranga generally has a lot of wet weather, the pool is a good place for seniors to exercise without too much harm/strain to their bodies/muscles etc. If this opportunity of using the pool is taken away, I foresee that lots of seniors will end up using the hospital facilities/services instead. Since Bay Venues fees are proposed to increase as well, this will further discourage seniors from participating in organised sports that requires booking a Bay Venues hall/room. Car parks, airport facility fees etc are also proposed to increase. City council is proposing to take away opportunity for seniors to socialise during the above events. I oppose these proposals strongly. A Lee.
46	Haidee Jenkins (Tauranga Underwater Hockey Club)	No	No	Good afternoon, I am writing this submission, as the President, on behalf of the Tauranga Underwater Hockey Club. We are a regular aquatic user organisation and are dependent upon the use of public pool facilities for our sport. We understand that the cost of business and running a pool has seen

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				<p>marked price increases and that some of these costs need to be passed onto the user. However, there are some concerns for regular aquatic users who currently use the pool during off peak hours. As a club, we have chosen to use the pool during these hours to keep our membership cost affordable for members and to attract more people to a sport which will have long term health benefits for our community. The new proposed fee structure has abolished the off peak rate (we use the pool on a Sunday evening through to closing time). We hire 8 lanes for three hours. Our current cost is \$4.10 per lane, however the new price structure will see the lane hire increase to \$13 per lane per hour. This is over a 300% increase in price per hour. This is an astronomical increase to our club. We currently pay \$104 per night, whereas the new price increase will see us paying \$312 per night. This is triple the price!! If the abolishment of the off peak rate remains as in the new proposed fee structure we would then like to know how the timetabling for lane hire will be allocated to existing aquatic users? As a club, we would definitely be looking for a more favourable week night to run our club nights. How will the lane hire be allocated fairly and equitably if all pool users will be paying the same lane hire rate? Like all minority sports, we are in the position of regrowing our membership after the last few years of Covid interruptions. Our sport has suffered as a result of these interruptions. Our current membership is around half of what it once was. We currently have 40 members. The increase in costs (triple!!) will be borne by members which may see our membership numbers dwindle as the sport will be seen as unaffordable. We hope you consider reinstating an off peak lane hire rate to ensure the pool is used during the less favourable hours of the week. If this is not possible, we would like to know the process of allocating the lane bookings in a fair manner for all existing users.</p>
47	S Lee	No	No	<p>Please consider overall cost-of-living in Bay of Plenty - WBOP rates, TCC rates, water, electricity, food, rubbish collection, public amenities and petrol. Would these factors "push" BOP residents to relocate to other towns? Would BOP have a reputation for affordability and quality lifestyle? Would BOP long-term revenue and population growth be sustainable? I can see many properties in my neighborhood are up for sale. Public recreational facilities are critical for the mental and physical well-being of children, families and senior citizens. If the regional health and safety deteriorates, then logically, public health and hospital care costs would increase. This situation is not</p>

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				ideal and unsustainable. Affordable access to public recreational facilities is one key factor to regional and national budgets sustainability.
48	Tauranga Water Polo Club Committee	No	No	<p>Dear Tauranga City Council Commissioners. RE: SUBMISSION ON BAY VENUES USER FEES AND CHARGES This submission is on behalf of the Tauranga Water Polo Club Committee (TWP), and our membership. TWP was founded in 2003 and has a current membership of 422 players. Our club is based at Baywave. TWP are the current NZ Suzuki National League Senior Men's Champions. One of this team has also just been named 2022 New Zealand Male Water Polo player of the year. We were a finalist for the Forsyth Barr BOP Team of the year. TWP has produced 2 Olympians and won many NZ age group titles over the years for this sport. TWP run multiple school-age programmes: Flippa Ball, Intermediate Grade & College League throughout the year. We run the water polo component of AIMS games and we also host an annual U12 tournament, along with a pre-AIMS Games tournament. Many of our membership also belong to swim clubs and are the bulk of the volunteer Surf Life Guards that patrol our beaches. This effectively means many of these athletes are using Tauranga pools multiple times, sometimes every day, of the week. I write to you today to make a submission AGAINST the user fees proposed for Bay Venues and in particular the increase in costs for the pools. We would like to highlight the inconsistencies the many aquatic clubs in our city face, compared to other sports. As one example (and there are many) Tauranga AFC soccer club, has multiple parks & reserves they use, which are mown weekly, line marked, irrigated and have lighting & turf renovations completed regularly. This is all done at the rate payers expense, not the club's. They have club rooms where they can have a drink at their bar, have prize giving's, hire it out for events to produce income, sell sponsorship on their club walls, all the while paying only a peppercorn lease for the footprint of their building. TWP has none of this available to us and I don't believe this is available to any other aquatic club that use these Bay Venues-managed community facilities. We have to pay every time we walk in the door, there is no discounted lane hire or discounted storage space to us, we must set up the pool and pack it down after use. We have no options provided to us to reduce the cost to our membership. Even parents have to pay each time they enter Baywave to watch their child play a game of water polo. There are few (if any) other amateur sports where you have to pay to watch your child play. This is taking USER PAYS to the extreme. Commissioner Tolley, in the Bay Of Plenty Times article, dated</p>

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				22nd March 2023 regarding user fees and charges, you are quoted as saying “ we all realise that this is going to be a really tough year for a lot of our community . Our line is that everyone pays their fair share”. I would say this isn’t the case at all with regards to consistency of sports clubs and is in fact almost a burden on those choosing an aquatic sport. Everyone paying their fair share is purely not correct, when you compare aquatic clubs to the more traditional sports clubs such as rugby & soccer. TWP would kindly request that some thinking be put into some sort of financial relief for clubs such as ours in the way of club discounts, lane hire discounts or the likes. I would ask that you as the Commissioners make this decision directly, as TWP have already approached Bay Venues to try & resolve this but this resulted in no changes. We request the matter not be passed back to Bay Venues to try & resolve directly with aquatic clubs, as I don't believe Bay Venues staff will resolve this without your clear direction on what they need to do. I plead with you to consider this submission and introduce some type of club discounts, discounted lane hire or similar, as these current proposed increases aren't sustainable for user groups. When you consider lane hire increases, entry increases, membership increases, these will affect us dramatically as a club and as families. Please can we just have some parity with other non-aquatic clubs? Thank you for taking our submission into account. Regards Tauranga Water Polo Club Committee
49	Josh Hodson	No	No	I strongly oppose the changes the the cost of the Greerton Pools. Currently we take our young kids swimming there fortnightly to help teach them to swim because we cannot afford swimming lessons. Under the proposed changes the cost for a family will increase from \$13 to \$19.60. This is a huge cost increase and one that will mean we need to visit the pools less frequently. This will have a detrimental effect for our kids because they are nervous around the water and regularly exposure is important for them to gain confidence
50	Mike	No	No	I agree with the user fee increases. I would go further why not introduce parking fees more widespread throughout the area. The mount area is a prime example where parking fees could be introduced (albeit very unpopular). However this would encourage more people to engage with public transport, which at present is poorly used.
51	Sarah Alexander	No	No	I believe that a user fees rate should be charged on marine facilities similar to how Thames Coromandel District Council charges theirs. These fees could then be used to reinvest into marine structures such as wharves and boat

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				ramps to keep them fit for purpose and also when you charge a fee, peoples mindset changes and they want to look after it as there is a sense of ownership in the structure.
52	Nicole Delahunty	No	No	Generally the changes are fairly reasonable however, the parking rates are completely over priced for a standard user travelling into the city for a work day / week. Its unaffordable and the Council has not provided acceptable number of carparks nor do they provide a public transport system that is comprehensive enough to warrant the increase in parking costs.
53	Julie Batten	No	No	This is a huge jump in fees at a very hard financial time for the majority of Tauranga residents. As ratepayers we already pay some of the highest rates in the country due, in part, to inadequacies in previous councils over many years. Poor long term planning and financial waste. Perhaps the current commissoers could bear this in mind when making decisions for us.
54	Cara Phillips	No	No	Please do not increase the cost of Baywave entry. It's already expensive for a family to bring their kids for a swim, and we should be encouraging people to learn to swim, especially considering NZs appalling drowning statistics. Swimming is a life skill, and by increasing the entry cost, you are creating a barrier to some people who may want their children to learn to swim. I would be put off bringing my kids if you put the prices up. Perhaps you could offer discounted adult entry if they're accompanying a small child (5 and under), as all they're really doing is standing in the pool watching the child.
55	Muriel Banks	No	No	The charges for the Aquatic and Community Centres are unbelievably high. These are the things most used by families , seniors and low income people. To put the charges up by anything more than the rate of inflation is penalising the low income people and is exceedingly cruel. Cannot believe that the people proposing these charges are human!
56	Elizabeth Blankenaar	No	No	We are already reducing our children's ability to learn swimming at school by building schools without pools and reducing lesson times in the water. Increasing the children's fee to go to the pool will have a negative outcome for those who likely can't afford lessons and might see the fee hike as quite a hindrance. We need to make swimming for our young people a priority. Please don't add extra road blocks to this.
57	john McLeod	No	No	With inflation there is very little the council can do to avoid the proposed increases. Therefore council has my support. However I would also support a radical trimming of council administrative staff . There are big savings available in this area . Also less use of consultants would be welcomed.

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58	Donna-Marie Arlidge	No	No	Although costs are raising everywhere I feel that the increase to airport parking is not needed. This runs itself with minimal input from anyone and is quite expensive to park compared with other regional airports.
59	Simon Croom	No	No	The proposed user pays changes especially to swimming pools for lane booking with a club start to make it cost prohibitive to send kids to swimming. My concern lies with how many other people will struggle and therefore the Bayfair pool sees a significant reduction in income as a result. Are there other ways to fill the gap with sponsorship or naming rights of the pool to cover upgrades etc?
60	Pascal Tibbits	No	Yes	The specific area of my experience is with Building Services. I process small consents across the country so have experience with many Councils lodgment process and charges. TCC typically has performed the worst on a number of levels 1.Timeframes are always far more than other councils and often exceed statutory requirements. 2.TCC typically charges more for consent processing than other Councils, this appears to be due to time spent not the rate charged. I note that the rates charged for Building consent staff have been reduced by a marginal amount (which is great but begs an explanation) however, given the shear number of ill-informed questions I field on consents, I think the focus of training has been on applying the building code to anything and everything, rather than understanding drawings and specifications submitted by a designer. Not saying we designers are perfect by a long shot but charge-out rates for small to medium architectural firms in the real world are still sitting about \$150 not \$175 - \$299 (BTW the Team Leader and legal services rate states a reduction of 21.38% but is showing an increase of \$9? ... perhaps a typo). So, in conclusion I think the charge out rates for Building Consent services is still far too high (even with this reduction). Given the extended period of time staff are spending incorrectly deciphering plans or applying rules that don't apply, my recent experience is that the overall cost is higher and the takes longer than a comparable consent in Auckland. Basic pool consent 25 days still waiting for Council response as per attached...
61	Terry McIntosh	No	No	I would hope that the Council has done a full audit of its efficiency and effectiveness, before just saying " cost have gone up 6%" and using it as the reason to increase fees across the board. Having owned a service business for 16 years, one that would have been important to the council, I was never asked to quote any council repairs. Would have been nice to have had the opportunity, but most work goes out of town, while I contributed to the council

