

Library and lease hold land issue.

**Unfortunate for Council to be
championing an anti lease hold land agenda
in relationship to a proposed new library.
This is repeating a settler prejudice
against Maori ownership of strategic land.**

**This agenda is antithetical to
the rejuvenation of the CBD;
if council don't want to be there
why should business?**

Why not explore other possibilities: for example, the Revington site or asking the ASB to shift down a building and to extend the library into the existing ASB building and at the same time, repeople an empty space.

The real issue in this plan is a rates increase of 75%.

- It is burdensome. There is no way incomes will increase by that amount.**
- It will take millions out of the local economy over the 10 years.**
- It will increase inequality**

Instead of using rates to pay for the infrastructure upgrade, borrow another \$40 million, taking council to the allowable loan cap. Take the loan over 30 years. Annual repayments approx. 2 million a year.

**Annual payment per ratepayer c. \$220.
For me in Blackball a 10% increase.**

**Add \$14 million from ratepayer
for library or whatever –
a further 7% a year,
and that's it for the 10 years.
Incomes might just keep up.**

In terms of salary relativities, the government is signalling that those on higher incomes can tread water while those on low incomes are raised a little. In terms of hiring staff, NZ is a very attractive place at the moment.

To summarise I am advocating that there should be some choices in terms of the economic strategy. The fuss over the Runanga facilities is a mystification.

**I would therefore urge
councillors to insist on further
options being offered. This plan
will lead to further decline in the
district.**