



DUXTON HOTEL

Presentation to Sam P on Rating Differential and Uniform Annual Change

Going back 20 years we had:

- an electricity network owned by the Council
- suburban council offices where people could go with queries
- free rubbish collection (at the back door)
- the ability to borrow magazines for free
- an extensive network of public toilets
- no uniform annual changes on water or sewerage
- the commercial sector paid roughly 70% of the general rates
- income-related rents in Council flats

Now we have:

- no electricity publicly-owned electricity (and no free electric blanket tests)
- no suburban centres
- rubbish bags that we have to pay for
- charges for magazines
- many public toilets have been closed
- uniform annual changes
- residential sector pays ~ 48% of water

Clearly from the viewpoint of services received for money paid, Wellington residents are worse off.

The Uniform Annual Changes ^{6a}

water and sewerage hit people who live in lower valued properties hardest. The proposed 2% rise in the water charge serves to entrench these.

Benefits

It has been said in the past that the council must move the rating differential or else it will face further legal action, but the Court of Appeal has ruled that councils do have the power to set their rates.

In light of this and ~~the fact~~ what I have said before about how residents are worse off, I urge you to reconsider shifting the rating differential so that the rating burden falls ~~on~~ more heavily on residents and to reconsider the whole concept of uniform annual changes.