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				with two sets of rates. I'm retired now, but I take it the process is the same? I note water rates have increased significantly, my account is higher now, even with the installation of water tanks and a pump supply for outside purposes
62	Jeff Down	No	No	People are hurting financially. Food is expensive. Transportation is expensive. The cost of living is always going up. Our wages don't increase to keep up. Yours do.... you're bad people. DO NOT INCREASE COSTS FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS. HELP THE PEOPLE..... No I don't wish to talk to you about this, coz, as we all know, you f@#\$ers are going to do what you want anyway... you suck!
63	bill faulkner	No	No	Says it all "legislatively required to consult" etc....but to take no notice. Since the appointment of commissioners very little changes, if anything , consequent to consultation. rate increases are outrageous as an example. Ordinary people seem to have given up in the face of this dictatorship. Its a waste of time "consulting "
64	Jason Low	Yes	No	Rates are already too expensive. Why do we have such large red bins, we should be cutting fish on landfill waste, not encouraging it
65	Chase Cahalane	No	No	No issues with the airport fees. Animal Services: Adoption fees are going up around 30%! Thats not CPI. Council should be encouraging adoption, rather than creeping toward the price of a dog from the petshop! A fee should remain to deter irresponsible adoption, but this should be no more than \$150, even if this means a slight loss to council. Be a bit more humane! Bay Venues: All aquatics should be reduced in price, subsidised by the rate-payers. NZ has one of the highest drowning rates in the OECD. Tauranga is a coastal town with considerably easy access to waterways and the coastline (including surf/rips/in-shore holes etc.). Totally opposed to any raise in access to swimming facilities, and would like to see TCC take the brave step of subsidising the cost! Indoor sports are facing a massive increase in cost! This is not going to promote an active healthy population, nor will it help improve use of these community facilities. Community Halls: All community / not for profit groups should be exempt from any fee increases. In addition, some of these rates increases are far greater than CPI and will have a considerable effect on some groups ability to use the venue, and therefore their ability to operate and service the community. Occupation of Council Land: Group 2 - Do not raise fees for charities and not for profits. Instead, raise the for profits to cover the deficit. Group 3 - Golf Clubs - Raise these fees! There are several golf clubs in Tauranga, most sitting on prime land that would be better use to the community as public reserves, and even better,

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				developed for housing! Stop looking after your cashed up golf mates and put in place decent fees for this land, and stop charging charities! A percentage of member fees and green fees is not appropriate, these rates should be based on a percentage of a commercial land lease value per year. By percentage, at least 40% of a commercial rate. Parking fees: Do not increase any parking fees until the benefit of public transport improvements are proven. We are experiencing a considerable rise in the cost of living and this makes it much harder for everyone to get to work etc. yet the alternative transport options are still completely rubbish. Parks & Recreation: Do not implement fees. Events bring value to the city, therefore budget to support event management should be included within the annual plan and paid for from council budget. The reason for the proposal is also flawed... Applying inflation and rounding to \$0 still equals \$0!! So whats the real reason for the fee!! Planning: Support moves to hourly/actual cost based fees
66	Grant Strang	No	No	TCC user fees charges and services should not increase. Status quo should be a stated option for consultation. It's disingenuous to simply list all fees charges and services in manner TCC has presented. User fees charges and services should be listed as core essential vs discretionary. Community can then weight fees user charges and services and rationale for annual/biannual/LTP changes eg increase/status quo/ decrease. In addition: Council exists as set out by LGA - to serve community and to provide essential services. User fees charges and services should be a (nil increase) targeted KPI set for City CEO. If fees charges and services increase then the City CEO must be held fully accountable and his/her KPI performance stated in Council records. User fees charges and services should be solely aligned to CPI/inflation/census results/staff KPIs and if an essential services - changes stated as regulatory KPIs. All changes must be aligned to appropriate TCC senior employee performance as a KPI. This approach ensures CEO accountability and opportunity for communities to engage using objective KPI s and for operational employees to be held fully accountability through transparency. Just as TCC wants this feedback fully transparent eg mandatory to provide senders name, address, and email.
67	Sue Roberts	No	No	Seriously tcc people ate already struggling to make ends meet. If you keep wasting money on things that are NOT needed you fill the money gap. How hard is for tcc to keep focus on the things that need doing. Instead of a skate park. Etc Not impressed by tcc at all

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68	Sarah Thomson	No	No	Hi, i can understand that everything is going up but somethings just cant as its too costly for people now. The things i dont agree with raising are animal services, building services and also cemetery services. Parks shouldnt go up as they are terribly maintained as it is. Parking is too expensive currently as well. A lot of my clients dont go into town anymore because of it as they can go to bayfair or the lakes instead. Water we already pay a lot for in Tauranga so would not assume a basic need would cost more than it is currently. Building permits etc are very expensive currently too as if they go up anymore it puts more people off from building.
69	Kalleisha Wade	No	No	I do not support any increases in charges as Tauranga is already an expensive place to live
70	Frits Lang	No	No	Changes in fees for Baywave and the like are not necessary, they will become out of reach for the average Tga household
71	Dave Reid	No	No	Nice to see the council has reduced our fees due to increased efficiencies, increased productivity, innovation and smart thinking. (-:
72	Kirsten Jorgensen	No	No	Water fees have already gone up a lot. Library fees is not a good idea, as many older people make good use of the library, and often they are not well off, any trying to make ends meet with just their pension. Parking fees are already enormous, and bus service only cover certain streets, which is fair enough, but when you are elderly and find it difficult to walk any distance, often due to back injury, the only way to get to certain areas is by car. Rates are forever going up, to presumably cover these areas of cost?
73	Rylie	No	No	Tauranga already has the highest council rates in the country, and now they are slapping more money on top of people that are already struggling to make ends meet, that won't be able to use facilities or bury a loved one. Not the Tauranag I once knew.
74	Gavin Fairbairn	No	No	Any changes that increase cost to the consumer should be reviewed and scrutinized very carefully. With the current state of the declining economy further financial burden on the tax/ratepayer will be extremely difficult to manage. Wouldn't it be great to actually provide a cost saving to the rate/taxpayer in light of the current and growing economic strain already effecting our community.
75	Richard Maximillian Stephens	No	No	Hi ! Thanks for the opportunity to comment - 1. Adding nominal inflation to existing costs "just because" is doing nothing to curb inflation. Would have been great leadership to have adopted a more rigid review of prices and reflect actual costs versus anticipated costs. 2. Downtown parking should be free to compete with Fashion Island, Bayfair & The Crossing etc. While there

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				is parking costs, the CBD will always struggle to compete with the Malls. Use strategic long term, medium term & short term parking time limits for the CBD. Thanks again.
76	Jane	No	No	Despicable Our rates are massive. There has been no investment in any of the area in which you propose at least a 6% increase in user charges/fees. Water should be free. We pay fir our own rubbish collection yet still get charged for it in the ridiculously high rates. We don't use community facilities so why should we pay fir them? This council and commissioners are corrupt. At this point we are looking into ways to avoid paying our rates altogether.
77	Nick Fletcher	No	No	They should go ahead. Increases in charges are required to improve the city, or at the worst, maintain the status quo. Ideally the increased charges should contribute to continual improvement of city services.
78	Sharon Hooper	No	No	Good afternoon, Please would advise what Health Act fees are, and what service is provided by it. Also, I would like to know if the council had reconsidered it's decision to not compensate those that were locked out of council facilities because of vaccine requirements e g libraries. I was injured from first vaccine, therefore did not receive a 2nd. As a result, I paid for and chose to use a council facility, but you forbade me entry to use the facility. Many others chose to council facilities that they had paid for, but we're not permitted. Therefore, we should be refunded. I rarely go to the library now, as I find it difficult to forget and forgive such disgraceful treatment.
79	chris newnham	No	No	changing fees can in some instance reduce use due cost there fore reduce return for the year ,so same cost give more use
80	Bill Spillane.	No	No	You will all lose your jobs if you increase rates. We the ratepayers simply can't take any price increases. You were elected to reduce our costs. (NOT INCREASE THEM) Start listening to the people.
81	Rob Kampen	No	No	Firstly, the above link does not work, thus actual fees proposed are not visible. My comment however really relates to something broader. While I have no issue with user pays, and I'm sure the cost accounting performed by the city is sufficient to backup the true costs, plus a contribution to the fixed and common costs. However this can also be used to increase the overall income of the city by not relieving the rate paying citizens by reducing the property taxes by the amount being now charged for directly, through user pays fees. I know the argument will be that this increase in user pays fees means that further rates increases are reduced or avoided (wouldn't that be nice). Does the city practice zero based budgeting? If not, why not? Does the city critically examine all the various roles and activities they are involved

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				with, with a view to seeing how many they can reduce or eliminate? I understand that this is a little like asking the fox to guard the hen house, however government (including the city councils) are notoriously poor at spending money efficiently, thus all efforts should consistently be to remove themselves from every activity unless they can be proved to "add value" by their involvement. I have accounting experience and established the first economic cost modelling efforts done in Telecom New Zealand in the mid to late 1990's.
82	Andrew whitehead	No	No	User pays needs to be introduced for those non essential services. New subdivisions should be cost neutral for council-all costs to be borne by developers who pass onto property buyers.
83	Geoff Keogh	No	No	Broadly speaking, you are proposing to amend charges on 22 community services but you don't see any point in engaging with the community because it's in the LTP. we have had no democratic process in Tauranga for years now and unless you own a bus or a bike our opinion seems to be of little value to you. Just a question??- route K. Why are we paying tolls? It's not an expressway? It's an 80k area. If a new interchange is being built, why isn't it a project cost of Waka Kotahi? Just a start and I'm pretty sure will fit in with the other feedback you want but don't REALLY intend to consider. Do you actually know the fuel consumption of a motor vehicle when it takes 18 minutes to move from Fraser Cove to 15th Ave. Yes- close to 40l per 100km. As an aside - At the end of the working day/week, why don't the contractors remove their cones so that people can come in to town?
84	Bill Basher	No	No	Most are user pays as out lined but increases to things like storm water is a commodity that every one needs so hardly user pays, not like parking at the air port.
85	Alicia Burgess	No	No	Do not change bay venues aquatic prices. Families are struggling enough with the cost of living and inflation. They will be unable to afford a day out at the pools resulting in less visitors to the pools and less turnover
86	Harry Crowe	No	No	Re: On - street paid parking While I do not object to the fees being charged, I do feel charging parking fees after 5.00pm on Saturday night is a mistake. The revenue raised for charging parking fees between 5.00pm to 6.00pm must be minimal. Virtually all the CBD shops have closed between 4.00pm and 5.00pm. So often we read in the newspapers of how "dead" the city is over the weekend and I know the Commissioners are doing their best to remedy this situation. Therefore I am surprised that they have allowed this parking levy which discourages people coming into the CBD to use the

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				restaurants/Baycourt. There are plenty of good restaurants outside of the CBD which do not have parking levies, I know this is only a minor adjustment but I do feel everything we can do to encourage people into the CBD over the weekend is to the benefit of us all.
87	Craig Woodley	No	No	No No No your community is struggling out there and council is as bad as supermarkets grabbing cash when you can NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THIS. 6% is a huge hike as it stands you are failing us miserably with paid services !! Not happy
88	Hannah Cheal	No	No	Things are so expensive already. Do you want people to use these facilities or not? Do you want people to be able to live their lives and enjoy the outdoors/facilities everyone should be able to afford or not!!? Living prices are ridiculous already and it's just going to cause more stress.
89	LES BUTTS	No	No	Fair and reasonable given present inflation rate
90	Kathryn	No	No	I don't agree with your changes. Your fees are already high enough as it is, and I don't see you do a huge amount for the community. Cost of living is already high enough as it is, and you're just making it more difficult for people.
91	terry walsh	No	No	The fee increases for use of Indoor Sports Facilities by Seniors will simply deter Seniors from using those facilities and should be held at current rate.
92	David Buckley	No	No	The changes are not onerous so yes . But remember that our rates are on rateable values which have fallen considerably over the last year. We currently have a 4 bedroom home but only need a 2 or 3 bdrm and smaller section. That now is out of reach as new homes exceed the price we receive.
93	Jackie Stewart	No	No	Increases in fees are not inevitable. The 4% was decided before the current huge cost of living rises and should be reduced to take this into account. The 2% claw back in today's financial climate is rubbing salt into the already bleeding wounds of ratepayers. The council would be more popular and respected if they announced consideration for these factors. Government generally (local or otherwise) are the only areas where they can simply take more money any time it suits. We who have to pay that money are at their mercy. It would be a very good thing if, for once, council recognised the advantage to itself to show it too can tighten its belt and scored Brownie points with the community in doing so. The mindset of simply taking more money without giving anything in return is not appropriate in these times. Council must recognise the value of pragmatism and stop simply helping itself to the contents of ratepayers' coffers. The coffers are almost empty.

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94	Chris	No	No	They seem reasonable however I disagree with a charge to 1-2 hour parking, especially in the cbd. As due to a lack of convenient public transport, not many places to lock a bike and businesses not having their own parking, it is most convenient to be able to park for a short time in order to actually service the businesses in the cbd. Perhaps instead of a charge for parking to reduce how full they are, have a shorter time limit. This would have the effect of making the nature of the park a quick dash into a shop to grab a coffee or pickup some items. This would mean the parks have a higher turn over rate, and therefore more productive and value adding. And if a longer stay is required a use of parking building and a short walk to where you are going is very reasonable.
95	DARYL SILCOCK	No	No	Disgusting you are not only increasing our rates to the point some can LITERALLY no longer afford to live here(!!) but now you're money grabbing from other sources out of the same pockets - THE PUBLIC ARE NOT YOUR MONEY TREES!!! Here's a suggestion - cut down on council spending on 'wants,' as opposed to needs: VERY SIMPLE - NOT ROCKET SCIENCE - PAY ME INSTEAD OF THOSE EASILY BOUGHT COMMISSIONERS - I'M FAARRR CHEAPER AND USE MY COMMON SENSE AS OPPOSED TO GOING ALONG WITH WHOMEVER OFFERS THE BIGGEST KICKBACK... No I don't wish to speak to the council - THERE IS NO POINT, they don't listen DESPITE the fact they are supposed to be there to REPRESENT US!?? Everyone knows all that you are doing is already a done deal - by 'asking our opinion' you are merely crossing off a formality - YOU are a JOKE TCC!!!
96	Robert Morgan	No	No	Library fees for seniors should be abolished . Parking fees in the cbd should be reduced to encourage shoppers/tourists into the cbd , at the moment it is dying . There are some fees shown that are increasing by over 100% and yet the increase is from \$5.40 to \$ 5.70 . This is illogical , Explain . Cut the number of bureaucrats in the council who are bleeding money from ratepayers. The rates in tauranga are extortionate,please help.
97	Richard Fenn	Yes	No	I'm quite happy with all of the increase charges but gravely concerned about the waste of money on Cameron road for example replacing existing curb with a new one only by ,25cm from the existing one additional money wasted on closing off access streets we cannot afford it. The additional planting on Cameron road will require maintenance which we cannot afford and is unlikely to do anyway.

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98	Karen Prins Retief	Yes	No	Generally it looks ok but the aquatic fees in lower income areas like Greerton is too high. The family fee especially should remain at the old rate. There is already very little to do to keep kids off the streets and swimming skating etc has always been great for mental and physical health in kids. The overall rate in all areas for children should drop to support lower income communities. Also the way you reflect your percentage increases should be addressed. the family fee from Greerton pools increases by 51%, this makes it clearer for everyone to understand unless this intentional which in itself is quite ambiguous.
99	Marilyn Allen	No	No	The population of Tauranga are facing a cost of living crisis and your plans to increase fees above the rate of inflation at this time I find unacceptable. Can the council not find other cost saving methods at this time.
100	Karne gough	No	No	I agree a change in fees in line with inflation is fair and just, I don't agree with how this council utilises the funds collected. -We are now a city of cones that is grinding to a halt, businesses are failing due to council voted changes to city roads and parking with no compensation. - Tauranga city has no dedicated dog parks or water stations similar to those of other large cities, you provide plastic bags. -The continued maintenance of the city's 4 Libraries should really be reduced to 2 locations, as the world transitions more and more to digital content.
101	Shirley Hampshire	No	No	There is not enough time to view this. I am on holiday & have limited data. Why have I only just received this email?
102	Chris Donald Rapson	No	No	
103	Brent Doidge	No	No	No surprises there, just keep on hiking the cost of living up, if you have user pays, then that should include everything. People only have limited amount of money, where do you think this money is going to come from, stop spending money on fell good projects and all the other wasted council garbage. Go back to what the council should be doing, that's the basics.
104	David Buckley	No	No	The fees laid out are not so high as to stop people using them I'm ok with them at present. I would like to point out that our rates are paid on rateable values however in the current climate our house if we were to sell would be well under the value stated.
105	Phil Bourne	No	No	I see the price for early registration has yet to be set. Could I suggest that they either remain as they are or are even reduced to encourage more use of the dog registration process? I can see little will be gained by increasing fees as already it's the usual "people who care" who actually follow up on

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				registering and by increasing it will see more people flout their obligations, especially in this inflationary time when food on the table is hard enough to do. Don't leave it to those who pay to prop up the system. There appear to be many unregistered dogs in Tauranga & there seem to be no consequences for those who simply don't bother.
106	Janet Parker (Marlin Freindship Club Mt Maunganui)	No	No	On behalf of the Marlin Freindship Club Mt Maunganui; We, as a small concerned group of Mahjong players who use the facilities at the Arataki Community Centre here in Arataki Mt Maunganui, are extremely concerned at the new pricing proposal for the facilities that we have currently been using. We are a small group of 14 players but are never that many on any given day which would be on average only 9 or 10 ladies all of whom are pensioners. We have been using the facilities here for some number of years and have been able to cope with the price structure as it is but the now new proposed fees which have almost doubled will put us in an unaffordable situation and quite frankly it will drive us out having to look for an alternative facility. The Room we normally use at the Arataki Centre is the Sandpiper room which currently has a price of \$8.30/hour and for 3 and a half hours that works out to \$29 whereas the new price is going to be \$15.50/hour and will now cost us \$54.25. As you can see by these figures that is simply an astronomical and unaffordable cost for us. On behalf of not just us but also the local community we would like to request that you seriously consider re-structuring your increased fees to a lower more cost effective amount for our community members.
107	Bronwyn	No	No	NOT ON haven't you increased enough. Besides all the spending you are doing. YOU ARE PRICING OUR RATEPAYERS OUT OF THERE HOMES No use talking to TCC you don't listen We need the Commissioner's GONE and have an elected Council now.
108	Craig Woodley	No	No	Looking at the fees for a second time since the first draft was incorrect all i can see is area profiling. TCC has increased services by area based upon assumption on income. TCC needs to understand that yes inflation has gone up but because minimum wage has increased middle class has NOT had significant increases to their wages. For the last 3 to 4 years I have had 1% pay increase because of covid and now TCC decides inflation has gone up i must pay more. You guys are SO out of touch with the TC public its unreal. How about everyone pays fair? Why am i subsidizing others.
109	Amanda Paprzik	No	No	Where is the off peak rate for lane hire gone? I have heard this change is substantial but has been hidden in this document. It will impact many small

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				clubs. I thought you would have to have transparency around axing off-peak rates and not publishing this change. The clubs affected by this huge increase in lane hire fees will be considerable and most of these are not-for-profit clubs trying to keep afloat after Covid trying to rebuild all while encouraging kids to try something new after the major decline in children taking up sport. Major increases like this is not supporting clubs to rebuild. If fees are too high we can not offer discounted fees and sessions for people to try; club fees become too high for families to participate. On a general note; when it comes to water we need as many kids accessing services through school and/or fun swimming as much as possible. We have water all around us and learning to swim and having the ability for families to access pools is imperative for children's learning. The rates for the smaller complex pools is going to be expensive... and to note during the week at Greerton you only have 1/2 a pool, and 2 lane's at best for public swimming... not the best value, the kids get bored very quick and I personally would question if it was worth spending the new increased amount for my family. I thought we had community facilities available for everyone, not just those with disposable income.
110	Mike Feisst (Papamoa Country Music Club Inc)	No	No	I am making this submission on behalf of the Papamoa Country Music Club Inc. who use the Papamoa Sport and Recreation Centre on one day a month. We are a smallish club and our membership totals about 45 with 7 honorary members who are mainly our band. We do get around 25 people from other local clubs and off the street or by word of mouth who come along each month to swell our numbers. Everyone of our members is over 65 and living on the pension. As with most country music clubs around the country we have tried to attract younger people, but it is a struggle. With the current cost of living increases it is a struggle for most of our members and paying large increases this is just another cost to face up to. We fully understand that increases are inevitable and will face up to these so long as they are not exorbitant. Our venue rental is the biggest cost we face each month. We ask that you read and accept our submission on this matter as we are sure most other clubs who are not subsidized in some way will all be feeling the pressure. Secretary / Treasurer Papamoa Country Music Club Inc.
111	Raewyn	No	No	Please don't up the fees at Baywave! We already need more affordable indoor activities for our kids, not less!

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112	Pamela Somerville	Yes	No	Greerton Aquatics pricing Council is discriminating against infirm elderly on fixed incomes in the area who use the therapy pool daily. Fees up \$2 per visit is \$10 extra per week. Council is discriminating against low income families with increase of fee of \$6.60. Children under 4 an increase is \$2 and child up \$1.40. Parents accompanying up \$1.10. It appears you want to put off poor and low income people using these facilities.
113	Monica Walker	No	No	We don't need any more increases in our rates and we don't want any more bl...y changes!
114	Diana Margaret Bomford	No	No	I am opposed to the proposed increase in the price of hiring the Matua and Greerton Hall rate for seniors. I use these halls on a weekly basis for running exercise classes for seniors. The seniors pay for these classes which are linked to the Keep on Your Feet program who's aim it is to keep senior fit, healthy and avoiding falls. The programs I run have shown huge improvements in both physical and mental health for the seniors, thus improving their quality of life. Seniors pay for the classes, which for many is a strain on their budget in the current economic climate. Should the hal hire increase I will be forced to increase the cost of the classes. This will result in people no longer able to afford to come to classes. This will have a detrimental effect on the participants both physically, emotionally and mentally as the classes not only provide a way to exercise, but also socialize. Something the elderly in our community need.as for a number of them this is the only outing they have in the week. Reduction in health is a direct result from lack of exercise, weakened muscles result in increased number of falls which will result in a heavier burden on doctors, hospitals and other health providers such as physiotherapists etc. I am very much against this price hike which will most certainly have a detrimental effect on the elderly.
115	Jean markarian	No	No	Increasing prices by up to 7% in line with inflation make sense, but over than that is unjustified. No other business has come with such a price increase even though they have been struggling a lot over the past few years. Most of people using these facilities would have such a increase of incomes and will struggle to afford to come. Also that might create a snow ball effect, the more prices increase, the less people comes and the more price will increase to compensate. Swimming pools are public facilities sans therefore should be accessible to everybody. Most of the regular swimmers, going to swim squads are teenagers or students already on tight budget and would be the 1st to suffer on that increase.

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116	Geoffrey Nicholson (The Papamoa Sports Seniors Indoor Bowls Club)	No	No	Here are my views on the proposed price increase and behalf of The Papamoa Sports Seniors Indoor Bowls Club . We are a Club that consists of local Seniors who enjoy on a regular weekly Friday , an enjoyable and social afternoon . A majority are on a single Pension income , which includes myself . We do at present make a small profit each week , but not on the number who attend , but by the small profit on a door raffle prize . As we age , our numbers will gradually reduce . To increase the hall hire by the proposed amount would definitely make the Club run at a complete loss and have to close , even if we increased our attendance fee . by at least 50%. Therefore , both parties would loose out on a Friday afternoon , you that the hall would not be hired and us , for a very important social and active afternoon for Seniors which is very important for their well being .Please therefore , reconsider the proposed increase for your valued Senior Residents who pay your Rates .Geoffrey Nicholson . President .
117	Joshua Agnew	No	No	The proposed increase to sporting facilities is significant, an appears out of keeping with many of the other proposed increases. In particular the Baywave charge increases are large. There is also double dipping, where there is both a significant increase to both swimming in memberships and lane hire. This cost may be prohibitive from some families being able to join swimming clubs. We should instead be encouraging families to have their children swimming.
118	Phil Gillbanks	No	No	I am concerned regarding the price increases for pool access across Council Pools. In an area surrounded by water it is imperative that families have access to swim tuition and ongoing swim activities at a fair and reasonable price. NZ already has a world leading drowning rate. This combined with a high rate of drownings being recorded by minority groups. These groups are often our lower socio-economic families. Effectively these price increases have turned any competitive or social fitness swim activity or swim based sport into an elite Mid to High socio economic activity. These costs increases will cause many parents or caregivers to not even look at swimming as an activity for their tamariki. Directly negatively impacting the already appalling drowning statistics. The increased lane costs will immediately impact all club joining fees. This with an increased entry cost each time a participant enters a complex. Entry cost also ridiculously incurred by a parent wanting to watch and support a young person participating in already costly activity. At a time when Tauranga is showing growth across swimming activities including Surf Lifesaving Pool Rescue and Surf Sport

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				training, Swim Racing, Water Polo, Underwater Hockey, and Synchronised Swimming, these price hikes will affect membership and participation. These sports are currently seeing solid results Nationally leading to events being held in Tauranga bringing wider economic gain to the community. All are trying to attract members and target minority ethnic groups to participate. Swim sports should not be an elite activity. All you require is a pair of togs. Thank you
119	Jade Daniels	No	No	It would become unaffordable for our whānau to continue our Baywave membership. Please take into account the current cost of living crisis and do not make it unaffordable to frequent Baywave.
120	Emma Wood	No	No	I think to increase the fees to these places you are suggesting is a kick in the teeth to rate payers! We pay huge rates that should be covering these costs. It is important for kids to learn to swim and these fees alone are expensive and will have to be increased if you charge more for pool entrance, lane hire etc.
121	Sharon Cooney	No	No	As my children are members of MMSC the 40% lane hire age plus individual increase will place extra pressure on the decision to keep my children in swimming. Please keep swimming accessible to all. How about giving locals a discount compared to tourists in the area
122	Kathryn Evaroa	No	No	I agree with these changes
123	Anthony Vargas	No	No	Negative. No increase should be above inflation (maximum). The draft user fees and charges schedule is devoid of the reasoning behind the proposed %proposed changes. The council should complementary to the content of the schedule include how automation and efficiencies will reduce their own cost of operation so it could be balanced with the fees and charges. Increases above inflation year on year will only exacerbate the gap between those that have vs the ones that have not.
124	Brian Pointon, (Tauranga Indoor Bowls Association)	No	No	Introduction The Tauranga Indoor Bowls Association (TIBA) is an Incorporated Society which is the Regional Sports Organisation for our sport in the Tauranga District. We have ten affiliated clubs from Katikati to Pukehina (seven in Tauranga City) and about 300 affiliated members. TIBA manages the sport in this area, as well as engaging in inter-provincial representative events, running district championships, and is the link between NZ Indoor Bowls and the clubs. While indoor bowls in Tauranga may be considered a minor sport, we have run the week-long National Championships here on many occasions and hosted a test series against

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				<p>Australia. We attract from 170 (post-Covid) to 300 (pre-Covid) Year 7 and 8 players to the AIMS Games indoor bowls singles and pairs event, with the largest contribution of entries coming from Tauranga City schools. Indoor bowls is a sport for all ages and abilities. TIBA has the strongest junior development programme in New Zealand. Indoor bowls is a sport that is generally mixed in relation to male and female players playing together in teams and events. It is a sport enjoyed by families, and can be played at an elite competitive level as well as primarily for social reasons, particularly amongst our older members. Like many community sports, indoor bowls has been impacted by Covid-19 with membership dropping over the past three years by almost a quarter. There has been a resurgence though in membership in 2023. Approximate membership numbers in 2023 are: • Adult male 130 • Adult female 135 • Junior male 15 (under 18 years) • Junior female 20 TIBA is a totally voluntary organisation with no paid administrators or officials. Submission TIBA supports in part the increase in hall hire fees proposed by Bay Venues Ltd, but wishes to outline the impact that the increase is likely to have on our sport. TIBA understands that Tauranga City Council must balance the following factors when deciding the appropriate levels of fees for hall hire: • Community sport is a public good and it is appropriate that some of the costs are met by the general ratepayer; • Specific users of facilities, including community sport, should directly meet a significant portion of the costs; • Fees should be pitched at a high enough level to maintain and improve the facilities that are charged out; • Fees should be pitched at a low enough level that they do not impact on current participation rates, and actively encourage people to use the facilities. TIBA's playing base is the Mount Sports Centre. While this facility meets our needs very well, and is in fact the only facility in Tauranga that does, it has been allowed to deteriorate in condition. Our understanding is that the current plans are for it to be demolished, with no indication yet of what replacement facility will be built. Three of our affiliated clubs also use TCC-owned facilities: • Gate Pa club uses Greerton Hall • Bethlehem club uses Bethlehem Hall • Papamoa Sports club uses the Papamoa Sport and Recreation Centre The impact of the proposed increase in hall hire charges for these clubs is similar to TIBA's. Impact of proposed increases Financial impact TIBA hires the Mount Sports Centre on Thursday evenings and daytime on Saturday and Sunday. Our core programme of events throughout every season from March to October requires bookings for 33 sessions. In</p>

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				<p>2023, the total cost to TIBA was \$4,979. If the proposed fees increases are confirmed from 1 January 2024, the total cost in 2024 will be \$8,181, an increase of \$3,202 or 64%. TIBA's representative teams play against neighbouring districts with the host district being rotated each year. The total projected costs for the full annual programme including these events are:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>2023</td> <td>\$4,979</td> <td>2024</td> <td>\$8,181</td> <td>2025</td> <td>\$10,573</td> </tr> </table> <p>(including five hosted events and an estimated 3% COL increase) Hall hire fees in 2023 will make up about 10.4% of budgeted TIBA expenditure, and this would increase to about 17% in 2025. We have been fortunate in recent years that we have been successful in receiving Lion Foundation grants that cover 100% of our stadium hire fees (excludes the minor kitchen hire portion). It is not certain that TIBA will be successful in future in receiving these grants, particularly as fees increase by this significant amount. The Gate Pa club hires the Greerton Hall for 38 sessions from February to October each year - 32 evening sessions and 6 daytime sessions. In 2022, the hall hire cost was covered by a grant from Lion Foundation. In 2023, the hall hire costs will be \$3,894, and the application to Lion Foundation was declined. The increase in hall hire charges proposed for 2024 for Greerton Hall is likely to be 37%. Hall hire costs make up about 31% of this club's gross expenditure in 2023 or about \$100 per member, increasing to about 38% in 2024 or about \$133 per member. Participation impact One of the drawcards for indoor bowls is that it has a low entry cost. Clubs supply all the equipment and annual subscription fees are low, at about \$100 which includes: <input type="checkbox"/> TIBA affiliation \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> NZIB affiliation \$15 Junior subscriptions are considerably lower. Entry fees for TIBA-run events range from \$8 to \$10, again less for junior-only events. Where juniors enter open-age events however, they pay the full adult entry fee. Many of our members are reliant on NZ superannuation only. Some members play as couples or families, so the cost barrier is real for these households. It is likely that if TIBA wishes to break even financially each year or at least minimise any deficit, we will need to increase either the annual affiliation fee of \$15 or entry fees for events. The possible impact on affiliation fees under the following scenarios are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2024, if gaming trusts meet only \$5,000 towards hall hire fees, then the increase in hall hire fees would be equivalent to the adult TIBA affiliation fee being increased from \$15 to \$27. • In 2025, if gaming trusts meet only \$5,000 towards hall hire fees, then the increase in hall hire fees would be equivalent to the adult TIBA affiliation fee being increased from \$15 to \$35. • In 2025, if no gaming trust funding were 	2023	\$4,979	2024	\$8,181	2025	\$10,573
2023	\$4,979	2024	\$8,181	2025	\$10,573					

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				secured, then the total hall hire costs would be equivalent to the adult TIBA affiliation fee being increased from \$15 to \$55. In the cost-of-living environment that is likely to continue for a few more years, the proposed fees increases are likely to impact on participation rates in our sport, particularly for families with children. This is also a national issue. School sport participation rates are dropping in other centres, attributed partly to the cost of using council-owned facilities (Sunday Star Times 2 April 2023). These facilities are the ones that Bay Venues Ltd have benchmarked their fees and charges against. Alternative proposal To soften the impact to community sport, an alternative proposal would be to stage the increases in fees and charges over two years: say by two thirds in 2024 and then by a further one third plus any COL increase in 2025. This would give sports bodies, other users, and players the opportunity to optimise their revenue sources or better absorb the increased costs, and to not impact too much on participation rates. Summary Tauranga Indoor Bowls Association understands that fees and charges must keep pace with the cost of maintenance and service delivery. However, this may occur at the expense of participation in community sport, which has considerable social benefit. The high one-off increase in 2024 will be a jolt to our membership and TIBA's financial position. If the increase were to be staged over two years, the likely financial and participation impact will be more manageable.
125	Angela van Vliet	No	No	I feel for users who are heavily involved in numerous watersports the fee increases will make participation out of reach. The double dipping of increasing both the entry fee and lane hire means is unfair for families who use the spaces multiple times a week. The facilities have had improvements yes but not anything exceptional compared to similar facilities around the country, improvements made have only been maintenance and costs incurred should not be passed onto your valued patrons.
126	Terry Hawker	No	No	Fees are already excessive. Any increase is untenable! Tauranga is already one of the few councils charging fees for charity events (such as the Lions Market) taking the money directly from the people that need it! Charge charities but let sports clubs use the facilities free of charge. I think this is a peculiar decision
127	Chris Wood	No	No	As usual I can see little logic in many of the proposals. At last there's a proposed increase in the small helicopter landing fee - up by 10 per cent to \$12.65, but still less than half a day's parking at the airport! By contrast, almost all of the proposed increases in fees for aquatics venues are higher

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				percentages - some of them much higher. At Baywave the adult single swim price is to go up by 5.9 per cent but there's no increase for seniors and children over 4 (which is good). But at Greerton the proposal is to increase the single adult swim by 20 per cent, and the senior price by 76.9 per cent. This is simply age-related discrimination. Perhaps even worse is the idea that children from 2 to 4 years old should pay 153.8 per cent more. Even if the Greerton single swim increase of 20 per cent could be justified, how does this become a 35 per cent increase in the annual membership fee? As a five-days-a-week senior swimmer purchasing an annual pass upfront I strongly object to this proposal. Ditto my partner! I accept that the recent refurb has provided a few, mostly marginal, improvements but it's caused nearly 18 months of disruption and several lengthy pool closures (after years of little or no maintenance at all). And some things have got worse: the main entrance is a trip hazard, the original changing areas are still cold and with less space, the new changing areas are chilled down to 17C for some reason, the showers are barely warm (except for the accessible showers where the water is almost hot). And we're not currently allowed paper towels (apart from in the accessible facilities) which are used to pick up other people's plasters, contact lens wrappers, left-over bits of soap, shampoo bottles, tissues and general gunk.
128	Jessica Mackenzie	No	No	Happy with most changes. Things that are concerning though is the large increase in the following: * Airports - we need people coming into the region spending money *Baycourt - please encourage arts, they bring in vibrancy to the city center and see their customers spending a lot in hospo during events. Keep this accessible. Alcohol - Cost to advertise online. This is essentially free, why is it going up so considerably? *Parking - why is this so expensive? need to encourage people into the cbd not scare them away more. FREE PARKING
129	Helen Eastwood, (Mount Maunganui Amateur Swimming Club Incorporated)	No	No	Mount Maunganui Amateur Swimming Club (MMASC) has operated out of Baywave Aquatic Centre since the facility opened, providing swim coaching for children, young people and adults who want to swim competitively, train for other sports (e.g. surf lifesaving, water polo) or swim for general fitness. The club is affiliated to Swimming Bay of Plenty, and through them, to Swimming New Zealand. The club currently has approximately 130 swimming members. Members pay annual membership fees to the club to enable it to function, including paying for coaches and lane-hireage fees, the club's two largest cost centres. MMASC members also separately pay

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				<p>Baywave entry fees. Impacts of proposed fee increases on MMASC swimming families The impacts on our swimming families of the proposed increase to Baywave’s general entry fees combined with the proposed increase to lane-hireage fees would be severe: • the 39.8% proposed increase for lane-hireage equates to an increased cost of ~\$148 per MMASC member per year • the proposed increase for an individual annual aquatic membership is \$585 – \$433.10 = \$151.90. Together, these two fee changes amount to an estimated annual increase for a family with one MMASC swimmer of ~\$300 per year – for no change in the services they receive. For a family with more than one MMASC swimmer, the impact may be such that they cannot afford to continue swimming. This in a time where the recognised benefits of physical exercise and social contact (such as in a club setting) towards mental and physical health are of paramount importance. Further, water safety statistics in New Zealand speak for themselves.</p> <p>Timeframe for implementation of proposed fee increases The proposed implementation date for the increase to entry fees is 1 July 2023, a matter of weeks away. The 39.8% proposed increase for lane hire is scheduled to commence 1 January 2024, approximately eight months away – but not a great deal of time to manage a financial jump change of this magnitude and its potential impact on our membership. High user group at Baywave The club is acknowledged as a ‘high user group’ at Baywave. We are surprised and disappointed that the proposed fee structure does not offer a concession for the club’s significant annual lane-hireage fees. • The draft fees and charges schedule suggests the club is paying the same ‘standard lane hire’ rate as would be paid by a one-off hire. • The ‘standard lane hire’ rate does not appear to differentiate between hireage by a local club and hireage by an entity outside the Tauranga City Council ratepayer base. Disproportionate increases to Baywave child and adult entry fees • Adult and child squad fees: The proposed adult squad fee increases to \$4.40 (4.8% increase) and the child squad fee increases to \$4.30 (4.9%). • Adult and child single-entry fees: The proposed adult single-entry fee is \$9.00 (a 5.9% increase from \$8.50) and the child single-entry fee is \$5.70 (0% increase). The difference between the two adult fees (\$4.40 and \$9.00, more than double) seems disproportionately large compared to the difference between the two child fees (\$4.30 and \$5.70, a difference of ~33%). It is suggested that consideration be given to holding the adult single-entry fee at its current 2022/23 rate (i.e. \$8.50, rather than increasing it to \$9.00) and instead</p>

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				adjusting the child single-entry fee very slightly – with a view to ultimately reducing the comparative disparity with the two adult fees. MMASC, a fact of geography and aquatic fees MMASC absolutely recognises and appreciates the quality of the Baywave pool and supporting facilities. However, we are also mindful that due to the geographical location of the club in Mount Maunganui, MMASC members already contend with a difference in the (higher) aquatic entry fees charged at Baywave compared to members of swimming clubs using other Bay Venues aquatic facilities. For example, although all Bay Venues aquatic memberships are proposed to increase by 35%, in dollar terms this equates to an increase for Baywave users (including MMASC members) of \$151.90 per year compared to a \$97.32 increase for users at other Bay Venues aquatic facilities. The potential impact of the proposed Baywave increased entry and aquatic membership fees (on top of the proposed increase in lane-hireage fees) is that MMASC families may look to consider other local swimming clubs (e.g. Papamoa Swim Club, Omanu Swim Club) that do not use Bay Venues aquatic facilities. Conclusion MMASC recognises that fee increases are a fact of life. However, the proposed increases to the lane-hire charges and the annual Baywave aquatic membership fee mean that MMASC families potentially face an extra ~\$300 per year per swimmer – for no change in the services received. And a number of MMASC families have more than one member swimming with the club; for them, the impact may be such – particularly in the current economic climate – that they cannot afford to continue swimming. Further, the proposed increases – particularly the jump increase of nearly 40% in the lane-hireage fees set to commence in just eight months' time – have significant implications for MMASC's ability to manage the financial impact on our swimming families and therefore on the club itself. This puts our club at risk of losing members to other swimming clubs or, worse, losing members to swimming altogether.
130	Hannah Ketu	No	No	The increase is limiting kids abilities to participate in extra circular activities which involve the pool. The swim club will on charge us the customer and soon it will just be unaffordable
131	Janine Bollee	No	No	NEGATIVE! Venomously opposed! We are a family of 5, 4 of us who swim regularly. 2 are in squad and waterpolo. These changes would affected immensely. In fact we seriously would need to consider if we could continue. In the age of wanting to keep people active and the increasing drowning statistics this increases will have a dramatic negative effect in our view. I

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				believe Bay Venues needs to continue to have social responsibility. We are one of the most highest pool entry costs in NZ and given our demographic with many having low incomes it is appalling. The fee increased of the Baywave Membership going it us personally three ways. 1) Membership fees increasing (we have to pay these for the 2 boys due to doing a) Squad b) Waterpolo 2) Our fees for Squad will also increase as your lane hir costs have gone up nearly 40% as well. 3) Our fees for Waterpolo will also increase due to lane hire increases. Please, please, please Reconsider.
132	Mark Rogers (Tauranga City Basketball)	Yes	Yes	Hello, Attached please find the submission on user fees from Tauranga City Basketball. We would like to speak to this submission.
133	Tina Neville	No	No	I am a ratepayer and a regular community hirer of 4 Bay Venues Community Halls. I teach seniors Zumba and fitness classes at The Welcome Bay Hall, The Papamoa Sports & Rec Centre, The Bethlehem Hall and The Elizabeth Community Centre (Room 1) I have been using these community Halls for approx 10 years. I teach 7 classes across the 4 venues. I think the increase in hourly hire charges for these Halls is far too much. I understand that the Commission want to bring the charges up to a 'national standard'. If they do this then they should bring these buildings up a 'national standard' as well. Most of these buildings are very old, uninsulated, in dire need of major renovation, not clean, tidy & hygienic and are like fridges in winter. I carry a tool kit and cleaning supplies with me to every class. I often fix window latches, sweep & mop floors (to make the floors safe for my students), wipe kitchen benches (I don't even use kitchens) vacuum floors, pick up pins & nails, pick up rubbish, spray disinfectant & deodoriser throughout buildings because of the awful smell..... Is the Commission aware that at many Halls, for me Elizabeth str, Welcome Bay & Bethlehem Hall, we have to put coins into a slot machine to get heating? So we are already paying more than the hirage charge to heat these old uninsulated halls. Welcome Bay Hall is 1 x 50c coin for 15 mins of heat - in winter I have to come and put the heating on 2 hours before my class, just so that the room is slightly warmer than the outside temp. Bethlehem Hall is 1 x \$2 coin for 1 hour of heat. But the hall is so badly insulated that it needs 1-2 hours to reach a comfortable temp inside. Elizabeth street (room 1) has one coin box for the upper part and its \$1 coin for 1 hours And the bottom part of the room is \$1 coin for 30 mins So for a 1 hour class it costs me and extra \$5 to heat/cool the room ***And Elizabeth str Room 1 is split into 2 different levels so I can only use 1/3-1/2 of the room.

TCC User Fees and Charges 2023/24 Submissions

Submission #	Name	Do you wish to speak to Council?	Attachment	What is your view on these changes?
				<p>The lower part has a concrete floor - I use this. The upper part is carpet and has pillars so cannot be used by dance fitness type classes If we are not using the kitchen or half of the room - we should not be paying 102% more!!!!!! Have the Commission/Council actually been to these halls and seen how old they are? Here are some comparisons to Community Halls around NZ. The Tamahere Community Centre - Waikato District Council - NEW BUILDING (0-15 years old) Full sized basketball court plus a stage - room for 150 dancers \$35 per hour Onehunga Community Centre, Auckland Council - NEW BUILDING Large room for 50 dancers \$33.70 per hour Northcote War Memorial Hall, North Shore Council - old - similar to Welcome Bay Hall Room for 50 dancers \$23.50 per hour (off peak) Takapuna War Memorial Hall, North Shore Council - old & new Room for 100 dancers \$29.60 per hour off peak New Aranui Wainoni Community Centre, Christchurch Council - NEW BUILDING Sports hall & stage - room for 100 dancers \$30.63 per hour - community groups North New Brighton Community Centre, Christchurch Council Function room & stage - room for 120 dancers \$30.63 per hour - community groups Once again I stress that most of our Community Halls are old, cold, often not that clean, not efficient spaces to use and definitely not up to any kind of 'national standard'. Most of my participants are pensioners. They are struggling to survive on their pensions and with the rising cost of living I don't want to raise my prices. Exercising at any age is incredibly important but to seniors it is essential to their physical and mental health. Group exercise brings them together for friendship and decreases anxiety and depression. Their balance and coordination must be constantly improved to prevent falls and serious illness. The physical and mental health of our participants is incredibly important to all of us who teach seniors community exercise classes in Tauranga. We don't do it to make lots of money. We do it because we love what we do and we love helping people. Getting to exercise classes should not be something only the wealthy can afford - it should be something everyone in the Tauranga district can afford. I would be happy to take the commissioners for a tour of the Community Halls that I use so I can show them the state of these old Halls. Yes, some have, in the last year or so, had a splash of new paint and some new heat pumps added (which we pay for by putting coins in the slot machines) and thats been great. But it is NOT ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY 50-100% COST INCREASES!!!!!!</p>

TCC User Fees and Charges 2023/24 Submissions

Submission #	Name	Do you wish to speak to Council?	Attachment	What is your view on these changes?
134	Jenny Kirk (Volleyball Tauranga)	Yes	Yes	Good morning, Attached please find our Club submission re the proposed fee increases relating to Indoor User Charges. We do wish to speak to this submission and would appreciate being scheduled at the same time as Tauranga City Basketball (Mark Rogers). Thank you for this opportunity to be the voice for our grass roots Volleyball community.
135	Wendy Harman	No	No	Submission re Draft user fees and charges 2023/24 Dear Council Members, We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed increase to User Fees and Charges 2023-24. The proposal as it stands would have a negative impact on residents who use council services who are on low income or whose only source of income is the pension. The Papamoa Mahjong Group is a small non-profit-making group that hires a Small Room in the Papamoa Sports and Recreation Centre on a weekly hire. We are all local pensioners, and the group is just covering our costs at present for the room we rent. Should the proposed user charges be implemented, most of our members will not be able to afford the increase and it is very likely that we will not be able to continue using these facilities. Whilst we are only a small group and a small percentage of the community who use these services, we are concerned that community centre usage will reduce across the board for similar groups. The social aspect for our elderly players is important for their well-being and the proposed User charges will also disproportionately affect the youth residents on low or little income who rely on these halls for a safe and community-focused centre to gather. We believe that the regular usage of the halls at a reduced rate will be a far better outcome to maintaining community centres rather than no usage at all for these groups. We strongly request Council to reconsider the User fees and charges proposal for the Youth and Senior residents, most of whom are on low income/pension. Sincerely Papamoa Mahjong Group
136	Robert Hill (Evolution Aquatics)	Yes	Yes	Dear Sir/Madam I attach Evolution Aquatics Tauranga's submission regarding the proposed fee changes at Greerton and Otumoetai pools. If you have any questions regarding our submission, please contact me.
137	Nicky Scott	No	No	To whom it may concern, I would like to express my concern regarding the proposed changes to fees at Baywave Aquatic Centre. We are a family of 5 and all 3 of our children are frequent pool users. They currently each have aquatic memberships and use the facility for swim training and waterpolo. The greatest fee increases affect us (frequent pool users) the most. 35% increase for memberships equates to \$160 a year more for our family. 40%

TCC User Fees and Charges 2023/24 Submissions

Submission #	Name	Do you wish to speak to Council?	Attachment	What is your view on these changes?
				<p>increase in lane hire will force Mount Swim Club and Tauranga Waterpolo Club as well as School Waterpolo teams to significantly increase their fees to cover this astronomical increase in lane hire. For our family the proposed price increases are completely unaffordable and it is likely they would no longer be able to be involved in the sports they love and have trained so hard in. That would be a real shame! These huge price increases are way beyond the 6% inflation and seem very unfair to those who use the pool the most. We really hope you reconsider the fee changes to make it fair for all users.</p>
138	Hillary Burrows	No	No	<p>The user fees and charges at this time is 14% of the Council income. The Tauranga City Council should not increase any user fees and charges at this time 2023. Inflation is very high now and that with extremely high Tauranga rates and large mortgage increases. Some people cannot pay their payments some will have to sell their homes. People who rent also will suffer as rents are very high. The Tauranga Council should not be charging people to park in the Tauranga City precinct a lot of people no longer want to shop their because of parking fees and most of the shops have closed and gone since the four commissioners have come to Tauranga they have been doing projects at the same time and people have been trying have found it hard to park this had destroyed peoples businesses and they have closed and gone and won't return. The commissioners especially Anne Tolley are trying to ruin sports clubs rooms and fields if this happens sports people will not stop in Tauranga precinct. Tourists will not want to pay parking costs and drive all the way to a museum. Thousands of tourists and visitors go to Mount Maunganue and Papamoa because of camping grounds the beach and good shops in those areas and good supermarkets close to the beach. A lot of sports events are at Mount Maunganue and Papamoa and surf live savers in summer. A Museum at Blake Park with free parking would be a lot better because of all the visitors who go to these areas already.</p> <p>The Council complains about people not doing submissions it is the Council's fault for not having all the information needed in Librarys with written information so people can do submissions wake up and doing something about it.</p> <p>The Tauranga City Council causes many problems because they do not consult with people I cannot contact you via email as I do not have email a lot of people do not have it to. It is time the Council stopped being silly and</p>

TCC User Fees and Charges 2023/24 Submissions

Submission #	Name	Do you wish to speak to Council?	Attachment	What is your view on these changes?
				understand a lot of people can not do submissions because they do not have online websites therefor they are not being consulten properly. The law is that all rate payers should be contacted by phone or letters if they do not have email or websites.
139	Kay and Colin Whittaker	No	No	What is the point the ratepayer is never listened to. What are our rates paying for apart from a concrete jungle that nobody wants. Don't ask the ratepayer as you are wasting money and you never go by what the public wants. The money spent on the dog chopper is a great example.

TCC User Fees and Charges 2023/24 Submissions

Attachment 1 – Submission 10 – Murray Guy



TCC User Fees and Charges 2023/24 Submissions

Attachment 2 – Submission 60 – Pascal Tibbits

My Applications

Filter: Sort:

 — Carolyn And Stewart Gebbie — BC only Action ▾

Application > Vetting > Dev Cont > RMA > PIM > Processing > BC 25 > CS > Inspections > CCC

TCC User Fees and Charges 2023/24 Submissions

Attachment 3 – Submission 132 – Mark Rogers

**TAURANGA CITY BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
SUBMISSION TO TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL APRIL 2023**

Introduction

Tauranga City Basketball Association (TCBA) has operated in the City since the 1950's. Currently we have over 4500 active players with 95% of these being Tauranga City (or Western Bay) residents. Our total membership is over 7000. TCBA operates weekly competitions for all our active players, runs holiday programmes, run developmental and skill programmes, provides a pathway to elite competition, and hosts various tournaments and events. We generate on average 30,000 bed nights per annum in accommodation in the City with our various events. This has a very positive impact financially for Tauranga City.

Bay Venues have advised that Basketball makes up over 25% of all community use in Trustpower Arena (six court area) and the QEYC. Over a year basketball utilizes 5,500 hours of community use. This figure does not include use in smaller Bay Venues facilities (Aquinas, Merivale and Mount Sports). Basketball is the biggest user of these community facilities.

Summary of the Submission

We would like Council to consider the following:

- Our support for the Commissioners view that everyone should pay their fair share.
- The growth of indoor sports compared to traditional outdoor sports.
- Our opposition to the proposed increase to charges for Bay Venues indoor facilities.
- Our recommendation for changes to user fees charged to sporting organisations (indoor and outdoor).

Our support for the Commissioners view that everyone should pay their fair share.

Commissioner Anne Tolley has been quoted in a Sunlive article dated 21 March as follows "Our line is that everyone pays their fair share." [SunLive - Fees for Tauranga council amenities on the rise - The Bay's News First](#). Tauranga City Basketball support this view and the work the commissioners have done to address a backlog of needed improvements to the City. As ratepayers in the City, our members contribute to the work done by Council and also contribute towards Council owned facilities that they use for their recreation.

The growth of indoor sports compared to traditional outdoor sports.

The popularity of basketball and other indoor sports has continued to grow in New Zealand whilst traditional outdoor sports have been on the decline. Nationally, Basketball is now second only to Netball and will potentially become the largest sport in 2023. This growth is despite a large facility availability imbalance and costs involved in utilising mainly Council owned indoor facilities.

The below data is the only comparison of playing numbers that is not collected by codes and is therefore independent of accounting differences. The data shows the continued growth of indoor sports in the Bay of Plenty and the continued decline of traditional outdoor codes (bar Hockey).

New Zealand Secondary School Sports Council Census Data for the Bay of Plenty.

The data is provided by all high schools in New Zealand to the School Sport NZ.

Sporting codes do not provide this data.

Students need to have meaningful participation (at least 6 weeks and/or represented school).

Data can be accessed at [School Sport New Zealand - School Sport NZ Census Reports \(nzsssc.co.nz\)](https://nzsssc.co.nz)

Sport	2013	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Tennis	314	228	247	222	246	243	247	156	136
Cricket	460	380	268	337	396	342	294	384	370
Badminton	661	623	520	565	698	618	645	584	676
Hockey	976	1117	1121	1163	1193	1188	1139	1079	1184
Football	1658	1623	1679	1537	1511	1413	1240	1211	1323
Netball	1731	1629	1695	1615	1586	1556	1368	1298	1341
Rugby	2150	2050	2058	1848	1745	1703	1598	1574	1528
Basketball	920	1208	1354	1640	1650	1367	1451	1435	1557
Volleyball	1544	1695	1828	1951	1805	1680	2073	2022	2054

Our opposition to the proposed increase to charges for Bay Venues indoor facilities.

Council’s financial support of residents utilizing indoor facilities meets the outcomes listed in the 2021-2031 long plan, in particular the plan states:

GIVING OUR COMMUNITY FACILITIES A SHOT IN THE ARM You want us to create places where people can come together and do the things they enjoy. In many instances, these developments have been delayed for years and it’s heartening to be able to address that historic under-investment now. We’ve listened to you and we’re making long overdue improvements to many of our facilities.

TCBA understands the need for user groups to be charged a reasonable fee for the use of Council facilities. In this regard there is a balance to be struck between the recovery of Council’s costs and the wider community benefit of providing these facilities. We believe this needs to be considered particularly regarding Council’s outcomes noted above and the importance of encouraging a healthy and active community.

The potential impact of the proposed 58% user fee increases for TCBA and TCBA members is that it may discourage teams entering our various league competitions. This is most likely to be realised in our school leagues competitions which are our largest group of leagues and from regular school and player feedback are our most price sensitive group of leagues, particularly when many families have children playing another sport over the winter period when the school leagues competitions are held.

Additionally TCBA believe that Council’s current and proposed user fees and charges across indoor and outdoor sports requires reviewing to provide cost recovery equity, of Council’s costs, across all user groups.

The below comes from Tauranga City Council’s Proposed 2023/24 Tauranga City Council Fees and Charges for Community Consultation and is evidence of the current and proposed inequity:

Proposed 2023/24 Tauranga City Council Fees and Charges for Community Consultation	Current Fee	Proposed 2023/34 fee
Outdoor spaces		
Sports Groups - leased playing surfaces subject to policy	No Charge	No Charge
Community Group using land with no facilities	No Charge	No Charge
Sports Fields User Charges	No Charge	No Charge
Community group using land on an ongoing basis through a lease or licence. - Per year charge		
Base administration fee	\$254.00 + GST	\$277.00
A per square metre charge for Annual rentals will be determined as follows:		
A per square metre charge for exclusive use area:		
0-100m2	\$2.46pa pm2 plus GST	\$2.68
101-500m2	\$2.03pa pm2 plus GST	\$2.21
501 – 1000m2	\$1.44pa pm2 plus GST	\$1.57
1,001 – 10,000m2	\$0.95pa pm2 plus GST	\$1.04
10,001+ m2	\$0.74pa pm2 plus GST	\$0.80
Indoor Sports - Per hour charge		
Trustpower Arena		
Adult – Standard	\$47.90	\$59.60
Adult - Community Regular	\$38.30	\$50.70
Youth/Senior - Standard	\$31.10	\$50.70
Youth/Senior - Community Regular	\$24.90	\$41.70
QEYC		
Adult Standard	\$33.60	\$47.70
Adult - Community Regular	\$26.80	\$40.50
Youth/Senior - Standard	\$23.80	\$40.50
Youth/Senior - Community Regular	\$19.00	\$33.40
Aquinas / Merivale / Mount Sports		
Adult - Standard	\$25.70	\$41.70
Adult - Community Regular	\$21.90	\$35.50
Youth/Senior - Standard	\$17.60	\$35.50
Youth/Senior - Community Regular	\$15.40	\$29.20

We note that Bay Venues’ report to council recommending fee increases focused on the lowest hourly rate (\$24.90) when making comparisons to other councils’ charges. When comparing the standard adult rate, the difference between charges in the various cities is minimal. Likewise, the difference between Bay Venues rates and other Councils who have a discounted community rate is minimal (e.g., the Peak in Hamilton charge is \$29.00, Te Awamutu Events Centre charge is \$30.00). The report also does not allow for regional differences when making the comparisons. Rates charged in our region (Waikato/BOP) seem to be lower than the average quoted in the report.

We also note that the report presented to Council only includes comparisons to a few areas of the country when making assumptions on the National average. A good example of data missing from this information is the Pettigrew Green Arena in Hawkes Bay. This facility has 11 courts and in 2018 at the last census population comparisons with Tauranga were as follows:

Tauranga	136,713 population
Napier/Hastings	143,778 population

Pettigrew Green arena like facilities in our region have a regular community rate (\$38.00) and a standard user rate (\$68.00). The addition of these facilities and others around the country will, we believe, provide a true national average which is lower than the one quoted in the report to Council.

As can be seen from the above information, Council currently does not charge for outdoor recreational spaces but does for indoor spaces. There are costs related to all these facilities and TCBA would like to see the cost spread over all user groups in a fair manner, rather than just charging indoor sports users.

Sport NZ 2013 document “Guidance Document for Sports Field Development” and Council staff (with regard to sports fields maintenance costs). [Guidance Document for Sports Field Development | Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa \(sportnz.org.nz\)](https://www.sportnz.org.nz/guidance-document-for-sports-field-development) outlines what the costs were to maintain a sports field in 2013. These figures have not been updated since 2013. These are summarised in the table below for one 1 hectare field:

	Soil	Sand	Artificial
Capital costs	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$1,500,000
Maintenance costs	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Renewal cost		\$125,000	\$500,000
Replacement frequency years	999	10	10
Weeks in use games annually	40	40	48
No game days per week	1	1	2
Hours of use games daily	2	4	10
Weeks in use training annually	40	40	48
Hours of use training weekly	6	16	25

	Soil	Sand	Artificial
No. of game hours per annum	80	160	960
Training hours per annum	240	640	1200
Annual use hours	320	800	2,160
Lifecycle cost	\$ 218,104	\$ 649,613	\$ 2,212,674
Cost per hour of play to achieve target NPV	\$ 57.71	\$ 68.75	\$ 86.74

Tauranga City Council staff advised in 2013 the maintenance costs per annum for sport fields was \$845,000 + GST, and that there were 634,150m² of Sports Turf (actual playing area). We have asked for updated information from Council staff but have not received this in time for this submission.

TCBA believes Council has 63 full size equivalent sports fields. (21 Rugby, 2 Rugby League, 3 Hockey and 38 Football in winter that transfer to 21 Cricket, 6 softball, 20 touch and 3 athletics in Summer).

Based on the above Sport NZ model the cost to provide these playing surfaces in 2013 was just under \$13,750,000 if all surfaces were the basic soil type. This cost would rise to just under \$41,000,000 for sand fields.

We understand these costs do not include:

- Costs of trimming trees etc in the reserves.
- Fencing.
- Lighting and power.
- Rubbish removal.
- Event use and costs related to these (e.g. AIMS games).
- Not playing surface facilities (toilets, clubrooms, car parks, rubbish collection etc).
- Any costs relating to Council reserves leased to sporting codes (Rugby, Netball, Tennis, Croquet, Bowls), for example legal fees around developing contracts.

Charges for Indoor courts include staffing costs (bookings, enquiries etc), toilets and changing facilities, cleaning and rubbish removal. For outdoor facilities we understand these costs are absorbed into Council's Parks department budgets.

Provision of other recreational facilities at no charge.

Council also provides passive recreation facilities for those ratepayers who wish to utilise these types of facilities at no charge. These include walking tracks, bike tracks, playgrounds and skate parks.

An example of this is the new skate park being developed on Mount Manganui road.

Our recommendation for changes to user fees charged to recreation organisations (indoor and outdoor).

TCBA therefore requests that Council does not proceed with the proposed increase for Council's indoor facilities for the 2023-24 year and instead undertakes a full review of user fees and charges across all indoor and outdoor recreation facilities to provide cost recovery equity across all types of facility utilised by local groups.

We suggest the implementation of a set percentage of costs relating to providing recreational facilities be charged to all user groups. This would be a way to ensure everyone pays their fair share.

We were unable to secure information from Bay Venues as to proposed increases for commercial event rates in the Trustpower Arena. We believe these should also be considered when setting community use rates as they impact the cost structure of Bay Venues and impact availability of space for community sport.

TCBA suggest indoor user charges are increased by CPI until the above work is completed.

We would also like to understand the support for Bay Venues from the Western Bay of Plenty District Council as many of their ratepayers utilise the facilities alongside Tauranga City Residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our submission. We would like to speak to this submission.

Mark Rogers
General Manager - Tauranga City Basketball Association.

TCC User Fees and Charges 2023/24 Submissions

Attachment 4 – Submission 134 – Jenny Kirk

SUBMISSION TO TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL RE PROPOSED INCREASE IN INDOOR SPORT USER FEES



On behalf of Volleyball Tauranga Club

23rd April 2023

Our Club has been operating for over 50 years offering Volleyball at all levels for all ages across the Western BOP area. We provide affordable community Leagues 11 months of the year. In our high season we have over 2000 participants each week.

Snapshot – We rely on Council facilities to be able to host opportunities for our community to engage in a healthy activity for all ages and abilities. Post Covid we have seen a large engagement by our community wanting regular affordable opportunities to play.

Summary of the Submission

A We would like the Commissioners to consider reducing the increase of the proposed indoor sport user fee charges. A 32% and some cases 43% is too much for our Club to handle in one rise.

- 1 At Trustpower Arena we had a 5.9% rise last year on top of CPI rises in previous years. The current Community Adult Regular rate is \$40.50 incl GST with the proposal to rise to \$50.70 per hour per court. That's a 25% increase.
- 2 At QEYC the current community adult regular rate is \$26.80 incl GST with the proposal to rise to \$40.40 per hour per court. That's a 50% increase.
- 3 We feel particularly aggrieved by the youth/senior rates proposed rise of over 60%. These are groups that our community needs to nurture into healthy recreational activity at an affordable cost. It makes for a better community for everyone.

- 4 The per person per visit scenario (\$0.14 to \$1.81) presented by BVL to TCC is misleading and confusing when trying to take into account the actual proposed increased charges we need to factor into our many different Leagues hosted over many nights.
- 5 The updated current V proposed schedule which is now available should have been made available at the beginning of this very short consultation period. As a Club we have been under pressure to respond to this massive proposed increase and are saddened by the poor communication by BVL.

B We would also like the Commissioners to consider the inequity that continues to exist between outdoor sports (cricket, rugby, netball, tennis etc) and indoor sports. We would be pleased to see some form of reporting established on just what outdoor users are actually charged or not, so a balance can be established between outdoor and indoor both paying their FAIR SHARE. Considerable resource is put into outdoor sports both as capital expenditure and annual maintenance and upkeep of grounds, lighting etc.

We ask for some equity between indoor and outdoor sports. This info continues to be “unavailable” and not determined by TCC staff, Sport BOP staff and Bay Venues staff. The “Occupation of Council Land” summary in the User Charges schedule is also “vague”.

Discussion

- Benchmarking us against major centres across NZ gives a false impression as we are a regional center and would be better measured against other regional centers.
- While our area population is high our capacity for indoor court space is sadly lacking and has not kept up with our recent population growth. Benchmarking against Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin provides an assumption that our capacity is OK.
- Sport is proud that we consistently manage our way through commercial activity “taking over “our space with regular interference. This commercial activity must provide benefit to BVL which in turn should provide a buffer for our community sport.
- Indoor Sports have been regular submitters to the annual long term planning, so TCC , BVL and Sport BOP should be well aware of the growth we are continually experiencing.

- We have taken years to build the competitions up on the Mount/Papamoa side of the bridge at a risk/cost to our Club each year. Increasing our costs too much will impact on our affordability.
- New Flat floor area continues to be a priority for Tauranga to develop to stop this conflict between commercial and community and offer alternative sites.
- Indoor sport capacity is critically short in BOP more so in Whakatane and Rotorua.
- It is also concerning that we have not had regular (more than one) User meetings with Bay Venues or Council. We represent a lot of users directly from our community. (estimated 7,000 each week in high season with Volleyball and Basketball).
- We have been unable to establish what Council contributions are made to “outdoor sports” which continue to enjoy a significant “Council” contribution towards their activity. Sport BOP cannot assist with this information either

We would like to talk to this submission in partnership with Tauranga City Basketball and have an opportunity to advocate at Council level for grass roots community sport.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Kirk Secretary / Manager ph 0274.824.334

Stewart Henderson Chairperson (ph 021.114.4551) Paul Ake Treasurer

Email info@volleyballtauranga.co.nz www.volleyballtauranga.co.nz

Club members also in support of this submission that were keen to be mentioned ,Sam Odea (International Beach Volleyballer) ,Cathy Aldridge (Teacher Otumoetai Intermediate)

TCC User Fees and Charges 2023/24 Submissions

Attachment 5 – Submission 136 – Robert Hill

The Commissioners

Our ref Evo- BVL
submission

Tauranga City Council
by email: submissions@tauranga.govt.nz

23 April 2023

Dear Commissioners

Proposed changes for pool user charges – Evolution Aquatics Tauranga submission

We are writing on behalf of Evolution Aquatics Tauranga (“Evolution”) regarding the proposed changes to lane hire charges at aquatic facilities operated and managed by Bay Venues Limited (“BVL”).

Summary of submission

- BVL proposes to change the standard hourly rate for lane hire from \$9.30 per hour to \$13.00 per hour. We are firmly opposed to the proposed increase. The timing of this proposal could not be worse.
- While risking as coming across as overly dramatic, the proposed 40% increase will decimate pool based aquatic activities in Tauranga, including ourselves. We are not in a financial position to absorb this within the club (having already undertaken significant cost cutting measures) nor can we risk relying on grant funding for the difference as grant funding is getting harder to obtain. Given cost of living pressures that many face, if we have to pass this cost on to members, it is highly likely we will lose a large number of members.
- BVL’s case for a cost increase is significantly overstated and relies on incorrect information. We have been in discussions with a number of swimming clubs in main centres and we know that current charges for Greerton and Otumoetai are similar to or more than charges to other clubs in main centres. On top of this, the facilities are not to the same standard as other centres. Otumoetai pool is a tier three facility and this is in no way acknowledged in the proposed fee increase. These points alone should be enough for BVL/TCC to reconsider the proposed price increase.
- Many community organisations are struggling post-lockdown. We need time to rebuild members and reserves. This will allow us to manage cost increases in the future. Right now, we do not have this opportunity. In Evolution’s case this was exacerbated by a number of pool closures last year. The consequence of the closures was that we lost revenue and members while still having to honour our full coaching cost commitments. At least one of these closures was due to an error that never should have been made.
- It should be noted that we have relaunched our learn to swim programme and the relaunched programme is proving to be a success so far. This should boost club

Tauranga City Council

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membership in time and allows to continue our road to recovery. As a club the relaunch of learn to swim was always a key strategy in our recovery. However, the key emphasis here is that we need time for this to have successful overall impact of the club.

- The proposed increases will make swimming less accessible. This is inconsistent with current social policies and will risk the continued upward trend in drowning statistics.
- Finally, as you are well aware BVL is a CCO and while it should operate in a financially prudent manner BVL's purpose as a whole is to provide a service to the community on behalf of Council rather than to operate a business for profit. Its pillars and objectives support this. The magnitude of the proposed increases is not consistent with BVL's overall purpose particularly in the current environment.

Background

Evolution Swim Club is an extensive user of swimming pools in Tauranga, in particular Greerton Pool and Otumoetai Pool. We currently have the following standard bookings for the use of the Pools:

	AM	PM
Greerton	5 lanes 6.0 hours per week	5 lanes 10.5 hours per week
Otumoetai – Squad	5 lanes 7.5 hours per week	5 lanes 14 hours per week
Otumoetai – LTS		Learners pool – 10 hours per week 2 lanes 10 hours per week

Financial circumstances and cost of living impact

In order to successfully run competitive swimming squads requires full-time paid coaches; this operating model is used by the vast majority of swimming clubs in New Zealand. The other major cost for swim clubs in New Zealand is usually cost of pool/land hire. Based on our experience in other sports clubs where significant coaching resources are required for an activity the club will make a loss on those activities. That loss is made good through either junior programme (learn to swim in the case of swimming clubs) or through grants. Evolution is no different in this regard. Right now, the club's financial circumstances are precarious.

Tauranga City Council

23 April 2023

We have already taken significant action to reduce our costs, but nonetheless further cost will be made given current membership levels. As the lane hire costs are largely non-discretionary (as it is a function of how many swimmers are in the pool at a given time and given the financial circumstances of the club it is quite likely that we will have no option but to pass the full costs onto our members. Based on current pool the proposed increase in costs will result in further costs to the club of for our competitive squads of \$3,000 per month. This will result in the club having to increase its fees to squad members in the vicinity of \$37 per month. On average this will be a 22% increase on fees.

At Evolution, one of our fundamental principles is that we want swimming at all levels to be available to people from all socio-economic groupings. Large cost increases make this far more difficult.

Further, funding competitive swim squads has space constraints that are more difficult to overcome than other sports. This is simply due to the fact that only limited swimmers can be fitted into a lane and as swimmers get faster fewer swimmers or they literally swim over the top of one and other. This is known to and accepted by the board but as such we need to chase funding such as grants and undertake fund raising activities. Our learn to swim programmes are currently operating at capacity so are making their maximum contribution to the club. In essence, a swim club cannot simply continue to increase the number of swimmers to make good losses as the physical constraints of the pool space will not allow it.

This only leaves grant funding to get more funds to meet operating costs. As you are aware much of the grant funding comes from the hospitality industry which is itself in significant difficulty. Therefore, the grant funding is not available in the same quantity as in the past.

In the current environment, such a big increase is untenable. Given the cost-of-living pressures currently faced in New Zealand and that swimming is a discretionary activity the size of the increase means we will lose club members which will further pressure finances. Each member we lose means fewer members to cover our other fixed costs.

Comparison to other centres

We note that you have had a consultant undertake a study of pool charges in other districts. Based on our discussions with other clubs we have to question the quality of the research on which the consultant's report was based. It is at odds with what is actually being charged in other major centres in the North Island. Lane hire paid in other centres (on a per lane basis):

- Northern Arena – no charge.
- Hamilton - \$12 per hour.
- Rotorua - is currently \$6 an hour for the 25m pool and \$9 an hour for use of the 50m pool.
- AC Baths in Taupo are charged at \$9 per hour.

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- Kilbirnie in Wellington is charged at \$9 per hour for 25m pool and \$18 per hour for the 50m pool.

There are four other significant points that must be noted:

- None of these centres are proposing an increase.
- At many of these other facilities swimmers are not charged for entry on top of the lane hire (we note entry is charged at Rotorua). Not only is it proposed to increase the lane hireage costs, it is also proposed to increase the entry fee. This is double dipping.
- Your own consultant's report classifies pools as tier 1, 2 and 3. Otumoetai is classified as a tier three pool. This factor does not seem to have then been incorporated into how each pool should be charged. All the pools referred to above are significantly superior to both pools and in particular Otumoetai. Given that Otumoetai is significantly inferior to any of the complexes above, this should be reflected in the lane hire charge (ie it should have the lowest lane hireage fee). The proposed increase in fact results in us paying a premium to use an inferior facility as compared to elsewhere. If a like-for-like comparison was made, we have been significantly overcharged for our use of Otumoetai for a considerable period.

On this final point, the bald facts are that we are the largest user of Otumoetai. If our revenue was lost as the club had to fold, it is likely that the vast majority of that revenue will not be recovered in effect increasing the call on funds from ratepayers that the pool makes (we understand that the responsibility for the pool sits with Bay Venues Limited, but it is loss making and that loss has to be made good from somewhere).

Based on the nature of the facilities and what is being charged elsewhere any increase is means we will be paying more than elsewhere let alone the magnitude of the increase. It is very disappointing to have to take time to make this submission when the assumptions underpinning the proposed changes are based on incorrect information and this alone should raise a big enough alarm bell to halt the proposed increased for you to undertake further investigations.

Sports clubs in a post-lockdown world

The proposed increase cannot have come at a worst time (not just for pools but all the increases). It is evident in New Zealand that engagement in organised recreational and sports activities post-lockdowns has decreased. There are numerous examples in swimming:

- Registered swimmers in New Zealand have dropped from 17,255 to 15,229. Our experience of 2023 is that numbers are likely to be further reduced.
- We refer you to the recent article in Stuff ([Wellington swim club membership falls 34%, adds to fears about kids' skills | Stuff.co.nz](#)). LTS numbers at this swim school were down 34%.
- Last month, Fairfeild Swim Club in Hamilton was dissolved due to rising costs and loss of members.

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Right now, clubs of all types need support to rebuild their numbers post-lockdown. This is likely to take a significant period of time to recover as people are simply more reluctant to participate as compared to the past.

The last thing clubs need is more costs imposed on them as they try to recover. Many clubs have been eating into their reserves to stay operational. Time needs to be given to clubs to rebuild numbers of participants and build up some reserves. We will not be in a position to do this if the proposed increase goes ahead. It should be noted that our relaunched learn to swim programme has been (and continues to be) successful so the club has a path to rebuild its membership and revenues. However, this is not a path to instant recovery and will take time.

In the case of Evolution this was exacerbated considerably with lengthy pool closures of both Greerton and Otumoetai pools last year. As BVL is aware, this was made worse by the fact that both pools had to close in addition to the planned pool closures. This served to make a bad situation worse for Evolution and over this period we both lost members but faced the cost of continuing to pay full costs for our coaching contract. This had the further impact of significantly eating into reserves and has set us back further on the road to recovery.

At the very least, these proposed increases need to be put on hold to allow community organisations to rebuild their numbers and some reserves on their balance sheets. Otherwise, many organisations will become a month-by-month proposition with boards focussed simply on survival rather than being able to grow their organisation.

Reduced accessibility is inconsistent with social issues

There is little doubt that increased costs will lead to reduced accessibility to swimming through Evolution. This is inconsistent with a number of issues that are currently being grappled with in New Zealand.

Firstly, the links between participation in physical activity and mental well-being are becoming increasingly well understood. One only has to look at the campaign involving John Kirwan to realise this.

Secondly, you will also be aware that participation in physical exercise is a focus for Sports New Zealand, particularly teenage girls (through the #itsmymove). There are added social benefits in doing these activities through a club as there is an increased social dynamic. This has been identified as one of the key drivers for teenage girls to participate in physical activities. The proposed fee increases across the entire portfolio of recreational facilities is completely detrimental to participation of activities and current government objectives. Not only will such increases lower participation in swimming they will genuinely jeopardise the viability of our continued operation.

Thirdly, as you are aware New Zealand drowning statistics continue to worsen. While there are many reasons for this poor swimming ability is a key reason including amongst migrants. We offer an excellent learn to swim programme at Evolution. It has only been relaunched in the last six months but has been so successful that we have Korean language brochure as it has

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resonated so strongly in the Korean community. It is critically important to our drowning statistics for learn to swim to go from strength to strength. If we have to increase costs of the programme this will make it less accessible. As already noted, the proposed increase is a genuine threat to the club's financial viability and if this were the case, the learn to swim programme may fold.

Once you combine the above factors with the post-lockdown rebuild that many community organisations face, the proposed increase looks at best even more poorly timed or at worst ill-thought out in the first place.

Bringing the above points together, we will have no option but to pass these costs onto our members as there is no other way to recover those costs. This will lead to loss of members. As a general comment the proposed increases for use of community facilities are particularly poorly timed with many organisations struggling and these come at a time when Sport NZ is trying to encourage increased participation. It speaks to a lack of any understanding and connection to community organisations by those responsible for the proposed increases.

Duties of BVL to providing facilities in a sustainable manner

As you are well aware BVL is a council-controlled organisation not a council-controlled trading organisation. You are also aware that the difference is crucial from a financial return point of view. This has a number of impacts on how BVL's business model should operate:

- BVL is required to operate in a financially prudent manner and is intended to produce an operating surplus (adjusted for depreciation funding and renewals grants paid by TCC) but its BVL's purpose as a whole is to provide a service to the community on behalf of TCC rather than to operate a business for profit.
- BVL operates numerous different facilities and activities, which have differing degrees of commercial and community focus. It is expected that the operating surplus (adjusted for depreciation funding and renewals grants paid by TCC) generated by the more commercially focused activities in the BVL network will go some way towards offsetting the potential deficit generated by the community activities. Evolution is a not-for-profit and undertakes community activities.
- BVL's strategic direction shall be set with due consideration to Council's aspirations and strategic drivers. Council's key strategic drivers include accessibility for all and more people, more active, more often.
- Council has stated that BVL is expected to maintain and enhance community access and ensure awareness of, and the ability to be responsive to changing community needs. In order to contribute to a vibrant city BVL will provide accessible opportunities for our diverse population to participate in activities that; encourages them to be more physically active, fosters increased well-being and positive experiences, and promotes and encourages community cohesion and identity within our Community Facilities.

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BVL has a number of strategic pillars with objectives underpinning those pillars. We appreciate these all need to be weighed up and balanced. The pillars and objectives that are relevant for current purposes are:

- Promoting accessibility to as many people in the community as possible. Amongst the actions BVL has committed to take to achieve this is that it is expected to work with targeted communities and groups to identify opportunities to reduce barriers to encourage participation across diverse social and economic demographic communities. The size of the increase and the organisations at which it is aimed is counter to this objective.
- Better understand the needs of our customers and communities. BVL states that it will collect user information across the network of facilities to build a profile of users at each site and use this information to drive the development of specific programmes and activities. BVL have worked to understand our needs, unfortunately we have been clear about our needs at the current time and the proposed increases ignore these needs.
- Ensure financial expectations are sustainable and balanced against community outcomes. To achieve this BVL will identify and prioritise opportunities to support/grow sustainable revenue streams without impacting on community outcomes. The proposed increases do not achieve this balance.

The common theme running through the key aspects of BVL's business model, its pillars and objectives is the provision of community facilities in an accessible and sustainable manner. We appreciate that BVL has commercial objectives but based on our understanding of BVL's operations and pillars the provision of the facilities is the prime purpose of BVL. The magnitude of the increases, particularly at the current time run counter to that purpose. We would expect an organisation such as BVL to have taken more time to understand the pressures currently faced by community stakeholders and to act accordingly.

We would like the opportunity to speak in support of our submission. If you wish to discuss any aspects of our submission, please contact me on 021 791 349.

Yours sincerely



Robert Hill
Chair of Evolution Aquatics Tauranga